TEXAS TRENDS

2024

Immigration Policy in a Polarized Era

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Acknowledgments

Executive Summary

- **Approval Ratings for Handling the Border Policy**

  – Two out of three Texans disapprove of President Joe Biden's border policy, with 47% expressing strong disapproval.

  – 85% of Republicans approve of Governor Greg Abbott's border policy, while 70% of Democrats disapprove of it.

  – 86% of Texas Republicans disapprove of Joe Biden's border policy.

- **Terminology Preferences regarding Foreign Without Authorization**

  – Offensive terminology to refer to foreigners without authorization is preferred by a great portion of Republicans (72%) and Independents (59%), while a smaller percentage of Democrats (27%) also prefer such terms.

- **Support for Border Security Policies**

  – Repondents tend to support making illegal immigration a state crime, with 40.6% strongly backing this measure. This contrasts with the 27.2% who strongly support spending $3.5 billion annually on border security.

  – Republicans show higher support for making illegal immigration a state crime, with 64.5% strongly backing this policy, compared to only 16.6% of Democrats.

- **Concerns About Illegal Immigrant Voting**

  – A majority of Republicans are very concerned about illegal immigrant voting, with 55.4% expressing strong concern. In contrast, only 19.2% of Democrats share this level of concern.

  – Among the Silent/Boomer generation, 52.4% are very concerned about illegal immigrant voting, compared to 28.2% of Millennials/Gen Z.

Immigration Policy in a Polarized Era

Introduction

Immigration policy is one of the most polarizing issues in American politics. It stands out as a salient, if not the most, in the current presidential campaign. The Republican Presidential candidate, former President Donald Trump, has expressed strong opinions on tightening immigration controls and enhancing border security.[1] Following Joe Biden's announcement of his withdrawal from the presidential race, the Democratic party has nominated Vice-President Kamala Harris as the party's standard bearer. VP Harris, who had been in charge of addressing the roots of immigration by engaging Central American governments, has more recently expressed support a bipartisan border security deal that has stalled in Congress [2]. While Harris's performance in office has been harshly criticized by the right, her change in stance towards immigration has drawn criticism from the left.

The State of Texas is at the center of ongoing policy debates on immigration. Due to its extensive border with Mexico, the historical cultural exchange between the two countries, and the cosmopolitan nature of its major cities, immigration policy remains a constant topic of discussion in Texas. Governor Greg Abbott has embraced Donald Trump's position and rhetoric on immigration in Texas, making this policy his mainstay. In a bill signed in December 2023, Abbott pushed to make illegal immigration a state crime [3], thereby keeping immigration a hot topic in this election year.

In the backdrop of these heated political and policy debate we analyze the opinions, perceptions, attitudes, and policy support of Texans regarding immigration issues. The report is part of the **Texas Trends**, a series of survey-based analyses conducted by the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston and the Executive Master of

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[1] https://abcnews.go.com/538/heard-economy-immigration-foreign-policy-rnc/story?id=112179494

[2] https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/21/us/politics/kamala-harris-abortion-immigration-economy-israel.html

[3] https://www.texastribune.org/2023/12/18/texas-governor-abbott-bills-border-wall-illegal-entry-crime-sb3-sb4/

Public Administration Program in the Barbara Jordan – Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University.

Our findings show that immigration policy in Texas is highly polarized along partisan lines. Evaluations of national and state immigration policies, support for various policies, concerns, and even the terminology used to refer to foreigners without authorization vary by party identification. Regarding policy preferences, while Republican respondents generally support more restrictive measures, Democrats are more inclined toward less restrictive policies. Similarly, we found generational differences, with younger respondents (Millennials and Gen Z) exhibiting more positive attitudes toward immigration and greater support for more inclusive policies.

How are Politicians Handling the Border Policy

We first started by looking at the approval rates of President Joe Biden and Governor of Texas Greg Abbot in the way they are handling the border policy. The approval ratings for handling the border issue between Joe Biden and Greg Abbott are contrasting. Figure 1 shows that for Greg Abbott, 30.6% of respondents strongly approve of his handling of the border issue, while 26.1% somewhat approve, 13.2% somewhat disapprove, and 30.1% strongly disapprove. In comparison, Joe Biden's handling of the border issue has a lower approval rating, with 12.3% strongly approving and 24.0% somewhat approving. The disapproval ratings for Biden are higher, with 16.9% somewhat disapproving and a substantial 46.8% strongly disapproving.[4]

**Figure 1:** Approval Ratings for Handling the Border Issue: Joe Biden vs. Greg Abbott

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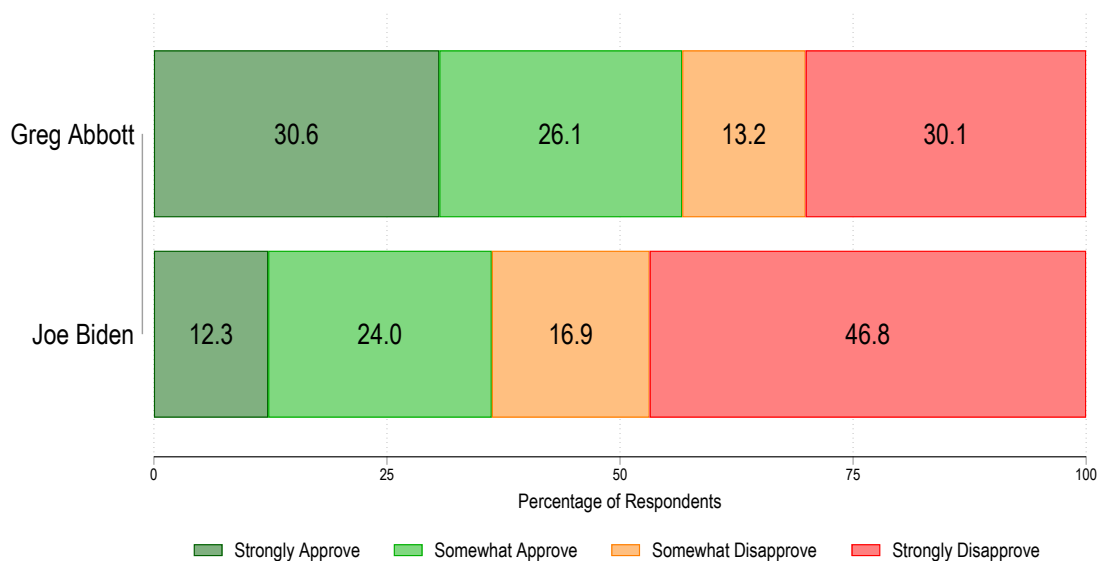
[4]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. They accounted for 12.33% of responses in the case of support for Biden and 14.58% of responses in the case of support for Abbott in the way they are handling the border. The complete table with percentages can be found in the appendix.

We further found differences in their responses according to the respondent party identification. Figure 2 shows that among Democrats, 26.9% strongly approve and 45.9% somewhat approve of Joe Biden, while 11.3% strongly approve and 19.5% somewhat approve of Greg Abbott. Almost seven out of ten Democrats (69.2%) somewhat or strongly disapprove of the way Abbot is handling the border.

Figure 2: Approval Ratings for Handling the Border Issue by Party Identification: Joe Biden vs. Greg Abbott
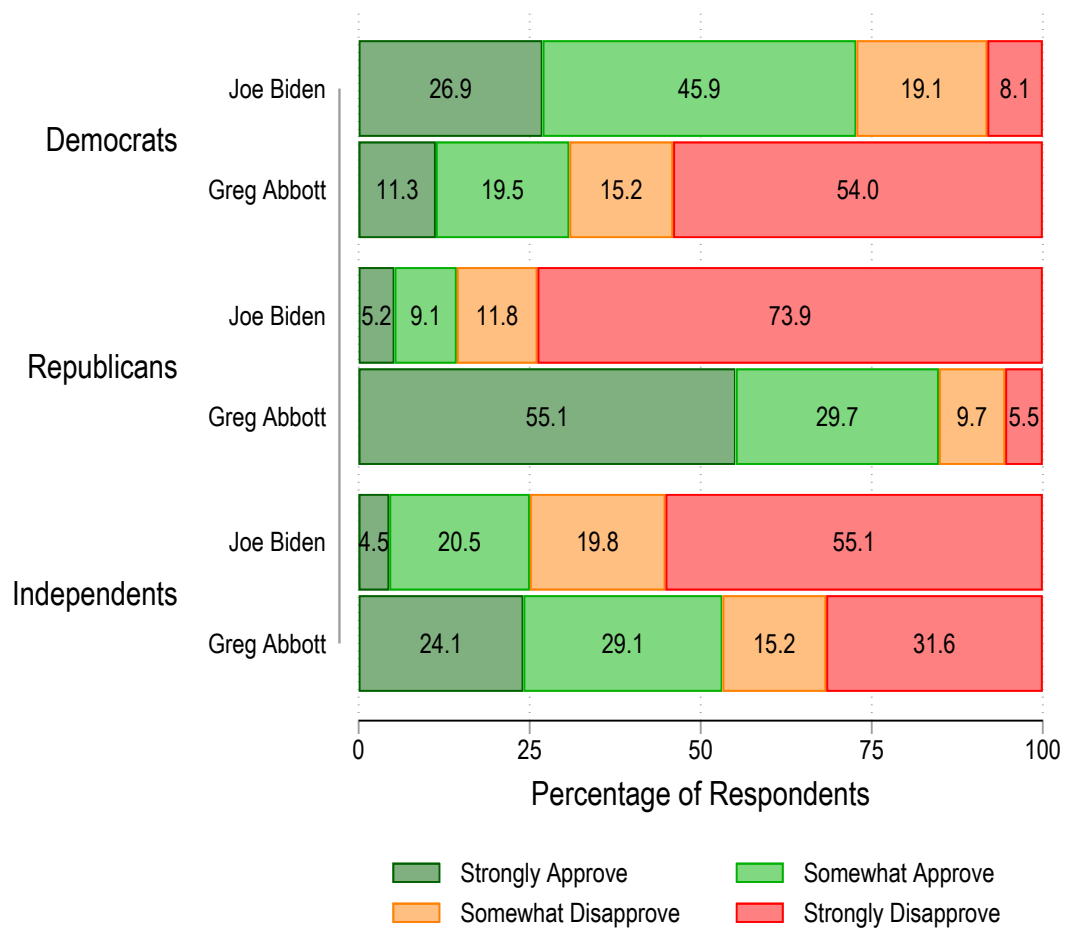
For Republicans, only 5.2% strongly approve and 9.1% somewhat approve of Joe Biden, with 11.8% somewhat disapproving and almost three quarters (73.9%) strongly disapproving. Greg Abbott has 55.1% strong approval and 29.7% somewhat approval among Republicans, with 9.7% somewhat disapproving and 5.5% strongly disapproving. Independents show 4.5% strong approval and 20.5% somewhat approval for Joe Biden, while Greg Abbott has 24.1% strong approval and 29.1% somewhat approval. The disapproval ratings for Biden among Independents are 19.8% somewhat and 55.1% strongly, and for Abbott, 15.2% somewhat and 31.6% strongly.[5]

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[5]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. They accounted for 10.45% of responses for Democrats, 3.02% for Republicans, and 15.66% for Independents in the case of support

Figure 3: Approval Ratings for Handling the Border Issue by Racial/Ethnic Group: Joe Biden vs. Greg Abbott
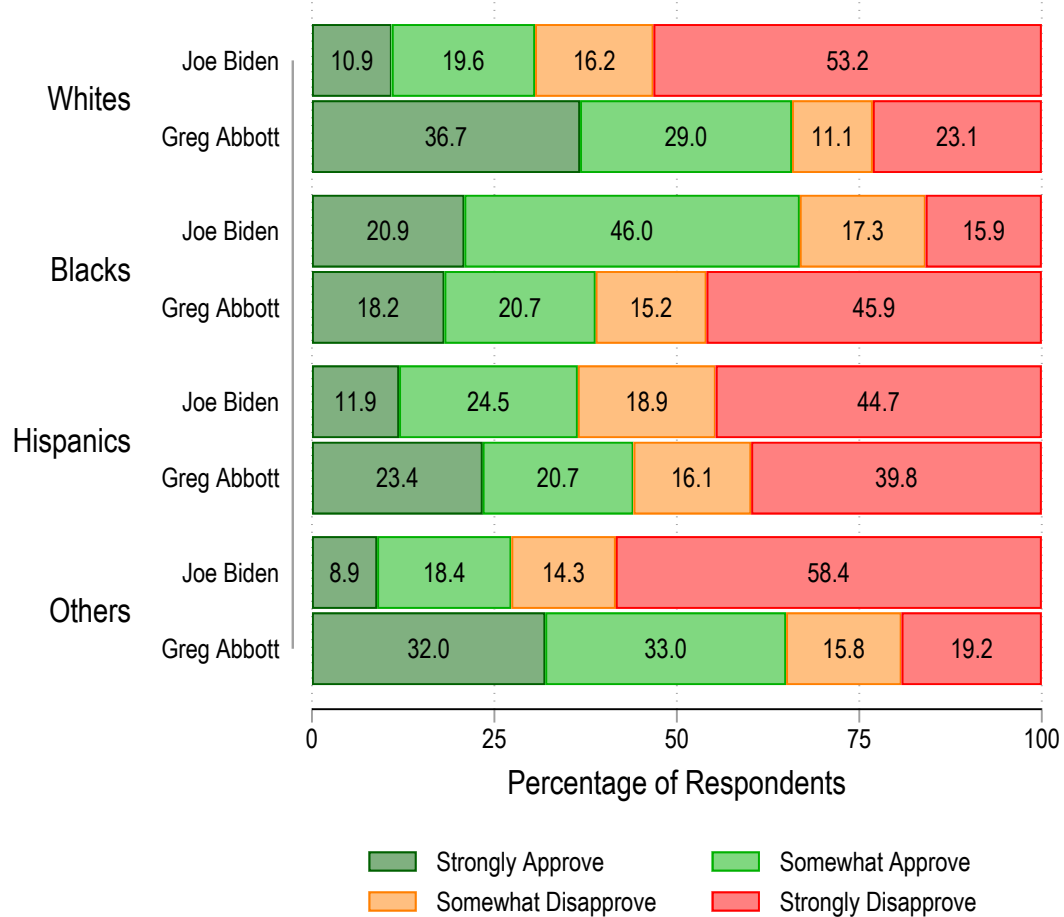
Regarding racial and ethnic contrasts, Figure 3 shows the racial and ethnic contrasts in the approval ratings. Among Whites, 10.9% strongly approve and 19.6% somewhat approve of Joe Biden, while 16.2% somewhat disapprove and 53.2% strongly disapprove. For Greg Abbott, 36.7% strongly approve and 29% somewhat approve, with 11.1% somewhat disapproving and 23.1% strongly disapproving. Among Blacks, Joe Biden has 20.9% strong approval and 46% somewhat approval, with 17.3% somewhat disapproving and 15.9% strongly disapproving. Greg Abbott has 18.2% strong approval and 20.7% somewhat approval among Blacks, with 15.2% somewhat disapproving and 45.9% strongly disapproving. Among Hispanics, Joe Biden's approval ratings are 11.9% strong approval and 24.5% somewhat approval, while 18.9% somewhat disapprove and 44.7% strongly disapprove. Greg Abbott has 23.4% strong approval and 20.7% somewhat approval among Hispanics, with 16.1% somewhat disapproving and 39.8% strongly disapproving. For the group classified as Others, Joe Biden has 8.9% strong approval and 18.4% somewhat approval, with 14.3% somewhat disapproving and almost six out of

for Biden. For support for Abbott, they accounted for 10.17% of responses for Democrats, 6.97% for Republicans, and 16.76% for Independents. The complete table with percentages can be found in the appendix.

ten respondents (58.4%) strongly disapproving. Greg Abbott has 32% strong approval and 33% somewhat approval among Others, with 15.8% somewhat disapproving and 19.2% strongly disapproving.[6]

Figure 4: Approval Ratings for Handling the Border Issue by Age Group: Joe Biden vs. Greg Abbott
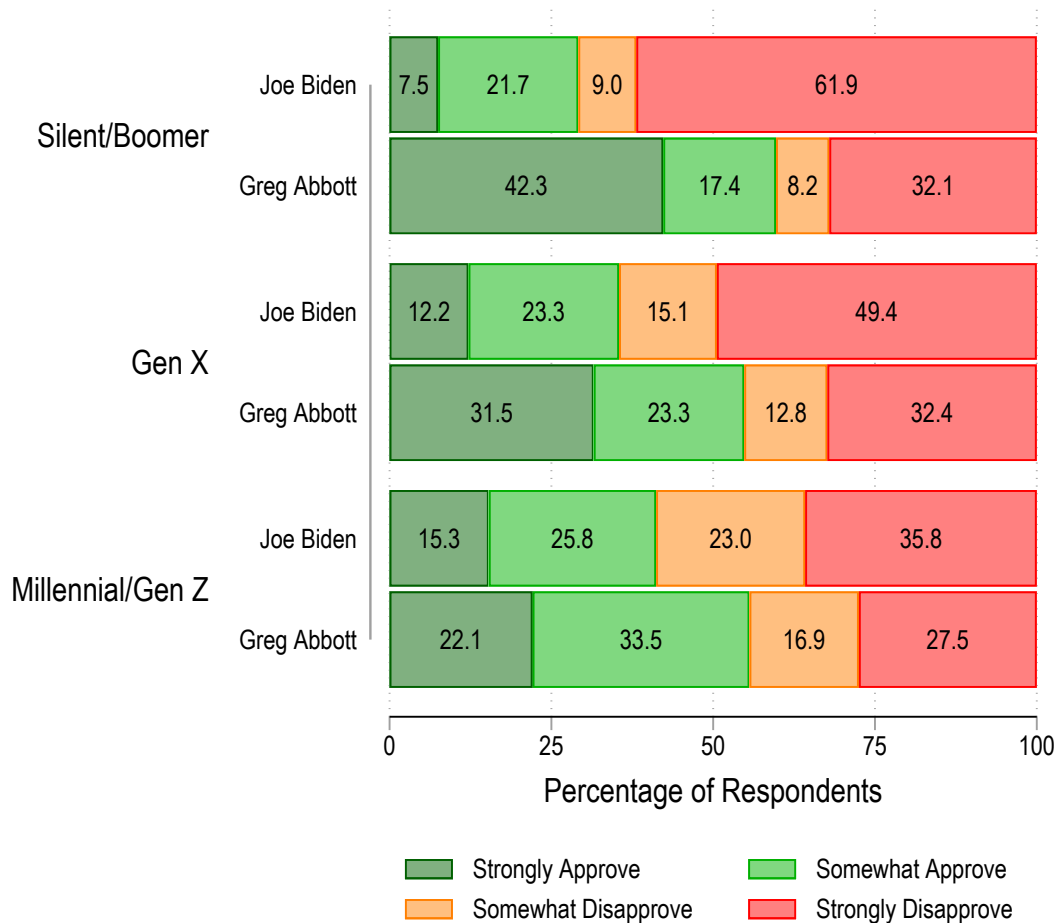
We also found differences in their responses according to the respondent age group. Figure 4 shows the approval ratings for Joe Biden and Greg Abbott on handling the border issue among Silent/Boomer, Gen X, and Millennial/Gen Z age groups. Among the Silent/Boomer group, 7.5% strongly approve and 21.7% somewhat approve of Joe Biden, while 9% somewhat disapprove and 61.9% strongly disapprove. For Greg Abbott, 42.3% strongly approve and 17.4% somewhat approve, with 8.2% somewhat disapproving and 32.1% strongly disapproving. Among Gen X, Joe Biden has 12.2% strong approval and 23.3% somewhat approval, with 15.1% somewhat disapproving and almost half of this age group (49.4%) strongly disapproving. Greg Abbott has 31.5% strong approval

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[6]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. They accounted for 8.95% of responses for Whites, 16.56% for Blacks, 14.91% for Hispanics, and 19.80% for Others in the case of support for Biden. For support for Abbott, they accounted for 11.58% for Whites, 19.50% for Blacks, 16.58% for Hispanics, and 20.34% for Others. The complete table with percentages can be found in the appendix.

and 23.3% somewhat approval among Gen X, with 12.8% somewhat disapproving and 32.4% strongly disapproving. Among the Millennial/Gen Z group, Joe Biden's approval ratings are 15.3% strong approval and 25.8% somewhat approval, while 23.0% somewhat disapprove and 36.0% strongly disapprove. Greg Abbott has 22.1% strong approval and 33.5% somewhat approval among Millennials/Gen Z, with 16.9% somewhat disapproving and 27.5% strongly disapproving.[7]

Figure 5: Support for Border Security Policies By Area

Strongly or somewhat support the way Biden is handling the border

Strongly or somewhat support the way Abbott is handling the border

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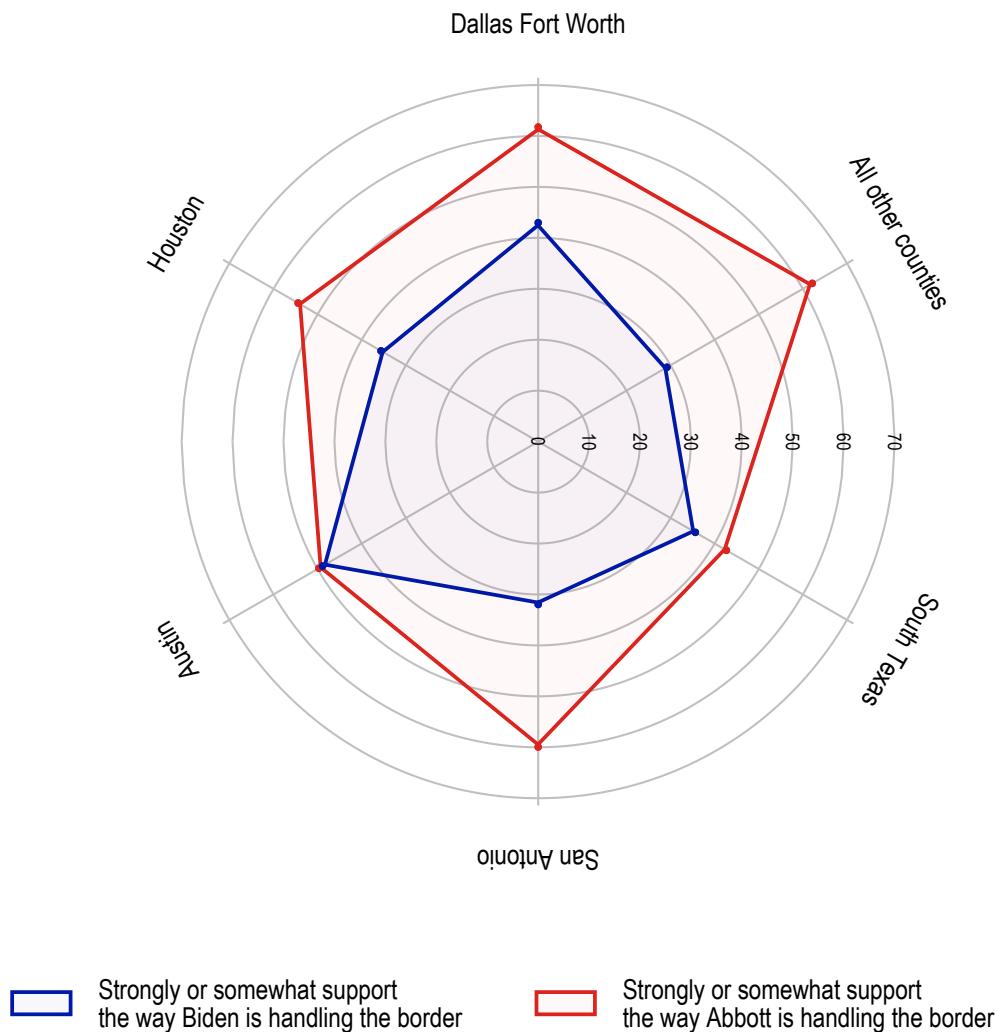
[7]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. They accounted for 3.14% of responses for Silent/Boomer, 8.68% for Gen X, and 18.98% for Millennial/Gen Z in the case of support for Biden. For support for Abbott, they accounted for 1.28% for Silent/Boomer, 11.56% for Gen X, and 23.13% for Millennial/Gen Z. The complete table with percentages can be found in the appendix.

In addition, we found differences in the support for the way Abbott and Biden are handling the border by area. Figure 5 shows that support varies significantly across different regions. For the way Abbott is handling the border, in Dallas Fort Worth, 60.5% strongly or somewhat support. In Houston, 53.3% strongly or somewhat support, followed by San Antonio at 58.8%, Austin at 48.7%, and South Texas at 41.8%. The lowest support is in all other counties, with 60.9% strongly or somewhat supporting. In contrast, for the way Biden is handling the border, in Dallas Fort Worth, 42.1% strongly or somewhat support. In Houston, 34.9% strongly or somewhat support, followed by Austin at 47.9%, San Antonio at 31.3%, South Texas at 34.9%, and all other counties at 28.6%. Overall, the data indicates that Abbott receives higher support for his handling of the border compared to Biden across all regions surveyed.[8]

Terminology About Foreigners Without Authorization

We further asked Texans about their everyday language preferences. Specifically, we asked respondents about their preferred terminology to refer to foreigners without authorization. We included five options in our survey: *undocumented immigrants*, *unauthorized immigrants*, *immigrants*, *illegal immigrants*, and *illegal alien*. According to Lois Parkinson Zamora, Moore Professor of English at the University of Houston, the first, second, and third terms are accurate, but the last two are offensive. Professor Zamora stated, "*Like all pejorative terms for minority groups, they are demeaning to the group. Less offensive words help speakers and listeners to accept the group as such: a minority group that has its own challenges.*"

When we analyzed the responses, we found partisan differences in the preferred terminology. While 27% of respondents who identified as Democrats preferred the offensive terms, 59% of independents, and 72% of Republicans favored that kind of terminology. This contrast is not surprising to Professor Zamora: "*The political parties in the U.S. are polarized on the issue of immigration, so the prejudices of those against immigration are naturally reflected in their language.*"[9]

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[8]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. They accounted for 12.24% of responses for Dallas Fort Worth, 13.52% for Houston, 12.25% for Austin, 8.06% for San Antonio, 13.29% for South Texas, and 13.32% for all other counties in the case of support for Biden. The complete table with percentages can be found in the appendix.

[9]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. They accounted for 10.26% of responses for Democrats, 7.26% for Republicans, and 12.36% for Independents. The complete table with percentages can be found in the appendix.

Figure 5: Preferred Terminology for Foreigners Without Authorization by Party Identification

Party	Undocumented immigrant	Unauthorized immigrant	Immigrant	Illegal immigrant	Illegal alien
Democrat	43.7	13.4	15.4	21.9	5.5
Republican	11.7	10.6	6.8	41.8	29.2
Independent	24.2	7.8	8.8	35.9	23.4

Percentage of Respondents
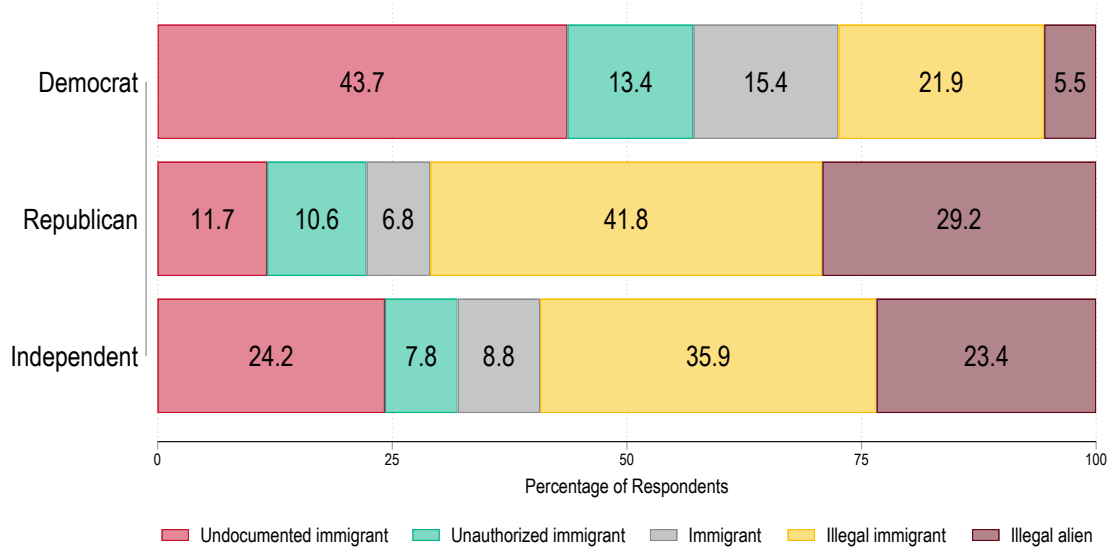
We also found differences in terminology for unauthorized immigrants according to respondent age group. Figure 6 shows the preferred terminology among Silent/Boomer, Gen X, and Millennial/Gen Z age groups. Among the Silent/Boomer group, 63.7% prefer pejorative terms (*Illegal Immigrant* and *Illegal Alien*). Among Gen X, 50.4% prefer offensive terms. Among the Millennial/Gen Z group, 45.5% prefer offensive terms.[10]

Figure 6: Preferred Terminology for Unauthorized Immigrants by Age Group

Age Group	Undocumented immigrant	Unauthorized immigrant	Immigrant	Illegal immigrant	Illegal alien
Silent/Boomer	26.4	6.3	3.6	32.7	31.0
Gen X	27.9	11.8	9.9	32.4	18.0
Millennial/Gen Z	26.2	13.4	14.8	33.4	12.1

Percentage of Respondents

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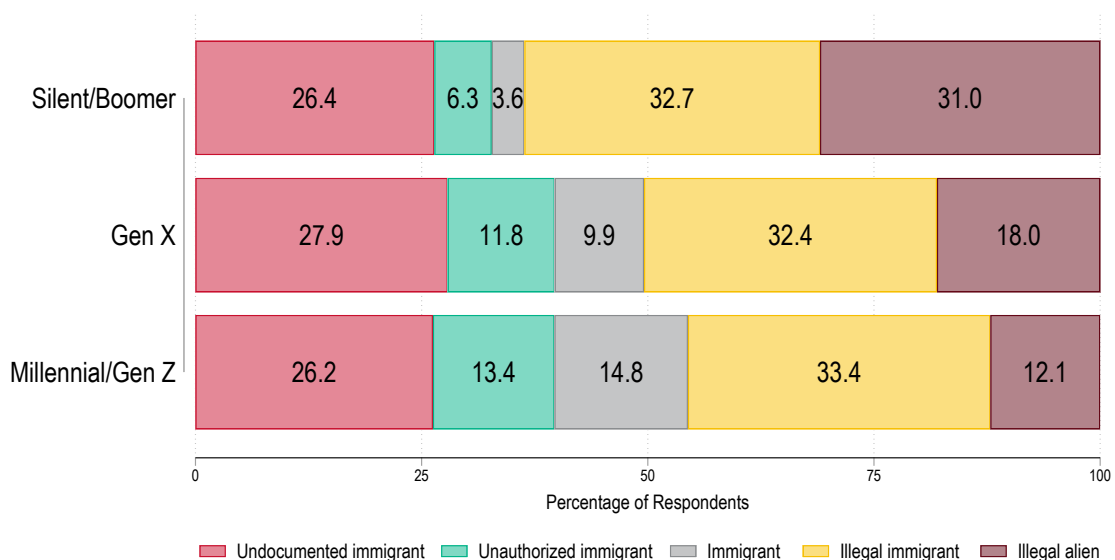
[10]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. They accounted for 3.35% of responses for Silent/Boomer, 9.38% for Gen X, and 18.64% for Millennial/Gen Z. The complete percentages can be found in the appendix.

Support For Policies

What type of border policies do Texans support? Figure 7 shows the support for two border security policies among respondents. The first policy is *spending $3.5 billion in Texas tax dollars annually on border security*, which has 27.2% strongly supporting, 34.5% somewhat supporting, 20.5% somewhat opposing, and 17.8% strongly opposing. The second policy is making illegal immigration a state crime and empowering Texas law enforcement to arrest illegal immigrants, which has 40.6% strongly supporting, 21.3% somewhat supporting, 17.2% somewhat opposing, and 20.9% strongly opposing.[11]

Figure 7: Support for Border Security Policies
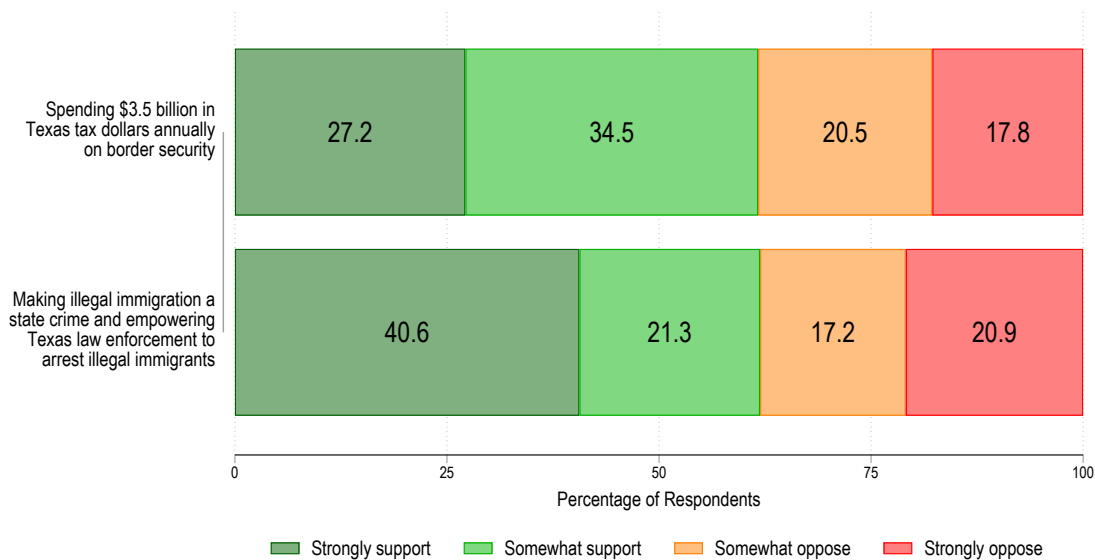
When analyzing the data by party identifications, we found differences in support for border security policies. For *spending $3.5 billion on border security* (top panel of Figure 8), among Democrats, 13.4% strongly support, 31.7% somewhat support, 27.8% somewhat oppose, and 27% strongly oppose. Among Republicans, 43.3% strongly support, 39.1% somewhat support, 12.8% somewhat oppose, and 4.9% strongly oppose. Among Independents, 28.7% strongly support, 31.5% somewhat support, 18.4% somewhat oppose, and 21.5% strongly oppose.

For the policy of *making illegal immigration a state crime and empowering Texas law enforcement to arrest illegal immigrants* (bottom panel of Figure 8), among Democrats, 16.6% strongly support, 19.8% somewhat support, 26.1% somewhat oppose, and 37.5% strongly oppose. Among Republicans, 64.5% strongly support, 23.1% somewhat

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[11]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. They accounted for 12.83% of responses in the case of the policy on spending 3.5 billion in Texas tax dollars annually on border security, and 11.30% of responses in the case of the policy on making illegal immigration a state crime and empowering Texas law enforcement to arrest illegal immigrants. The completetable with percentages can be found in the appendix.

support, 8% somewhat oppose, and 4.4% strongly oppose. Among Independents, 43.2% strongly support, 19.6% somewhat support, 15% somewhat oppose, and 21.1% strongly oppose.[12]

Figure 8: Support for Border Security Policies By Party Identification
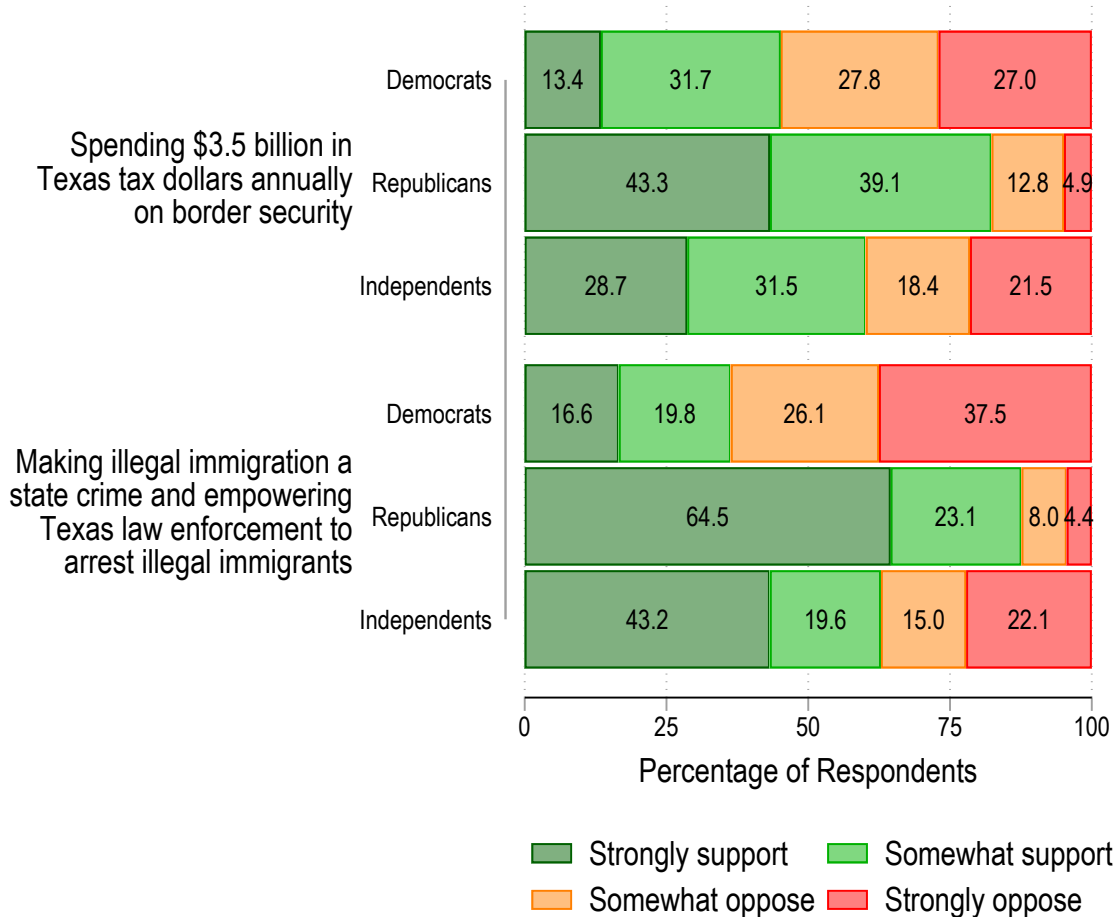
Public Concerns About Illegal Immigrants Voting

Finally, Figure 9 illustrates public concerns about illegal immigrant voting, broken down by party identification. Among Democrats, 19.2% are very concerned, 27.1% are somewhat concerned, 16.6% are not too concerned, and 37.1% are not at all concerned. Among Republicans, 55.4% are very concerned, 27.1% are somewhat concerned, 13.6% are not too concerned, while 3.9% are not at all concerned. Among Independents, 39.7%

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[12]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. For the policy on spending 3.5 billion in Texas tax dollars annually on border security, they accounted for 9.96% of responses for Democrats, 6.73% for Republicans, and 15.84% for Independents. For the policy on making illegal immigration a state crime and empowering Texas law enforcement to arrest illegal immigrants, they accounted for 9.69% of responses for Democrats, 4.09% for Republicans, and 14.46% for Independents. The complete tables with percentages can be found in the appendix.

are very concerned, 16.8% are somewhat concerned, 20.4% are not too concerned, and 24.9% are not at all concerned.[13]

Figure 9: Concerns About Illegal Immigrant Voting in Texas Elections by Party Identification
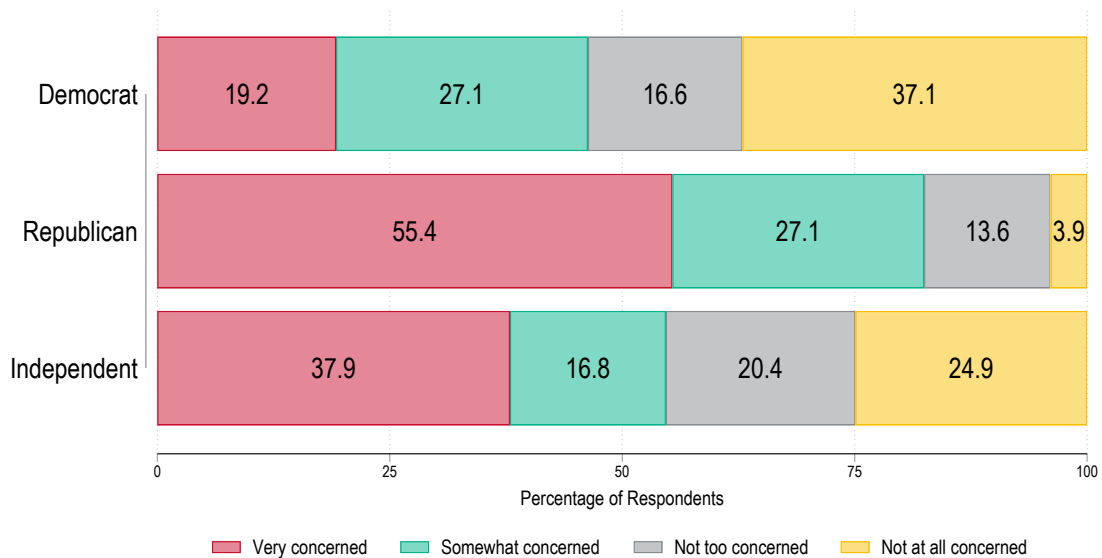
Similarly, we found generational differences in concerns about illegal immigrant voting in Texas elections. Figure 10 shows these concerns among Silent/Boomer, Gen X, and Millennial/Gen Z age groups. Among the Silent/Boomer group, 52.4% are very concerned, 16.5% are somewhat concerned, 9.9% are not too concerned, and 21.3% are not at all concerned. Among Gen X, 43.1% are very concerned, 21.4% are somewhat concerned, 14% are not too concerned, and 21.5% are not at all concerned. Finally, among the Millennial/Gen Z group, the levels of concern seem to be lower. 28.2% of Millennials and Gen Z are very concerned, 28.5% are somewhat concerned, 22.2% are not too concerned, and 21.1% are not at all concerned.[14]

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[13]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. They accounted for 7.00% of responses for Democrats, 3.36% for Republicans, and 7.83% for Independents. The complete table with percentages can be found in the appendix.

[14]"Don't Know/Unsure" responses were excluded from the figures. They accounted for 4.57% of responses for Silent/Boomer, 6.92% for Gen X, and 12.41% for Millennial/Gen Z. The complete table with percentages can be found in the appendix.

Figure 10: Concerns About Illegal Immigrant Voting in Texas Elections by Age Group
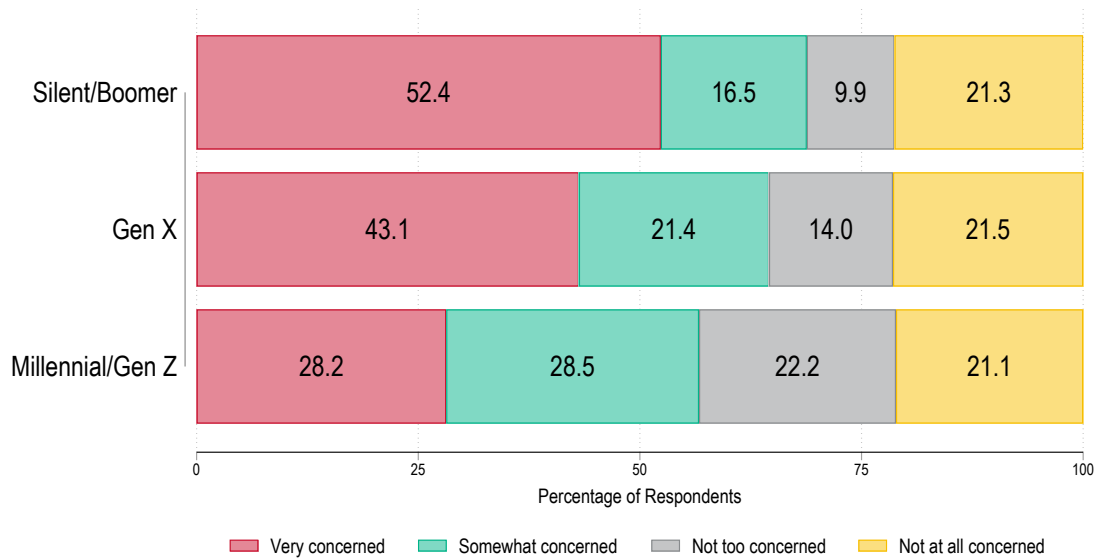
Conclusion

The findings from the Texas Trends Survey 2024 regarding immigration and border control provide readers with a clear picture of the diverse opinions, preferences, and attitudes of the respondents. Our report presents a detailed view of how Texans perceive one of the most pressing issues in the state, reflecting the diversity and contrasting positions within Texans.

Our study, based on a survey conducted during a presidential election year, shows that immigration is a highly polarized topic among Texans. The largest contrasts we found in our data were based on the party identification of the respondents. We also found differences between age groups and geographies; however, those differences were not as significant as those related to partisanship.

While national and state candidates are still defining their strategies for the forthcoming electoral campaign, they cannot ignore what the voters have to say. Texans hold diverse opinions on immigration and border control, with those opinions differing by party affiliation, age, and area. Understanding these dynamics is essential for candidates as they navigate this contentious issue in the lead-up to future elections.

Technical Appendix

The Texas Trends Survey is a five-year survey project to study Texas's changing population launched in 2021 by the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston and the Executive Master of Public Administration Program in the Barbara Jordan – Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University.

This is fourth survey in the series and fielded between June 20 and July 1, 2024. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish, with 2,257 YouGov respondents 18 years of age and older (including an oversample of Black Texans), resulting in a confidence interval of +/-2.1 for the overall survey population and +/- 2.5 for the sub-population of 1,484 likely voters.

Survey respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education and are representative of the Texas adult population.

Appendix: Tables

Support for the Way Biden is Handling the Border

Table 1: Support for the way Biden is handling the border

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	224	10.75
Somewhat Approve	438	21.02
Somewhat Disapprove	310	14.85
Strongly Disapprove	855	41.04
Don't Know/Unsure	257	12.33
Total	2084	100.00

Table 2: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Democrats)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	174	24.08
Somewhat Approve	297	41.08
Somewhat Disapprove	124	17.15
Strongly Disapprove	52	7.25
Don't Know/Unsure	76	10.45
Total	723	100.00

Table 3: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Republicans)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	31	5.09
Somewhat Approve	54	8.82
Somewhat Disapprove	71	11.45
Strongly Disapprove	441	71.62
Don't Know/Unsure	19	3.02
Total	616	100.00

Table 4: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Independents)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	20	3.78
Somewhat Approve	90	17.33
Somewhat Disapprove	87	16.72
Strongly Disapprove	242	46.51
Don't Know/Unsure	81	15.66
Total	520	100.00

Table 5: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Whites)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	100	9.96
Somewhat Approve	179	17.87
Somewhat Disapprove	148	14.77
Strongly Disapprove	484	48.44
Don't Know/Unsure	89	8.95
Total	999	100.00

Table 6: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Blacks)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	90	17.43
Somewhat Approve	197	38.35
Somewhat Disapprove	74	14.40
Strongly Disapprove	68	13.27
Don't Know/Unsure	85	16.56
Total	514	100.00

Table 7: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Hispanics)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	45	10.16
Somewhat Approve	93	20.84
Somewhat Disapprove	72	16.08
Strongly Disapprove	170	38.01
Don't Know/Unsure	67	14.91
Total	446	100.00

Table 8: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Others)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	9	7.17
Somewhat Approve	18	14.75
Somewhat Disapprove	14	11.47
Strongly Disapprove	59	46.81
Don't Know/Unsure	25	19.80
Total	125	100.00

Table 9: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Silent/Boomer)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	40	7.27
Somewhat Approve	115	20.98
Somewhat Disapprove	47	8.68
Strongly Disapprove	327	59.93
Don't Know/Unsure	17	3.14
Total	546	100.00

Table 10: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Gen X)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	59	11.14
Somewhat Approve	113	21.24
Somewhat Disapprove	73	13.79
Strongly Disapprove	240	45.14
Don't Know/Unsure	46	8.68
Total	531	100.00

Table 11: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Millennial/Gen Z)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	125	12.42
Somewhat Approve	211	20.94
Somewhat Disapprove	188	18.66
Strongly Disapprove	292	29.00
Don't Know/Unsure	191	18.98
Total	1007	100.00

Support for the Way Abbott is Handling the Border

Table 12: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	545	26.15
Somewhat Approve	464	22.25
Somewhat Disapprove	236	11.31
Strongly Disapprove	536	25.70
Don't Know/Unsure	304	14.58
Total	2084	100.00

Table 13: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Democrats)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	73	10.14
Somewhat Approve	127	17.53
Somewhat Disapprove	99	13.63
Strongly Disapprove	351	48.53
Don't Know/Unsure	74	10.17
Total	723	100.00

Table 14: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Republicans)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	316	51.29
Somewhat Approve	170	27.61
Somewhat Disapprove	56	9.02
Strongly Disapprove	31	5.11
Don't Know/Unsure	43	6.97
Total	616	100.00

Table 15: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Independents)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	104	20.05
Somewhat Approve	126	24.22
Somewhat Disapprove	66	12.63
Strongly Disapprove	137	26.34
Don't Know/Unsure	87	16.76
Total	520	100.00

Table 16: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Whites)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	325	32.49
Somewhat Approve	257	25.68
Somewhat Disapprove	98	9.79
Strongly Disapprove	204	20.47
Don't Know/Unsure	116	11.58
Total	999	100.00

Table 17: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Blacks)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	75	14.61
Somewhat Approve	86	16.68
Somewhat Disapprove	63	12.23
Strongly Disapprove	190	36.98
Don't Know/Unsure	100	19.50
Total	514	100.00

Table 18: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Hispanics)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	87	19.51
Somewhat Approve	77	17.25
Somewhat Disapprove	60	13.45
Strongly Disapprove	148	33.20
Don't Know/Unsure	74	16.58
Total	446	100.00

Table 19: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Others)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	32	25.47
Somewhat Approve	33	26.28
Somewhat Disapprove	16	12.60
Strongly Disapprove	19	15.30
Don't Know/Unsure	25	20.34
Total	125	100.00

Table 20: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Silent/Boomer)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	228	41.75
Somewhat Approve	94	17.20
Somewhat Disapprove	44	8.13
Strongly Disapprove	173	31.64
Don't Know/Unsure	7	1.28
Total	546	100.00

Table 21: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Gen X)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	148	27.90
Somewhat Approve	109	20.57
Somewhat Disapprove	60	11.36
Strongly Disapprove	152	28.61
Don't Know/Unsure	61	11.56
Total	531	100.00

Table 22: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Millennial/Gen Z)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	171	16.99
Somewhat Approve	259	25.76
Somewhat Disapprove	131	13.00
Strongly Disapprove	213	21.13
Don't Know/Unsure	233	23.13
Total	1007	100.00

B.1 Support for Biden and Abbott in the Way They Are Handling the Border by Area

Table 23: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Dallas Fort Worth)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	90	14.25
Somewhat Approve	144	22.71
Somewhat Disapprove	89	13.99
Strongly Disapprove	233	36.80
Don't Know/Unsure	78	12.24
Total	634	100.00

Table 24: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Houston)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	48	9.88
Somewhat Approve	98	20.32
Somewhat Disapprove	93	19.29
Strongly Disapprove	179	37.00
Don't Know/Unsure	65	13.52
Total	484	100.00

Table 25: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (Austin)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	14	8.14
Somewhat Approve	58	33.89
Somewhat Disapprove	19	10.77
Strongly Disapprove	60	34.96
Don't Know/Unsure	21	12.25
Total	172	100.00

Table 26: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (San Antonio)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	19	10.06
Somewhat Approve	35	18.75
Somewhat Disapprove	30	15.79
Strongly Disapprove	89	47.35
Don't Know/Unsure	15	8.06
Total	189	100.00

Table 27: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (South Texas)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	13	11.13
Somewhat Approve	22	19.14
Somewhat Disapprove	22	18.95
Strongly Disapprove	44	37.48
Don't Know/Unsure	16	13.29
Total	117	100.00

Table 28: Support for the way Biden is handling the border (All other counties)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	41	8.30
Somewhat Approve	81	16.62
Somewhat Disapprove	59	12.04
Strongly Disapprove	244	50.10
Don't Know/Unsure	63	12.94
Total	488	100.00

Table 29: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Dallas Fort Worth)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	169	26.69
Somewhat Approve	162	25.50
Somewhat Disapprove	59	9.23
Strongly Disapprove	157	24.81
Don't Know/Unsure	87	13.78
Total	634	100.00

Table 30: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Houston)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	119	24.65
Somewhat Approve	93	19.29
Somewhat Disapprove	65	13.48
Strongly Disapprove	121	24.98
Don't Know/Unsure	85	17.59
Total	484	100.00

Table 31: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (Austin)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	33	19.09
Somewhat Approve	40	23.07
Somewhat Disapprove	18	10.41
Strongly Disapprove	58	33.95
Don't Know/Unsure	23	13.48
Total	172	100.00

Table 32: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (San Antonio)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	56	29.52
Somewhat Approve	40	21.34
Somewhat Disapprove	18	9.31
Strongly Disapprove	50	26.39
Don't Know/Unsure	25	13.44
Total	189	100.00

Table 33: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (South Texas)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	24	20.40
Somewhat Approve	18	15.33
Somewhat Disapprove	19	16.64
Strongly Disapprove	39	33.09
Don't Know/Unsure	17	14.54
Total	117	100.00

Table 34: Support for the way Abbott is handling the border (All other counties)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	144	29.50
Somewhat Approve	112	22.92
Somewhat Disapprove	57	11.61
Strongly Disapprove	108	22.06
Don't Know/Unsure	68	13.91
Total	488	100.00

Preferred Terminology for Foreigners Without Authorization

Table 35: Preferred Terminology for Foreigners Without Authorization (Democrats)

	Frequency	Percent
Undocumented immigrant	283	39.19
Unauthorized immigrant	87	12.05
Immigrant	100	13.86
Illegal immigrant	142	19.69
Illegal alien	36	4.96
Don't Know/Unsure	74	10.26
Total	723	100.00

Table 36: Preferred Terminology for Foreigners Without Authorization (Republicans)

	Frequency	Percent
Undocumented immigrant	67	10.82
Unauthorized immigrant	61	9.83
Immigrant	39	6.28
Illegal immigrant	239	38.76
Illegal alien	167	27.04
Don't Know/Unsure	45	7.26
Total	616	100.00

Table 37: Preferred Terminology for Foreigners Without Authorization (Independents)

	Frequency	Percent
Undocumented immigrant	110	21.23
Unauthorized immigrant	35	6.80
Immigrant	40	7.69
Illegal immigrant	163	31.43
Illegal alien	107	20.49
Don't Know/Unsure	64	12.36
Total	520	100.00

Table 38: Preferred Terminology for Foreigners Without Authorization (Silent/Boomer)

	Frequency	Percent
Undocumented immigrant	139	25.52
Unauthorized immigrant	33	6.13
Immigrant	19	3.49
Illegal immigrant	172	31.58
Illegal alien	163	29.93
Don't Know/Unsure	18	3.35
Total	546	100.00

Table 39: Preferred Terminology for Foreigners Without Authorization (Gen X)

	Frequency	Percent
Undocumented immigrant	134	25.27
Unauthorized immigrant	57	10.72
Immigrant	47	8.94
Illegal immigrant	156	29.34
Illegal alien	87	16.34
Don't Know/Unsure	50	9.38
Total	531	100.00

Table 40: Preferred Terminology for Foreigners Without Authorization (Millennial/Gen Z)

	Frequency	Percent
Undocumented immigrant	215	21.35
Unauthorized immigrant	110	10.93
Immigrant	121	12.00
Illegal immigrant	274	27.20
Illegal alien	99	9.87
Don't Know/Unsure	188	18.64
Total	1007	100.00

Spending 3.5 Billion in Texas Tax Dollars Annually on Border Security

Table 41: Spending 3.5 billion in Texas tax dollars annually on border security

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly support	494	23.69
Somewhat support	627	30.08
Somewhat oppose	373	17.91
Strongly oppose	323	15.49
Don't know	267	12.83
Total	2084	100.00

Table 42: Spending 3.5 billion in Texas tax dollars annually on border security (Democrats)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly support	87	12.10
Somewhat support	206	28.56
Somewhat oppose	181	25.06
Strongly oppose	176	24.32
Don't know	72	9.96
Total	723	100.00

Table 43: Spending 3.5 billion in Texas tax dollars annually on border security (Republicans)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly support	249	40.34
Somewhat support	225	36.45
Somewhat oppose	73	11.91
Strongly oppose	28	4.57
Don't know	41	6.73
Total	616	100.00

Table 44: Spending 3.5 billion in Texas tax dollars annually on border security (Independents)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly support	125	24.13
Somewhat support	138	26.52
Somewhat oppose	80	15.45
Strongly oppose	94	18.07
Don't know	82	15.84
Total	520	100.00

Making Illegal Immigration a State Crime and Empowering Texas Law Enforcement to Arrest Illegal Immigrants

Table 45: Making illegal immigration a state crime and empowering Texas law enforcement to arrest illegal immigrants

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly support	751	36.02
Somewhat support	394	18.89
Somewhat oppose	318	15.24
Strongly oppose	386	18.54
Don't know	236	11.30
Total	2084	100.00

Table 46: Making illegal immigration a state crime and empowering Texas law enforcement to arrest illegal immigrants (Democrats)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly support	108	14.99
Somewhat support	129	17.84
Somewhat oppose	171	23.59
Strongly oppose	245	33.89
Don't know	70	9.69
Total	723	100.00

Table 47: Making illegal immigration a state crime and empowering Texas law enforcement to arrest illegal immigrants (Republicans)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly support	381	61.89
Somewhat support	136	22.14
Somewhat oppose	47	7.64
Strongly oppose	26	4.24
Don't know	25	4.09
Total	616	100.00

Table 48: Making illegal immigration a state crime and empowering Texas law enforcement to arrest illegal immigrants (Independents)

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly support	190	36.54
Somewhat support	86	16.55
Somewhat oppose	66	12.71
Strongly oppose	97	18.72
Don't know	80	15.47
Total	520	100.00

Public Concerns About Illegal Immigrant Voting

Table 49: Public Concerns About Illegal Immigrant Voting (Democrats)

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	129	17.87
Somewhat concerned	182	25.20
Not too concerned	112	15.46
Not at all concerned	249	34.47
Don't Know/Unsure	51	7.00
Total	723	100.00

Table 50: Public Concerns About Illegal Immigrant Voting (Republicans)

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	330	53.53
Somewhat concerned	161	26.17
Not too concerned	81	13.15
Not at all concerned	23	3.79
Don't Know/Unsure	21	3.36
Total	616	100.00

Table 51: Public Concerns About Illegal Immigrant Voting (Independents)

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	182	34.95
Somewhat concerned	80	15.46
Not too concerned	98	18.79
Not at all concerned	119	22.97
Don't Know/Unsure	41	7.83
Total	520	100.00

Table 52: Public Concerns About Illegal Immigrant Voting (Silent/Boomer)

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	273	49.97
Somewhat concerned	86	15.72
Not too concerned	52	9.44
Not at all concerned	111	20.31
Don't Know/Unsure	25	4.57
Total	546	100.00

Table 53: Public Concerns About Illegal Immigrant Voting (Gen X)

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	213	40.14
Somewhat concerned	106	19.96
Not too concerned	69	13.02
Not at all concerned	106	19.97
Don't Know/Unsure	37	6.92
Total	531	100.00

Table 54: Public Concerns About Illegal Immigrant Voting (Millennial/Gen Z)

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	248	24.66
Somewhat concerned	252	24.98
Not too concerned	196	19.46
Not at all concerned	186	18.49
Don't Know/Unsure	125	12.41
Total	1007	100.00