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American Politics

Race-Ethnicity in

In the United States, immigration tends to be associated mainly with Hispanics, although recently Muslims and Africans have been entering the debate. Hispanics are the focal point of immigration discourse in this country, especially illegal immigration. The issue of illegal immigration has become a staple in current political hot topics.

Key Words:

Nativism: a policy, especially in the United States, of favoring the interests of the indigenous inhabitants of a country over those of immigrants, **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Hispanic: relating to people descended from Spanish or Latin American people or their culture, **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Immigration: the act of entering a new country to settle permanently, **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhood Act: in-depth detail of law, **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

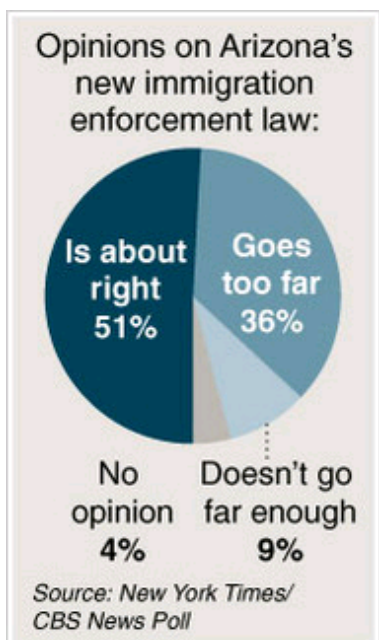


Image I.

As you may know, the U.S. federal government yesterday filed a lawsuit against the Arizona immigration law. Do you favor or oppose the federal government's lawsuit to prevent the Arizona immigration law from taking effect? Do you [favor/oppose] the lawsuit strongly, or not strongly?

	Favor strongly	Favor, not strongly	Oppose, not strongly	Oppose strongly	No opinion
Jul 7, 2010	26%	7%	12%	38%	17%

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®
Image 2.



Image 3.



Image 4.

According to the Population Report titled “Population Projections of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995-2050”, the population is expected to increase to 394 million by 2050. The highest rate of growth is occurring in the Hispanic origin, Asian, and Pacific Islander populations. If the inflow of immigration from Latin American countries persist, after 2020, the report projects that the Hispanic-origin population will add more people to the United States than all the other racial/ethnic groups combined. Most of the population growth is due to immigration from Hispanics, non Hispanic Asians and non-Hispanic Blacks, Hispanics having the largest number of

annual immigrants. A salient issue in the national agenda concerning immigration and Latinos is illegal immigration. The Pew Hispanic Center estimates that approximately 11 million illegal immigrants reside in the United States with the overwhelming majority being Latinos. Mexico being the most common emigrant nation for both legal and illegal immigration. Particularly in the border states, the issue of illegal immigration is polarizing. The Arizona Immigration Law, formally known, as the Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhood Act, is the quintessential example of anti-immigration sentiments persistent throughout certain segments of the nation. The controversial law “makes it a state misdemeanor crime for an alien to be in Arizona without carrying the required documents, and obligates police to make an attempt, when practicable during a ‘lawful stop, detention or arrest’ to determine a person's immigration status if there is reasonable suspicion that the person is an illegal alien. The Arizona Immigration Law immediately polarized opinion, supporters see the law as an excellent tool to protect Arizona from the inflow of illegal immigrants. The law could potentially dissuade persons from immigrating to Arizona illegally and make illegal immigrants leave the state. Now, the legislation immediately galvanized a certain sector, mostly of Hispanic origin, that believed that civil rights violations, racial profiling, and fear-mongering can result from the execution of law.

The Arizona Immigration Law revealed the strong divisive currents surrounding immigration reform in the United States. As stated above, because the largest percentage of immigrants both legally and illegally are Latinos, the debate almost always becomes a racial/ethnic issue. According to the New York Times article “*Arizona Enacts Stringent Law on Immigration*”, opponents have called it an open invitation for harassment and

discrimination against Hispanics regardless of their citizenship status. The law highlights the undercurrents of hostility between illegal immigrants and certain segments of the population. The article later notes that “Ms. Brewer and other elected leaders have come under intense political pressure here, made worse by the killing of a rancher in southern Arizona by a suspected smuggler a couple of weeks before the State Legislature voted on the bill.” . The murder of a white American fires old grievances and even hatreds in Nativist. The murder of the white American rancher, although still unknown, is presumed to be, especially by Nativist, a Mexican illegal. Politicians must in turn act in accordance to the group that will elect them into power. For example, “Mr. McCain, locked in a primary with a challenger campaigning on immigration, only came out in support of the law hours before the State Senate passed it Monday afternoon”. McCain had long been considered a moderate when it came to immigration reform; yet, he felt the pressure to conform. Ethnic rivalries tend to develop into politically salient issues that can pressure politicians to act in a certain way in order their seat in office. As seen in Image 1, most Americans have decided their opinions on the issue of immigration but it is still divided. Politicians must navigate through their specific constituencies; preferences, in order to garner their vote. Image 2, on the other hand, demonstrates that opinion over federal involvement in the immigration law of Arizona is also still divided, leaving much question to the prospect of immigration in the future.

Works Cited

Archibald, L. Arnald. "Arizona Enacts Stringent Law on Immigration". **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Image 1. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/04/us/04poll.html>

Image 2.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/141209/Americans-Oppose-Federal-Suit-Against-Ariz-Immigration-Law.aspx?loc=interstitialskip>

Image 3.

<http://www.buzzoutthebox.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/invasion1.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.buzzoutthebox.com/page/>

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Image 4.

<http://g4tv.com/thefeed/blog/post/704410/controversial-arizona-immigration-bill-even-affecting-video-game-developers.html>

Population Projections of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995 to 2050. Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.