

Executive Summary

Voters' Views on Agriculture & Immigration Reform

Western Growers, an industry association representing growers and shippers of fresh produce in California and Arizona, recently commissioned The Tarrance Group to conduct a national survey of likely voters on a guest worker program for agriculture only. All respondents interviewed in this study were part of a fully representative sample of N=1000 registered likely voters. Responses to this survey were gathered January 22-25, 2012. The confidence interval associated with a sample of this type is $\pm 3.1\%$ in 19 of 20 cases.

Survey highlights:

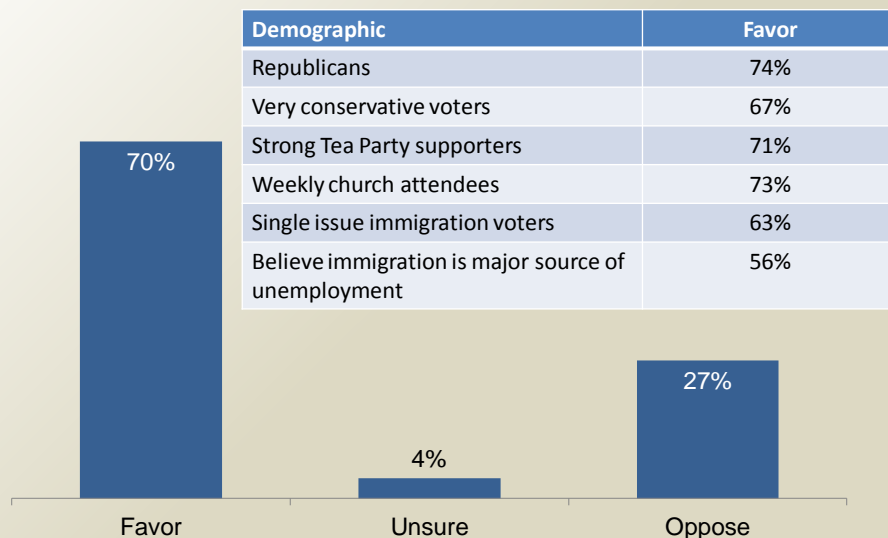
- Just 27% of voters believe that immigrants who do farm work are a cause of unemployment. Only 8% of voters self-identify as single issue immigration voters. In contrast to conventional wisdom, base GOP voters are actually less likely than voters overall to be single issue immigration voters.
- When asked whether they would vote for a candidate who stood for most of the things they believed in but held a position on immigration they disagreed with, 61% said they would probably or definitely still vote for that candidate.
- A guest worker program for agriculture that includes strong regulatory elements is broadly supported by 70 percent of voters when initially asked. Some of the regulatory elements described include requiring workers to enter only through designated border crossings, requiring farmers to first offer farm jobs to U.S. citizens, withholding guest workers' Social Security taxes until the worker returns home, withholding Medicare taxes to help pay for the cost of uninsured medical care at local hospitals and allowing existing farm workers to participate in the program without receiving amnesty (see full list below).

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January 22-25, 2012 / N=1000 "likely" voters / $\pm 3.1\%$ M.O.E.



Based on this description, would you favor or oppose this proposal?



Q18

- When testing these elements, seven of the nine elements tested have majority support. Only a ban on guest workers bringing spouses/children and allowing existing farm workers here illegally to participate in the program without giving them amnesty register majority disagreement (52% and 56%, respectively).

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January 22-25, 2012 / N=1000 "likely" voters / ±3.1% M.O.E.

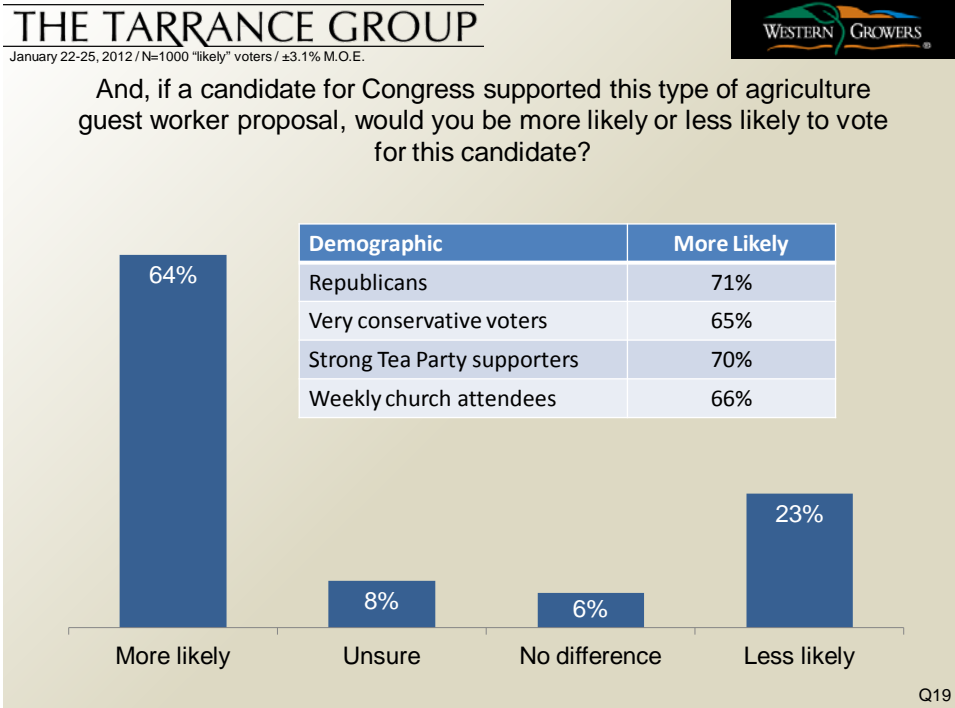


Elements of Proposed Guest Worker Program

Element	Favor	Oppose
Farm employers must make a good faith effort to offer these jobs to US workers before being allowed to hire guest workers.	86%	13%
Foreign guest workers could only enter through designated border crossings where their eligibility could be verified and they could be tracked while in the US.	85%	15%
Foreign guest workers would have both Social Security and Medicare taxes withheld from their pay. Their Social Security taxes would be refunded once they returned home and their Medicare taxes would be used to help cover costs of treating uninsured patients at local hospitals.	78%	19%
Farm employers would be subject to federal oversight to ensure they follow strict rules and guidelines.	78%	20%
The number of workers admitted would be determined by the number of unfilled jobs.	77%	21%
Foreign guest workers could stay for up to 12 months with an option to renew for up to 12 months.	72%	25%
Foreign guest workers would only be allowed to work for agricultural companies that had applied and been approved by the federal government	67%	30%
Foreign guest workers would <u>not</u> be permitted to bring their spouse or children with them.	44%	52%
Foreign farm workers who did not come here legally but have been employed as farm workers, would be allowed to stay, but only to continue doing farm work and without a pathway to citizenship.	40%	56%

- However, this does not dissuade voters from strongly supporting an agriculture guest worker program that includes these provisions: On a focused re-examination of the proposal after voters have heard positive and negative messages about this proposal, 72% of voters support it.

- Fully 64% of voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported this type of agricultural guest worker program, including 25% who would be strongly more likely. In contrast, just 23% of voters say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported this type of program.



- As seen above, among base Republican voters, this impact is even more positive. The more likely scores for Republicans (71%), for very conservative voters (65%), for strong Tea Party supporters (70%), and for weekly church attendees (66%) all exceed the positive impact seen with the overall electorate.
- In addition, there is majority support for this program even among hard line immigration opponents like single issue immigration voters (63%) and those who think immigration is a major cause of unemployment (56%).

Inquiries about this survey should be directed to [Wendy Fink-Weber](#) of Western Growers at (949) 885-2256.