A National Survey Of Voter Attitudes On Immigration

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION FORUM
To Embrace & Uphold America's Tradition as a Nation of Immigrants

AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
1946

Strategic Summary: The proposal

➢ Three quarters of American voters support a comprehensive, bipartisan immigration reform proposal that combines toughness, fairness, a guest worker program, family reunification, and a path to legal residency for undocumented immigrants who are already here.

➢ Support for this proposal is solid across party, regional and demographic lines.

➢ Voters support each component of the proposal as well as the overall package.

➢ Support for the proposal holds firm after voters hear positive and negative messages.

March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

Strategic Summary: Candidates

➢ Most voters do not base their support for political candidates on the immigration issue. However, even those that do are solidly in favor of this immigration reform proposal.

➢ Over two thirds of all voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports this type of immigration proposal.
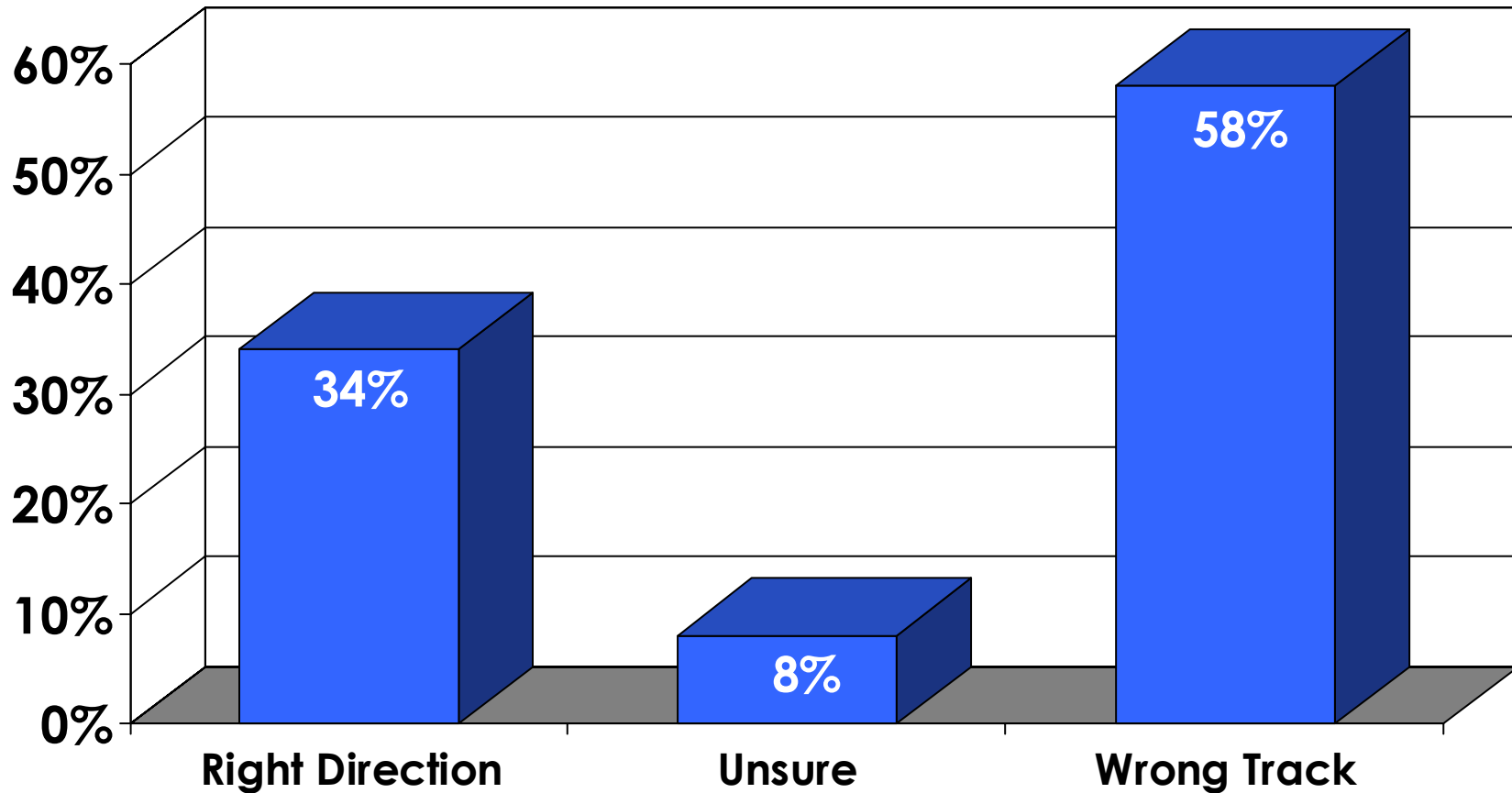
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Strategic Summary: Context

➢ Voters overwhelmingly believe the immigration system is broken and needs to be fixed. They want a controlled system that would replace an illegal immigration flow with a legal immigration flow.

➢ The vast majority of voters believe that deporting the 10 million undocumented immigrants currently in the United States is unrealistic.

➢ More than 8 in 10 believe that if an immigrant has been in this country working, paying taxes, and learning English, there should be a way for them to become a citizen.
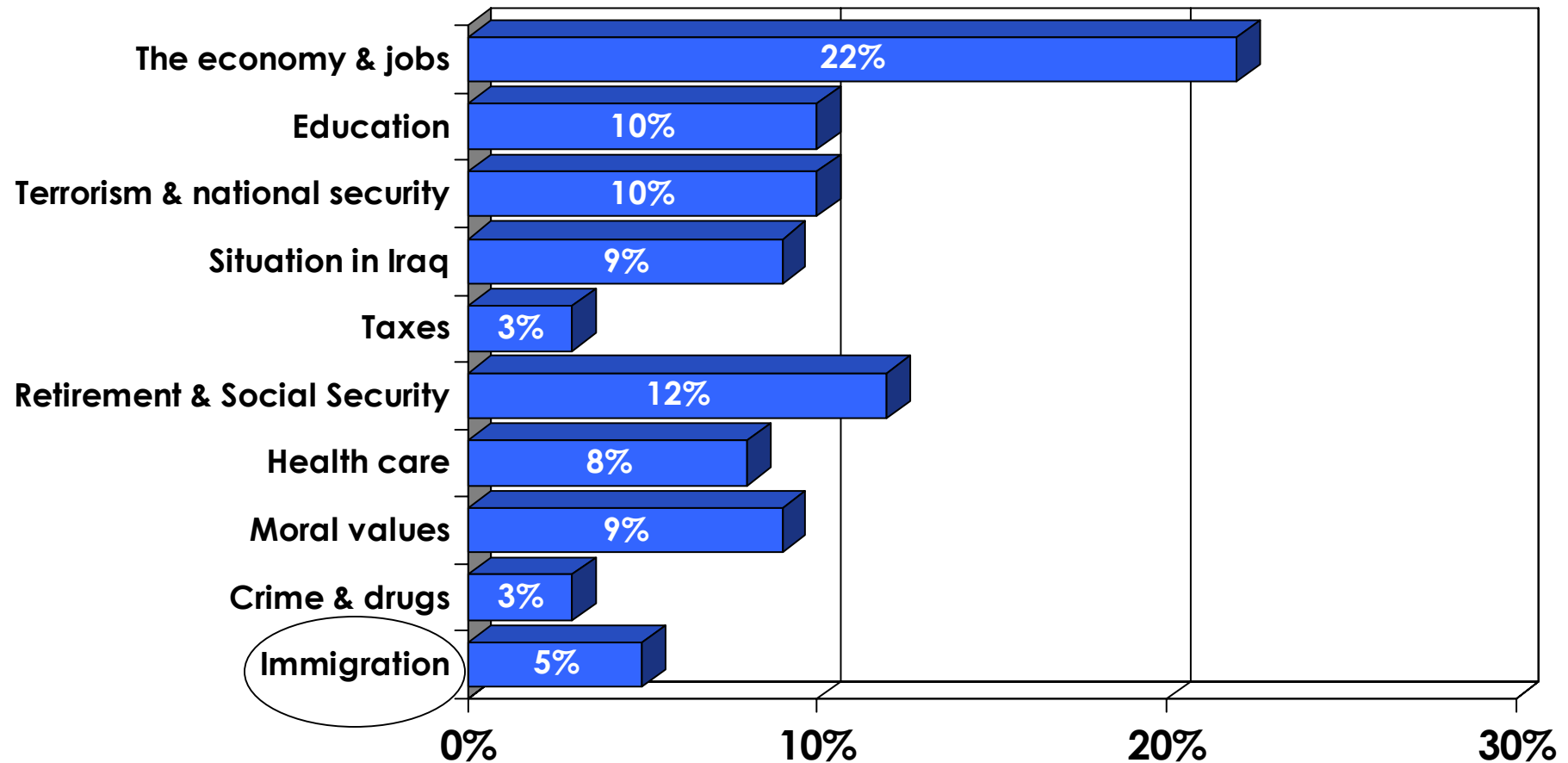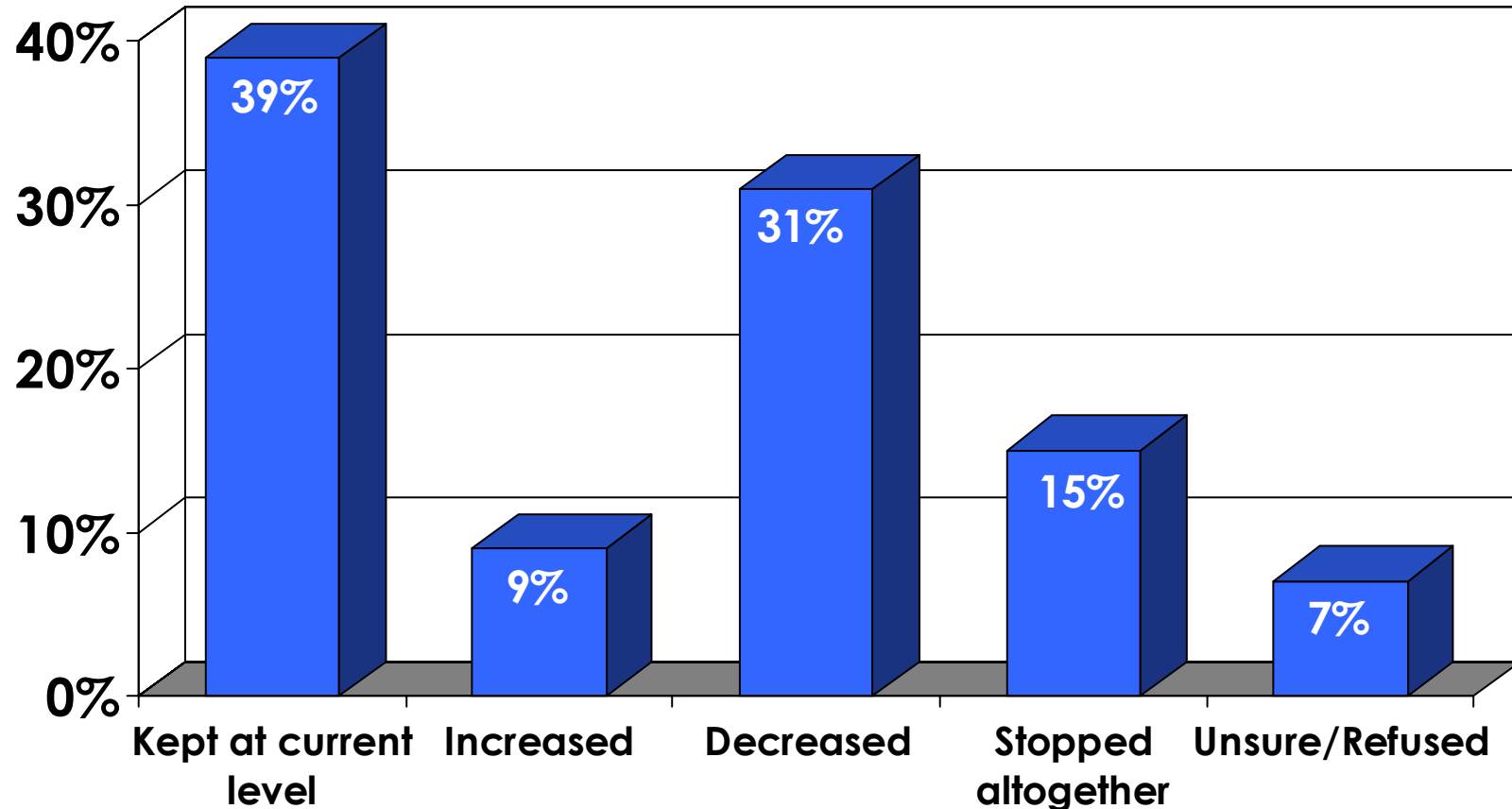
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Please tell me which one of these you personally worry about the MOST:

| Category	Percentage
The economy & jobs	22%
Education	10%
Terrorism & national security	10%
Situation in Iraq	9%
Taxes	3%
Retirement & Social Security	12%
Health care	8%
Moral values	9%
Crime & drugs	3%
Immigration	5%

0%   10%   20%   30%

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Thinking about <u>legal</u> immigration, should the number of immigrants allowed into the US each year – be kept at its current level, increased, decreased, or stopped altogether?
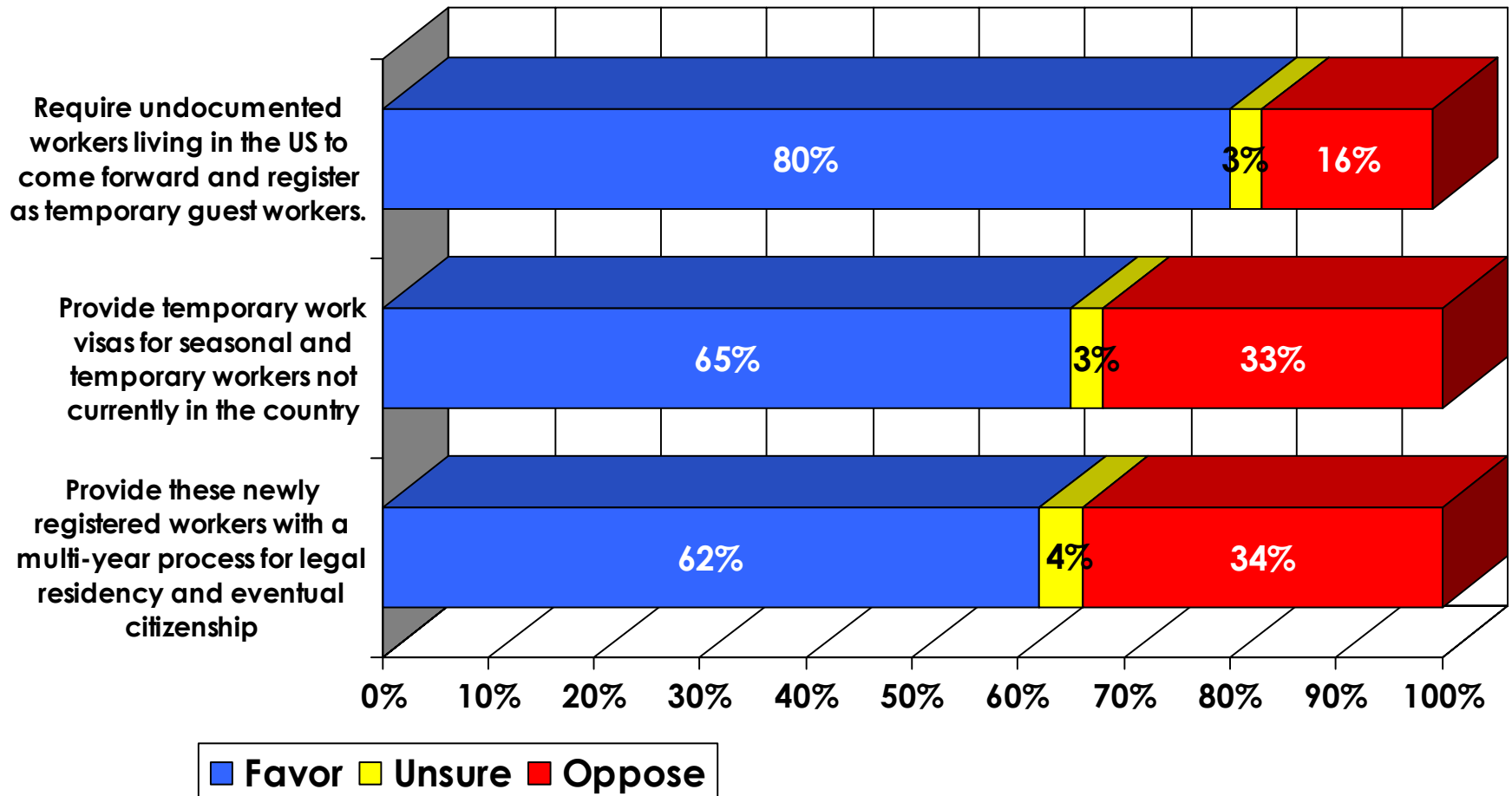

Bar chart with values:
- Kept at current level: 39%
- Increased: 9%
- Decreased: 31%
- Stopped altogether: 15%
- Unsure/Refused: 7%

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What if there were a candidate who stood for most of the things you believe in, but took a stand on <u>immigration</u> that you really disagreed with: Would you DEFINITELY vote for that candidate, PROBABLY vote for that candidate, probably NOT vote for that candidate, or DEFINITELY not vote for that candidate?
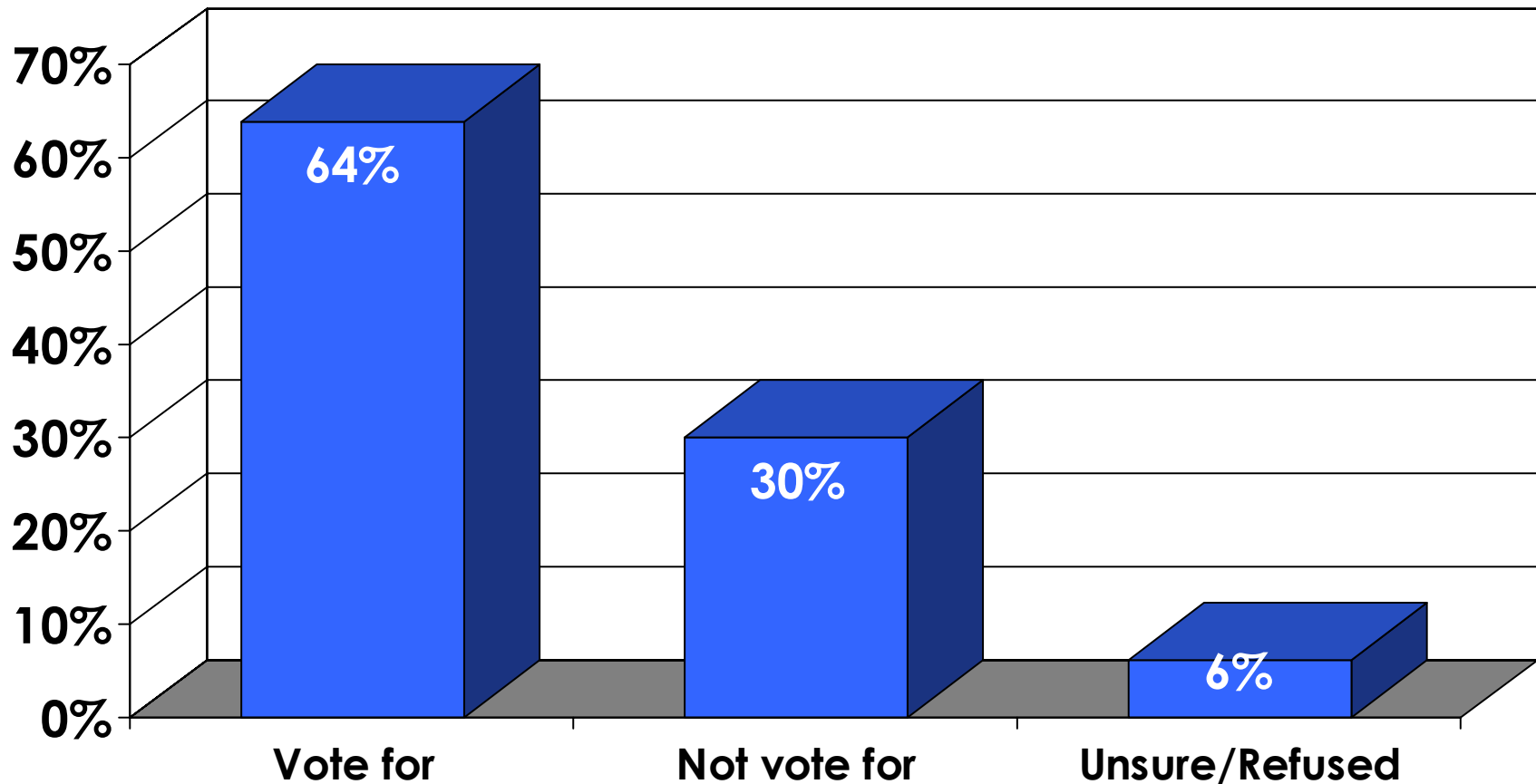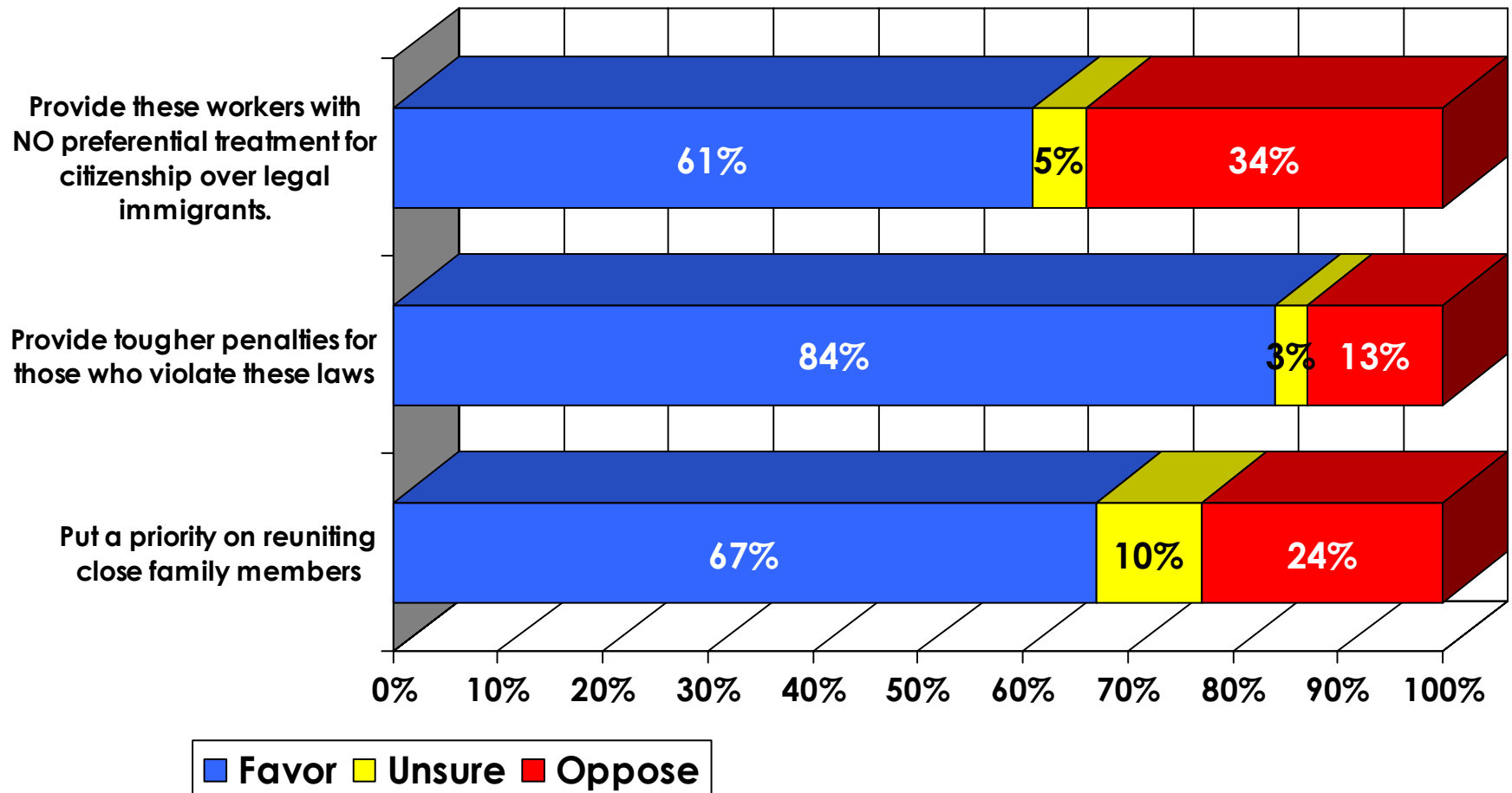
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Congress is considering a bipartisan immigration reform proposal that would do several things. I am going to read you several items. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose this part of the proposal.

Require undocumented workers living in the US to come forward and register as temporary guest workers.
80% 3% 16%

Provide temporary work visas for seasonal and temporary workers not currently in the country
65% 3% 33%

Provide these newly registered workers with a multi-year process for legal residency and eventual citizenship
62% 4% 34%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ Favor ■ Unsure ■ Oppose

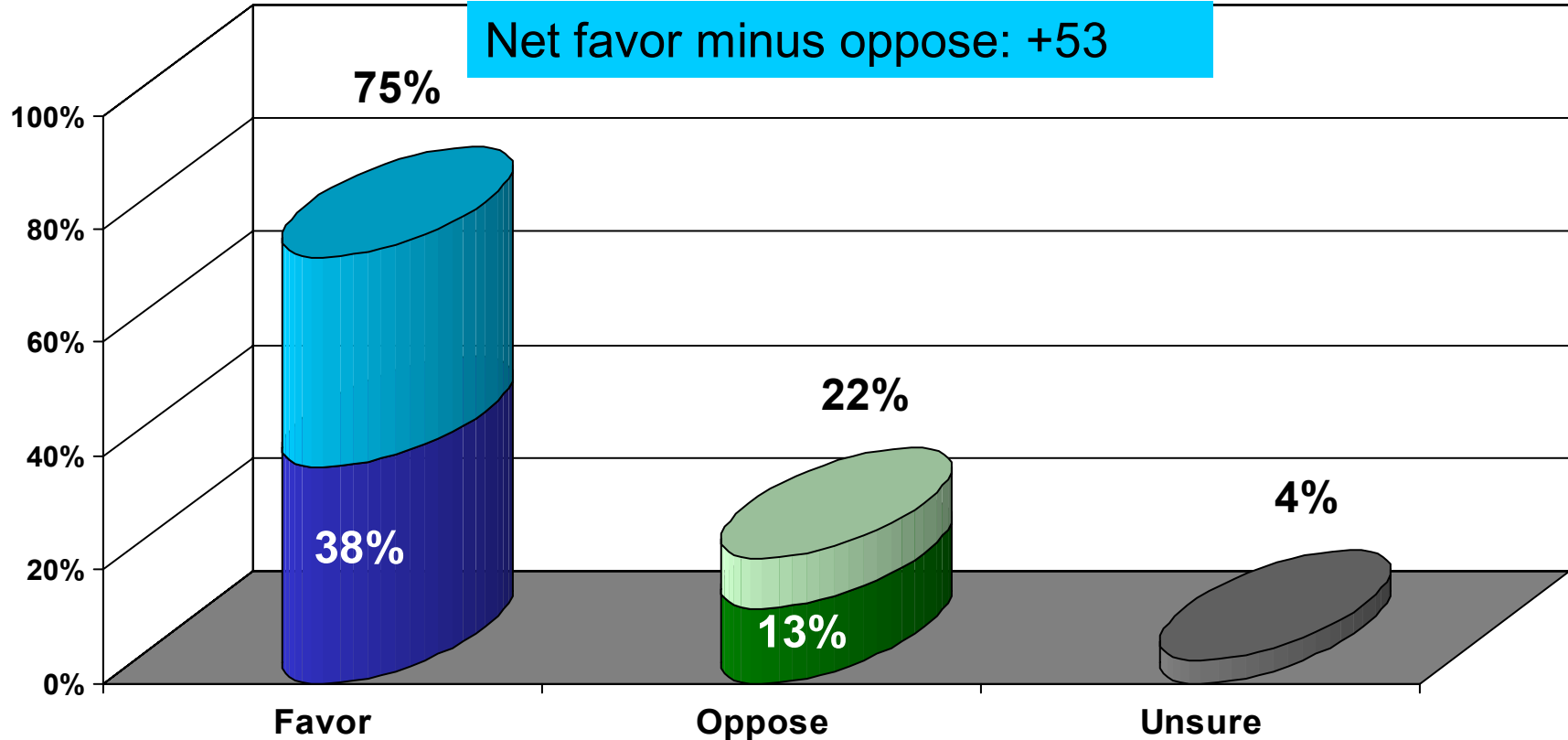**March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.**

Description of proposal

Now, thinking about this entire bipartisan proposal, which would contain all of these items, including:

➢ *Require undocumented workers living in the US to come forward & register as temporary guest workers*

➢ *Provide temporary work visas for seasonal & temporary workers not currently in the country*

➢ *Provide these newly registered workers with a multi-year process for legal residency & eventual citizenship*

➢ *Provide these workers with NO preferential treatment for citizenship over legal immigrants*

➢ *Provide tougher penalties for workers or employers who violate these laws*

➢ *Put a priority on reuniting close family members*

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Three-quarters of voters support the proposal, 38% intensely.

Net favor minus oppose: +53

75%

100%

80%

60%

40%

38%

22%

20%

4%

13%

0%

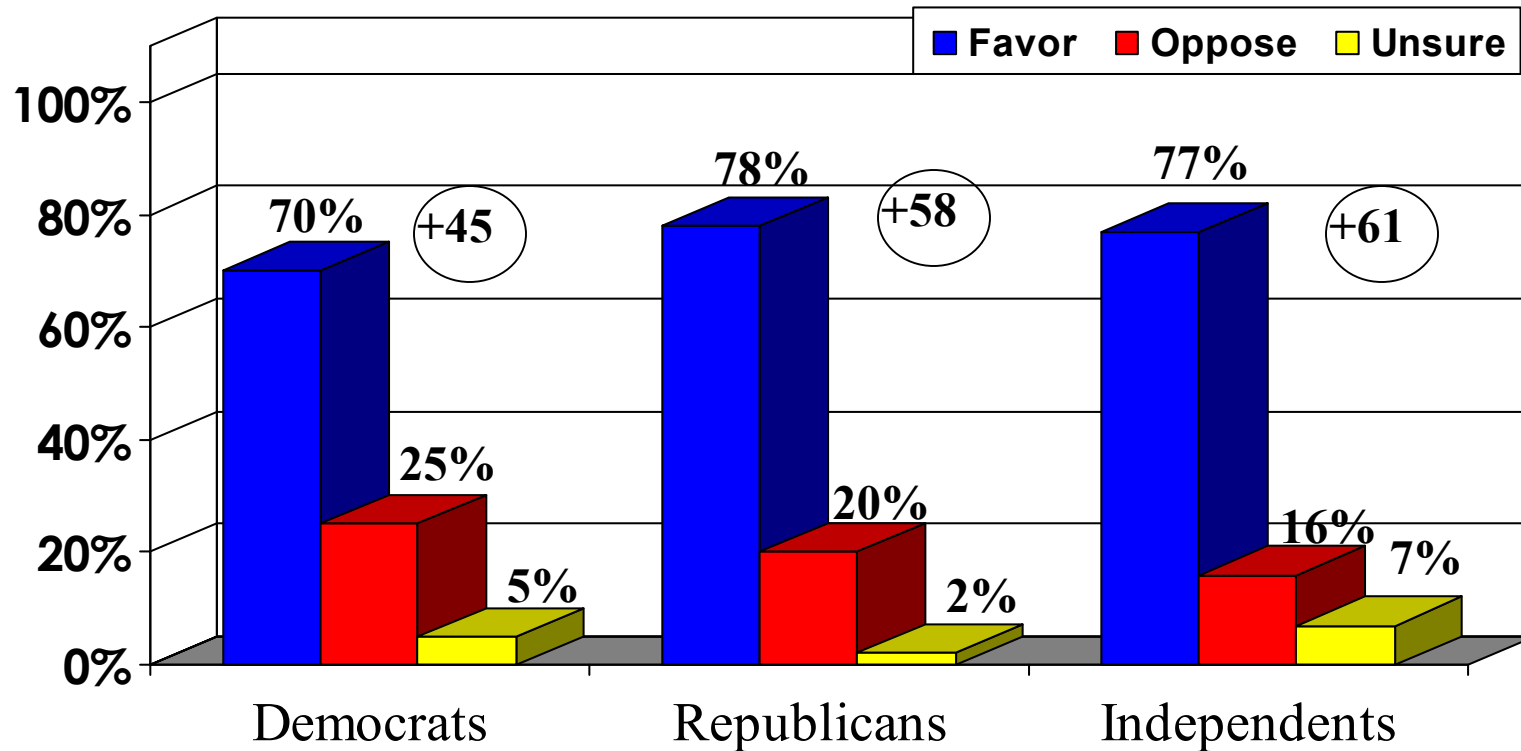**Favor**   **Oppose**   **Unsure**

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

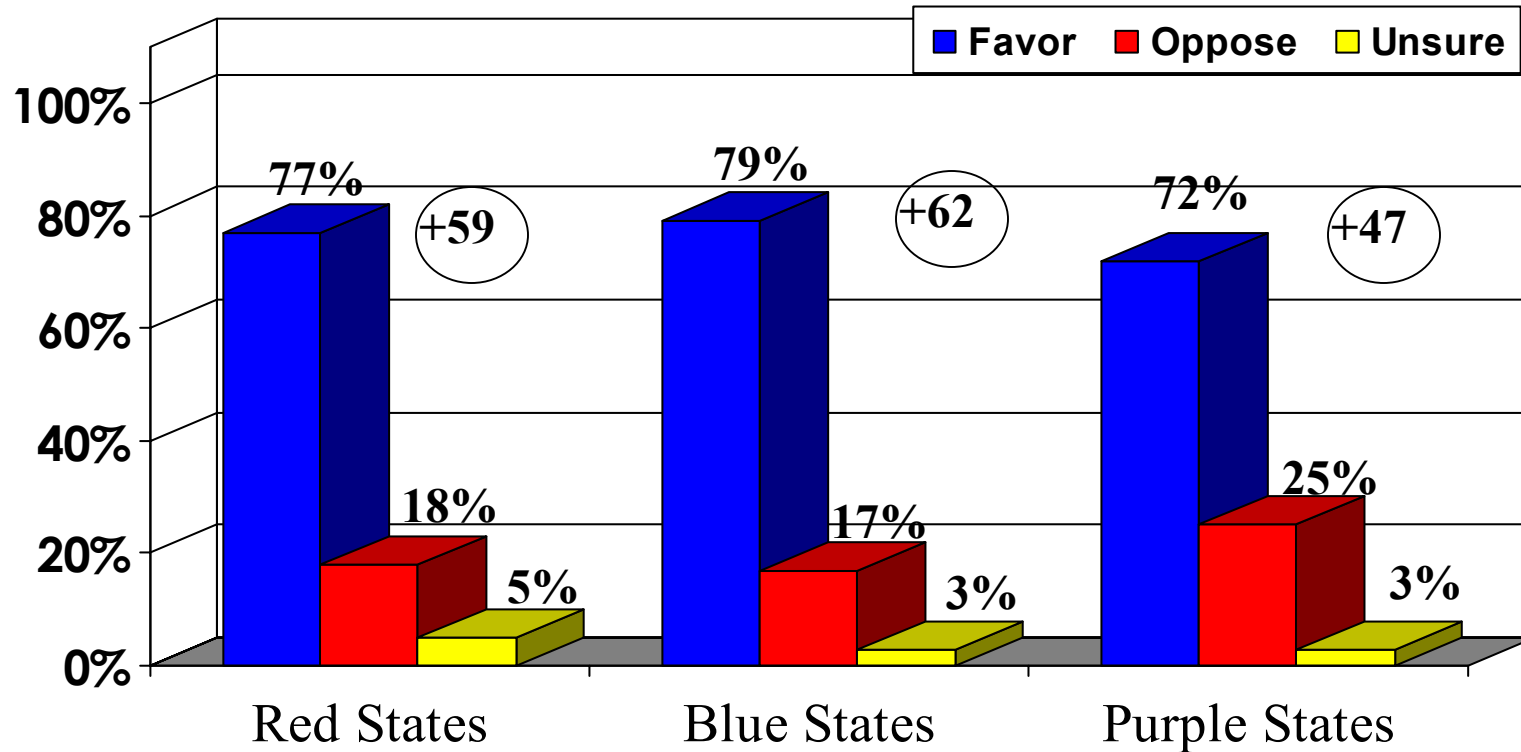*Darker colors signify intensity*

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Support for the proposal is strong across party lines.

March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

Both red and blue states are firmly on board.

March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

There is over two-thirds support for the proposal across racial groups.

Legend: ■ Favor ■ Oppose □ Unsure

White: 78% (Favor), 18% (Oppose), 4% (Unsure), +60
Black: 67% (Favor), 31% (Oppose), 3% (Unsure), +36
Hispanic/Latino*: 70% (Favor), 17% (Oppose), 13% (Unsure), +53
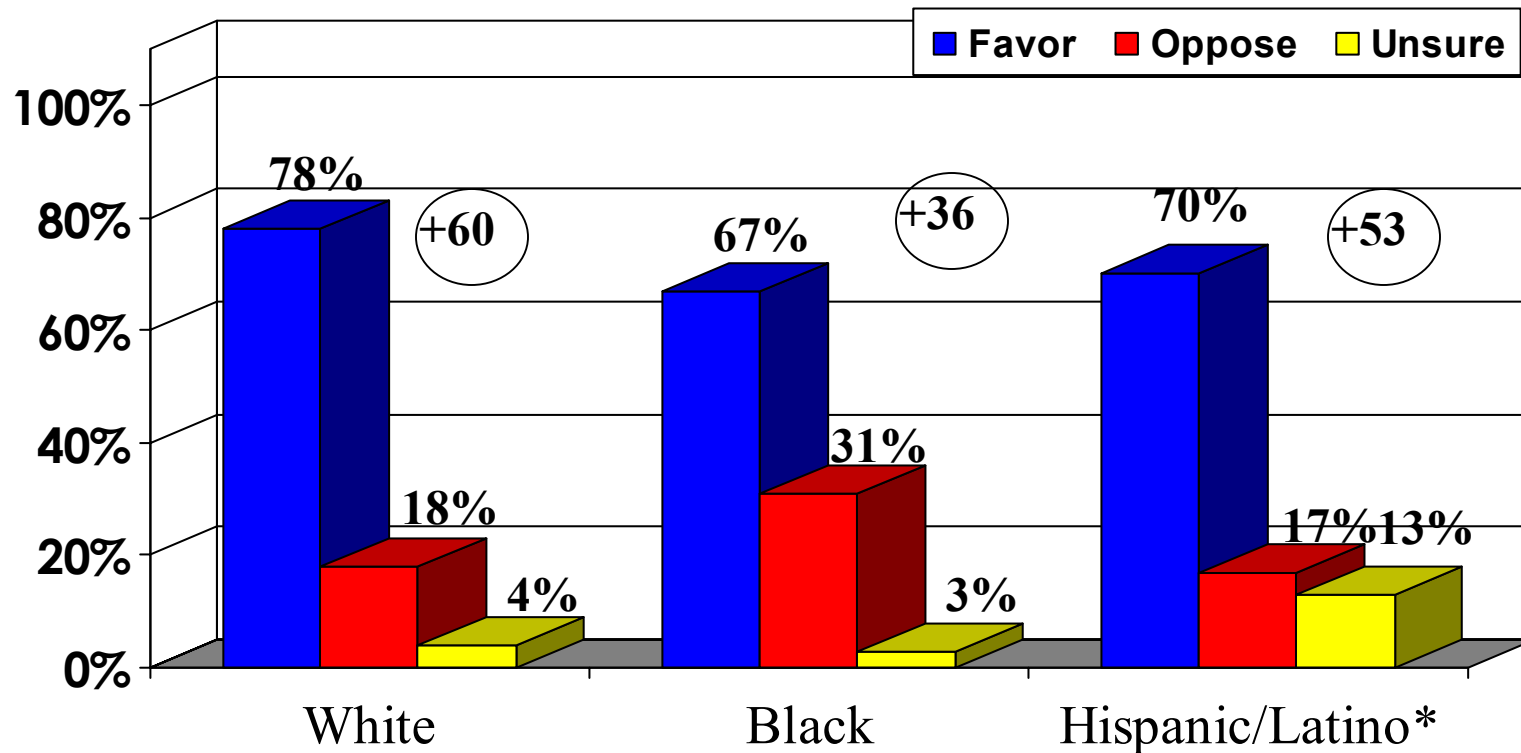
*N = 265 registered likely Hispanic voters

Union and non-union households are similarly supportive.
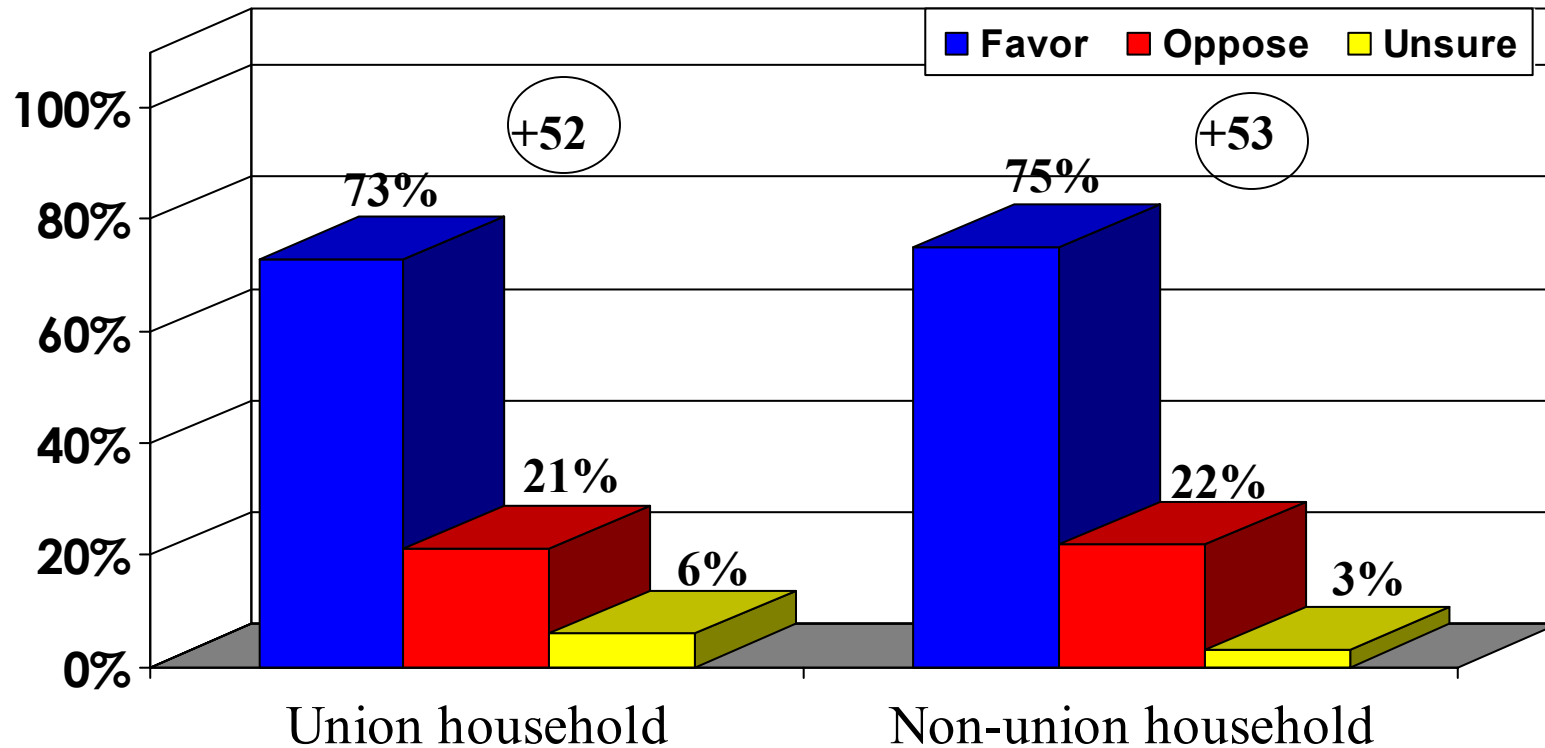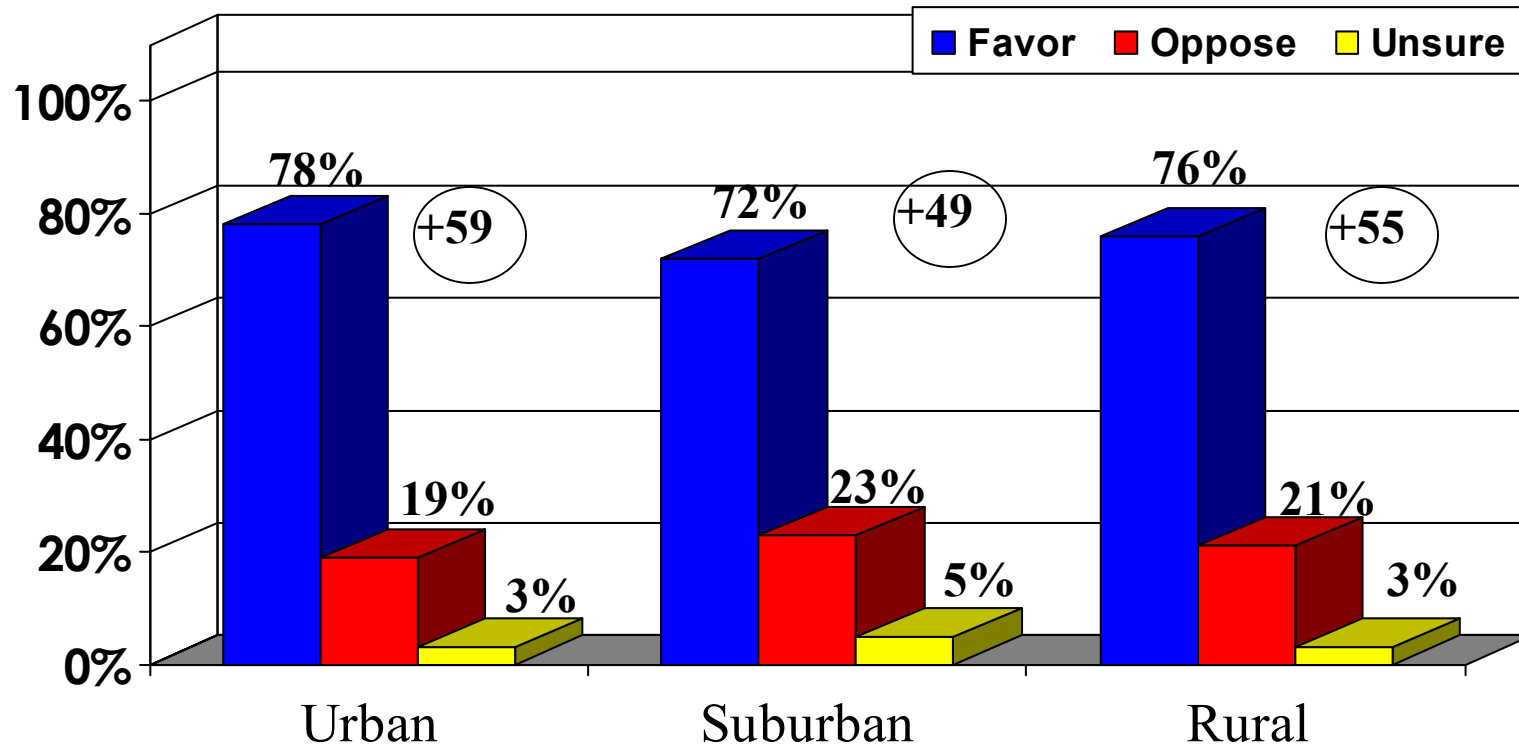
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Two-thirds of single-issue immigration voters support the proposal.
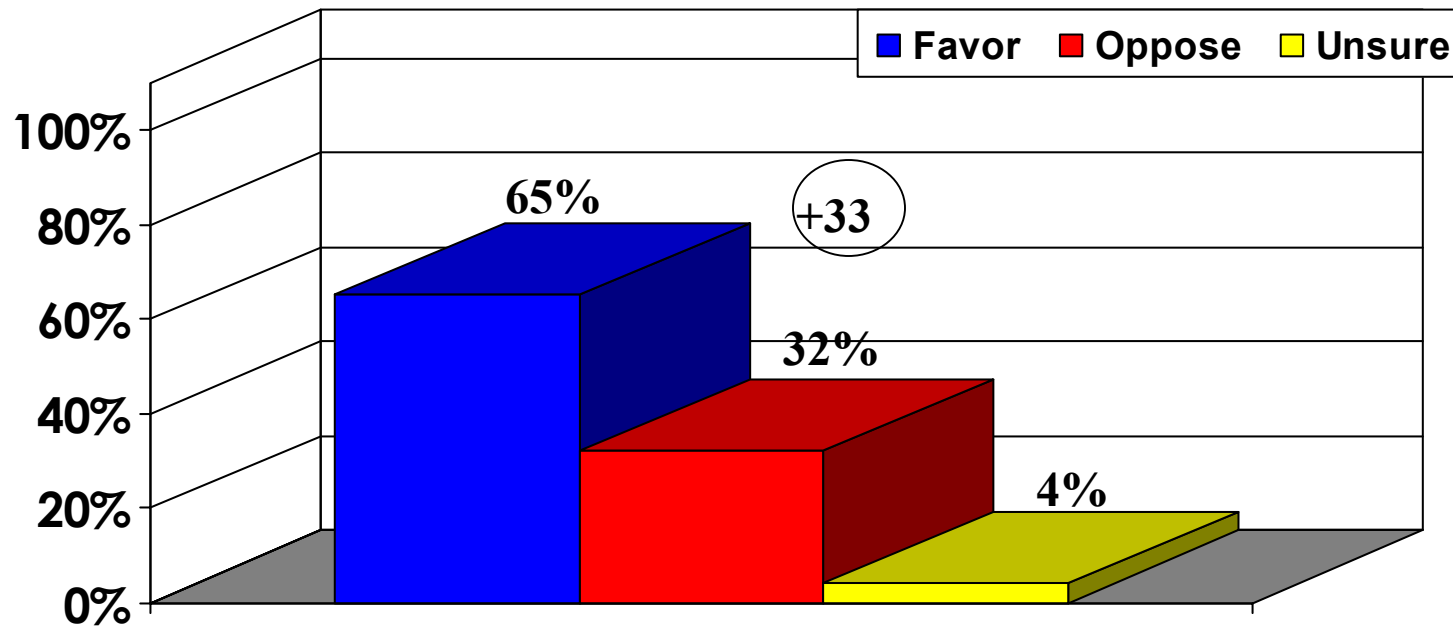
Voters who say they would NOT vote for a
candidate they disagreed with on immigration

Lake·Snell·Perry·Mermin
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

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And, which of the items in this proposal was <u>most</u> important to you in your decision to support this proposal?
(Asked of N= 599, or 75% of total sample)
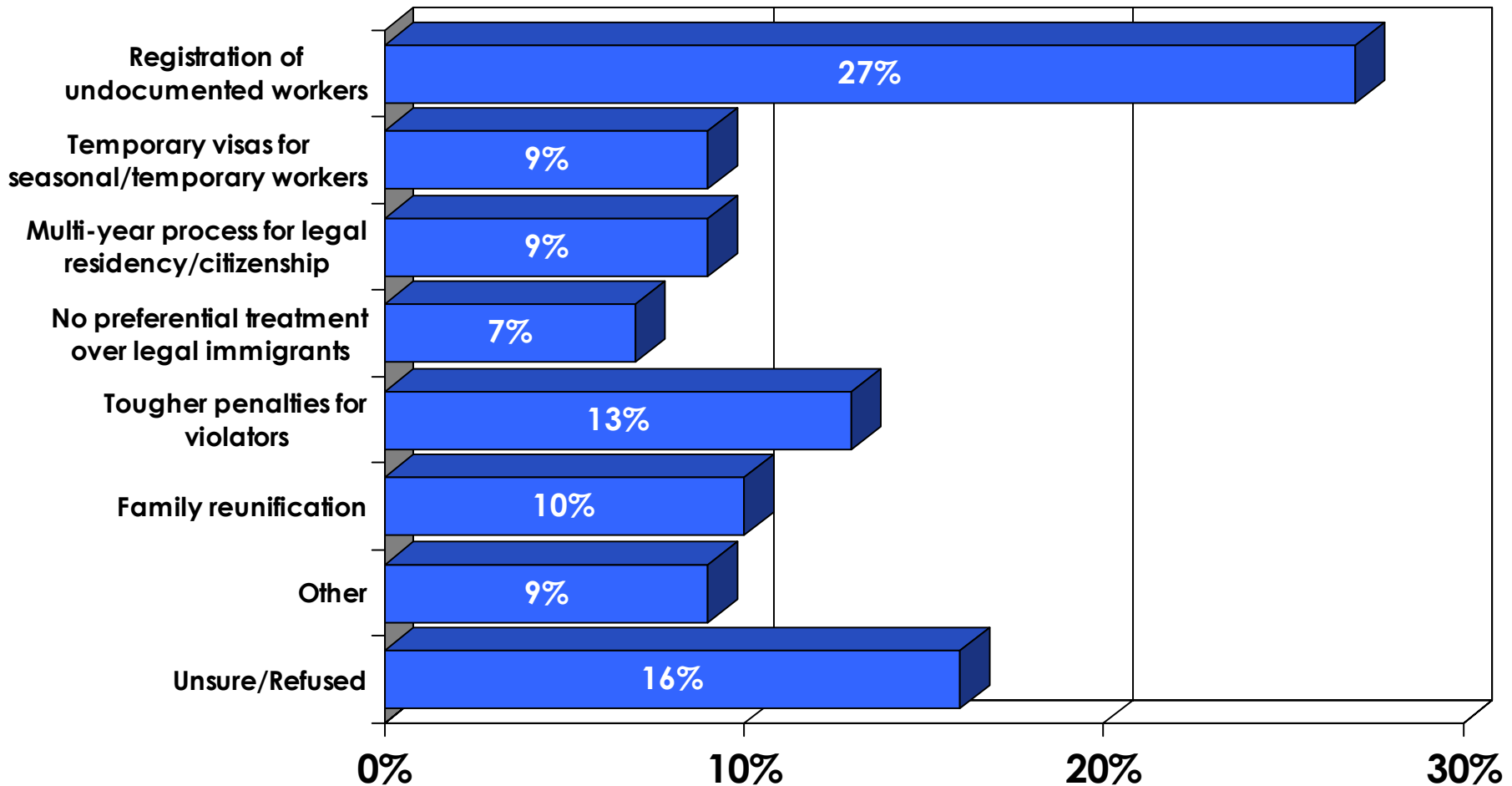
Category	Percent
Registration of undocumented workers	27%
Temporary visas for seasonal/temporary workers	9%
Multi-year process for legal residency/citizenship	9%
No preferential treatment over legal immigrants	7%
Tougher penalties for violators	13%
Family reunification	10%
Other	9%
Unsure/Refused	16%

0%   10%   20%   30%

March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

And, which of the items in this proposal was <u>most</u> important to you in your decision to oppose this proposal?
(Asked of N= 173, or 22% of total sample)

Registration of undocumented workers	13%
Temporary visas for seasonal/temporary workers	12%
Multi-year process for legal residency/citizenship	9%
No preferential treatment over legal immigrants	9%
Tougher penalties for violators	8%
Family reunification	9%
Has bipartisan support	1%
Other	20%
Unsure/Refused	20%

0%   10%   20%
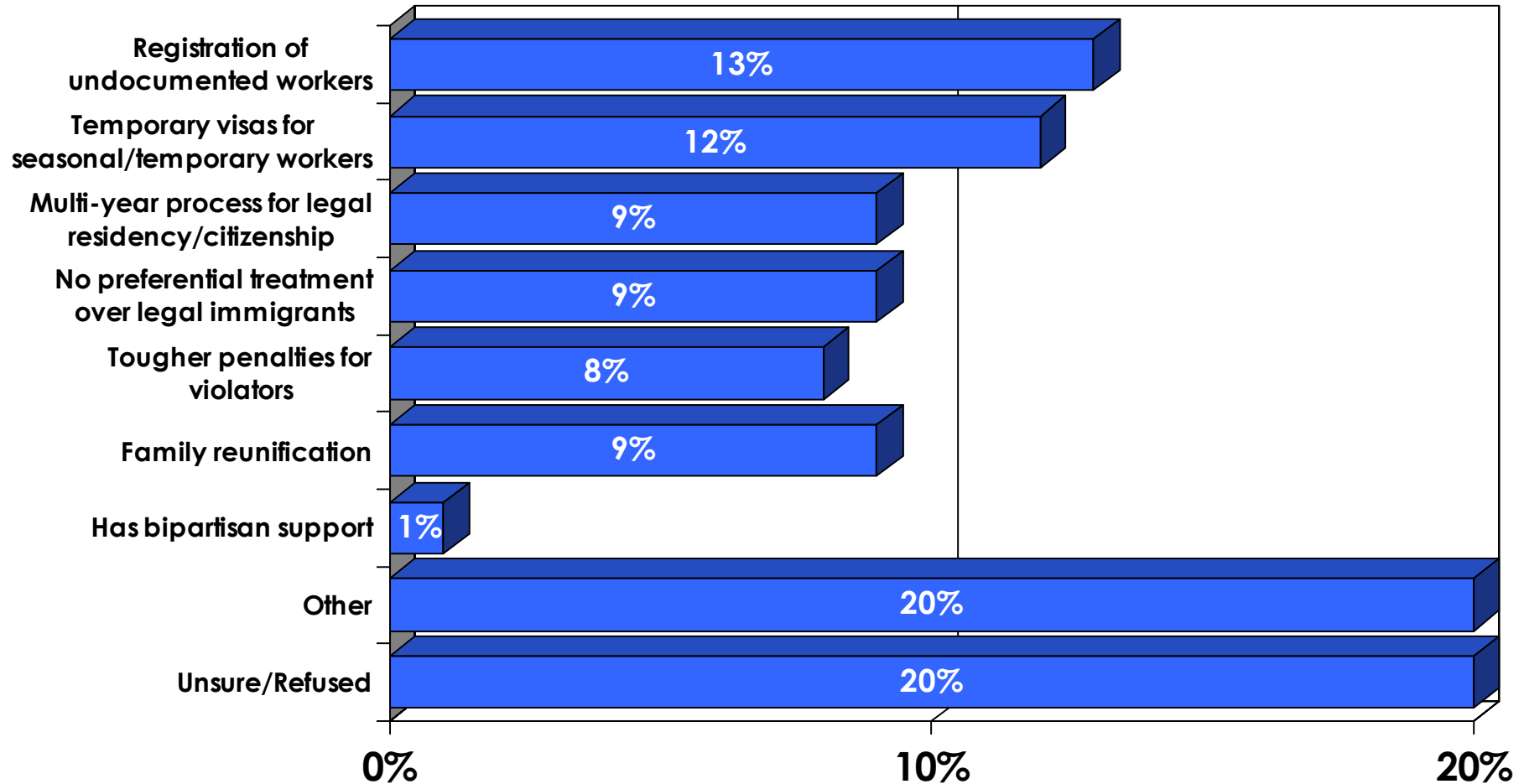
March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

If a candidate for Congress supported this type of immigration reform proposal, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for this candidate?

More likely	69%
Unsure	7%
No difference	4%
Less likely	21%
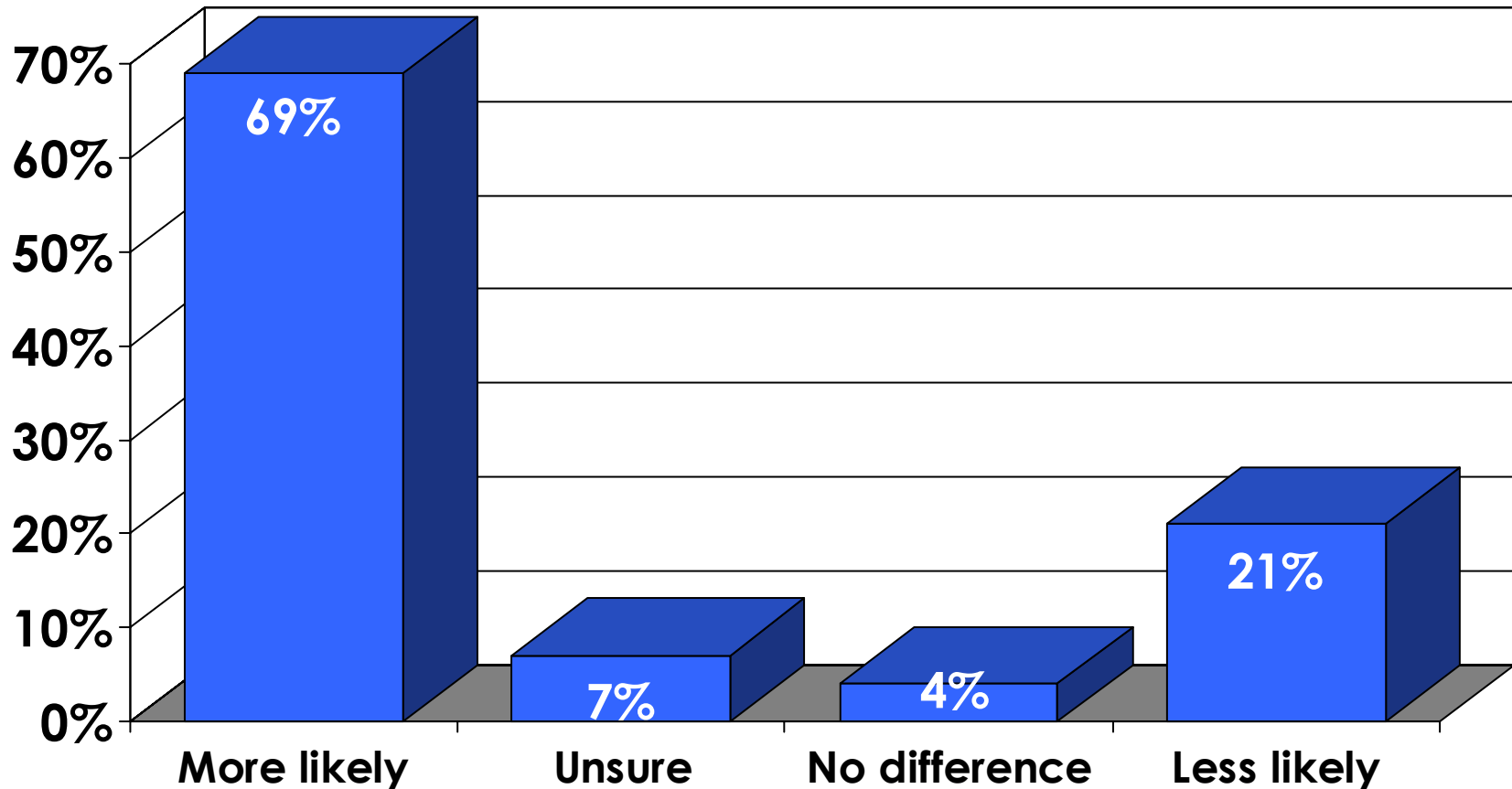
March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

Supporting this proposal helps candidates across party lines.
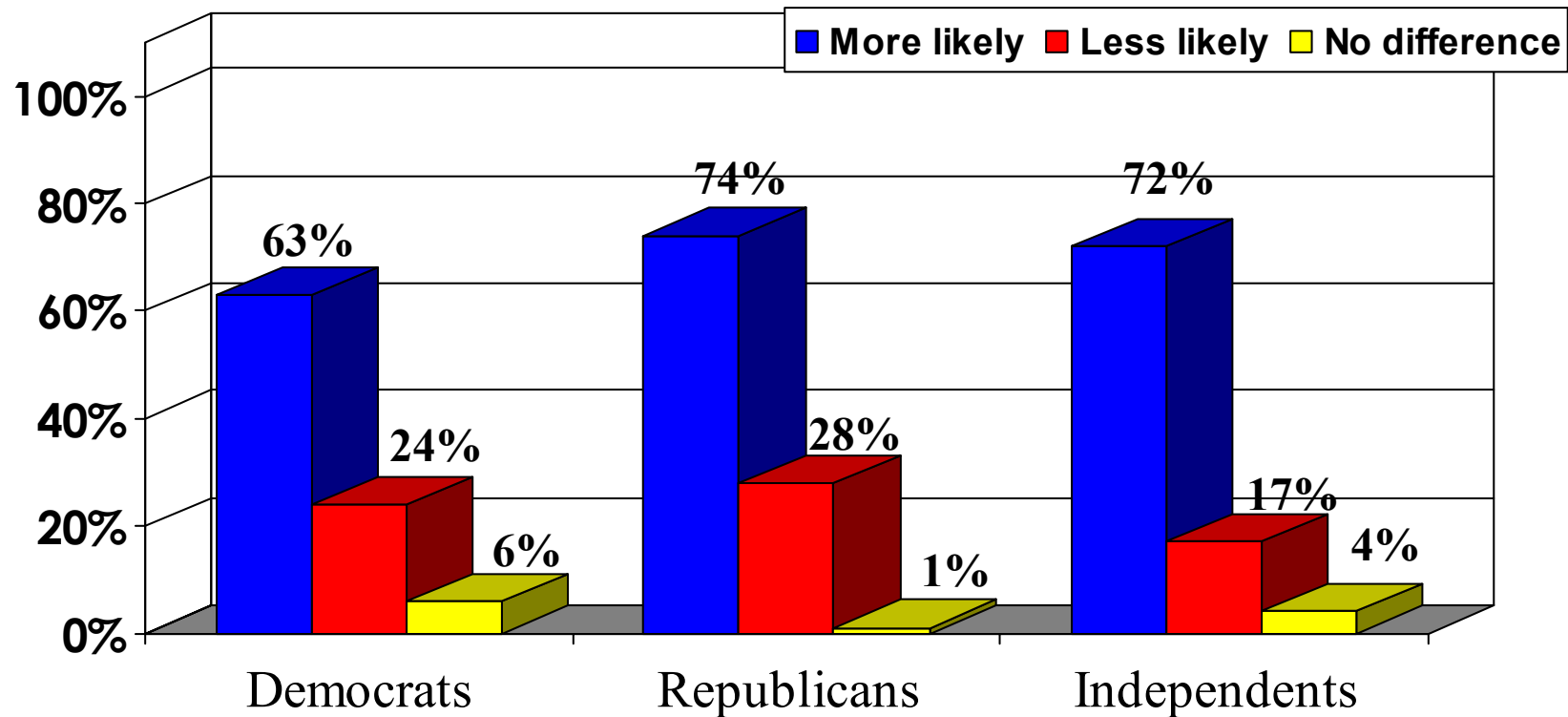
March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

Please tell me if you would agree or disagree with that particular statement.

Net

We need an immigration system that is consistent with the basic American values of fairness and equal treatment under the law.
75% | 17% | 6%
+86

We need a controlled immigration system that would replace an illegal immigration flow with a legal immigration flow.
66% | 24% | 7%
+83

The immigration system is broken and needs to be fixed.
63% | 21% | 12%
+72

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ **Strongly agree** □ **Somewhat agree** ■ **Disagree**

March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

Please tell me if you would agree or disagree with that particular statement.

Net

If an immigrant has been in this country working, paying taxes, and learning English, there should be a way for them to become a citizen.

| 59% | 27% | 12% |

+74

Fixing our immigration system to make it safe, legal, and orderly will make us more secure from terrorists.

| 57% | 22% | 20% |

+59

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

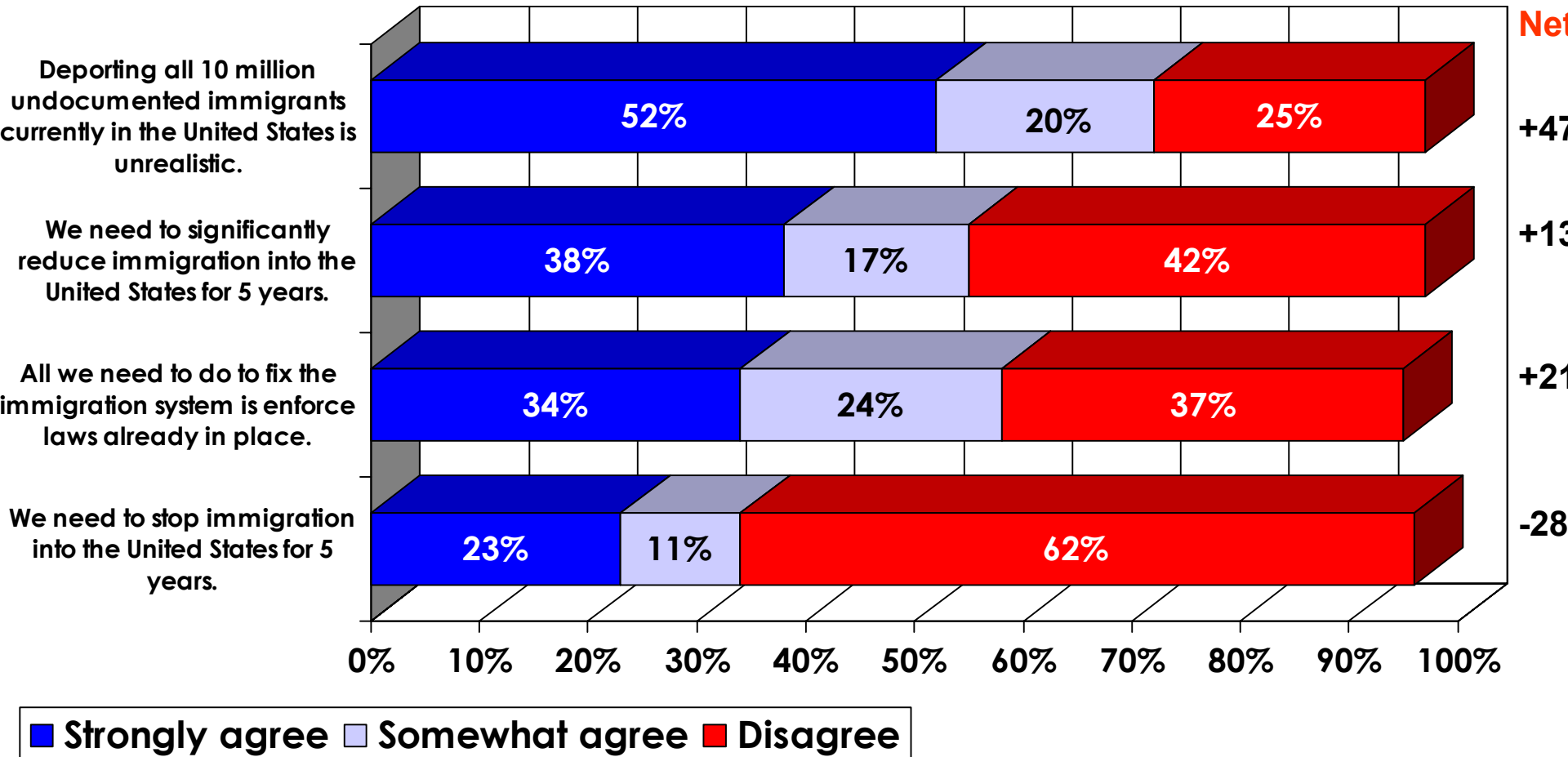■ **Strongly agree** □ **Somewhat agree** ■ **Disagree**
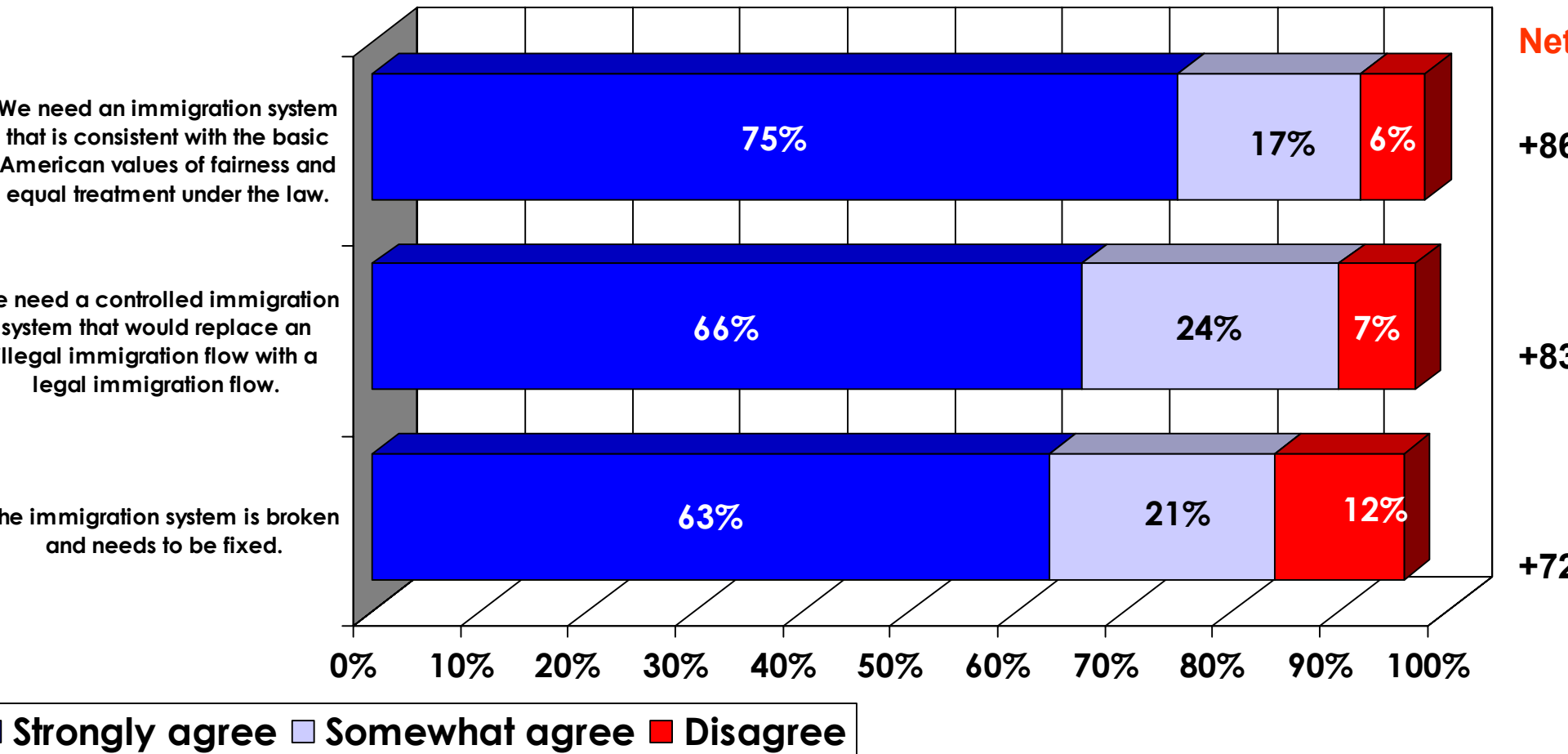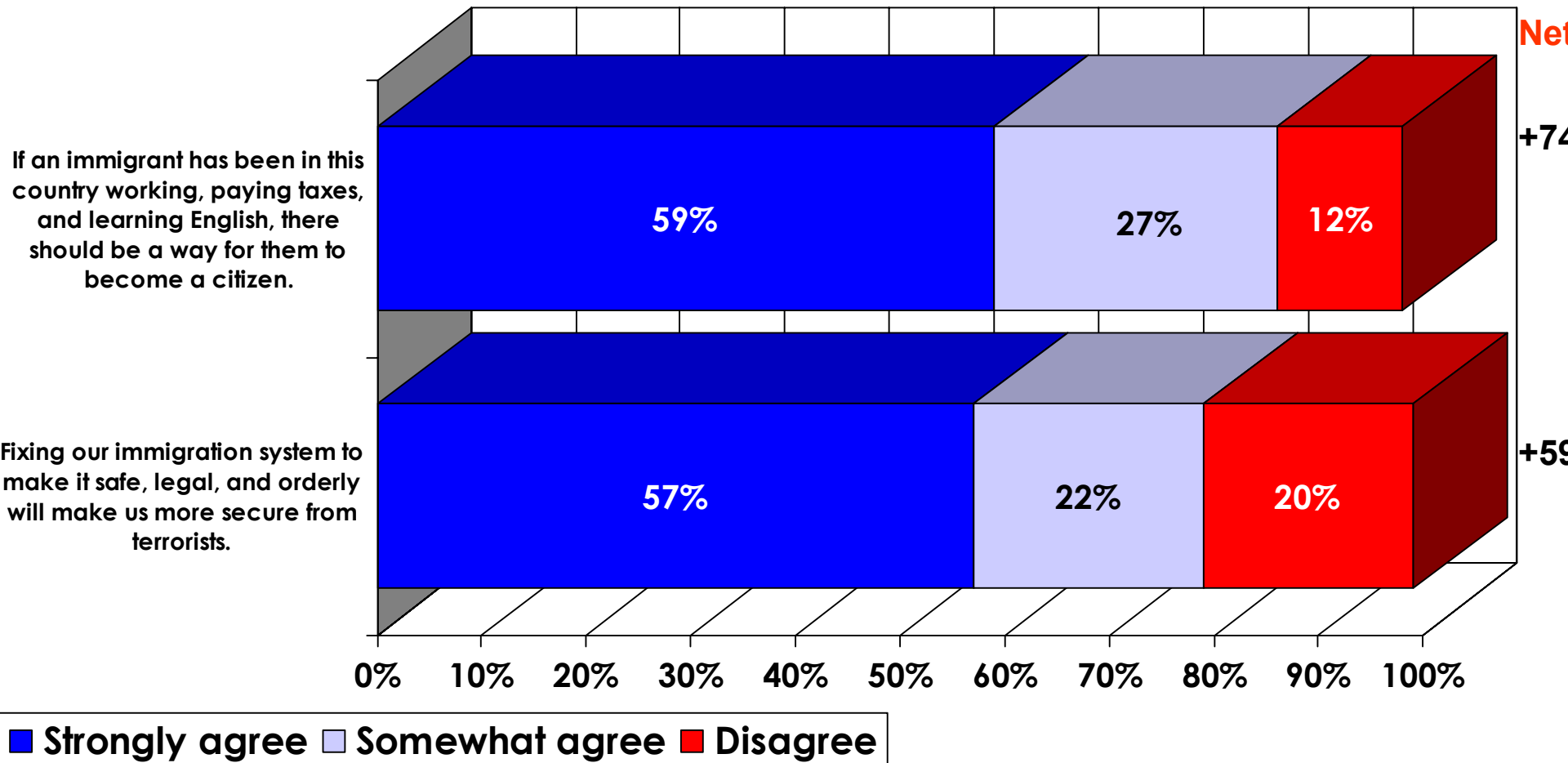
March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

Please tell me if you would agree or disagree with that particular statement.
(Split Sample A/B)

Net

Statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Net
Deporting all 10 million undocumented immigrants currently in the United States is unrealistic.	52%	20%	25%	+47
We need to significantly reduce immigration into the United States for 5 years.	38%	17%	42%	+13
All we need to do to fix the immigration system is enforce laws already in place.	34%	24%	37%	+21
We need to stop immigration into the United States for 5 years.	23%	11%	62%	-28

■ **Strongly agree** ☐ **Somewhat agree** ■ **Disagree**

THE TARRANCE GROUP

Lake·Snell·Perry·Mermin
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

I am going to read you a list of various requirements an undocumented immigrant may have to meet in order to be eligible to stay in the country permanently, and for each one tell me whether you think it is the single most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, not at all important requirement, or you aren't sure.
**(Split Sample A)**
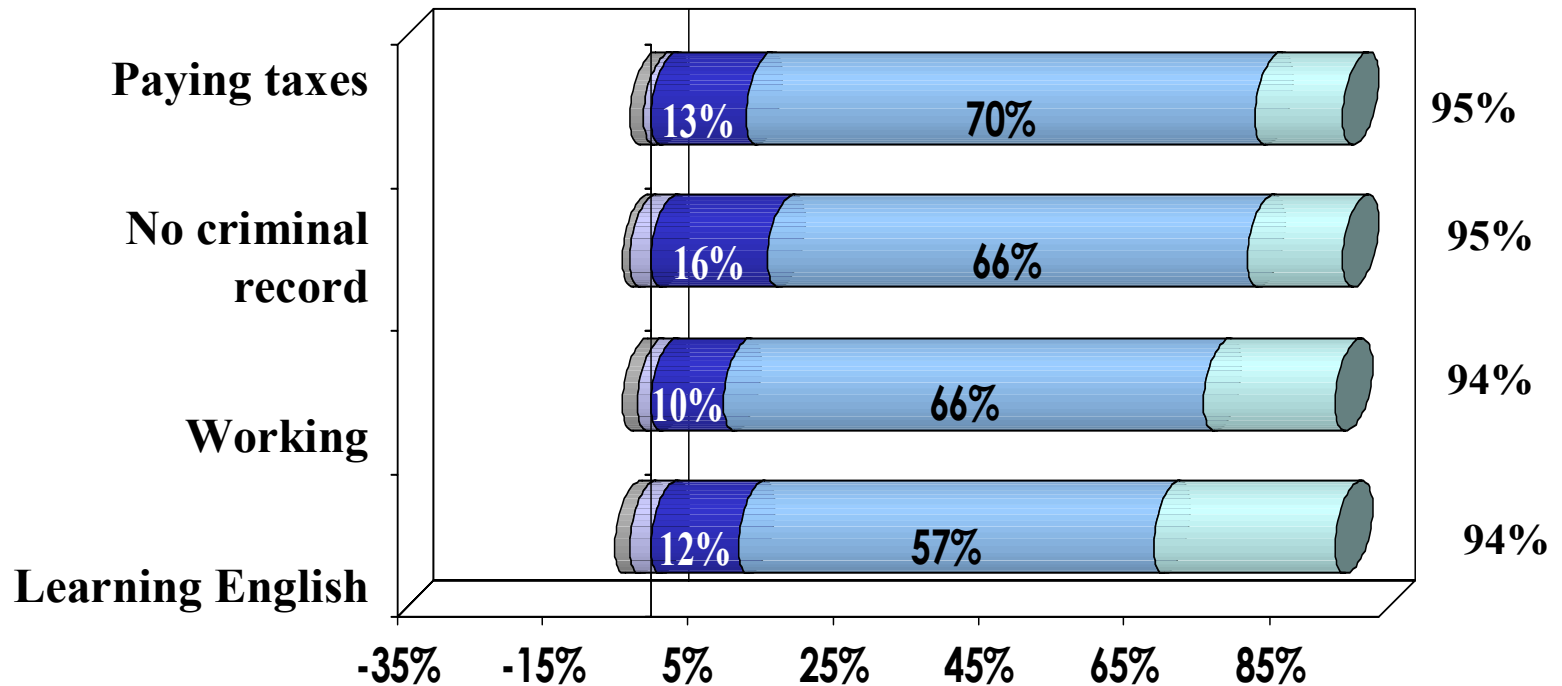
Requirement			
Paying taxes	13%	70%	95%
No criminal record	16%	66%	95%
Working	10%	66%	94%
Learning English	12%	57%	94%

-35%   -15%   5%   25%   45%   65%   85%

Darker shades = greater intensity

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I am going to read you a list of various requirements an undocumented immigrant may have to meet in order to be eligible to receive eventual citizenship, and for each one tell me whether you think it is the single most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, not at all important requirement, or you aren't sure.
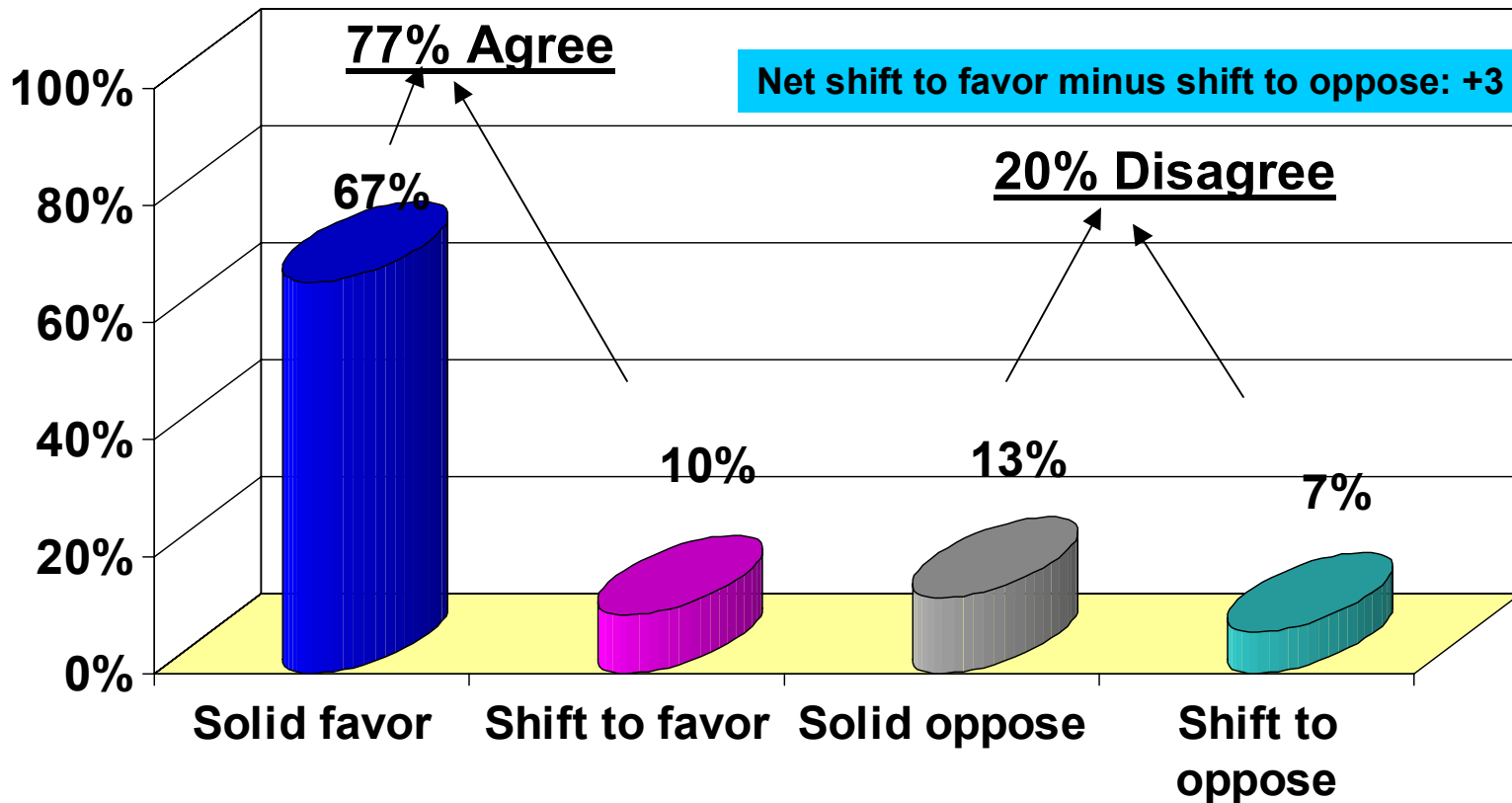
(Split Sample B)
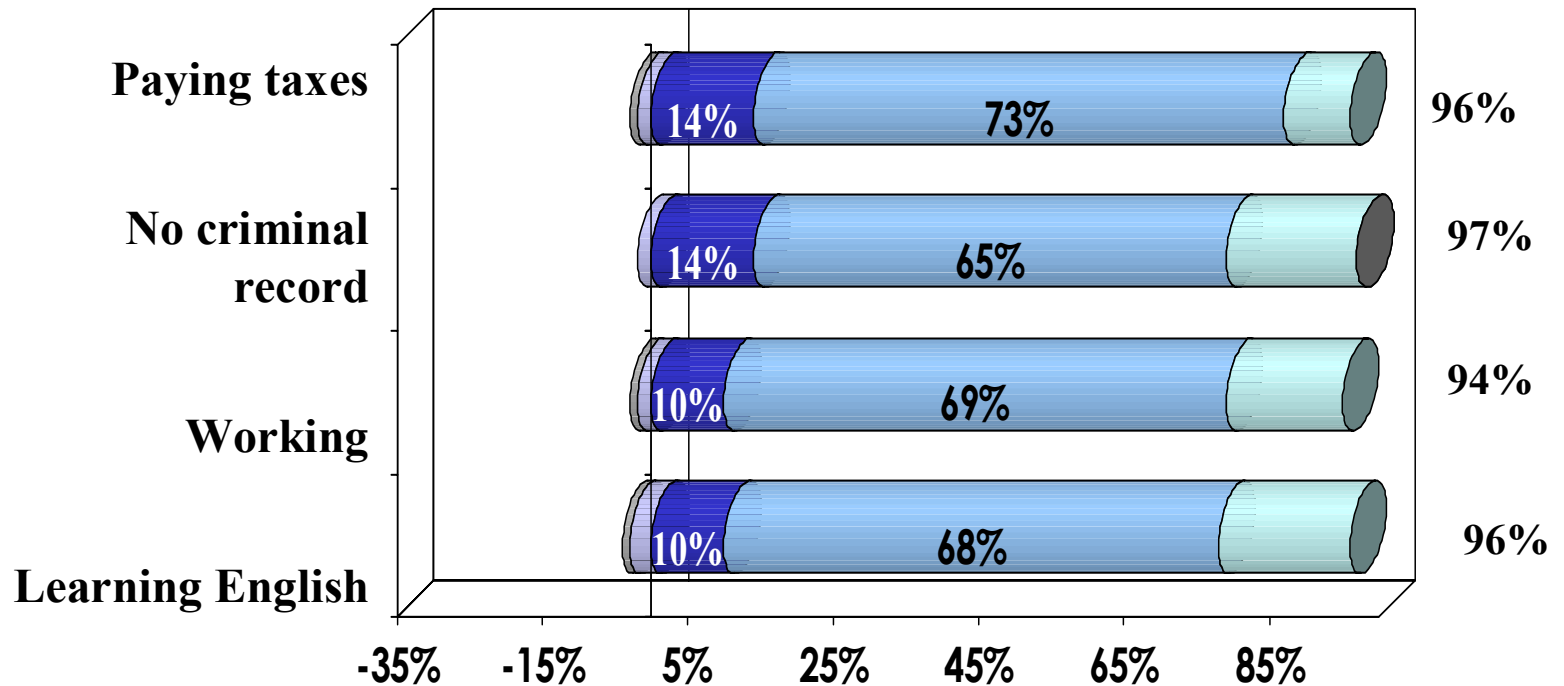
Darker shades = greater intensity

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After voters hear positive and negative messages, the proposal picks up support.

77% Agree

Net shift to favor minus shift to oppose: +3

100%

67%

20% Disagree

80%

60%

40%

10%   **13%**

7%

20%

0%

Solid favor   Shift to favor   Solid oppose   Shift to oppose