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# Poll: People across the spectrum support immigration rules to keep food coming



Photo by: Brennan Linsley/AP

This photo taken Oct. 16, 2014, shows a farmer during harvesting of the grain milo just outside the town of Yuma in eastern Colorado. This small farming hamlet of 3,200 near the Nebraska border is home to an increasing number of Latino immigrants, drawn to work in the nearby corn and hog farms. The immigration issue represents a dilemma for Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo. in his race against Democratic Sen. Mark Udall in the only state among the dozen or so in play in this year's midterm election race with both a competitive Senate race and a sizable population of Hispanic voters. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



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With food prices [skyrocketing](#), many factors have been blamed.

They include disrupted exports of grain, fertilizer, and fuel because of Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. They also include supply-chain disruptions brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

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In addition, the agricultural and food processing sectors have been plagued by the same labor shortages that have hit other parts of the economy.

Amid [deep worries](#) that Ohio's foodbanks will run out of supplies this winter, a top official last week said that the labor shortage among food workers is particularly acute — and an irrational fear of immigrants isn't helping.

people who plant our food, grow our food, pick our food, and bring our food to our grocery stores. Those are our migrant workers who do the work that most Americans have clearly demonstrated they can't or won't do.”

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However, a survey released Tuesday indicates that Americans across the political spectrum support immigration reform if that means lowering food costs.

If additional labor is to be added to the agricultural workforce, that means more immigrants.

For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that in 2016, undocumented immigrants made up 50.1% of the nation's farmworkers. Another 22% was authorized, meaning that immigrants of all types made up [almost three quarters of the farm workforce](#).

A similar portion of Americans — 77% — said yes when asked whether they wanted “Republicans and Democrats working together this year on reforms that could help lower food prices by ensuring a legal, reliable workforce for America's farmers and ranchers.”



and reduce pressures at the border,” said the survey, conducted by the Bullfinch Group on behalf of the National Immigration Forum and Americans for Prosperity.

The online survey was conducted from Aug. 5-8 with 1,208 adults, of whom 83% of whom were registered voters. The margin of error was plus or minus 2.82 percentage points.

Perhaps not surprisingly, when asked if they supported lowering food prices by ensuring a stable, legal workforce, respondents’ levels of agreement were overwhelming and fairly uniform across political lines. Seventy-nine percent of Democrats, 68% of independents and 74% of Republicans agreed.

Maybe more surprising is that the dynamic didn’t change much when “immigration” and “the border” were added to the mix. Sixty-seven percent of Republicans said yes, as did 68% of independents and 79% of Democrats.

“This latest poll confirms what the American people have been consistently saying for years: Lawmakers need to put partisan politics aside and fix our country’s broken immigration system,” Jorge Lima, senior vice president of policy for Americans for Prosperity, said in a statement accompanying the poll. “They can start now by ensuring that our farmers have a reliable workforce to draw from in order to meet labor demands. We urge lawmakers to bring relief to the American people today.”

Dan Gordon, vice president of strategic communications for the National Immigration Forum, said it’s time to stop using immigration and the border as partisan footballs.

“All Americans will benefit when Democrats and Republicans reach solutions that address the border, agriculture and legal-immigration processes that honor






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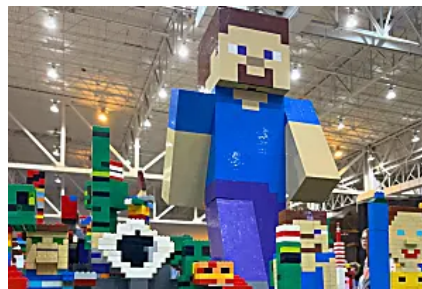


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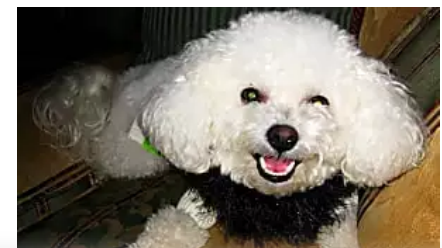
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