

This paper survey can also be answered online at: www.bit.ly/AIF3Paper



American Immigration Forums 2014 Opinionnaire® Survey

The American Immigration Forums (AIForums) is coordinating this statewide survey in conjunction with community conversations about **"The Path to Citizenship."** Your ideas and opinions will be combined with those from other participants across Washington State to better understand our larger communal dialogue. NDN will prepare final reports by the end of November and share them with everyone. There is a lot that we can learn from each other!

Please read all of following questions or statements and circle your one best answer directly on this paper survey. There are *Demographic and Topic questions*. This survey takes about 15 minutes to complete – and your efforts are meaningful and appreciated! **When you are done, give this paper survey to your host but keep the last page and pass it along as an invitation to someone else.**

At least one demographic and one topic question must be answered for this survey to be considered valid.

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

(1) What is your age range?

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| 1. 17 or under | 2. 18-24 years | 3. 25-34 years |
| 4. 35-44 | 5. 45-54 years | 6. 55-64 years |
| 7. 65-74 | 8. 75 or over | 9. I prefer not to answer this question |

(2) What is the gender identity you most closely identify with?

1. Male 2. Female 3. Other: _____
4. I prefer not to answer this question

(3) Do you consider yourself to be a religious and/or a spiritual person?

1. Yes 2. No 3. I prefer not to answer this question

(4) What is your ethnic heritage?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. American Indian or Alaska Native | 2. Asian |
| 3. Black or African American | 4. Hispanic or Latino/Latina |
| 5. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander | 6. White/Caucasian |
| 7. Multi-Racial Heritage | 8. I prefer not to answer this question |

(5) What is your primary employment status?

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Full time employed | 2. Part time employed |
| 3. Self-employed or business owner | 4. Student (not working) |
| 5. Student (working 1-20 hours/week) | 6. Student (working 20+ hours/week) |
| 7. Retired | 6. Unemployed |
| 9. I prefer not to answer this question | |

(6) What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 1. Grades 1-8
- 2. Some High School
- 3. High School Graduate (including GED)
- 4. Some College or Technical School
- 5. Technical School Graduate or Two-Year College Graduate
- 6. Four-Year College Graduate
- 7. Some Postgraduate Education
- 8. Postgraduate Degree (Masters, Ph.D., MD, J.D., LLM, etc.)
- 9. I prefer not to answer this question

(7) What is the your current resident status in the United States?

- 1. Citizen
- 2. Legal Permanent Resident (LPR)
- 3. Temporary Visa
- 4. Other: _____
- 5. I prefer not to answer this question

(8) What is your preferred language?

- 1. English IS my preferred language
 - 2. English is NOT my preferred language
 - 3. I prefer not to answer this question
- (Please tell us what your preferred language is: _____)

(9) Are you proficient in a language OTHER THAN English?

(If YES, you can repeat your preferred language again for this question if you wish)

- 1. Yes: _____
- 2. No
- 3. I prefer not to answer this question

(10) What is your 5-digit Zip Code? _____

TOPIC QUESTIONS

Select the ONE answer that best describes your response. If you have any questions, please ask your host for assistance. Or you can:

ABSTAIN if you don't feel you have enough information at this time to select one of the other choices.

OBJECT if you feel the question is poorly written, misleading, or inappropriate in any way.

(For questions 11-17) Taken as a whole, how strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about **"Employment and Education-Related Immigration Issues"**?

BACKGROUND: The proposed Senate bill (S. 744) will add a new option allowing foreigners who earn advanced degrees (Master's, PhD, post-doctorate, etc.) in science-related fields from U.S. universities to obtain green cards upon graduation. The bill will raise the number of H-1B visas allocated annually and increase regulations on employers hiring advanced degree immigrant workers. Non-citizen professionals will be granted Legal Permanent Resident status through a point system in which applicants will gain points corresponding to their education and work history. Immigrant visa categories for adult married children and siblings of current U.S. citizens will be abolished and replaced by this system. [Citation: www.bit.ly/AIF3-S744]

(11) "Immigrants with advanced degrees should be given priority visa consideration over those without advanced degrees."

1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object
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(12) "Immigrants with advanced degrees should be given priority visa consideration over those without advanced degrees, but only if they have secured a job."						
1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object

BACKGROUND: Currently, foreign nationals in the United States with valid H-1B visas for temporary "specialty occupations" (which include the STEM occupations) must have a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) AND are strictly limited to a single sponsoring employer. Under current law, if an H-1B worker is laid off and attempts to find a new H-1B employer to sponsor another petition, the individual is considered "out of status" if there is even a one-day gap between the last day of employment and the date that the new H-1B petition is filed.

(13) "Congress should guarantee a grace period for workers with valid H-1B visas so they may seek new employment in country without first having to return home."						
1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object

BACKGROUND: Another proposed change is the elimination of the per-country quota for employment-based immigration. This would mean that all aliens, regardless of what country they are born in, will be placed in the same visa pool. This would vastly decrease visa wait times for high visa-use countries such as China or India. In addition to eliminating the per-country quota, the proposed law also contains provisions that exempt certain categories from the annual numerical limit on employment-based visas altogether. [Citation: www.bit.ly/AIF3-jclawoffice1]

(14) "Country-specific limits on employment-based immigrant visas should be eliminated."						
1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object

BACKGROUND: The proposed legislation exempts persons who hold an advanced degree (master's degree or higher) in a STEM field (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) from the annual limit on employment-based immigrants, so long as the alien earned the degree from a U.S. institution, has an offer of employment from a U.S. employer in a related field, and earned the qualifying degree within the five-year period immediately preceding the filing of the immigrant petition. [Citation: www.bit.ly/AIF3-jclawoffice1]

(15) "Persons who earn advanced degrees in STEM fields from U.S. universities should be exempted from the annual worldwide cap on employment-based immigrant visas."						
1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object

BACKGROUND: For persons who have a degree in a STEM field that is not considered "advanced" (Master's or higher) the proposed law will exempt such persons from the requirement of obtaining a labor certification. In other words, if one holds a bachelor degree in a STEM field, it will be possible to receive an approval for an immigrant petition without the need for a labor certification. [Citation: www.bit.ly/AIF3-jclawoffice1]

(16) "STEM graduates should be exempted from the labor certification requirement."						
1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object

(17) "A green card should be immediately available to foreign students with an advanced degree from a United States institution of higher education in a field of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM), and who possess an offer of employment from a United States employer in a field related to their degree."

1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object
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(For questions 18-25) Taken as a whole, how strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about "Undocumented Residents and Seasonal Immigration"?

BACKGROUND: The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." In 2003, a Seventh Circuit Federal Court Judge stated that the policy of granting automatic birthright citizenship for children of illegal and temporary aliens is one that "Congress should rethink" and that the United States "should not be encouraging foreigners to come to the United States solely to enable them to confer U.S. citizenship on their future children." [Citation: <http://www.cis.org/birthright-citizenship>]

(18) "'Congress should rethink' the policy of granting automatic citizenship to children of illegal or temporary aliens who are born in the United States."

1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object
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(19) "Congress should provide an expedited pathway to citizenship for undocumented minors living in the U.S."

1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object
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(20) "Congress should provide an expedited pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants with children who are U.S. citizens by birth."

1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object
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BACKGROUND: The current proposal provides a special path to legalization based on the "AgJOBS" bill for agricultural workers. Undocumented agricultural workers will be eligible for an immigrant status called a "blue card." To qualify they must have performed at least 575 hours or 100 work days of agricultural employment during a two-year period ending December 31, 2012, and must pay a penalty and pass background checks. They must meet the same criminal and admissibility requirements as applicants for RPI (Registered Provisional Immigrant) status. They can be in blue-card status for up to eight years after regulations are published, and will not be eligible for federal means-tested public benefits. Blue-card holders may apply for Lawful Permanent Resident status five years after enactment of the bill if they have continued to work in agriculture, paid their taxes, and pay a fine. They may apply for citizenship after being permanent residents for five years. [Citation: www.bit.ly/AIF3-S744]

(21) "There should be a specific path to citizenship for undocumented farm workers that does not apply to other undocumented residents, such as the blue card system proposed in the AgJOBS bill."

1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object
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BACKGROUND: E-Verify is an internet-based system that allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States by comparing information from an employee's Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9 to data from U.S. government records. Because the system is not currently mandatory, only around 7 percent of employers in the U.S. are currently enrolled in E-Verify.

Under S. 744, E-Verify will be expanded and made mandatory for all employers over a period of five years. The bill requires identity verification through the use of enhanced fraud-proof documents, such as tamper- and identity-theft resistant Social Security cards, and the use of a photo tool to allow employers to verify an individual's identity. Employers are required to confirm identity and employment authorization within three business days after the employee accepts the offer of employment. A mandatory entry and exit system will be implemented at all air and sea ports to help ensure that foreign nationals are leaving the United States as required. The bill will take precedence over local and state laws related to the hiring of foreign nationals, creating a uniform national standard. However, the bill does not allow the creation of a national identification card.

Employers who knowingly hire, recruit, refer, or continue to employ an unauthorized immigrant or fail to comply with E-Verify requirements are subject to increased civil or criminal penalties. Civil fines are increased up to \$25,000 per violation for employers that have committed multiple violations related to hiring unauthorized immigrants. Criminal penalties include two years in prison for employers who have repeatedly hired unauthorized workers, in addition to fines of up to \$10,000. Employers who comply with the system's requirements in good faith will not be penalized if the Department of Homeland Security later determines that they have employed an unauthorized worker. [Citation: www.bit.ly/AIF3-S744]

(22) "E-Verify should be expanded and made mandatory for all employers over a period of five years."

1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object
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(23) "Employers who knowingly hire, recruit, or continue to employ an unauthorized immigrant, or fail to comply with E-Verify requirements, should be subject to increased civil or criminal penalties."

1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object
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BACKGROUND: Currently, undocumented agricultural workers provide the largest labor force of agricultural production in the U.S. Without the undocumented agricultural worker population, the price for agricultural production may increase. If undocumented workers have the opportunity for green cards, they will be able to become permanent workers in the U.S. using the "W" visa and the H-1B visa. [Read more: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H-2A_Visa]

(24) "U.S. food costs are susceptible to changes in undocumented agricultural worker populations."						
1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object

BACKGROUND: The H-2A visa currently allows temporary or seasonal agricultural workers to enter the U.S. for production and is an agricultural program that supplies workers to employers who anticipate a shortage in domestic workers. Creating additional opportunities for workers to enter encourages foreigners to enter legally and safely, thus increasing control of the government and decreasing illegal immigration across the border. The government would still be able to cap the flow of immigrants coming into the U.S. [Citation: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H-2A_Visa]

(25) "Offering more H-2A visas for seasonal workers and creating more effective seasonal pathways into the United States would allow the U.S. to tighten control of the border."						
1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object

BACKGROUND: In early 2014, the Washington State legislature passed the Washington State DREAM Act. This law allows undocumented students in the state to become eligible for need-based financial aid at public institutions of higher learning. Prior to the passage of this law, undocumented students residing in Washington were eligible for in-state tuition rates at public universities only if they met several requirements, including residency for at least three consecutive years, residency after graduating from high school (or completing a GED), and providing an affidavit stating that they would apply for legal status when eligible to do so. [Citation: www.bit.ly/AIF3-SeattlePI]

(26) "Undocumented in-state residents should continue to receive in-state tuition rates."						
1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree	Abstain	Object

Please add any final comments below for the students at the American Immigration Forums and take the next page home with you.

All Done!

PLEASE REMEMBER — take this last page with you to invite other people and groups to participate.

Return previous pages 1-6 to your host for processing **or use them to privately repeat your answers and add additional comments online at: www.bit.ly/AIF3Paper**



American
Immigration
Forums

***American Immigration Forums
2014 Opinionnaire® Survey***

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Check out our website at www.AIForums.org and complete the community survey – it takes about 15 minutes to complete – and your efforts are meaningful and appreciated!

If you have any questions, leave us a message at our number: **425-606-4340** and please **encourage you local hosts to conduct similar community events again. This process is available for many different issues of local and national interest.**

THANK YOU!