



TO: Interested Parties
FROM: ALG Research
RE: Survey Findings on Family Separation
DATE: October 3, 2018

The politics of immigration have shifted since the Trump administration began separating children from their parents at the border. Voters strongly oppose the family separation policy, and more voters now trust Democrats than Trump and Republicans on immigration than in June. Many swing voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who backed family separations, voters think reuniting families is a top priority, and the issue motivates Democrats while dividing Republicans. These shifts have occurred despite Trump and Republicans' attempts to demonize immigrants over the summer.

The Family Separation policy is deeply unpopular, considered a failure, and seen as an ongoing issue:

- Most likely voters (76%) are aware that at least some families remain separated, and 68% consider family separations to still be a serious problem. The vast majority of Democrats (85%) and independents (68%) and even 48% of Republicans agree that this is still a serious issue.
- The Trump administration's family separation policy continues to be a political liability for Trump and his allies in Congress. Support for the family separation policy is low, with 28% supporting the policy and 66% opposed; Among independent voters, only 20% support the policy while 68% oppose it. Republican voters are deeply divided, with 50% supportive and 44% opposed.
- A 64% majority believes the policy was a failure, compared to only 16% who believe it was a success. Only 6% of independent voters believe the policy was successful.

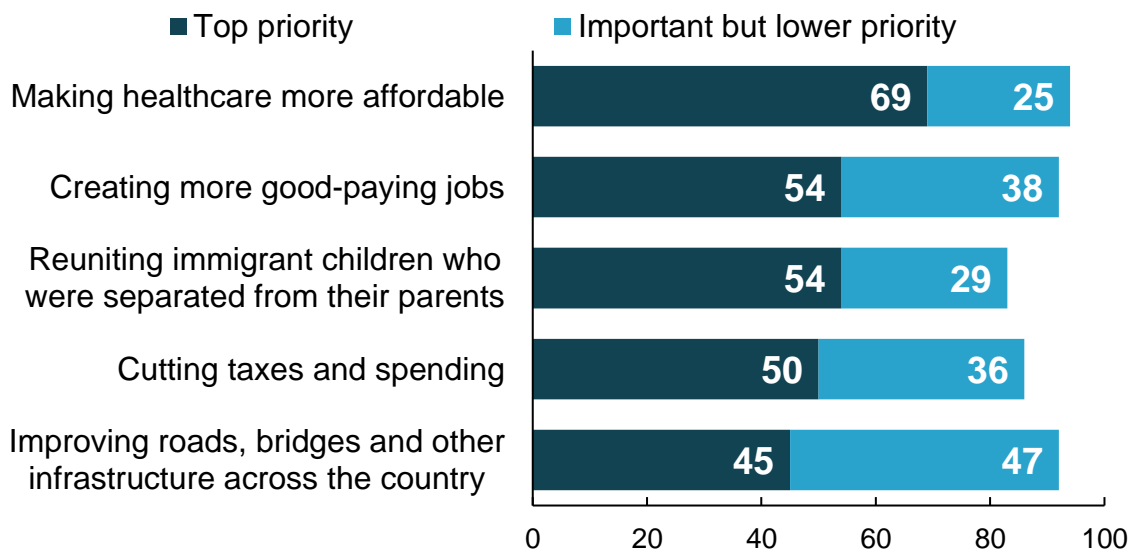
ALG conducted a nationally representative online survey of N=1,200 likely 2018 general election voters, September 12-17, 2018. The survey was conducted in both English and Spanish. Because the survey was conducted online, all respondents have Internet access and took the survey through a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

- The vast majority of likely voters blame Donald Trump for the policy (75% say he is responsible for the policy, with 57% calling him very much responsible), but 72% say that Congressional Republicans are responsible as well, including 35% who say they are very much responsible.

Voters think reuniting families is one of the most important issues for the government to be addressing right now.

- Most likely voters (54%) say that reuniting separated families should be a “top priority”, including 72% of Democrats and 51% of independents. This puts the issue on equal footing with creating jobs, and behind only healthcare as a priority.

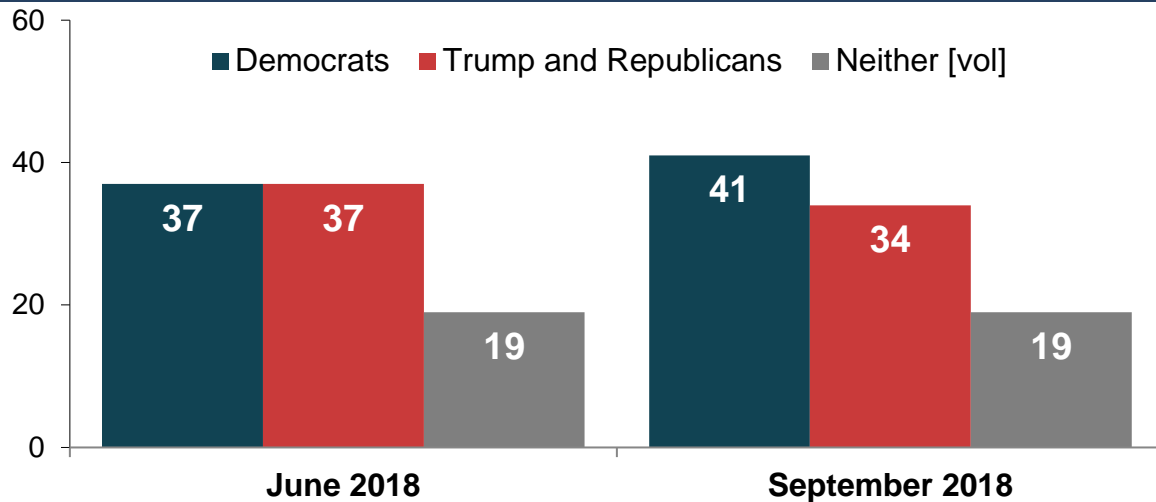
Issue Priorities:
On the following screens are a series of issues some people say the federal government should address. For each one, please indicate whether you think it should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should not be done at all.



Family separations have pushed swing voters toward Democrats, divided Republicans, and motivated the Democratic base.

- In June, voters were evenly split on whether they trusted Trump and Republicans or Democrats more on immigration. Now Democrats had a distinct 7-point advantage on the issue – 41% of voters trust Democrats more while just 34% trust Trump and Republicans more.

Trust on Immigration:
**When it comes to handling immigration issues, who do you trust more:
 Donald Trump and Republicans or Democrats?**



- Most voters are less likely to support a candidate for office who supported this policy (56% less likely vs. 20% more likely). This is a marked shift from June, when 42% were less likely to vote for a supporter of the policy and 33% were more likely. Among independents, 62% are less likely to vote for a candidate who supported family separations.
- Hearing about the family separation issue makes Democrats and voters of color more likely to vote this November: 64% of Democrats, 64% of Hispanics, and 73% of African Americans say they are more likely to vote because of this issue. Republicans have long considered immigration an issue that motivates their base, but on family separations they are badly mistaken.
- This issue divides Republicans: 50% of Republicans support the family separation policy and 44% oppose it, splitting the party in two. Notably, more Republican women oppose the policy (47%) than support it (45%) and a 56% majority of moderate Republicans oppose it. Further, while the issue makes 64% of Democrats more likely to vote in November, only 46% of Republicans say it makes them more likely to vote.
- 45% of voters say this issue makes them more likely to support Democrats in the 2018 elections, with just 26% saying it makes them more likely to support Republicans. Among Hispanic voters 53% say they are more likely to vote Democratic based on this issue, with only 23% saying it makes them more likely to vote Republican.