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# June 26, 2012

## Anzalone Liszt Research

### National Polling Summary

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Friends,

Below you will find the weekly Anzalone Liszt Research National Polling Summary, which provides a pollster's take on data and trends that affect political campaigns.

This week's newsletter focuses on public reaction to President Obama's recent executive order granting work permits to qualified undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. under the age of sixteen and are preparing to enter college or the military.

Following our analysis are additional news items and data we thought you'd enjoy.

John Anzalone and Jeff Liszt

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#### **STORY THIS WEEK: A DREAM (ACT) NO LONGER DEFERRED**

Since Mitt Romney vanquished his Republican rivals to become the presumptive nominee, much of the press coverage of the nascent general election campaign has been driven by over-analyzing the glut of polling data or by lurching from one gaffe-du-jour to the next. Substantive discussions of policy contrasts have been few and far between. However, President Obama's recent announcement that his administration will grant work permits to hundreds of thousands of Dream-Act eligible students has temporarily focused the race on the two candidate's differing views regarding that legislation. This week's newsletter takes advantage of the focus on immigration issues following last week's announcement to explore polling on the Dream Act and the immediate reaction to the President's decision.

#### **A Brief Background on the Dream Act**

The Dream Act would provide "conditional permanent residency" to certain qualified undocumented immigrants who entered the United States prior to their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and have enrolled in college or the military. Supporters believe the Dream Act adds common-sense to a broken immigration system and allows qualified students to contribute to the county they consider home. Opponents deride the Dream Act as "amnesty" that rewards those who come to the U.S. illegally. The Dream Act was originally sponsored by

Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) in the Senate and Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) in the House and has - at times - earned a great deal of bipartisan support. A version of the Dream Act passed the House in September 2010, but was not able to clear the Senate.

Driven by congressional inaction and a desire to target immigration enforcement resources at those who pose a greater threat, the Obama administration announced they will stop deporting undocumented immigrants who meet certain qualifications that are largely consistent with the Dream Act. The recent executive order is a temporary measure that could be rescinded or revised after President Obama leaves office. During the GOP primaries, Mitt Romney declared he would veto the Dream Act, though he has more recently indicated there are elements of the Dream Act he could support.

### **Support for the Dream Act Nationwide**

Over the past several years, public polling has shown broad support for the policies contained within the Dream Act, with support increasing as it has received more attention in the past couple of years.

In late 2010, [Gallup](#) found a double-digit margin in favor of "a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college" (54% Favor / 42% Oppose). Democrats supported such a law by roughly 2:1 (66% Favor / 31% Oppose), while Republicans opposed it by a similar margin (34% Favor / 63% Oppose). Perhaps most importantly, a 19-point margin of Independent voters indicated they'd support a law similar to the Dream Act (57% Favor / 38% Oppose).

An even more recent poll conducted for the [National Journal](#) finds over 80% of Americans believe those covered by the Dream Act should either be "guaranteed citizenship" (49%) or "allowed to remain in the U.S. while they apply for citizenship" (35%). Only 10% of respondents indicated such undocumented immigrants should not be allowed to stay in the United States. Roughly 8-in-10 Republicans (79%) favored either guaranteed citizenship for those covered by the Dream Act (40%) or letting them stay in the U.S. while they apply for citizenship (39%).

### **Support for the Dream Act in Arizona**

Interestingly, even in Arizona which has been sharply polarized over issues of immigration over the past three years, a strong majority support the Dream Act. An April 2012 poll among Arizonans conducted by the [Merrill/Morrison](#) institute found 73% in favor of a measure that "would allow a select group of undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as minors to become citizens if they attended college or served in the military for two years". This poll found that even a solid majority of Arizona Republicans supported Dream Act (59% Favor / 35% Oppose).

### **Support for the Dream Act among Hispanics**

Hispanic voters are among the fastest growing demographic groups in the country and their disproportionate influence in swing states like Florida and Nevada make them among the most coveted segments of the 2012 electorate. Although immigration is not the most dominant issue among Hispanic voters ([Fox News](#) polling found immigration ranking being behind the economy, education, and healthcare among Hispanic voters), Republicans oppose the Dream Act at their own peril. The overwhelming support for the Dream Act among

Hispanics (86% in the FoxNews poll) could certainly influence Latino voters given the stark contrast in Obama and Romney's positions.

## **Reaction to the President's Executive Order**

Immediate reaction to President Obama's executive order has been very favorable. [A Bloomberg poll](#) released last week finds a greater than 2:1 margin (64% Agree / 30% Disagree) in agreement with the Obama announcement to "halt the deportation of some illegal immigrants if they came here before age 16, have been in the country for five years, have no criminal record, are in school or have a high school diploma or have been honorably discharged from the military." Bloomberg also shows two-thirds of Independents (66%) support the President's executive order.

A post-announcement poll conducted by [Latino Decisions](#) among Hispanic voters in swing states Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, and Virginia finds the announcement made 54% of Latino Voters "more enthusiastic" to support Obama compared to just 11% who became "less enthusiastic". Additionally, a plurality of these swing state Hispanic voters indicate they are now more enthusiastic about voting in 2012 (46%) than they were in 2008 (29%). This is dramatic movement from last November when a 15-point margin indicated they were more enthusiastic in the 2008 election (38%) than they were for the upcoming 2012 election (33%). The same polling finds Obama leading Romney 63-27 in these 5 states, and hitting 70% support among Hispanics in Arizona and Colorado. Their analysis concludes that "part of this advantage for President Obama appears to be related to his recent announcement to provide relief to undocumented immigrant youth."

In a campaign with both sides looking for potent contrasts and ways to appeal to both a national electorate and important swing voters, the President's recent executive order seems to check the right strategic boxes. Ultimately the announcement and subsequent positive response from voters is perhaps a confirmation of the axiom that "good policy equals good politics".

## **Other News From Around The Polling World**

**Better off:** According to a [Bloomberg](#) report, 45% of Americans say they are better off since Obama took office in 2009, and 35% say they are worse off.

**Confidence in U.S. institutions:** [Gallup](#) announced this week that Americans' confidence in public schools in down 5% from last year, with only 29% having a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence. The survey also found record lows for other institutions such as banks (21%), television news (21%), and organized religion (44%).

**Is the environment better or worse?** The [Washington Post's](#) poll concludes 58% of Americans think the environment is worse than 10 years ago. Further, 66% think that human activity has had a negative effect on the environment.

**The blame game:** When asked who is to blame for the economic problems facing the United States, more voters pick Bush over Obama (68% Bush/ 52% Obama), according to [Gallup](#).

Who will be Romney's VP? [Politico](#) has compiled a list to see all the Romney VP contenders.

Learn more about the man behind the curtain: [Mother Jones](#) goes in depth to explain Obama's reelection campaign manager, Jim Messina, and his role in helping Obama secure reelection.

Missed one of our recent newsletters? See them [HERE!](#)

## Public Polling

### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB RATING

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Approve	Disapprove
<i>Gallup</i>	June 22-24	Adults	47%	48%
<i>AP/GfK</i>	June 14-18	Adults	49%	48%

### PRESIDENTIAL HEAD TO HEAD

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Obama	Romney
<i>Gallup</i>	June 18-24	Reg. Voters	45%	<b>46%</b>
<i>Bloomberg</i>	June 15-18	Likely Voters	<b>53%</b>	40%
<i>AP/GfK</i>	June 14-18	Reg. Voters	<b>47%</b>	44%

### PARTY SELF ID

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
<i>Pollster.com</i> <i>Trend</i>	June 21	Adults	34.1%	28.0%	33.6%

### GENERIC HOUSE BALLOT

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Dem	Rep
<i>Bloomberg</i>	June 15-18	Likely Voters	<b>48%</b>	41%
<i>Pew Research</i>	June 7-17	Reg Voters	<b>47%</b>	43%
<i>Reuters/Ipsos</i>	June 7-11	Reg Voters	<b>47%</b>	44%

### OBAMA POPULAR VOTE SHARE PROJECTIONS

Polling Firm	Date	Polly Vote	Polls	Iowa Electronic Markets	Econometric Models	Index Models
<i>PollyVote</i>	June 25	52%	51.2%	52.4%	50.3%	55.2%

### DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

<b>Polling Firm</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sample</b>	<b>Right Direction</b>	<b>Wrong Track</b>
<i>Bloomberg</i>	June 15-18	Adults	31%	62%
<i>AP/GfK</i>	June 14-18	Adults	31%	60%

**CURRENT VOTE: BATTLEGROUND STATES**

*Pollster.com averages*

<b>State</b>	<b>Obama</b>	<b>Romney</b>
<b>FL</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>45.8%</b>
<b>IA</b>	<b>45.6%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>
<b>MI</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>44.3%</b>
<b>NV</b>	<b>48.2%</b>	<b>42.9%</b>
<b>NH</b>	<b>49.1%</b>	<b>44.0%</b>
<b>NC</b>	<b>46.6%</b>	<b>45.7%</b>
<b>OH</b>	<b>45.9%</b>	<b>45.2%</b>
<b>PA</b>	<b>47.8%</b>	<b>39.5%</b>
<b>VA</b>	<b>48.1%</b>	<b>45.0%</b>
<b>WI</b>	<b>46.9%</b>	<b>44.5%</b>

**CURRENT VOTE: ELECTORATE**

*Pollster.com averages*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Obama</b>	<b>Romney</b>
<i>June 25</i>	<b>253</b>	<b>191</b>

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