

Ask Alabama Poll Results

Contact:

David Hill, Ph.D

Ask Alabama Poll

Phone: (334) 844-4867

Fax: (3343) 844-1919

2236 Haley Center

Auburn University, AL 36849

www.auburn.edu/cgs



AUBURN

CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

WINTER 2010 POLL RELEASE #4

PRESS RELEASE

Statewide Poll: Most immigration views remain unchanged

But opposition to state assistance for new immigrants hardens.

Auburn, April 23, 2010: Despite an increase in strident anti-immigration rhetoric from some politicians, interest groups and talk radio hosts, Alabama's residents don't seem too riled up about the topic. Only 20 percent of Alabama adults interviewed in January said that recent immigrants have caused major problems in their communities. That is up just 3 percentage points from results recorded in a similar poll taken over five years ago, in the Fall of 2004. Both now and then, 44 percent pluralities of residents said that recent immigration has not had much impact on their communities. The rest saw improvements or just small problems resulting from immigration.

There is a slowly growing sense of the role that immigration plays in supplementing Alabama's workforce. The latest poll, conducted in January, found 41 percent agreeing with the statement that "new immigrant workers bring needed skills to Alabama," reflecting a rise of several percentage points since 2004 when 38 percent agreed. Younger residents, ages 18-34, urban residents, and residents of Southeast Alabama are much more likely than other Alabamians to acknowledge the growing importance of immigrant labor.

Change is more evident in the growing intensity of opposition to the state providing assistance to immigrants to help them transcend into life in Alabama. In 2004, just 37 of state strongly residents opposed such aid. In the latest January poll, intense opposition to immigrant aid rose to 46 percent. Older residents, males, and suburbanites are especially opposed to the state providing transition assistance to new immigrants.

The Ask Alabama survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted with a stratified random sample of 614 adult householders January 4 -- 14, 2010. The sample's geographic, gender, race, and age distributions were weighted to be proportionate to the United States Census Bureau's data for Alabama's adult (18+ years of age) householders. Patrick Rose, Manager of the Center's Survey Research Laboratory that conducted the interviews, said that poll results based on the full statewide sample have a margin of error of ± 4 percentage points.

The Ask Alabama Poll is to be conducted quarterly by the Center for Governmental Services, a unit of Auburn University Outreach that provides research, consulting and training to government agencies, not-for-profit associations, and private sector clients.

FOR RELEASE 9 A.M. CDT, APRIL 23, 2010

Ask Alabama Poll Results

www.askalabama.org



AUBURN

CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

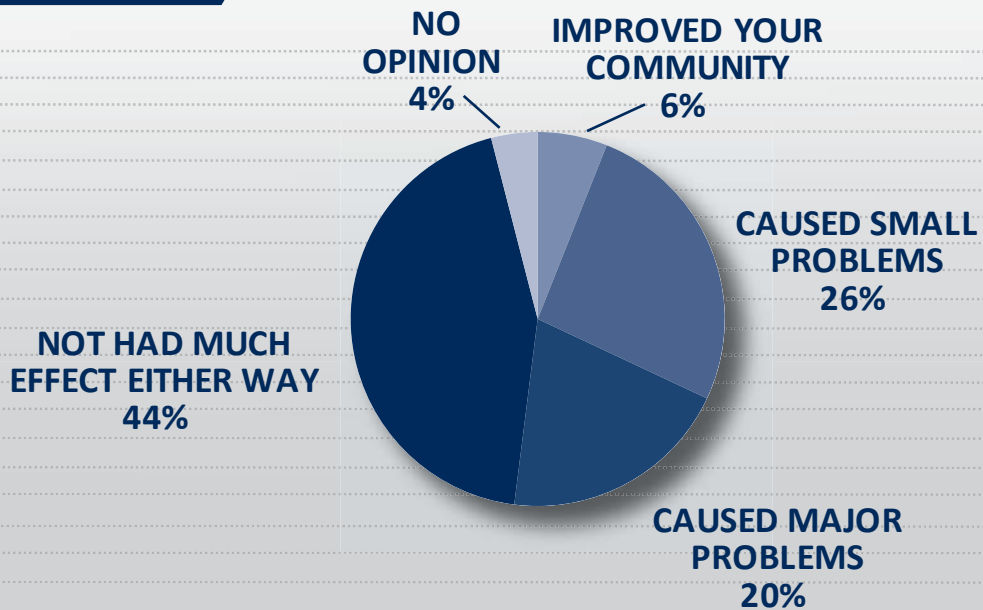
334/844.4781

Only 20 percent of Alabama adults interviewed said that recent immigrants have caused major problems in their communities.

Question

Would you say that recent immigrants in Alabama have led to improvements within your community?

IMMIGRATION



MORE RESULTS

46 percent of respondents strongly oppose the state providing assistance to immigrants to help them transcend into life in Alabama.

Response	Percentage
STRONGLY AGREE	11%
SOMEWHAT AGREE	21%
SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	16%
STRONGLY DISAGREE	46%
NO OPINION	6%

41 percent of respondents agree that immigrant workers bring needed skills to Alabama.

Response	Percentage
STRONGLY AGREE	12%
SOMEWHAT AGREE	29%
SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	24%
STRONGLY DISAGREE	29%
NO OPINION	6%

The Ask Alabama survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted with a stratified random sample of 615 adult householders in Alabama from January 4 to January 14, 2009. The sample was chosen so as to ensure that each region of the state was represented in proportion to its population. The sample's geographic, gender, race, and age distributions were weighted to be proportionate to the United States Census Bureau's data for Alabama's adult (18+ years of age) householders. The survey has a margin of error of ± 4 percentage points.