REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

At the end of the focus groups in Greenville, South Carolina, participants chose between two **immigration reform statements** from Republican candidates in a mock primary. The statements represent two spectrums in the immigration debate, a hard line stance in favor of deportation contrasted with an earned pathway to citizenship. This is qualitative research and should be tested quantitatively before drawing scientific conclusions. It is still noteworthy that 19 of 20 participants favored an earned pathway. More importantly, here are the verbatims as to why these Republican primary voters aligned with the second statement below.

IMMIGRATION: STATEMENT 1

A Republican candidate who believes offering citizenship to illegal immigrants is amnesty, regardless of the conditions attached. This candidate supports deporting all illegal immigrants because they are a drain on our nation, our hospitals, our school system and our tax dollars. Further, by simply being here illegally, they are already breaking the law, and therefore should be deported. Enforcing the laws sends a clear message to others thinking about coming to the United States illegally and it is the only way to stop illegal immigration.

OR

IMMIGRATION: STATEMENT 2

A Republican candidate who believes the immigration system is broken and reforms are needed that respect the rule of law and grow the economy. The solution is not easy. It's not practical for the federal government to breakup families and deport every undocumented immigrant. The first priority should be to secure the border. Once that is accomplished, undocumented immigrants should be allowed to earn citizenship if they pass a criminal background check, pay a fine, pay current and back taxes, learn English and go the back of the line, a process that will take 10 years.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN FOCUS GROUP:

- "I don't like either perfectly, but think the second option is more reasonable than the first."
- "By reforming the immigration laws we are able to better the nation and its people."
- "It secures the border while also dealing with the problem of illegals."
- "Not as harsh."
- "It's addressing the issue, not ignoring it. Yet it's not as abrasive in breaking up families. Also making a fine is important."
- "The first option is impractical and will appeal to very narrow margin of voters."
- "It makes more sense to give them a chance if they pay the price and follow the laws."
- "Because I think this will help a Republican become president again."
- "I believe that the non-citizens have the right to earn citizenship if they can go by the rules of the American laws."

REPUBLICAN MEN FOCUS GROUP:

- "All is ok on citizenship if they pass a background check."
- "If we do not do it this way, we will cause panic and also the cost of deporting them."
- "Secure the border and earn citizenship."
- "This is the only position that seems possible to accomplish, so therefore I would vote for this candidate."
- "Because of moral obligations, it would be the best solution, instead of the cost involved to deport all illegals."
- "As long as this is thoroughly followed and not allowed to lapse after the current president or congress passes from view. The fine should reflect the amount of years the person should be here."
- "Deporting all the illegal immigrants is not realistic. They must meet all of the criteria to begin the process and pay the back taxes. I believe that if they refuse or if an illegal is arrested that they should be deported at that point."
- "Main reason is it gives a clear path to citizenship. Provides clear and concise reasons for the process. It also focuses on the end goals and results."
- "The proposal of the first candidate is not practical. There's no way to deport our illegal immigrants. However, along with securing border, the drain on hospitals and welfare needs to be stopped."

RESURGENT REPUBLIC

BEYOND THE BALLOT