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## **NATIONAL: PUBLIC DIVIDED ON WHETHER MIGRANT CARAVAN POSES A THREAT**

### *Uncertainty on claims of terrorists in caravan*

*West Long Branch, NJ* – A majority of Americans say a caravan of migrants now approaching the nation’s southern border poses at least a minor threat to the country, according to the ***Monmouth University Poll***. At the same time, 7-in-10 say that these migrants should be given the opportunity to enter the country if they meet certain requirements. Half are disinclined to believe that terrorists are traveling with the caravan, although 1-in-4 seem fairly certain that those claims are true.

Overall, 29% of Americans see the migrant caravan traveling toward our border with Mexico as a major threat to the U.S., 24% see it as a minor threat, and 39% see it as no real threat to the country. A majority of Republicans (54%) see the caravan as a major threat, but they are joined by only 28% of independents and 11% of Democrats. Regionally, residents of the four states (CA, AZ, NM, TX) that share a border with Mexico are least likely to be worried about the caravan – only 21% see it as a major threat. Residents of the Southeast (35%), Midwest (33%), and Mountain-Northwest (33%) regions are more likely to view the caravan as a major threat. Views of Northeast residents (25% major threat) are more in line with those living in the border states than elsewhere in the country.

Most Americans (70%) say that these migrants should be given the opportunity to enter the country if they meet certain requirements such as showing they were persecuted in their home countries and not having a criminal record. Another 26%, however, say they should be sent back to their home countries when they reach the border. A majority of Republicans (51%) say the caravan should be turned back, while 43% say these migrants should be given the opportunity to enter. Large majorities of Democrats (89%) and independents (72%), on the other hand, support giving migrants in the caravan a chance to enter the U.S.

“Most of the public express some level of concern about the approaching caravan, some of which may be due to unsubstantiated claims that the group includes terrorists. At the same time, though, most Americans feel that each migrant should be given the opportunity to state their case for entering the United States,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

During the 2018 election campaign, President Donald Trump and others in his administration implied or stated outright that the caravan included a number of foreign terrorists. One-in-four (25%) Americans believe that the caravan does in fact include terrorists and another 13% are not sure but believe this claim is likely to be true. Half, though, say either they do not believe there are terrorists in the caravan (22%) or that such a claim is less likely to be true (28%).

In addition to claims about terrorists traveling with the caravan, some Republican groups aired campaign ads that focused on crimes committed by illegal immigrants. Half of the public (51%) believes that illegal immigrants in the U.S. are not any more or less likely than other residents of the country to commit violent crimes like rape or murder. The remainder are divided – 24% say illegal immigrants are actually less likely to commit such crimes and 21% say they are more likely. These results have not changed all that much since a 2015 *Monmouth University Poll*, when 20% said illegal immigrants were less likely to commit violent crimes, 17% said they were more likely, and 59% said they were about as likely as other Americans to commit violent crimes.

Overall, 7-in-10 Americans believe that illegal immigration is either a very serious (49%) or somewhat serious (21%) problem. Just 15% say it is not too serious and 13% say it is not at all serious. These results are comparable to prior Monmouth polls that have asked this question over the past three years.

“As these trends show, the emphasis on immigration during the midterm campaign was not about winning over voters. It was about reinforcing opinions that already exist. Few minds were changed by all the campaign rhetoric on this issue, but it certainly helped deepen the nation’s partisan divide,” said Murray.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from November 9 to 12, 2018 with 802 adults in the United States. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

## QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(\* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1-11 and Q21-24 previously released.]

[Q12-20 held for future release.]

25. How serious a problem do you think the issue of illegal immigration is for the United States right now – very, somewhat, not too, or not at all serious?

TREND:	Nov. 2018	Jan. 2018	Sept. 2017	Sept. 2015
Very serious	49%	45%	43%	45%
Somewhat serious	21%	25%	30%	30%
Not too serious	15%	16%	17%	15%
Not at all serious	13%	13%	10%	9%
(VOL) Don't know	1%	1%	1%	2%
(n)	(802)	(806)	(1,009)	(1,009)

26. Do you think illegal immigrants are more likely, less likely, or about as likely as other Americans to commit violent crimes like rape or murder?

TREND:	Nov. 2018	Sept. 2015
More likely	21%	17%
Less likely	24%	20%
About as likely	51%	59%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	4%
(n)	(802)	(1,009)

27. Have you heard about the migrant caravan that is traveling toward the U.S. border with Mexico, or are you not aware of this?

	Nov. 2018
Heard	86%
Not aware	14%
(n)	(802)

28. Do you think the migrant caravan poses a major threat, minor threat, or no real threat to the U.S.?

	Nov. 2018
Major threat	29%
Minor threat	24%
No real threat	39%
(VOL) Don't know	7%
(n)	(802)

29. When these migrants reach the U.S. border should they be stopped and sent back to their home countries or should they be given the opportunity to enter the country if they meet certain requirements, such as showing they were persecuted in their home country and not having a criminal record?

	Nov. 2018
Stopped and sent back	26%
Given the opportunity to enter	70%
(VOL) Don't know	5%
(n)	(802)

30. Do you think the caravan does or does not include a number of terrorists among the migrants, or are you not sure? [If NOT SURE: Do you think claims that terrorists are in the caravan are more likely or less likely to be true?]

	<b>Nov. 2018</b>
Does include	<b>25%</b>
Not sure, but more likely	<b>13%</b>
Does not include	<b>22%</b>
Not sure, but less likely	<b>28%</b>
(VOL) Don't know	<b>12%</b>
(n)	<b>(802)</b>

[Q31-42 held for future release.]

### METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from November 9 to 12, 2018 with a national random sample of 802 adults age 18 and older, in English. This includes 398 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 404 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Trol Dahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>	
<i>Self-Reported</i>	
<i>28% Republican</i>	
<i>38% Independent</i>	
<i>34% Democrat</i>	
<i>49% Male</i>	
<i>51% Female</i>	
<i>31% 18-34</i>	
<i>34% 35-54</i>	
<i>36% 55+</i>	
<i>64% White</i>	
<i>12% Black</i>	
<i>16% Hispanic</i>	
<i>8% Asian/Other</i>	
<i>68% No degree</i>	
<i>32% 4 year degree</i>	
<i>44% &lt;50K</i>	
<i>30% \$50 to &lt;100K</i>	
<i>26% \$100K+</i>	

MARGIN OF ERROR		unweighted sample	moe (+/-)
TOTAL		802	3.5%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	716	3.7%
	No	86	10.6%
SELF-REPORTED	Republican	244	6.3%
PARTY ID	Independent	295	5.7%
	Democrat	250	6.2%
IDEOLOGY	Liberal	184	7.2%
	Moderate	281	5.9%
	Conservative	307	5.6%
GENDER	Male	400	4.9%
	Female	402	4.9%
AGE	18-34	143	8.2%
	35-54	293	5.7%
	55+	363	5.2%
RACE	White, non-Hispanic	602	4.0%
	Other	174	7.4%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	423	4.8%
	4 year degree	371	5.1%
WHITE COLLEGE	White, no degree	308	5.6%
	White, 4 year degree	290	5.8%
INCOME	<\$50K	273	5.9%
	\$50 to <100K	229	6.5%
	\$100K+	240	6.3%
REGION	Northeast	173	7.5%
	Midwest	188	7.2%
	Southeast	211	6.8%
	Mountain-Northwest	86	10.6%
	Border States	144	8.2%

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		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
25. How serious a problem do you think the issue of illegal immigration is for the United States right now - very, somewhat, not too, or not at all serious?	Very serious	49%	50%	46%	78%	48%	27%	23%	44%	71%	53%
	Somewhat serious	21%	21%	19%	13%	24%	26%	19%	27%	17%	22%
	Not too serious	15%	15%	15%	5%	16%	22%	29%	15%	6%	14%
	Not at all serious	13%	12%	19%	4%	10%	24%	29%	12%	5%	10%
	[VOL] Dont Know	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE	
		Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
25. How serious a problem do you think the issue of illegal immigration is for the United States right now - very, somewhat, not too, or not at all serious?	Very serious	46%	33%	52%	62%	52%	44%	54%	39%
	Somewhat serious	20%	29%	18%	17%	21%	21%	20%	23%
	Not too serious	16%	20%	16%	10%	13%	19%	15%	17%
	Not at all serious	16%	17%	14%	9%	12%	16%	9%	20%
	[VOL] Dont Know	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	0%	1%	1%

		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME			US REGIONS		
		White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	Southeast
25. How serious a problem do you think the issue of illegal immigration is for the United States right now - very, somewhat, not too, or not at all serious?	Very serious	57%	49%	50%	47%	49%	43%	51%	54%
	Somewhat serious	20%	21%	21%	25%	20%	20%	26%	20%
	Not too serious	12%	19%	11%	16%	20%	20%	12%	13%
	Not at all serious	9%	11%	17%	12%	10%	15%	10%	12%
	[VOL] Dont Know	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%

		US REGIONS	
		Mntn-NW	Border
25. How serious a problem do you think the issue of illegal immigration is for the United States right now - very, somewhat, not too, or not at all serious?	Very serious	50%	47%
	Somewhat serious	13%	24%
	Not too serious	20%	13%
	Not at all serious	15%	16%
	[VOL] Dont Know	2%	1%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
26. Do you think illegal immigrants are more likely, less likely, or about as likely as other Americans to commit violent crimes like rape or murder?	More likely	21%	22%	16%	40%	20%	7%	8%	17%	35%	26%
	Less likely	24%	25%	19%	7%	24%	39%	45%	28%	10%	21%
	About as likely	51%	49%	62%	48%	52%	51%	44%	53%	51%	49%
	[VOL] Dont Know	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	5%	4%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE	
		Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
26. Do you think illegal immigrants are more likely, less likely, or about as likely as other Americans to commit violent crimes like rape or murder?	More likely	16%	16%	17%	29%	21%	21%	22%	18%
	Less likely	27%	25%	25%	23%	23%	28%	21%	31%
	About as likely	52%	58%	53%	42%	52%	48%	51%	50%
	[VOL] Dont Know	4%	1%	5%	5%	5%	3%	5%	1%

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		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME			US REGIONS		
		White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	Southeast
26. Do you think illegal immigrants are more likely, less likely, or about as likely as other Americans to commit violent crimes like rape or murder?	More likely	23%	21%	20%	21%	21%	19%	19%	21%
	Less likely	21%	22%	25%	27%	24%	27%	25%	23%
	About as likely	50%	54%	51%	51%	50%	47%	51%	53%
	[VOL] Dont Know	6%	4%	4%	2%	5%	6%	4%	3%

		US REGIONS	
		Mntn-NW	Border
26. Do you think illegal immigrants are more likely, less likely, or about as likely as other Americans to commit violent crimes like rape or murder?	More likely	24%	22%
	Less likely	22%	24%
	About as likely	46%	53%
	[VOL] Dont Know	8%	1%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
27. Have you heard about the migrant caravan that is traveling toward the U.S. border with Mexico, or are you not aware of this?	Heard	86%	89%	74%	90%	86%	84%	88%	85%	90%	88%
	Not aware	14%	11%	26%	10%	14%	16%	12%	15%	10%	12%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE
			Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
27. Have you heard about the migrant caravan that is traveling toward the U.S. border with Mexico, or are you not aware of this?	Heard	85%	74%	89%	95%	83%	93%	90%	81%	87%
	Not aware	15%	26%	11%	5%	17%	7%	10%	19%	13%

		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE	INCOME			US REGIONS				
		White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	Southeast	Mntn-NW	Border
27. Have you heard about the migrant caravan that is traveling toward the U.S. border with Mexico, or are you not aware of this?	Heard	95%	80%	92%	93%	86%	84%	86%	82%	92%
	Not aware	5%	20%	8%	7%	14%	16%	14%	18%	8%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
28. Do you think the migrant caravan poses a major threat, minor threat, or no real threat to the U.S.?	Major threat	29%	31%	20%	54%	28%	11%	13%	19%	51%	32%
	Minor threat	24%	25%	22%	28%	21%	25%	14%	28%	28%	27%
	No real threat	39%	38%	42%	12%	42%	58%	70%	45%	14%	36%
	[VOL] Dont Know	7%	6%	17%	6%	9%	7%	4%	8%	7%	4%

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		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE	
		Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
28. Do you think the migrant caravan poses a major threat, minor threat, or no real threat to the U.S.?	Major threat	27%	13%	34%	40%	30%	28%	34%	19%
	Minor threat	22%	27%	24%	22%	27%	18%	25%	24%
	No real threat	41%	49%	36%	32%	34%	51%	33%	50%
	[VOL] Dont Know	10%	11%	6%	6%	9%	3%	7%	7%

		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME			US REGIONS		
		White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	Southeast
28. Do you think the migrant caravan poses a major threat, minor threat, or no real threat to the U.S.?	Major threat	35%	32%	24%	33%	32%	25%	33%	35%
	Minor threat	27%	21%	28%	23%	20%	24%	27%	23%
	No real threat	29%	43%	37%	40%	44%	43%	33%	34%
	[VOL] Dont Know	9%	4%	11%	4%	4%	8%	8%	8%

		US REGIONS	
		Mntn-NW	Border
28. Do you think the migrant caravan poses a major threat, minor threat, or no real threat to the U.S.?	Major threat	33%	21%
	Minor threat	19%	27%
	No real threat	42%	47%
	[VOL] Dont Know	6%	6%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
29. When these migrants reach the US border should they be stopped and sent back to their home countries or should they be given the opportunity to enter the country if they meet certain requirements, such as showing they were persecuted in their home...	Stopped and sent back	26%	27%	20%	51%	23%	8%	10%	16%	47%
	Given the opportunity to enter	70%	69%	76%	43%	72%	89%	89%	81%	46%
	[VOL] Dont Know	5%	5%	4%	6%	5%	3%	1%	3%	7%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp
29. When these migrants reach the US border should they be stopped and sent back to their home countries or should they be given the opportunity to enter the country if they meet certain requirements, such as showing they were persecuted in their home...	Stopped and sent back	32%	20%	12%	30%	33%	25%	26%	32%
	Given the opportunity to enter	65%	74%	85%	64%	62%	70%	70%	63%
	[VOL] Dont Know	3%	6%	3%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%



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		WHITE	WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME			US REGIONS
		Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast
29. When these migrants reach the US border should they be stopped and sent back to their home countries or should they be given the opportunity to enter the country if they meet certain requirements, such as showing they were persecuted in their home...	Stopped and sent back	14%	32%	30%	19%	28%	31%	25%
	Given the opportunity to enter	83%	63%	66%	76%	69%	64%	72%
	[VOL] Dont Know	4%	5%	4%	5%	3%	4%	3%

		US REGIONS			
		Midwest	Southeast	Mntn-NW	Border
29. When these migrants reach the US border should they be stopped and sent back to their home countries or should they be given the opportunity to enter the country if they meet certain requirements, such as showing they were persecuted in their home...	Stopped and sent back	28%	31%	22%	19%
	Given the opportunity to enter	68%	66%	69%	74%
	[VOL] Dont Know	4%	3%	9%	7%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
30. Do you think the caravan does or does not include a number of terrorists among the migrants, or are you not sure? [IF NOT SURE: Do you think claims that terrorists are in the caravan are more likely or less likely to be true?]	Does include	25%	26%	20%	47%	25%	8%	9%	20%	42%
	Not sure, but more likely	13%	13%	15%	16%	14%	10%	7%	12%	20%
	Does not include	22%	22%	21%	8%	17%	38%	45%	21%	8%
	Not sure, but less likely	28%	26%	37%	16%	32%	32%	31%	34%	19%
	Not sure	12%	13%	7%	12%	11%	11%	8%	12%	12%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp
30. Do you think the caravan does or does not include a number of terrorists among the migrants, or are you not sure? [IF NOT SURE: Do you think claims that terrorists are in the caravan are more likely or less likely to be true?]	Does include	33%	19%	17%	24%	34%	27%	22%	29%
	Not sure, but more likely	13%	14%	9%	16%	14%	14%	11%	12%
	Does not include	16%	27%	21%	23%	20%	18%	30%	21%
	Not sure, but less likely	28%	27%	42%	24%	20%	29%	26%	25%
	Not sure	10%	13%	10%	13%	12%	12%	10%	13%

		WHITE	WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME			US REGIONS	
		Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest
30. Do you think the caravan does or does not include a number of terrorists among the migrants, or are you not sure? [IF NOT SURE: Do you think claims that terrorists are in the caravan are more likely or less likely to be true?]	Does include	18%	31%	25%	20%	28%	28%	18%	24%
	Not sure, but more likely	15%	13%	11%	16%	13%	9%	12%	12%
	Does not include	25%	17%	28%	19%	25%	26%	25%	21%
	Not sure, but less likely	32%	26%	23%	32%	25%	26%	29%	29%
	Not sure	10%	13%	12%	12%	10%	10%	16%	14%

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		US REGIONS		
		Southeast	Mntr-NW	Border
30. Do you think the caravan does or does not include a number of terrorists among the migrants, or are you not sure? [IF NOT SURE: Do you think claims that terrorists are in the caravan are more likely or less likely to be true?]	Does include	34%	18%	28%
	Not sure, but more likely	17%	23%	6%
	Does not include	15%	31%	21%
	Not sure, but less likely	25%	19%	34%
	Not sure	8%	8%	11%