To: Interested Parties
From: Immigration Hub and Global Strategy Group
Date: December 12, 2022
Re: New Post-Election poll shows voters rejected extremism and immigration attacks and instead support a solutions-focused approach to addressing immigration

On behalf of Immigration Hub, Global Strategy Group conducted a post-election "exit poll" style survey among 2022 midterms in key battleground states (Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania). This memo reflects key findings from this survey which fielded the week of the election (November 7th-15th) among 1,500 midterm voters and also included an additional oversample of Hispanic voters.

KEY FINDINGS

Republican extremism was a major contributor to Republican losses.

- Republican candidates were seen as much more extreme by voters than their Democratic counterparts – particularly in Arizona where the GOP candidates were seen as 15-20 points more extreme than the Democratic candidates.
- From a list of criticisms of GOP candidates, voters cited Republicans ties to MAGA and extremism as their top concern (57% said it was one of their top two concerns), with GOP extremism on abortion also cited as a key concern.
- Republican extremism on immigration continues to be a concern with Hispanic voters as 55% of Hispanic voters see the Republicans as too extreme on the issue.

Immigration attacks failed to persuade the key swing voters who delivered the election for Democrats, despite massive spending by Republicans on the issue and predictions that the situation at the border would cripple Democrats.

- Immigration continues to animate base Republican voters, 28% of whom said immigration was one of their top two most important voting issues in 2022. But the swing voters who decided the election deprioritized immigration in their voting calculus – just 9% said it was a top issue.
- Further, from a list of criticisms of Democratic candidates, immigration (37% naming it as a top two concern) ranked behind standing up to Biden (61%) and addressing inflation (42%).
- Still, immigration remains a challenging issue for the Democratic Party because voters hear mostly from Republicans on this issue (63% of voters say they hear more from Republicans vs. just 24% who say they hear more from Democrats).
- This communications disadvantage leads to Republicans being completely consolidated against Democrats on the issue, while swing voters and base Democrats don't hear enough about what Democrats stand for. As a result, Democrats struggle to "win" on immigration at the topline level – which is why we continue to see weak Biden approval ratings on the issue and a slight GOP trust edge on the issue.

The Democrats who are talking about immigration the right way are using a solutions-focused approach to fixing the country's broken immigration system – which remains broadly popular to voters.

- This approach, taken by Senator-elect Fetterman and Senator Kelly, effectively pushes back on GOP attacks and is popular with voters. When presented with both candidates' statements on immigration, strong majorities (78% in PA; 65% in AZ), agree that these Democratic candidates took the right approach on the issue.
- And in Arizona, where immigration was a bigger part of the campaign, Senator Kelly effectively neutralized Masters' attacks on the issue with a solutions-oriented approach, winning a back-and-forth immigration debate in the poll with swing voters by a 69%-31% margin.

To continue to neutralize the issue in future elections, Democrats must continue to focus on solutions. But they also *must, importantly, deliver on those promises* so that voters see progress made on what they view as a significant problem.

- Voters want solutions to fix what they see as a broken system and Democratic solutions are very popular, including support for DACA (71% support the program, just 29% think it should end). Providing a way for undocumented immigrants to gain legal status and a pathway to citizenship is also very popular (65% support).
- Further, a compromise proposal that both invests in border security and provides a path to citizenship for Dreamers is widely supported (69% support/23% oppose) and voters want to see a bipartisan immigration solution pass Congress (69% want to see both sides work together on a bipartisan bill that includes protecting Dreamers and investments in border security).

ABOUT THIS POLL

Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 1,500 2022 midterm election voters in Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. The survey was conducted November 7th-15th, 2022. Support for Democratic candidates and Republican candidates in the elections for Governor and Senate have been adjusted to reflect the actual expected results as of November 15th. The survey also included 190 Hispanic voters, comprised of voters across those four states as well as non-Cuban Hispanic voters from Florida. All interviews were conducted via web-based panel. Care has been taken to ensure the demographic composition of the sample reflected that of the expected 2022 electorate in these states.