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Immigration: Public Backs AZ Law, But Also Path to Citizenship

Any Court Health Care Decision Unlikely to Please

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Immigration: Public Backs AZ Law, But Also Path to Citizenship Any Court Health Care Decision Unlikely to Please

The public is unlikely to be satisfied with the Supreme Court's upcoming ruling on the 2010 Affordable Care Act – no matter what the court decides. Whether the Court decides to uphold the entire law, overturn the entire law, or reject the “individual mandate” while allowing the rest of the law to remain in place, fewer than half of Americans say they would be happy with the decision.

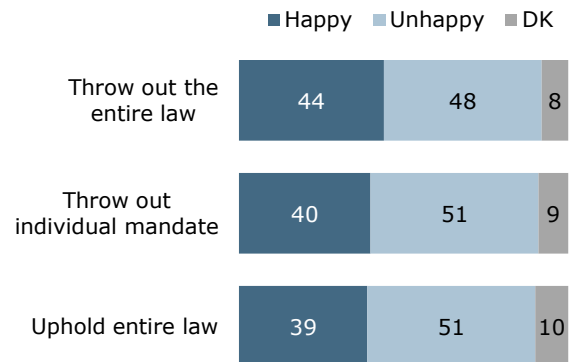
The public's expected reactions track along partisan lines. Most Democrats would be happy if the law is upheld, while most Republicans would be happy if it is thrown out.

But the other widely discussed possibility – that the court could reject the part of the law that requires individuals to have health insurance while keeping the rest – does not satisfy either side. Among Democrats, 35% would be happy with this outcome, while 56% would be unhappy. Republicans, who have consistently opposed the individual mandate, are not much happier: 43% would be happy if the court strips only this provision, while 47% would be unhappy.

For many partisans, only an “all or nothing” outcome will be acceptable. Four-in-ten (40%) Republicans say they will be happy *only* if the entire law is overturned, while another 29% would be happy with *either* overturning the entire law or just the mandate. Conversely, 39% of Democrats say they will be happy *only*

No Health Care Ruling Would Please a Majority of Americans

Would you be happy or unhappy if Supreme Court decides to ...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jun 7-17, 2012. Respondents were asked about their reaction to each possible ruling separately.

Partisan Reactions to Possible Court Rulings

If court decides to ...	Happy	Unhappy	DK
	%	%	%
Throw out entire law			
Republican	75	19	5=100
Democrat	16	74	10=100
Independent	50	44	6=100
Throw out individual mandate and keep rest			
Republican	43	47	9=100
Democrat	35	56	9=100
Independent	44	49	8=100
Uphold entire law			
Republican	16	80	4=100
Democrat	62	27	11=100
Independent	35	55	10=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 7-17, 2012. Q62a-c. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

if the entire law is upheld, while 17% would be happy with either keeping the entire law or removing the mandate but keeping the other elements.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted June 7-17 among 2,013 adults, finds that none of these outcomes is particularly appealing to independents, though more would like to see the law entirely overturned than kept in place. Half (50%) of independents say they would be happy if the entire law is overturned, while only 35% would be happy if the entire law is upheld. Independents have a divided reaction to the court throwing out the individual mandate while upholding the rest of the law (44% happy, 49% unhappy).

What If the Court Just Struck Down the Mandate?

The prospect that the Supreme Court might strike down the individual insurance mandate while leaving the rest of the law in place draws negative reactions from both supporters and opponents of the 2010 law.

Overall, more continue to disapprove (48%) than approve (43%) of the 2010 health care bill. That is little changed from April (41% approve vs. 49% disapprove). Half (50%) of the law's opponents, and roughly the same share of its supporters (54%), say they would be unhappy if the court throws out the individual mandate but upholds the rest of the law.

Many Americans do not have a clear understanding of what's in the health care law. About one-in-five (18%) say they understand the law very well and 49% say they understand it somewhat well; nearly a third (31%) say they understand it not too well or not at all well.

Those who feel they understand the law are the most skeptical of a ruling that just strikes out the individual mandate. By a 61% to 37% margin, those who feel they understand what's in the law very well – a group that includes roughly equal percentages of

Little Enthusiasm for Just Eliminating Individual Mandate

If the Court throws out the part of the law that requires individuals to have health insurance, and keeps the rest of the law, would you be...

	Un-Happy	Happy	DK	N
	%	%	%	
Total	40	51	9=100	2013
<i>Overall view of the health care law</i>				
Approve	40	54	6=100	868
Disapprove	42	50	8=100	995
<i>How well do you feel you understand what's in the health care law?</i>				
Very well	37	61	3=100	395
Somewhat well	41	53	6=100	1008
Not too/at all well	42	43	15=100	580

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 7-17, 2012. Q62c. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Republicans and Democrats – say they would be unhappy if the individual mandate alone is thrown out. Among the much larger share of the public that does not understand the law as well, reactions toward striking down the individual mandate while upholding the rest of the law are more mixed.

Most Have Strong Feelings about Health Care Law

More than two years after its passage, the 2010 Affordable Care Act continues to spark strong feelings from most Americans, particularly among opponents. Overall, 35% of Americans say they disapprove of the law very strongly; that represents nearly three-quarters of the 48% who disapprove of the bill. By comparison, 26% of Americans approve of the law very strongly, or about 60% of the bill's supporters.

Among political independents, more disapprove (55%) than approve (36%) of the law in general, and strong opposition to the measure exceeds strong support by about two-to-one (38% vs. 18%).

Republicans are more likely to disapprove of the law (82%) than Democrats are to approve of it (73%).

The gap in intensity is even larger. Only half (50%) of Democrats strongly approve of the law, compared with strong disapproval from 71% of Republicans.

More Strong Opposition than Strong Support for Health Care Law

<i>View of 2010 health care legislation</i>	Approve %	Strongly %	Dis-approve %	Strongly %	DK %
Total	43	26	48	35	9=100
Republican	13	6	82	71	5=100
Conservative Rep	10	4	86	78	4=100
Moderate/Liberal Rep	19	11	73	54	7=100
Independent	36	18	55	38	9=100
Democrat	73	50	17	7	10=100
Conserv/Mod Democrat	69	42	21	10	11=100
Liberal Democrat	82	64	10	4	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 7-17, 2012 Q59, Q60. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Immigration Attitudes Little Changed

Before the end of its current term, the Supreme Court also is expected to rule on Arizona's immigration law, which requires police to determine the immigration status of people they have stopped whom they suspect might be in this country illegally.

Most Americans continue to support the Arizona law: 58% approve while just 38% disapprove. This is slightly less support than the 64% who approved when the law was first passed in 2010.

At the same time, when the public is asked about priorities for dealing with illegal immigration, a plurality (42%) gives equal priority to tighter restrictions on illegal immigration and creating a path to citizenship for people in this country illegally. About a quarter (28%) say tougher border security and stricter law enforcement alone should be the priority; about the same percentage (27%) says developing a way for illegal immigrants to become citizens alone should be the priority. These views have changed little since 2010.

Opinions about Arizona's immigration law – as well as priorities for dealing with illegal immigration – are divided along ethnic and racial lines. Three-quarters (75%) of Hispanics oppose the law, as do 56% of blacks, while whites support the law by greater than two-to-one (69% to 28%).

Support for Arizona Immigration Law and Path to Citizenship

<i>Arizona law requiring police to verify legal status of those they stop, if they suspect person is in U.S. illegally</i>	Jun 2010	Feb 2011	Jun 2012
	%	%	%
Approve	64	61	58
Disapprove	32	34	38
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Priority for dealing with illegal immigration in U.S. ...</i>	Sep 2010	Feb 2011	Jun 2012
Better border security, stronger enforcement of immig. laws	30	35	28
Creating way for illegal immigrants already in U.S. to become citizens	23	21	27
Both should be equal priorities	44	42	42
None (Vol.)/ Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 7-17, 2012 Q68, Q67. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Fully 84% of Republicans approve of Arizona's immigration law, unchanged since 2010. But support has dropped among both Democrats and independents. In June 2010, 65% of independents approved of the recently passed state legislation – that has slipped to 59% today. And in 2010, Democrats were split over the new Arizona law – 50% approved while 46% disapproved. Today, most Democrats disapprove by a 55% to 41% margin.

In terms of priorities for dealing with illegal immigration, 53% of Hispanics say that creating a path to citizenship should be the priority for dealing with illegal immigration; another 35% say the priority should be a path to citizenship, along with better border security and stepped up enforcement of immigration laws.

Most blacks (59%) and a plurality of whites (41%) say that both enforcement and creating a path to citizenship should be given equal priority. One-third (33%) of whites say that better border security and enforcement of immigration laws should be the sole priority.

Views of Arizona Immigration Law

	App- rove	Dis- approve	DK	N
	%	%	%	
Total	58	38	4=100	2,013
White	69	28	3=100	1,454
Black	40	56	4=100	235
Hispanic	21	75	4=100	167
College grad+	53	43	4=100	809
Some college	61	35	4=100	600
H.S. or less	61	35	4=100	599
Republican	84	14	2=100	535
Democrat	41	55	4=100	673
Independent	59	37	4=100	736

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 7-17, 2012. Q68. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. White and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Public Split Over Immigration Priorities

<i>Priority for dealing with illegal immigration ...</i>	Better border security	Creating path to citizenship	Both equal priorities	Other/ DK	N
	%	%	%	%	
Total	28	27	42	3=100	2,013
White	33	22	41	3=100	1,454
Black	20	26	59	4=100	235
Hispanic	10	53	35	2=100	167
College grad+	25	29	43	3=100	809
Some college	28	26	43	3=100	600
HS or less	29	26	41	4=100	599
Republican	45	14	37	4=100	535
Democrat	18	38	40	3=100	673
Independent	26	24	47	2=100	736

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 7-17, 2012. Q67. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. White and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted June 7-17, 2012, among a national sample of 2,013 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (1,127 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 886 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 455 who had no landline telephone). The survey included 212 landline and cell phone interviews with 18-29 year olds re-contacted from recent surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center. The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	2,013	2.5 percentage points
Republicans	535	4.9 percentage points
Democrats	673	4.4 percentage points
Independents	736	4.2 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JUNE 2012 VOTER ATTITUDES SURVEY
June 7-17, 2012
N=2013

QUESTIONS 1-3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.4 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, not at all closely?]**

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The Supreme Court's upcoming decision on the 2010 health care law Jun 7-17, 2012	31	25	22	22	1

QUESTIONS 4b-c, 5, 10-15, 20-32, 35-38a, 46-47, 54-58 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 6-9, 16-19, 33-34, 39-45, 48-53

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the health care debate...

Q.59 Do you approve or disapprove of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress in 2010?

ASK IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE (Q.59=1,2)

Q.60 Do you [approve/disapprove] very strongly, or not so strongly?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Very strongly</u>	<u>Not so strongly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>Very strongly</u>	<u>Not so strongly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jun 7-17, 2012	43	26	17	1	48	35	13	*	9
Apr 4-15, 2012	41	--	--	--	49	--	--	--	10
Mar 7-11, 2012	47	--	--	--	45	--	--	--	8
Jan 5-9, 2011 ¹	41	--	--	--	48	--	--	--	11
Nov 4-7, 2010	43	--	--	--	47	--	--	--	10
Sep 9-12, 2010	38	--	--	--	45	--	--	--	17
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	44	--	--	--	46	--	--	--	10
Jul 8-11, 2010	35	--	--	--	47	--	--	--	17
Apr 1-5, 2010	40	--	--	--	44	--	--	--	16

TREND FOR COMPARISON

As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care bills being discussed in Congress?

IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: Do you (favor/oppose) these health care bills very strongly, or not so strongly?²

	<u>Generally favor</u>	<u>Very strongly</u>	<u>Not so strongly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Generally-oppose</u>	<u>Very strongly</u>	<u>Not so strongly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	40	--	--	--	47	--	--	--	13
Mar 10-14, 2010	38	--	--	--	48	--	--	--	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	38	--	--	--	50	--	--	--	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	39	23	14	2	48	36	11	1	13

¹ In January 2011 the question asked about legislation passed "last year," and in November 2010 it read "earlier this year." In September, August and July the question asked about legislation passed "in March." In April, the question asked about the legislation passed "last month."

² From December 9-13, 2009 and earlier, questions asked about "health care proposals" rather than "health care bills."

Q.59/Q.60 TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

	Generally favor	Very strongly	Not so strongly	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Generally- oppose	Very strongly	Not so strongly	(VOL.) DK/Ref	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Dec 9-13, 2009	35	--	--	--	48	--	--	--	17
Nov 12-15, 2009	42	--	--	--	39	--	--	--	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	38	--	--	--	47	--	--	--	15
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	34	20	13	1	47	35	11	1	19
Sep 10-15, 2009	42	29	11	2	44	34	10	*	14
Aug 20-27, 2009	39	25	13	1	46	34	12	1	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	38	--	--	--	44	--	--	--	18

ASK ALL:

Q.61 All in all, how well do you feel you understand what's in the health care law? **[READ]**

Jun 7-17

2012

18	Very well
49	Somewhat well
21	Not too well
10	Not at all well
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.62 As you may know, the Supreme Court is expected to rule on the health care law later this month. I would like to ask how you would feel about a few possible outcomes of the ruling. For example, the court could decide to **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**. Would you be happy or unhappy with this decision? What if the court decides to **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**. Would you be happy or unhappy with this decision? How about if the court decides to **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? Would you be happy or unhappy with this decision?

	<u>Happy</u>	<u>Unhappy</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Uphold the entire law Jun 7-17, 2012	39	51	10
b. Throw out the entire law Jun 7-17, 2012	44	48	8
c. Throw out the part of law that requires individuals to have health insurance, and keep the rest of the law Jun 7-17, 2012	40	51	9

NO QUESTIONS 63-65**QUESTION 66 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

ASK ALL:

Next,

Q.67 What should be the priority for dealing with illegal immigration in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE;** (one) better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws; OR (two) creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements] OR should BOTH be given equal priority?

Jun 7-17 <u>2012</u>		Nov 9-14 <u>2011</u>	Feb 2-7 <u>2011</u>	Aug 25-Sep 6 <u>2010</u>	Jul 21-Aug 5 <u>2010</u>
28	Better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws	29	35	30	33
27	Creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements	24	21	23	22
42	Should BOTH be given equal priority	43	42	44	42
1	None of these (VOL.)	2	1	1	1
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	1	3

ASK ALL:

Q.68 As you may know, two years ago the state of Arizona passed a law that requires police to verify the legal status of someone they have already stopped or arrested if they suspect that the person is in the country illegally. Do you approve or disapprove of Arizona's immigration law?

Jun 7-17 <u>2012</u>		Feb 2-7 <u>2011</u> ³	Jun 16-20 <u>2010</u> ⁴
58	Approve	61	64
38	Disapprove	34	32
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	3

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
Dec 7-11, 2011	23	33	38	3	*	2	12	17
Nov 9-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	1	2	16	15
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3	18	16
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
Yearly Totals								
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4

³ In February 2011, the question began, "As you may know, last year the state of Arizona passed..."

⁴ In June 2010, the question began, "As you may know, the state of Arizona recently passed..."

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/Ref	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				preference	party			
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 <i>Post-Sept 11</i>	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 <i>Pre-Sept 11</i>	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--