

Immigration Survey Results.

In the fall, Southern Arizonans across our district received my immigration reform newsletter. It contained a non-scientific survey asking respondents to tell me what they believe are the most essential ways for our nation to address border security and comprehensive immigration reform. I appreciate that 12,000 of you responded. I have personally reviewed your responses and have taken your ideas on this pressing issue with me to Washington.

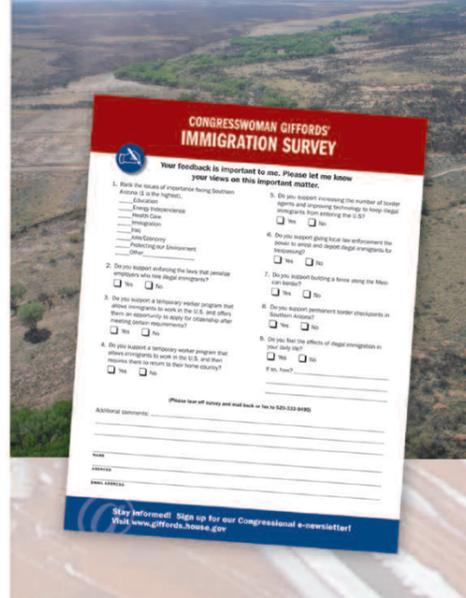
Here is what you told me:

- 60%** support a temporary guest worker program that allows immigrants to work in the United States and then requires them to return home to their home countries.
- 85%** favor laws that penalize employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.
- 58%** favor building a fence along the Mexican border.
- 70%** favor a permanent checkpoint.

Thanks again for taking this issue seriously and responding to my survey.

To view the full results or to weigh in on this or other pressing issues, please visit my website at

www.giffords.house.gov



Congresswoman Giffords reviews your survey responses.



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You can also contact me at my website, www.giffords.house.gov.
 I look forward to hearing from you.



Congresswoman Giffords speaks to reporters about border security initiatives in Congress.

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Many elected officials talk about the border.

Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords knows that, for us, it is our border.



Congresswoman Giffords meets with the Border Patrol at the interim checkpoint on I-19 to discuss border security.

“While many people are now talking about our porous border, we’ve been living with it for as long as I can remember. That’s why I’m not just talking about it, I’m doing everything I can to address it.

And I’m just getting started.”

-Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords

Here are some of the many ways Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords is working to address our border security crisis:

Toughening Penalties:

The Tunnel Enforcement Act becomes law

It’s outrageous to think that the penalties for constructing or financing the construction of a tunnel under the border between the U.S. and Mexico weren’t tough enough, but they weren’t.

That’s why Congresswoman Giffords championed the Tunnel Enforcement Act that ensures the federal government can prosecute this crime and impose significant fines as well as prison time up to 20 years. The law creates additional criminal penalties for using a tunnel to smuggle illegal immigrants, controlled substances, weapons of mass destruction, or terrorists.

The bill was signed into law on December 26th and will close an important loophole in the law by providing U.S. law enforcement with tools to improve our border security.



Congresswoman Giffords gets an aerial view of immigration problems specific to the Tucson Sector and discusses them with a Border Patrol official.

Increased Law Enforcement:

Border Law Enforcement Enhancement Act

Congresswoman Giffords was a cosponsor of the bipartisan Border Law Enforcement Act (H.R. 2542) to provide our law enforcement with the resources they need to secure our border.

H.R. 2542 funds enhanced law enforcement operations, as well as the detention and transfer of illegal immigrants to federal authorities (pending committee action).

Congresswoman Giffords also voted for hiring 3,000 more border patrol agents (H.R. 2764) and for providing an additional \$247 million dollars for continuing National Guard Operations along our border (H.R. 3222).

Federal Assistance to Border States:

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program for 2008

Gabrielle Giffords worked across party lines to successfully amend the Fiscal Year 2008 Justice Department Appropriations to increase the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funding to a total of \$410 million – \$30 million more than originally designated.

This funding reimburses our local law enforcement agencies for the cost of dealing with illegal immigrants. It provides vital support to border states such as Arizona, where we pay a disproportionately higher amount for the incarceration of illegal immigrants.

This funding increase was signed into law at the end of 2007.

Congresswoman Giffords

briefs Congressional Delegation on border issues

In November, Members of Congress from across the country visited our district in an effort to see the border crisis first-hand. Congresswoman Giffords was asked to lead the delegation on a tour of the border because of her extensive knowledge of border security issues.

“This was an important opportunity to show my colleagues the challenges our district and our nation face up close. I hope that they came away from their trip with the same understanding of and commitment to border security that I have.”

Congresswoman Giffords established a community work group and convened several public forums to discuss our border crisis with concerned constituents.



GAO Checkpoint Study:

A Bipartisan and Bicameral Request

On December 6th, eight House and Senate members joined Giffords in requesting a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study on the effectiveness of Border Patrol checkpoints.

The lawmakers outlined five specific areas of inquiry, including a request to examine whether U.S. Customs and Border Protection has developed accountability measures to improve the productivity and effectiveness of interior checkpoints.

Key committee chairman and lawmakers from three border states signed Congresswoman Giffords’ letter, including: Sens. John McCain and Jon Kyl of Arizona; Sen. John Cornyn and Reps. Silvestre Reyes and **Ciro Rodriguez** of Texas; Rep. **Bob Filner** of California; and Rep. **David Price** of North Carolina. Price serves as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Homeland Security, and Reyes is Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.



Protecting the Tucson Sector:

Community Efforts to Provide Safe and Effective Checkpoints

“As our district knows better than any in the country, the Tucson Sector is the most porous section of the entire U.S.-Mexico Border. More than 48% of the nation’s drug traffic and 44% of all illegal human traffic enter our country through Southern Arizona. Each and every day, approximately 1,049 illegal immigrants and 2,749 pounds of drugs cross through our ranches, highways, precious lands and communities.”

“That’s why I established a community work group on Southern Arizona checkpoints and held several public forums to discuss the possibility of a permanent checkpoint on I-19.”

“The work group conducted a detailed analysis and wrote a report highlighting community concerns and recommendations. I submitted the report to the Border Patrol and successfully negotiated changes to their checkpoint plans to reflect residents’ concerns.”

Based on all that I have learned at our many community meetings I support a checkpoint that is:

- Stationary;
- Located away from major population centers;
- Equipped with the technology and manpower to effectively apprehend illegal human and drug traffic and prevent circumvention;
- Part of a comprehensive plan to enhance the public safety of nearby communities; and
- Conductive to the flow of commercial traffic.

The Tucson Border Patrol Sector Chief discusses securing our border with Congresswoman Giffords and members of the Congressional Delegation in November.