BEYOND THE CLASH

Methodology and Questionnaire Data

The deliberative forums described in *Beyond the Clash: How a Deliberative Public Talks about Immigration* were informed by a nonpartisan issue guide titled *Coming to America: Who Should We Welcome? What Should We Do?* prepared by the Kettering Foundation and published by the National Issues Forums Institute. The guide describes three ways of approaching immigration and is designed for people to deliberate together about how to approach the issue. It includes options that reflect different ways of understanding what is at stake and what matters most when facing difficult problems that involve everyone and that do not have perfect solutions. In some cases, participants had read the issue guide in advance of the forum. In others, they saw a short video as the forum began and referred to a six-page issue advisory that synopsizes the material in the longer issue guide.

The forums were led by trained moderators who made a point of encouraging participants to consider each of the three options and its respective strengths and drawbacks. The nonpartisan guide served as a point of departure for these exchanges and a source of information about immigration facts and trends.

In preparing the findings in *Beyond the Clash*, we visited forums held in 10 cities: Seattle, Washington; El Paso, Texas; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Manhattan, Kansas; Jacksonville, Florida; Panama City, Florida; Dayton, Ohio; Binghamton, New York; Birmingham, Alabama; and Cleveland, Mississippi.

At the end of the forums, participants were asked to fill out a brief questionnaire. The full questionnaire data appear below. These results are not based on a random sample of the public. Rather, they reflect the ideas and preferences of individuals who chose to attend these forums and who completed questionnaires. We analyzed more than 1,500 such completed questionnaires.

Q1 Give young people brought here as children when their parents entered the United States illegally the chance to become legal residents and citizens, EVEN IF this means they are benefiting from the unlawful actions of their parents.

	% N = 1501
Strongly Favor	64.6%
Somewhat Favor	22.1%
Somewhat Oppose	5.9%
Strongly Oppose	3.5%
Not Sure	2.4%
No Response	1.5%
Totals	100%

Q2 Reduce the number of legal immigrants admitted to the United States each year, EVEN IF this leads to worker shortages in agriculture, construction, and nursing, as well as higher prices for basics like food and housing.

	% N = 1501
Strongly Favor	3.9%
Somewhat Favor	11.7%
Somewhat Oppose	22.9%
Strongly Oppose	55.0%
Not Sure	5.1%
No Response	1.5%
Totals	100.1%*

Q3 End bilingual education programs in public schools and make learning English the top priority for foreign-born students, EVEN IF this means these students fall behind in their other subjects and struggle while trying to learn English.

	% N = 1501
Strongly Favor	7.6%
Somewhat Favor	10.3%
Somewhat Oppose	18.3%
Strongly Oppose	58.5%
Not Sure	3.8%
No Response	1.5%
Totals	100%

Q4 Identify the approximately 11 million people who are in the United States illegally, deport them, and make them reapply for entry, EVEN IF this meaning tearing families and communities apart all across the country.

	% N = 1501
Strongly Favor	4.8%
Somewhat Favor	7.3%
Somewhat Oppose	14.8%
Strongly Oppose	67.6%
Not Sure	4.1%
No Response	1.5%
Totals	**100.1%***

Q5 Prosecute employers who hire workers without legal papers, EVEN IF they can't find American workers who can do these jobs and this ends up making American products more expensive and less competitive in the world market.

	% N = 1501
Strongly Favor	12.5%
Somewhat Favor	21.9%
Somewhat Oppose	24.7%
Strongly Oppose	31.4%
Not Sure	8.3%
No Response	1.2%
Totals	**100%**

Q6 To show we are a nation of laws and prevent people who break the law from getting an unfair advantage, we should deport the millions of immigrants who came here illegally and make them reapply for entry to the United States.

VERSUS:
Deporting millions of people who are living and working here peacefully because they entered the country illegally years ago is cruel. In this case, the punishment far outweighs the crime.

	% N = 1501
Option 1	16.8%
Option 2	63.4%
Not Sure	15.3%
No Response	4.5%
Totals	**100%**

Q7 Welcoming newcomers from around the world makes our country and our economy vibrant and strong—we should keep immigration at current levels.

VERSUS:
Current levels of immigration are too high, and the country is now becoming so diverse that we are endangering our ability to assimilate newcomers and maintain our national unity.

	% N = 1501
Option 1	69.8%
Option 2	13.3%
Not Sure	13.9%
No Response	3.1%
Totals	100.1%*

Q8 Our priority should be to help immigrants assimilate into our distinctively American culture and way of life, including learning English language and US history. Being a melting pot is a cornerstone of America's strength.

VERSUS:
Our priority should be to respect and include a mosaic of different peoples, cultures, and languages. Our diversity is a cornerstone of America's strength.

	% N = 1501
Option 1	31.9%
Option 2	50.8%
Not Sure	10.7%
No Response	6.7%
Totals	100.1%*

Q9 The United States should accept more refugees fleeing war and deprivation in countries like Syria and Somalia. Historically, we've always taken in refugees because our country has seen it as a moral obligation to help.

VERSUS:
In these dangerous times, it's much too difficult to check the backgrounds of people coming from such war-torn areas. We shouldn't take the risk.

	% N = 1501
Option 1	61.5%
Option 2	14.5%
Not Sure	19.7%
No Response	4.3%
Totals	100%

Q10 Did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn't considered before?

	% N = 1501
Yes	45.8%
No	44.0%
No Response	10.1%
Totals	99.9%*

Q11 Were there ideas or proposals that you tended to favor coming into the forum that you now have second thoughts about?

	% N = 1501
Yes	21.6%
No	67.4%
No Response	11%
Totals	99.9%*

Q13 Not including this forum, how many National Issues Forums have you attended?

	% N = 1501
0	69.2%
1-3	19.9%
4-6	2.7%
7 or more	3.1%
Not Sure	1.6%
No Response	3.5%
Totals	100%

Q14 Are you male or female?

	% N = 1501
Male	39.0%
Female	56.2%
Other (please specify)	0.9%
No Response	3.9%
Totals	100%

Q15 How old are you?

	% N = 1501
17 or younger	3.9%
18-30	47.8%
31-45	9.3%
46-64	15.9%
65 or older	20.6%
No Response	2.5%
Totals	**100%**

Q16 Are you:

	% N = 1501
African American	14.1%
Asian American	6.6%
Hispanic or Latino	8.6%
Native American	0.7%
White/Caucasian	59.4%
Other (please specify)	3.7%
No Response	6.9%
Totals	**100%**

Q17 Where do you live?

	% N = 1501
Rural	9.1%
Small Town	35.2%
Large City	22.1%
Suburb	26.0%
No Response	7.5%
Totals	**99.9%***

Q19 **Were you born in the United States?**

	% N = 1501
Yes	84.8%
No	12.0%
No Response	3.2%
Totals	**100%**

Percentage column may not add up to 100% due to rounding.