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Most View Boston Attack as Separate Issue

Division, Uncertainty over New Immigration Bill

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Division, Uncertainty over New Immigration Bill

As Congress debates a bill to overhaul the nation's immigration policy, much of the public has yet to form an opinion about the legislation. About as many say they favor (33%) as oppose (28%) the immigration bill before Congress, but fully 38% say they don't know what they think of the legislation.

At this early stage of debate, the public does not think the bill would have a major impact on the nation's economy or security. About half say either that the immigration bill would not make much of a difference for the economy (35%) or that they don't know how the bill would affect the economy (17%). An even greater percentage says the bill would have no impact on the country's safety from terrorism (57%) or that they don't know how the country's security would be affected (16%).

The national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted April 25-28 among 1,003 adults, finds that most do not think the Boston Marathon bombings should be an important factor in the debate over immigration legislation. Nearly six-in-ten (58%) say the Boston attack and the immigration debate are mostly separate issues, while 36% say the attack should be an important factor in the debate.

Overall, the debate over immigration policy has drawn little public attention. Just 19% say they are following the story very closely. And most Americans are unaware of some of the legislation's visible aspects.

Many Have Yet to Form Opinion of Immigration Bill in Congress

	April 25-28 2013
<i>Immigration bill being debated in Congress ...</i>	%
Favor	33
Oppose	28
Don't know	<u>38</u>
	100
<i>Bill will ...</i>	
Help U.S. economy	24
Hurt U.S. economy	23
Not make much difference	35
Don't know	<u>17</u>
	100
<i>Make country ...</i>	
Safer from terrorism	14
Less safe from terrorism	13
Not make much difference	57
Don't know	<u>16</u>
	100
<i>Boston attack ...</i>	
Should be important factor in immigration bill debate	36
Is mostly a separate issue	58
Don't know	<u>6</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 25-28, 2013.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Fewer than half (46%) know that the bill would allow unauthorized immigrants to stay in the country while applying for citizenship. And just 37% know that it was introduced by a bipartisan group of senators.

Views of Immigration Bill

Twice as many Democrats favor (44%) as oppose (22%) the immigration bill currently being debated in Congress, while 33% do not offer an opinion. Republicans are divided with 30% in favor, 34% opposed and 36% not offering an opinion. Independents also are split (28% favor, 31% oppose, 40% don't know).

Notably, independents who lean to the Republican Party express more opposition to the bill than do self-identified Republicans. About half of Republican-leaning independents (51%) oppose the immigration bill while just 19% favor it.

College graduates support the immigration bill by roughly two-to-one (44% to 21%). Those with lower levels of education are divided over the legislation.

Blacks offer more support (42%) than opposition (22%) to the bill, while 36% offer no opinion. By contrast, whites are divided: 28% favor the proposal, 31% oppose it and 41% do not offer an opinion.

More GOP-Leaning Independents than Republicans Oppose Bill

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	33	28	38=100
Men	34	31	35=100
Women	33	26	42=100
White	28	31	41=100
Black	42	22	36=100
18-29	35	25	40=100
30-49	34	26	40=100
50-64	31	36	33=100
65+	34	27	38=100
College grad+	44	21	35=100
Some college	28	28	44=100
HS or less	31	33	36=100
Republican	30	34	36=100
Democrat	44	22	33=100
Independent	28	31	40=100
Lean Republican	19	51	30=100
Lean Democratic	41	16	43=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 25-28, 2013.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.
 Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic.

Immigration Bill Seen as Having Limited Impact

The public does not think the immigration bill before Congress would have a major impact on the economy or the country's safety from terrorism.

When asked how the immigration bill would impact the U.S. economy, as many say it would help the economy (24%) as hurt the economy (23%). A 35% plurality says the bill wouldn't make much difference for the economy and 17% do not offer an opinion.

In addition, 57% do not think the bill would have an effect on the country's safety from terrorism. Those who see a potential impact are divided over whether the bill would make the country safer (14%) or less safe (13%); 16% do not offer an opinion.

There are modest partisan differences in these opinions. Overall, somewhat more Democrats say the bill would help (33%) rather than hurt (18%) the U.S. economy, while about a third (34%) say it wouldn't make much difference. About as many Republicans say the bill would hurt (25%) as help (21%) the economy, while 36% say it wouldn't make much difference. Independents' views are similar to those of Republicans.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say that the immigration bill would make the country less safe from terrorism (20% vs. 8%). But a plurality of Republicans (46%), and majorities of Democrats (62%) and independents (61%), say the bill wouldn't have much of an effect on the country's safety from terrorism.

Modest Partisan Differences over Bill's Economic, Security Impacts

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Immigration bill will...</i>	%	%	%	%
Help U.S. economy	24	21	33	22
Hurt U.S. economy	23	25	18	26
Not make difference	35	36	34	36
Don't know	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100
Make country safer from terrorism	14	18	15	10
Make country less safe from terrorism	13	20	8	14
Not make difference	57	46	62	61
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 25-28, 2013.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Boston Attack, Immigration Debate Seen as Separate Issues

While there has been discussion in Washington about whether the terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon should impact the debate over immigration, a majority of the public sees the two as separate issues. Nearly six-in-ten (58%) say the bombings and debate over the immigration bill are mostly separate issues, while 36% say the Boston bombings should be an important factor in the debate.

Most independents (62%) and Democrats (59%) see the Boston bombings and

immigration debate as separate. Republicans are somewhat more divided: 50% say they are separate issues, 46% say the bombings should be an important factor in the immigration debate.

Most See Boston Attacks, Immigration Debate as Separate

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Boston attack ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Should be important factor in immigration debate	36	46	33	34
Is mostly a separate issue	58	50	59	62
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 25-28, 2013.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Most Don't Know Key Facts about Bill

Most Americans don't know that the immigration bill before Congress was introduced by a group of Republican and Democratic senators or that the bill stipulates that unauthorized immigrants be allowed to stay in the country while applying for citizenship.

About four-in-ten (37%) correctly say that the bill was introduced by a mix of Republican and Democratic senators; 47% volunteer that they don't know who introduced the bill, while 9% say it was introduced by a group of Democrats and 7% say it was introduced by a group of Republicans.

Only somewhat more (46%) know that the bill allows unauthorized immigrants to stay in the country while applying for citizenship, 16% think unauthorized immigrants must return to their home country before applying and 37% don't know.

Limited Knowledge of Immigration Bill

	April 25-28 2013
<i>Immigration bill was introduced by</i>	%
Reps and Dems	37
Only Reps	7
Only Dems	9
Don't know	<u>47</u>
	100
<i>While applying for citizenship, unauthorized immigrants ...</i>	
Can stay in U.S.	46
Must return to home country	16
Don't know	<u>37</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 25-28, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Just 24% of the public correctly answered both knowledge questions, 35% got one question correct while 41% answered neither question correctly.

Support for Bill among Knowledgeable

People who are relatively knowledgeable about the immigration bill – those able to answer both questions correctly – favor the legislation by 50% to 33%. Those less knowledgeable are more evenly divided.

Among those getting only one knowledge question correct, about as many favor (36%) as oppose (33%) the legislation with 31% not offering an opinion. A majority (57%) of those unable to answer either knowledge question have no opinion of the bill; 21% favor the legislation, while 22% oppose it.

Knowledgeable More Supportive of Immigration Bill

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	33	28	38=100
<i>Knowledge questions correct (out of 2) ...</i>			
Two	50	33	18=100
One	36	33	31=100
Zero	21	22	57=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 25-28, 2013.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The partisan differences in views of the immigration bill are wider among those who are aware that the bill allows unauthorized immigrants to stay in the U.S while applying for citizenship.

Republicans who know that the bill allows unauthorized immigrants to stay in the U.S. oppose the legislation by nearly two-to-one (52% to 27%). By contrast, Democrats who know this support the bill by three-to-one (60% to 18%).

Democrats who know the bill was introduced by a bipartisan group of senators also favor the bill by a wide margin (63% to 18%). But Republicans who know the legislation was sponsored by a group of Republicans and Democrats are divided (35% favor vs. 42% oppose).

Wide Gaps over Bill among Knowledgeable Reps and Dems

<i>Favor/oppose immigration bill being debated in Congress</i>	Rep	Dem	R-D diff
Total	%	%	
Favor	30	44	-14
Oppose	34	22	+12
Don't know	<u>36</u>	<u>33</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Among those who know ... Bill allows unauthorized immigrants to stay legally while applying for citizenship</i>			
Favor	27	60	-33
Oppose	52	18	+34
Don't know	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Among those who know ... Bill was introduced by group of Rep & Dem senators</i>			
Favor	35	63	-28
Oppose	42	18	+24
Don't know	<u>23</u>	<u>19</u>	
	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 25-28, 2013.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted April 25-28, 2013 among a national sample of 1,003 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (500 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 503 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 237 who had no landline telephone). 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. 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 region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2012 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 among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted 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	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,003	3.7 percentage points
Republicans	253	7.4 percentage points
Democrats	324	6.5 percentage points
Independents	362	6.2 percentage points
<i>Knowledge questions correct (out of two)</i>		
Two	275	7.1 percentage points
One	342	6.4 percentage points
Zero	386	6.0 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
April 25-28, 2013, OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,003

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. The investigation into the terrorist bombings at the Boston Marathon					
April 25-28, 2013	49	33	9	9	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 18-21, 2013: <i>A terrorist bombing at the Boston Marathon</i>	63	22	10	5	*
November 4-7, 2010: <i>News about recent plots in the United States and Europe</i>	29	31	19	20	*
October 28-November 1, 2010	28	33	17	21	1
June 24-27, 2010: <i>The man who attempted to bomb Times Square pleading guilty</i>	18	28	26	27	1
May 7-10, 2010: <i>The investigation and arrests following an attempted car bombing in Times Square in New York</i>	37	32	16	15	*
January 8-11, 2010: <i>The government's response to an attempted terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound plane on Christmas</i>	37	36	14	12	*
November 13-16, 2009: <i>The investigations into the shootings at Fort Hood Army post in Texas</i>	35	37	16	11	1
November 6-9, 2009: <i>A shooter killing 13 people at Fort Hood Army post in Texas</i>	44	34	14	8	*
September 25-28, 2009: <i>News about recent terrorist plots in the United States</i>	32	38	17	14	0
May 11-14, 2007: <i>The arrest of six men charged with plotting an attack on the Fort Dix Army base</i>	19	29	20	31	1
July, 2002: <i>Defending against terrorist attacks in the U.S.</i>	51	33	9	6	1
June, 2002: <i>The arrest of a man for planning a "dirty bomb" attack on the U.S.</i>	30	30	24	15	1
June, 2002: <i>Defending against terrorist attacks in the U.S.</i>	45	35	12	7	1
April, 2002	46	36	10	7	1
Early April, 2002	49	35	10	5	1
January 2002: <i>Reports on the failed suicide bombing of an American Airlines jet coming from Paris</i>	20	34	22	23	1
December, 2001: <i>Terrorism attacks on the United States</i>	60	29	7	3	1
Mid-November, 2001	66	25	6	2	1
Early November, 2001	63	26	6	3	2
Mid-October, 2001	78	16	4	1	1
Early October, 2001: <i>News about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington</i>	73	22	4	1	*
Mid-September, 2001	74	22	3	1	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
January, 2000: <i>The recent arrests of suspected terrorists in the U.S.</i>	23	36	23	17	1
b. Debate over immigration policy in the U.S.					
April 25-28, 2013	19	25	24	32	*
April 18-21, 2013	21	22	25	31	1
April 4-7, 2013	23	22	22	32	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
January 31-February 3, 2013: <i>Debate in Washington over immigration policy</i>	23	25	22	29	1
June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>The Supreme Court decision on Arizona's immigration law</i>	29	21	19	30	1
April 26-29, 2012: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	21	24	26	27	1
May 12-15, 2011	18	22	27	32	1
September 2-6, 2010	30	31	19	20	1
August 12-15, 2010	27	31	19	21	1
July 29-August 1, 2010: <i>A court ruling that stops most of Arizona's immigration law from going into effect</i>	40	32	17	10	1
July 8-11, 2010: <i>The U.S. Justice Department challenging the legality of Arizona's recent immigration law</i>	30	27	19	23	1
July 1-5, 2010: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	34	30	20	14	1
May 7-10, 2010: <i>A new Arizona law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants</i>	38	27	13	21	1
April 30-May 3, 2010	36	31	13	20	*
October 12-15, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	23	29	19	29	*
June 29-July 2, 2007: <i>The debate in Congress over new immigration policy</i>	26	30	21	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	24	28	22	26	*
June 15-18, 2007	22	32	21	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	24	29	20	26	1
May 24-27, 2007	27	31	22	19	1
April 12-16, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	21	29	24	26	*
August, 2006	34	40	16	9	1
June, 2006	36	41	15	7	1
May, 2006	44	33	13	9	1
April, 2006	39	34	16	10	1
December, 1994: <i>Passage of Proposition 187, the California law that bars education, health and welfare benefits from illegal immigrants and their children</i>	26	32	22	20	*
c. Flight delays at airports due to the furlough of air-traffic controllers					
April 25-28, 2013	15	21	24	40	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
August 4-7, 2011: <i>The partial shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration due to disagreements in Congress</i>	17	24	22	36	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
d. Charges that Syria has used chemical weapons against anti-government groups April 25-28, 2013	18	25	24	33	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
March 28-31, 2013: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	13	22	25	40	1
December 13-16, 2012	14	26	26	33	1
December 6-9, 2012	19	28	23	29	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	15	23	23	39	1
August 16-19, 2012	12	24	26	37	2
July 19-22, 2012	17	24	23	36	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	13	19	26	42	*
June 14-17, 2012	15	24	21	40	1
May 31-June 3, 2012	12	25	25	37	1
April 12-15, 2012: <i>International efforts to stop political violence in Syria</i>	14	23	25	37	1
April 5-8, 2012	15	21	27	37	1
March 15-28, 2012: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	16	26	27	30	1
March 8-11, 2012	17	23	23	37	1
February 23-26, 2012	18	24	21	35	1
February 9-12, 2012	17	23	23	36	*
January 12-15, 2012	12	17	26	45	1
August 4-7, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	10	19	26	44	1
June 2-5, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	25	25	32	*
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	14	27	30	28	1
April 28-May 1, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	29	25	27	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*

PEW.2, PEW.4 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS PEW.3, PEW.5-PEW.7**

ASK ALL:

PEW.8 As you may know, a new immigration bill is currently being debated in Congress. From what you've seen and heard so far, do you favor or oppose this immigration bill?

Apr 25-28

2013

33	Favor
28	Oppose
38	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE ITEMS PEW.9-PEW.10**ASK ALL:**

And just your impression...

PEW.9 Do you think the immigration bill before Congress would **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS 1 AND 2]**, or not make much of a difference?

Apr 25-28

2013

14	Make the country safer from terrorism
13	Make the country less safe from terrorism
57	Not make much of a difference
16	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE ITEMS PEW.9-PEW.10**ASK ALL:**

PEW.10 Do you think the immigration bill before Congress would **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS 1 AND 2]**, or not make much of a difference?

Apr 25-28

2013

24	Help the U.S. economy
23	Hurt the U.S. economy
35	Not make much of a difference
17	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.11 Do you happen to know whether the immigration bill before Congress was introduced by **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Apr 25-28

2013

7	A group of Republican senators
9	A group of Democratic senators [OR]
37	A mix of Republican and Democratic senators
47	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.12 Do you happen to know whether the immigration bill **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Apr 25-28

2013

46	Allows unauthorized immigrants to stay in the country while applying for citizenship [OR] Requires unauthorized immigrants to return to their home country before applying for citizenship
16	citizenship
37	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.13 As Congress debates the new immigration bill, do you think last week's terrorist attack in Boston should be an important factor in the debate, or are these mostly separate issues?

Apr 25-28

2013

36	Should be important factor in the debate
58	Mostly separate issues
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)