

From August 18 to 24, 2026, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 858 likely voters in Connecticut and Maryland using SMS and web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, geography, and recalled presidential vote. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error associated with the sample size is ±3 percentage points. Results for subgroups of the sample are subject to increased margins of error. Partisanship reflected in tabulations is based on self-identified party affiliation, not partisan registration. For more information please visit dataforprogress.org/our-methodology.

NB: subgroups with a n-size less than 50 (<50) are not shown on these cross-tabs. We choose not to display N<50 subgroups because the sample is too small to have statistical significance. We did, however, take samples of these subgroups for representational and weighting purposes to accurately reflect the electorate makeup. Some values may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

N=858 unless otherwise specified.

[1] How familiar are you with U.S. temporary worker visa programs (sometimes called guest worker or migrant worker programs)?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Inde- pendent / Third party	Repub lican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
I've never heard of these programs before	9	11	5	9	12	6	12	8	13	5	15	6	25	10	8
I've heard of these programs, but don't know much about them	47	51	46	39	46	47	45	47	47	47	41	50	26	44	48
I know a fair amount about these programs	38	31	42	45	32	45	37	38	34	43	34	38	43	38	38
Unsure / I don't know	7	7	7	6	10	2	6	7	7	6	10	6	6	8	6
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[2] Guest worker programs are temporary visa programs that let employers hire people from other countries to do specific jobs, like agricultural work, tourist hospitality, childcare, or high-skilled manufacturing when workers are needed.

Once the employer feels the job is done, workers return to their home country.

Lawmakers in your state are considering making changes to guest worker programs. Which of the following do you believe they should focus on most in regards to these programs?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Inde- pendent / Third party	Repub lican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
Making sure that employers can hire more foreign workers on a temporary basis in response to evolving needs in their industry.	13	18	12	7	14	13	14	13	10	18	16	12	16	12	14
Encouraging employers to hire more people who are already in the U.S. before bringing in temporary workers from other countries.	50	37	51	69	48	53	49	50	56	42	48	52	38	49	50
Creating alternative ways for people from other countries to legally work and contribute where workers are needed.	31	40	30	18	32	30	32	31	26	37	27	31	42	33	30
Unsure / I don't know	6	5	8	5	7	5	6	6	7	4	10	5	5	6	6
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[3] Lawmakers in your state are debating different changes to guest worker programs.

[The following statements were rotated: Some say we should reform these programs because guest workers are often paid below minimum wage and face dangerous working conditions. When there is highly coerced, readily accessible labor from other countries, it's easier to drive down wages and working conditions for everyone. Everyone deserves to be paid fairly for the work they do.

Others say we should expand these programs because employers across key industries are facing serious labor shortages right now, and bringing in more temporary workers is the fastest way to fill open jobs, keep businesses running, and keep prices down for consumers.]

Thinking about how changes to guest worker programs affect workers and the economy, which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither are exactly right?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Inde- pendent / Third party	Repub- lican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
We should expand guest worker programs as they are today	29	38	22	22	30	27	41	24	29	29	41	24	47	25	31
We should reform guest worker programs	61	55	65	67	57	65	51	65	60	62	49	66	47	65	58
Unsure / I don't know	10	7	13	12	12	7	8	11	11	9	10	10	6	9	11
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[4] Do you support or oppose each of the following changes to guest worker programs?

— Requiring that guest workers are covered by the same labor standards and workplace protections as U.S. workers doing the same job

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Repub- lican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
Strongly support	59	67	55	51	62	57	53	62	52	68	50	65	57	62	58
Somewhat support	22	20	22	24	21	22	27	19	25	17	27	19	22	21	22
Somewhat oppose	6	6	5	6	4	8	6	6	8	4	11	4	8	7	6
Strongly oppose	5	3	5	8	4	6	4	6	6	5	4	5	5	4	6
Unsure / I don't know	8	4	13	10	9	7	9	7	9	7	9	7	9	6	9
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	81	87	77	75	83	79	80	81	77	85	77	84	79	83	80
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	11	9	10	14	8	14	10	12	14	9	15	9	13	11	12
SUPPORT (NET)	+70	+78	+67	+61	+75	+65	+70	+69	+63	+76	+62	+75	+66	+72	+68
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[5] Do you support or oppose each of the following changes to guest worker programs?

— Allowing guest workers to change employers instead of being tied to the one that recruited them initially

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
Strongly support	31	40	25	21	32	30	41	27	29	33	37	28	37	30	32
Somewhat support	31	35	30	27	30	33	34	30	30	33	28	32	41	33	30
Somewhat oppose	13	10	14	17	11	15	9	14	15	10	8	14	7	14	12
Strongly oppose	11	4	13	20	10	12	7	13	13	8	8	13	4	10	11
Unsure / I don't know	14	11	18	15	16	11	9	16	13	15	18	13	11	12	15
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	62	75	55	48	62	63	75	57	59	66	65	60	78	63	62
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	24	14	27	37	21	27	16	27	28	18	16	27	11	24	23
SUPPORT (NET)	+38	+61	+28	+11	+41	+36	+59	+30	+31	+48	+49	+33	+67	+39	+39
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[6] Do you support or oppose each of the following changes to guest worker programs?

— Increasing penalties for employers who violate wage and safety standards in guest worker programs

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
Strongly support	62	66	63	56	62	62	49	68	55	71	53	67	44	61	63
Somewhat support	23	17	24	30	21	24	31	19	27	17	23	20	33	22	23
Somewhat oppose	5	6	3	4	4	5	7	4	6	3	8	3	10	7	3
Strongly oppose	4	4	2	5	3	4	5	3	5	3	2	3	2	5	3
Unsure / I don't know	7	7	8	5	9	5	9	6	8	6	13	6	11	6	7
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	85	83	87	86	83	86	80	87	82	88	76	87	77	83	86
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	9	10	5	9	7	9	12	7	11	6	10	6	12	12	6
SUPPORT (NET)	+76	+73	+82	+77	+76	+77	+68	+80	+71	+82	+66	+81	+65	+71	+80
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[7] Do you support or oppose each of the following changes to guest worker programs?

— Requiring employers hiring guest workers to disclose the actual pay and working conditions of a job before a worker accepts it

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
Strongly support	64	67	63	59	65	62	52	69	57	72	50	70	45	62	65
Somewhat support	22	20	23	23	22	21	30	18	27	15	25	19	36	24	21
Somewhat oppose	3	3	1	4	3	3	4	3	4	2	6	2	3	5	2
Strongly oppose	4	5	3	5	3	6	5	4	4	5	8	3	5	4	5
Unsure / I don't know	7	4	10	8	6	7	8	6	7	7	11	6	11	6	7
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	86	87	86	82	87	83	82	87	84	87	75	89	81	86	86
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	7	8	4	9	6	9	9	7	8	7	14	5	8	9	7
SUPPORT (NET)	+79	+79	+82	+73	+81	+74	+73	+80	+76	+80	+61	+84	+73	+77	+79
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[8] [Respondents randomly saw one of the following statements before proceeding to the question below:]

[Reform statement: Guest worker programs are temporary visa programs that let employers hire people from other countries to do specific jobs, like agricultural work, tourist hospitality, childcare, or high-skilled manufacturing when workers are needed. Once the employer feels the job is done, workers return to their home country.]

Some people want to reform guest worker programs so employers can't abuse workers. Right now, many workers recruited from Mexico and Central America are promised fair pay, but are actually paid below minimum wage. Many also face dangerous working conditions. This happens all over the country, including in places you might not expect – like Maryland and Connecticut. This is not just unfair to people navigating the guest worker program. When there is a highly coerced, readily accessible labor force from other countries, it drives down wages and working conditions for everyone. But if the rules were set up so all workers could earn a fair wage, work safely, and have a voice on the job, wages and working conditions would be better for everyone. Everyone deserves to be paid fairly for the work they do.

[Expansion statement: Guest worker programs are temporary visa programs that let employers hire people from other countries to do specific jobs, like agricultural work, tourist hospitality, childcare, or high-skilled manufacturing when workers are needed. Once the employer feels the job is done, workers return to their home country.]

Some people want to expand guest worker programs and make it easier for employers to hire temporary workers. Right now, key industries face a shrinking domestic workforce and rely on workers from other countries to fill important jobs. For example, in Maryland and Connecticut, industries like tourism, landscaping, forestry, and seafood processing hire large percentages of their workers from other countries through guest worker programs. These programs provide an affordable and accessible labor force and keep businesses running. Guest worker programs are a win-win-win. They help hard-working, honest people from other countries access opportunities, help employers hire for jobs Americans won't do, and fill key gaps in the labor market, which keeps prices low.]

Lawmakers in your state are considering making changes to guest worker programs. Which of the following do you believe they should focus on most in regards to these programs?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
Making sure that employers can hire more workers on a temporary basis in response to evolving needs in their industry.	16	18	14	14	17	15	17	15	15	17	18	16	10	12	18
Encouraging employers to hire more people who are already in the U.S. before bringing in temporary workers from other countries.	48	38	46	64	45	51	50	46	54	40	44	48	48	51	45
Creating alternative ways for people from other countries to legally work and contribute where workers are needed.	30	38	30	16	30	29	25	32	25	35	27	30	33	31	29
Unsure / I don't know	7	5	11	6	8	5	7	7	6	7	10	6	10	6	7
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[9] Lawmakers in your state are debating different changes to guest worker programs.

[The following statements were rotated: Some say we should reform these programs because guest workers are often paid below minimum wage and face dangerous working conditions. When there is highly coerced, readily accessible labor from other countries, it's easier to drive down wages and working conditions for everyone. Everyone deserves to be paid fairly for the work they do.

Others say we should expand these programs because employers across key industries are facing serious labor shortages right now, and bringing in more temporary workers is the fastest way to fill open jobs, keep businesses running, and keep prices down for consumers.]

Thinking about how changes to guest worker programs affect workers and the economy, which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither are exactly right?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Inde- pendent / Third party	Repub- lican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
We should expand guest worker programs as they are today	28	34	22	24	27	29	36	25	28	28	36	24	45	24	30
We should reform guest worker programs	64	61	66	68	63	65	54	68	63	65	54	68	47	67	62
Unsure / I don't know	8	6	11	8	10	5	10	7	9	7	10	8	8	9	7
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[10] Please describe your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement:

People in my community would be better off if there was an alternative guest worker program where workers could apply directly for work permits, switch employers, and have equal labor rights to other workers in the country.

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Repub- lican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
Strongly agree	28	40	21	14	29	25	30	26	25	31	33	26	37	27	28
Somewhat agree	37	38	36	36	37	37	40	36	37	37	32	37	49	36	37
Somewhat disagree	14	9	16	20	15	12	12	15	17	10	16	13	4	14	14
Strongly disagree	11	6	11	20	8	15	7	13	13	9	9	13	0	12	11
Unsure / I don't know	10	8	16	9	10	10	11	10	8	13	10	11	11	12	9
AGREE (TOTAL)	65	78	57	50	66	62	70	62	62	68	65	63	86	63	65
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	25	15	27	40	23	27	19	28	30	19	25	26	4	26	25
AGREE (NET)	+40	+63	+30	+10	+43	+35	+51	+34	+32	+49	+40	+37	+82	+37	+40
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[11] Which of the following comes closest to your view, even if none is exactly right?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
People who come to the U.S. through guest worker programs should be able to apply for a visa without being tied to one specific employer, and should have the ability to change employers.	56	69	52	37	57	53	60	54	49	63	53	56	62	54	57
People who come to the U.S. through guest worker programs should be required to stay with the employer they started with through their work visa.	35	24	37	52	33	38	31	37	43	26	34	36	29	37	34
Unsure / I don't know	9	7	12	11	10	9	9	9	8	11	13	8	9	9	9
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[12] Please describe your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement:

When the government forces workers from other countries to be tied to specific employers, it leads to abuse of employees, unfair pay, discrimination, and human trafficking that hurts guest workers and U.S. workers.

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
Strongly agree	33	45	27	20	34	33	38	31	31	36	36	31	44	33	33
Somewhat agree	32	33	32	32	32	33	37	31	32	33	32	34	26	36	31
Somewhat disagree	15	8	18	24	15	15	11	17	17	13	10	16	7	13	17
Strongly disagree	9	5	9	16	7	12	6	10	11	8	6	10	9	8	10
Unsure / I don't know	10	9	14	9	12	8	8	11	9	11	16	9	14	10	10
AGREE (TOTAL)	65	78	59	52	66	66	75	62	63	69	68	65	70	69	64
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	24	13	27	40	22	27	17	27	28	21	16	26	16	21	27
AGREE (NET)	+41	+65	+32	+12	+44	+39	+58	+35	+35	+48	+52	+39	+54	+48	+37
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543

[13] Which of the following concerns you about today's guest worker programs? Please select **all** that apply.

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	CT	MD
Employers may pay guest workers less or treat them unfairly.	50	59	52	33	51	48	46	51	43	58	45	52	32	48	51
The government may not do enough to make sure employers follow the rules.	43	47	43	38	43	43	30	49	37	51	36	47	28	43	44
The government may not do enough to properly screen people before they receive temporary work visas.	41	29	48	54	42	39	35	43	44	37	27	45	30	45	38
These programs can reduce job opportunities for people who are already in the United States.	39	29	40	55	40	38	38	40	44	34	34	41	29	42	38
Workers can become trapped with one employer and have a hard time leaving.	39	50	37	21	41	36	36	40	30	49	35	40	30	36	40
These programs drive down wages and working conditions for everyone.	30	28	34	31	30	31	29	31	30	30	28	30	32	28	31
The program doesn't provide enough workers to meet employers' needs, leading to labor shortages in key industries.	18	24	11	14	19	16	15	19	16	20	11	17	26	18	18
None of these concern me.	5	4	5	7	4	6	7	5	7	3	6	6	8	7	4
Unsure / I don't know	5	7	5	3	6	4	5	5	5	5	12	4	6	5	5
Weighted N	858	398	211	249	468	390	254	604	470	388	162	587	73	315	543