Memorandum

To   Interested Parties
From   First Focus Campaign for Children
Date   November 20, 2012
Re   National Survey Results: Latino Voters

This memo provides an overview of responses from Latino voters in a new poll released by the First Focus Campaign for Children. Like all voters, Latino voters support a wide range of federal investments in America's children, but at higher levels of support.

More than 9-in-10 Latinos who said they had voted or were likely to vote in the Nov. 6 general election say the country should increase investments in child health, and more than 8-in-10 likely Latino voters said the same of family tax credits, children of immigrants, child poverty reduction, and the creation of a federal children's budget.

Latino voters supported the most protecting the health of our children through extending the bipartisan Children's Health Insurance Program by a 92 percent to 5 percent margin, compared to 83 percent of all voters.

Latino voters also overwhelmingly supported protecting elements of the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit that will expire this year unless Congress acts by a 89 percent to 6 percent margin, compared to 81 percent of all voters.

And Latino voters favor enacting the DREAM Act to offer an opportunity for undocumented immigrant children to earn lawful permanent residency and a path to U.S. citizenship by an 84 to 12 percent margin, compared to 68 percent of all voters.

Additional poll results from Latino voters compared to all voters can be found below.

The poll was commissioned by the bipartisan First Focus Campaign for Children and completed by Lake Research Partners.

Lake Research Partners surveyed 1,200 registered likely voters by telephone (1,000 on landlines, and 200 on cell phones), between November 4th and November 6th, 2012. Of those surveyed, 10 percent identified themselves as Latino or Hispanic-American. The poll has a margin of error of ± 2.8 percent.

An overview of methodology is provided by Lake Research Partners in its memo underscoring key findings from the poll.

Below you will find Latino responses to select questions from the survey. Responses can be compared to all voters by referencing the numbers in parentheses and the survey schedule.

I am going to read you a list of issues that may have come up during the election. Please tell me which one or two of these was most important to you in deciding who to vote for President. Select up to two.

The economy: **33 percent of Latino voters** (41 percent of all voters)
Jobs: **28 percent of Latino voters** (20 percent of all voters)
Health care: **13 percent of Latino voters** (18 percent of all voters)

Education: **20 percent of Latino voters** (13 percent of all voters)
Social security and retirement security: **13 percent of Latino voters** (12 percent of all voters)
The federal budget deficit: **7 percent of Latino voters** (11 percent of all voters)
Abortion: **5 percent of Latino voters** (8 percent of all voters)
Medicare and prescription drugs: **7 percent of Latino voters** (7 percent of all voters)
Taxes: **2 percent of Latino voters** (7 percent of all voters)
Terrorism and national security: **8 percent of Latino voters** (6 percent of all voters)
The war in Afghanistan: **4 percent of Latino voters** (5 percent of all voters)
Immigration: **14 percent of Latino voters** (4 percent of all voters)
The environment: **2 percent of Latino voters** (4 percent of all voters)
Other: **2 percent of Latino voters** (4 percent of all voters)
Don't know/refuse: **1 percent of Latino voters** (1 percent of all voters)

Underlined text was read to a split sample of respondents. The other sample was read the question without the underlined text.
<u>Today 1 in 5 American children live in poverty</u>. Do you agree or disagree that the next president and Congress should provide a plan to cut child poverty in half within 10 years?

Agree strongly: **71 percent** (68 percent)
Agree not so strongly: **13 percent** (14 percent)
Disagree not so strongly: **4 percent** (4 percent)
Disagree strongly: **11 percent** (9 percent)
Don't know/refused: **1 percent** (5 percent)

Agree: **84 percent** (82 percent)
Disagree: **14 percent** (13 percent)

Unless Congress acts, elements of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit that keep children out of poverty will expire at the end of the year. Do you favor or oppose Congress extending these two tax credits that protect children from poverty?

Favor strongly: **76 percent** (69 percent)
Favor not so strongly: **13 percent** (13 percent)
Oppose not so strongly: **2 percent** (3 percent)
Oppose strongly: **5 percent** (9 percent)
Don't know/refused: **5 percent** (7 percent)

Favor: **89 percent** (81 percent)
Oppose: **6 percent** (12 percent)

Underlined text was read to a split sample of respondents. The other sample was read the question without the underlined text.
<u>During the recent economic recession the Children's Health Insurance Program protected millions of children who otherwise would not have had health insurance.</u> In two years the Children's Health Insurance Program is set to expire unless Congress acts to continue the program. How important is it that Congress extend the Children's Health Insurance Program in 2013 – very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all?

Very important: **74 percent** (61 percent)
Somewhat important: **18 percent** (22 percent)
A little important: **2 percent** (6 percent)
Not important at all: **2 percent** (7 percent)
Don't know/refused: **3 percent** (4 percent)

Very/somewhat important: **92 percent** (83 percent)
A little/not important at all: **5 percent** (13 percent)

Underlined text was read to a split sample of respondents. The other sample was read the question without the underlined text. The federal government often details its annual budgets for priorities, like the war on drugs or job safety programs, but currently there is no official accounting of government spending on children. Do you favor or oppose the next President submitting an official children's budget that details spending on children?

Favor strongly: **62 percent** (51 percent)
Favor not so strongly: **17 percent** (15 percent)
Oppose not so strongly: **1 percent** (7 percent)
Oppose strongly: **11 percent** (14 percent)
Don't know/refused: **9 percent** (12 percent)

Favor: **78 percent** (66 percent)
Oppose: **12 percent** (22 percent)

Congress is considering a proposal known as the DREAM Act, which would provide illegal immigrant students who were brought here as children and meet certain requirements the opportunity to earn legal resident status and eventually a path to US citizenship if they attend college or serve in the military. Do you favor or oppose the DREAM Act?

Favor strongly: **72 percent** (56 percent)
Favor not so strongly: **12 percent** (13 percent)
Oppose not so strongly: **1 percent** (6 percent)
Oppose strongly: **11 percent** (20 percent)
Don't know/refused: **3 percent** (5 percent)

Favor: **84 percent** (68 percent)
Oppose: **12 percent** (26 percent)

When a bipartisan children's commission came together during the early 1990s, the resulting policies lifted millions of children out of poverty and brought the rate of uninsured children to record lows. Do you favor or oppose the next President and Congress appointing a bipartisan children's commission to recommend solutions to the problems facing children today?

Favor strongly: **68 percent** (62 percent)
Favor not so strongly: **17 percent** (16 percent)
Oppose not so strongly: **2 percent** (4 percent)
Oppose strongly: **7 percent** (11 percent)
Don't know/refused: **6 percent** (7 percent)

Favor: **85 percent** (78 percent)
Oppose: **9 percent** (15 percent)