

Stand Together Presents  
A Common Ground e Book

# MYTHS VS. FACTS

## U.S. IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

**When it comes to immigration — there is more that unites us than divides us.**

You know that our current immigration system isn't working. You want solutions. And you're not alone!

*A large majority of Americans want to fix our current immigration system.*

Now is the time for you to shape your conversations around areas of common ground, rather than areas of division. You can work with your family and friends to bridge divides, build respect for one another, and unite to solve one of the most pressing problems of our time.

This Myths vs. Facts: Immigration System Guide will give you useful talking points to begin productive, barrier-breaking conversations about immigration.

## Myths vs. Facts: U.S. Immigration System



**Myth:** America's immigration levels are too high. It's important to reduce legal immigration numbers.

**Fact:** 2 out of 3 Americans say that legal immigration should stay the same or increase from current levels.

**Key Takeaway:** Our nation benefits from welcoming immigrants to our country. A majority of Americans do not believe that we should reduce immigration levels.

**Source:** [Gallup poll, conducted June 2019](#)

Myth #2

**Myth:** Our current immigration laws are fine as they are. The real problem is that we aren't enforcing them.

**Fact:** The last time the United States updated our immigration system was in 1990— before many people even knew what the internet was! Our current system does not reflect our current needs. Americans are frustrated with the immigration system— in fact, 65% of Americans say that it is *broken*.

**Key Takeaway:** Americans are frustrated with a broken immigration system and are eager for modern solutions.

**Source:** [Morning Consult/Politico 2019](#)



Myth #3

**Myth:** Most Americans believe that an overhaul of our immigration system is not urgent.

**Fact:** Nearly 70% of Americans believe that improving the immigration system must be a major priority.

**Key Takeaway:** Immigration is good. Our current system is not. A large majority of Americans think we need to prioritize fixing it.

**Source:** [BPC Action - April 2018](#)



Myth #4

**Myth:** There is not enough support in favor of both Dreamers and border security.

**Fact:** 3 in 5 Americans support a plan that provides citizenship for Dreamers AND also enhances border security.

**Key Takeaway:** The American people embrace common sense solutions.

**Source:** [Harvard University, July 2019](#)

Myth #5

**Myth:** Bringing too many people from different cultures will diminish or jeopardize our American way of life and our country's values.

**Fact:** 93% of Americans agree that welcoming people from different cultures is an important aspect of the American way of life.

**Key Takeaway:** Our communities, friendships, and bonds are strengthened when we are more welcoming to others.

**Source:** [CBS Poll, October 2018](#)



Myth #6

**Myth:** We are too divided on immigration; working solutions to our immigration system are impossible.

**Fact:** Over 75% of Americans believe that immigration is a *good thing* — a record high!

**Key Takeaway:** There is enough common ground to improve our immigration system in increasing numbers.

**Source:** [Gallup poll, June 2019](#)



Myth #7

**Myth:** A willingness to work across the aisle and find common ground on immigration isn't something that members of political parties are interested in.

**Fact:** Registered voters want their member of Congress to work collaboratively across party lines to get something done on immigration policy. This desire for compromise is bipartisan, with 3 out of 4 Republicans **AND** Democrats expressing support for this approach.

**Key Takeaway:** Our country wants to focus on the common ground we share and work together to find real solutions to our immigration system!

**Source:** [BPC Immigration Survey, 2019](#)