TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Hart Research and North Star Opinion Research

DATE: October 9, 2026

RE: Views of Voters and Veterans on Reopening the Afghan SIV Program

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No One Left Behind commissioned the bipartisan team of Hart Research and North Star Opinion Research to conduct parallel national surveys among voters[1] and veterans[2] to understand their views on reopening the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program. This memorandum highlights key findings from this research.

Overview: By more than a three-to-one margin, voters and veterans believe that the U.S. should reopen the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program rather than keep it paused. This includes majorities of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans and across gender, age, race, and education. Furthermore, large majorities of both voters and veterans say they would feel more favorable toward their member of Congress if he/she voted to reopen the program for our Afghan allies.

1. Although there is little appetite for increasing the number of legal immigrants accepted in the U.S., voters and veterans overwhelmingly support providing legal pathways for individuals who assisted U.S. forces to move to the United States.

Majorities of voters and veterans think that immigration helps the U.S. more than it hurts, but few think the number of legal immigrants accepted into the U.S. should be increased.

By 54% to 46%, voters think that immigration helps the U.S. more than it hurts; and veterans feel similarly (55% helps more, 45% hurts more). There is a notable partisan divide when it comes to voters' feelings about the impact of immigration, however: Democrats feel it helps by a wide 51-point margin, while Republicans say it hurts by 34 points. We see an even bigger partisan gap among veterans (Democrats: +70 helps more; Republicans: +31 hurts more).

Only 20% of voters and 19% of veterans think the number of legal immigrants accepted into the U.S. should be increased. Even among voters who are Democrats (who think immigration helps rather than hurts by a wide margin), less than a third (29%) think the number of legal immigrants should be increased.

While there may be hesitation and division about immigration, voters and veterans broadly support providing a safe and legal pathway to move to and live in the U.S. to individuals who are seeking to escape persecution in their home country because they served alongside or worked with U.S. forces.

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[1] Online survey of 1,011 registered voters, conducted September 16 to 23, 2026. The survey's credibility interval is ±3.1 percentage points for the full sample, with higher tolerances for subgroups.
[2] Online survey of 489 registered voters who are U.S. military veterans, conducted September 16 to 23, 2026. The survey's credibility interval is ±4.4 percentage points, with tolerances higher subgroups.

- ✓ 81% of voters and 87% of veterans support providing a pathway for individuals seeking to escape threats of persecution in their home country because they were trained by or served alongside the U.S. military.
- ✓ 81% of voters and 89% of veterans support providing a pathway for individuals seeking to escape threats of persecution in their home country because hey worked for the U.S. military or government in an armed conflict.

2. Many voters and most veterans realize that Afghan citizens supported U.S. forces in the Afghanistan War, and there is widespread support for providing these Afghan allies a safe and legal pathway to move to the U.S.

More than three in five voters (63%) and most veterans (79%) realize that Afghan citizens played a role in supporting the U.S. military and government in Afghanistan.

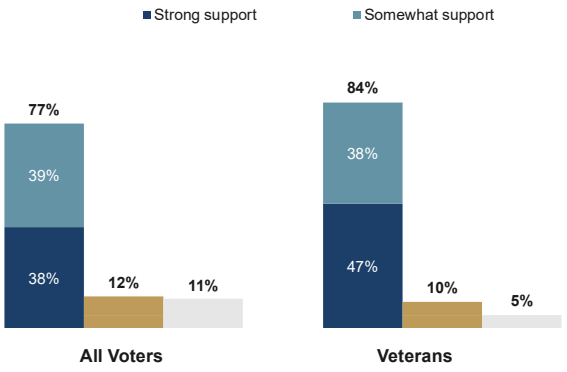
When specifically told that, "during the Afghanistan War, Afghan citizens served as interpreters for U.S. military units on the front lines and as drivers and in other support and logistics roles for U.S forces, the U.S. government, and its contractors," fully 77% of voters and 86% of veterans say the U.S. should provide them a safe and legal pathway to move to and live in the U.S. Additionally, when respondents are told that "the U.S. government said it would give these Afghans a safe, legal pathway to move to and live in the United States" the intensity of support among voters increases.

3. Support for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program is high, despite low awareness.

Though they are inclined to favor providing Afghans who served and worked with U.S. forces a pathway to move to the U.S., voters and veterans have not heard a lot about the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program. Just over one in three voters have heard a lot (4%) or some (33%) about it; and just over half of veterans have heard a lot (7%) or some (41%).

Upon hearing a brief description of the program, more than three in four voters (77%) and more than four in five veterans (84%) say they support it, with very few saying they oppose it.

The Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program allows Afghans who worked for the U.S. military, intelligence agencies, government, and contractors as interpreters, translators, cultural advisors, drivers, or in other support and logistics roles in the Afghanistan War to apply to live permanently in the United States. To qualify for entry to and lawful permanent residency in the U.S., SIV applicants must pass background checks and a security screening process that often takes years to complete. Do you support or oppose the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program?



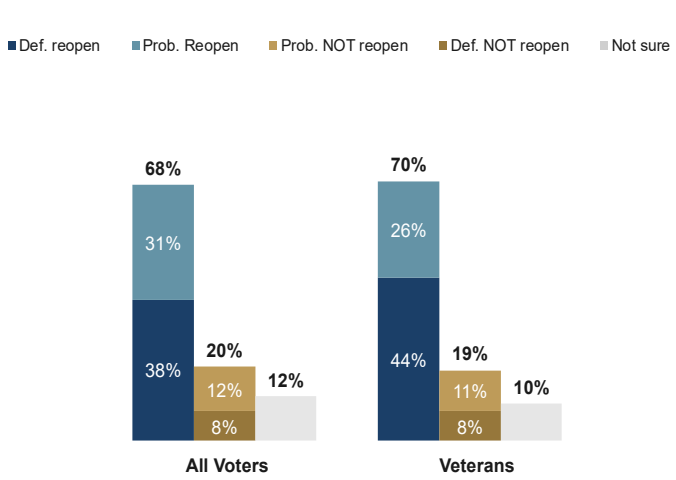
	Total Support	
	All Voters	Veterans
DEM	82	95
IND	67	82
GOP	74	78

4. By more than a three-to-one margin, voters and veterans think the U.S. should reopen the Afghan SIV program to issue visas to Afghans who have passed the screening and security vetting process.

Respondents were informed that that the federal government stopped issuing visas to Afghans in January 2026, including to those who applied through the SIV program, which effectively means that the Afghan SIV program is indefinitely paused and Afghans who helped the U.S military and government are prevented from receiving visas and entering the U.S. Upon hearing this, voters say by more than a three to one margin that the U.S. should reopen the Afghan SIV program: 68% should reopen (38% definitely), 20% should not reopen, 12% not sure. Veterans support reopening it by a similarly wide margin: 70% should reopen (44% definitely), 19% should not reopen, 10% not sure.

In January 2026, the federal government stopped issuing visas to citizens of Afghanistan, including those who have applied to come to the U.S. through the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program. This effectively means that the Afghan SIV program is indefinitely paused and Afghans who helped the U.S military and government are prevented from receiving visas and entering the U.S.

Do you think the U.S. should reopen or should not reopen the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program to issue visas to Afghans who have passed the screening and security vetting process so they can evacuate Afghanistan and legally come to live in the United States?



Democrats are most in favor of reopening the program, but majorities of independents and Republicans also think the U.S. should reopen it. Solid majorities of every partisan and demographic subgroup says the Afghan SIV program should be reopened.

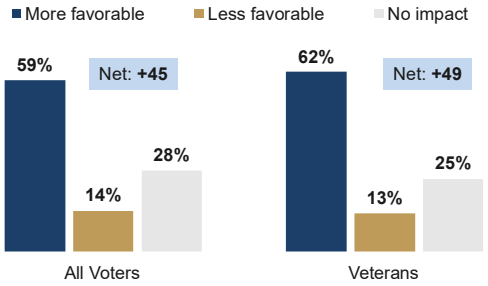
	Should Reopen %	Should Not Reopen %	Not sure %
VOTERS	**68**	**20**	**12**
Democrats	80	11	10
Independents	59	28	13
Republicans	59	28	14
VETERANS	**70**	**19**	**10**
Democrats	91	5	4
Independents	73	17	9
Republicans	56	29	14

Upon hearing that the Afghan SIV program was indefinitely paused in January 2026, slightly fewer voters (-9) and veterans (-14) say that the U.S. should reopen the program than say they support it initially. The most dropoff is among MAGA Republicans--their support drops 21 points--yet MAGA Republicans support reopening it by 54% to 32%.

5. A vote to reopen the Afghan SIV program would give Members of Congress a boost in favorability.

Large majorities of voters (59%) and veterans (62%) say they would feel more favorable toward their member of Congress if they voted to reopen the Afghan SIV program to issue Special Immigrant Visas to Afghans who pass the screening criteria and security vetting process so they can evacuate and legally come to live in the U.S. There is little downside, with few saying they would feel less favorable. Even MAGA Republicans say they would feel more favorable by large margins.

If your member of Congress voted to reopen the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program to issue Special Immigrant Visas to Afghans who pass the screening and security vetting process so they can evacuate Afghanistan and legally come to live in the United States, would this make you feel more favorable or less favorable toward him/her?



	All Voters: Net More fav	Veterans: Net More Fav
Democrat	+63	+76
Independent	+38	+56
Republican	+28	+31
Non-MAGA Rep	+36	+40
MAGARep	+21	+25

6. Voters and veterans agree with supporters' arguments for reopening the program even when tested against opponents' counterarguments.

When the debate is framed around the integrity of the screening process and implications for crime and public safety, both voters and veterans side with supporters over opponents by more than two to one. In the face of opponents' argument that the screening process for Afghan nationals is flawed and not secure as evidenced by the National Guard shooting by an Afghan national, both side with supporters' argument that SIV applicants go through a rigorous screening process and closing the program will leave our Afghan allies at risk and send a message that America does not keep its promises.

	Voters %	Veterans %
We should NOT reopen the SIV program. Before the U.S. border was tightened, there were many instances of immigrants with serious criminal records that were allowed to enter into the U.S. and commit horrible crimes against Americans. The 2025 shooting of National Guard troops in Washington, DC by an Afghan man who had entered the U.S. legally through humanitarian parole showed that security screening for Afghan nationals is flawed and not secure. We cannot risk admitting more Afghan nationals to the U.S.--even those who worked for the U.S. military or government during the Afghanistan War--and the program should remain closed.	29	30
We SHOULD reopen the SIV program. SIV applicants go through a specific, rigorous, multi-year immigration and screening process that is much stricter than the emergency, accelerated process that allowed the Afghan who shot National Guard troops to enter the U.S. Closing the program leaves many of our Afghan allies who worked alongside U.S. forces at risk of violent retribution (including the torture and murder of SIV applicants and their families in Afghanistan) and sends a message that the U.S. does not keep its promises to those who help us in times of war.	63	66

When presented with arguments for and against reopening the Afghan SIV program that are centered on the problems with our immigration system more broadly, voters and veterans also side with supporters of reopening the SIV program to fulfill our promise to our wartime allies and protect U.S. global credibility.

	Voters %	Veterans %
The U.S. immigration system is broken and needs to be fundamentally reformed. Until we can fix it, we need to drastically limit the number of immigrants we allow into the country. **We should keep the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program paused until we can have comprehensive immigration reform.**	33	33
While changes and improvements are needed in our U.S. immigration system, the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program has a rigorous screening process and is strategically different from other U.S. immigration programs. **We should reopen the SIV program to fulfill our promise to our Afghan wartime allies and to protect U.S. global credibility and future military partnerships.**	61	63