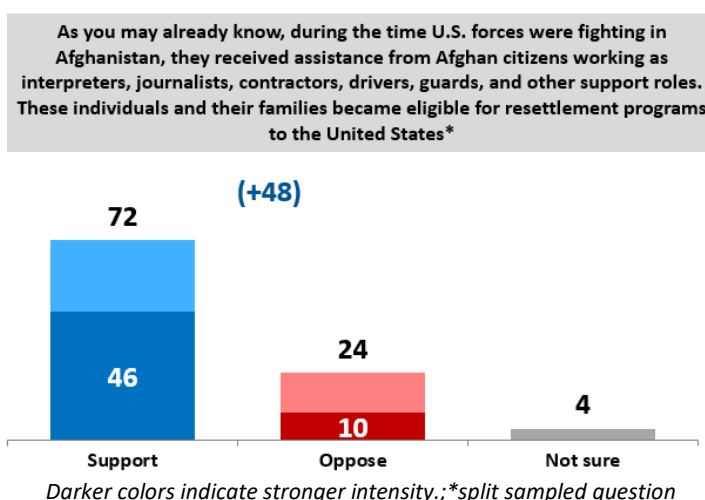


To: Interested Parties
Fr: Celinda Lake, Lake Research Partners & Brian Nienaber, The Tarrance Group
Re: New Polling
Date: August 2026

As we mark five years since the 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan, a new bipartisan poll from Lake Research Partners and The Tarrance Group of likely 2026 voters nationwide¹ shows voters across partisan lines in support of admitting Afghans who risked their lives in support of our troops during the war and strongly believe that the country should honor our commitments to these wartime allies and mission partners. The poll, commissioned by [#AfghanEvac](#) and [HIAS](#), shows a clear majority supports helping Afghan allies and their families and resistance to harsh anti-refugee policies. Voters want the U.S. to follow through on its moral commitment to American servicemembers and those who risked their lives enabling their mission. No one who served in uniform should have to leave their own family behind in Afghanistan

Voters want the country to follow through on our commitments to mission partners and allies – including Afghans who risked their lives to support our troops – and support admitting these Afghans and their families into the country. Their support for such programs is especially strong when they are reminded that *during the time U.S. forces were fighting in Afghanistan, they received assistance from Afghan citizens working as interpreters, journalists, contractors, drivers, guards, and other support roles. These individuals and their families became eligible for resettlement programs to the United States.*

More than seven in 10 voters nationwide support the United States admitting Afghans into the country, including 46% who strongly support it, when they are reminded about the Afghan citizens who helped U.S. troops during the war in Afghanistan (and their families) who are eligible for resettlement programs in the United States.



¹ Lake Research Partners and The Tarrance Group designed and administered this survey, which was conducted from July 20-28, 2026 by text-to-online interview. The survey reached a total of 1000 likely 2026 voters nationwide. The margin of error for the full sample is +/-3.1%; it is greater for subgroups and split-sampled questions (indicated with an * throughout the memo).

- **Voters across partisan lines support this, including 54% of Republicans, 71% of independents with weak partisanship, and 90% of Democrats.** Intense support is higher among Democrats (70% strongly support) and independents (42% strongly support) than Republicans (19%).
- Strong support is also high across geography, with 49% of suburban voters, 45% of urban voters, and 44% of rural voters saying they strongly support this. Half (50%) of voters of color and 44% of white voters also strongly support this.

Eight in 10 voters say **the U.S. has a moral obligation to protect Afghans who worked with U.S. troops during the war in Afghanistan and their families***, including 59% who believe this strongly. Less than one in five say the U.S. does not (16%). Referring to the “moral commitment” the U.S. has is strong as well, since 84% believe **the U.S. should commit to protecting Afghans who worked with the U.S. troops during the war in Afghanistan and their families*** (54% say yes strongly).

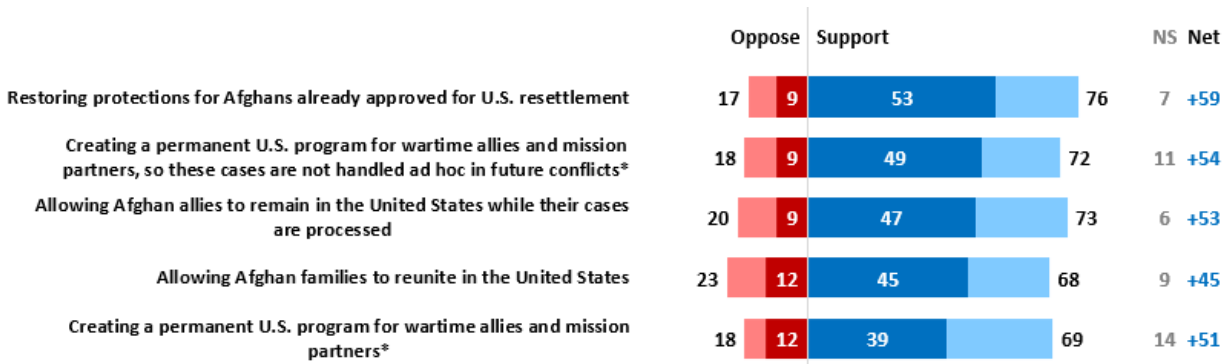
- At least two-thirds across partisan lines say *the U.S. has a moral obligation to protect Afghans who worked with U.S. troops during the war and their families*, including 66% of Republicans (36% strongly), 84% of independents with weak partisanship (61% strongly), and 93% of Democrats (81% strongly).

Seven in 10 say **the U.S.’s protection of Afghans should extend to all those who risked their lives to support the U.S. mission (70%), not just interpreters, journalists, contractors, drivers, guards, etc. (13%)**. Half of Republicans (50%), three-quarters of independents w/ weak partisanship (75%), and 90% of Democrats all believe this protection should extend to all those who risked their lives.

Nearly two-thirds agree that *the United States should follow through on commitments to people it brings into the country and not take away their legal status after – 64% agree, 53% strongly agree.** At least six in 10 voters under 50 (60%), voters of color (60%), college-educated voters (62%), moderates (70%), Democrats (89%), and liberals (91%) strongly agree. Across partisan lines, 93% of Democrats, 75% of independents, and 31% of Republicans agree with the statement (strongly/not-so-strongly).

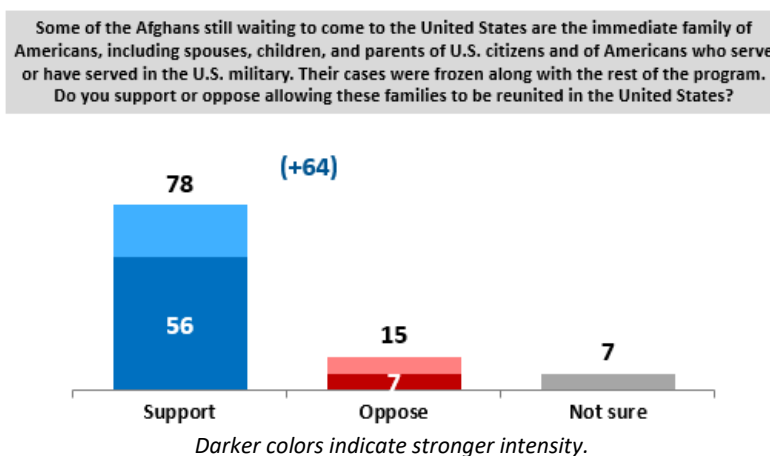
In fact, a solid majority believes *the U.S. can protect both national security and honor commitments to wartime allies and mission partners (80% agree, 56% strongly agree).** A solid majority across partisan lines agree, including 94% of Democrats, 81% of independents, and 67% of Republicans. Democrats and independents are especially likely to strongly agree – 83% of Democrats, 50% of independents, versus 31% of Republicans.

Voters strongly support several policy proposals intended to protect our wartime allies and mission partners generally and Afghans specifically. Voters are most likely to strongly support *restoring protections for Afghans already approved for U.S. resettlement* (76% support, 53% strongly). More than two-thirds support *allowing Afghan families to reunite in the U.S. and creating a permanent U.S. program for wartime allies and mission partners*, but intensity is slightly weaker. Just under half of voters strongly support *creating a permanent U.S. program for wartime allies and mission partners*, so these cases are *not handled ad hoc in future conflicts* and *allowing Afghan allies to remain in the US while their cases are processed*.



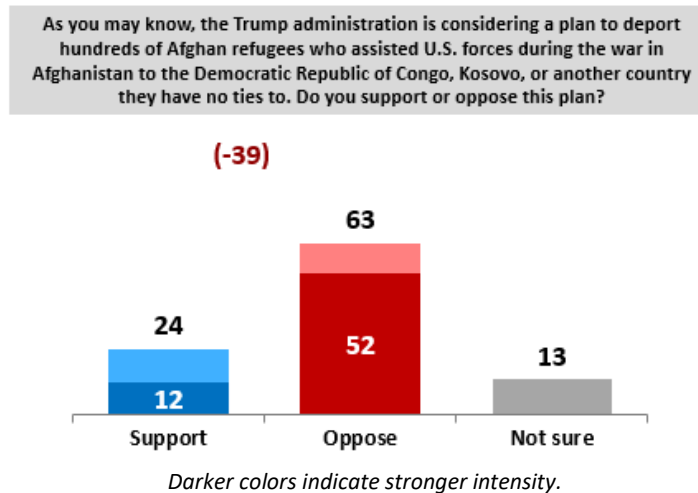
Darker colors indicate stronger intensity.;*split sampled question

Reflective of voters' core beliefs that *no American who serves in uniform should have to leave their own family behind in Afghanistan*,* (83% agree, 69% strongly), **voters solidly support family reunification efforts for Afghans still waiting to come to the United States**, including 62% of Republicans, 83% of independents, and 92% of Democrats.



Across partisan lines, 92% of Democrats, 63% of independents, and 50% of Republicans strongly agree with the statement “no American who serves in uniform should have to leave their own family behind in Afghanistan.” More than seven in 10 (73%) of military households also strongly agree.

On the other hand, 63% of voters oppose the Trump Administration’s plan to deport hundreds of Afghan refugees who assisted the U.S. forces during the war in Afghanistan to countries they have no ties to (24% support). Looking across demographics, only conservative-leaning audiences net-support this plan, including Republicans (+17), and conservatives (+12). Mentioning Trump triggers Republican/conservative audiences to support the Administration’s actions.



Bottom Line

Voters support Afghan resettlement and refugee protections on moral, practical, and national security grounds. The public strongly supports honoring the moral commitments we made to our mission partners and wartime allies to do what we can to protect all those who risked their lives working with our troops. They see Afghan citizens as critical mission partners and allies who, along with their families, made great sacrifices.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Celinda Lake (clake@lakeresearch.com), Alysia Snell (asnell@lakeresearch.com), Jesse Kline (jkline@lakeresearch.com) or Brian Nienaber (bnienaber@tarrance.com) with any questions or comments about this memo.