



BUILDING AMERICA'S FUTURE

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Building America's Future  
**SUBJECT:** Voters Want Stronger Measures to Secure the Northern Border  
**DATE:** May 19, 2025

## SUMMARY

Voters are sounding the alarm on the growing crisis at the U.S.-Canada border. They believe organized crime and cartel networks are exploiting gaps in enforcement, using tribal lands and Canadian financial institutions to move illicit goods and money with little resistance. The northern border is now viewed as a neglected blind spot in U.S. national security. After learning how outdated laws and jurisdictional loopholes are enabling criminal activity, voters are demanding action. They want outdated immigration laws fixed, stronger enforcement partnerships with tribal authorities, and penalties for Canadian banks aiding cartel activity.

Respondents in to this survey want policymakers to approach securing the southern border with the same sense of urgency as they have shown for southern border security. These voters make clear that candidates who support initiatives to secure the northern border can boost their electoral prospects.

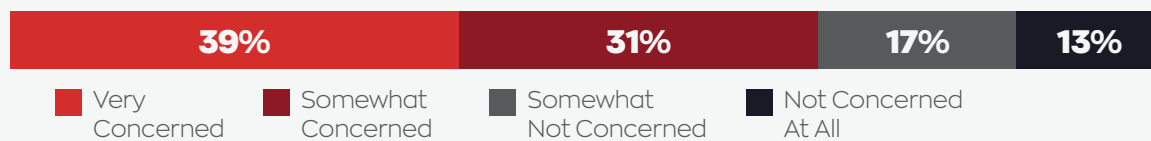
## KEY FINDINGS

### 1. *Voters Express Concerns Over the Lack of Security at the Northern Border*

Voters across the country believe that the lack of security at the northern border is a serious security concern. Over 70% of voters nationwide express concern about the flow of illicit goods and activity coming across the northern border, and 63% believe the northern border has gone overlooked in national security discussions. Amid growing doubts over Canadian PM Mark Carney's unwillingness to enforce strict border policies, a majority see this as a moment for the United States to lead — and they're willing to support increased federal spending to get it done.

*How concerned are you about the flow of illicit goods and substances as well as dangerous criminals into the U.S. through the U.S-Canada or Northern border?*

70% CONCERNED / 30% NOT



*“If northern border enforcement remains underfunded, it will become even more of a major national security threat for illegal immigration, human trafficking, and money laundering.”*

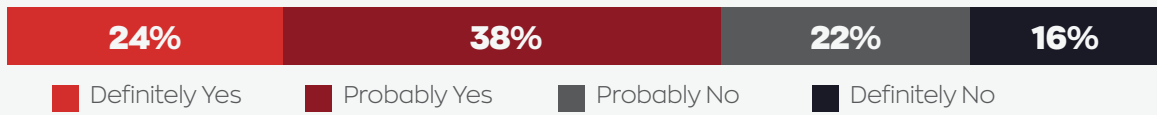
79% AGREE; 50% AGREE STRONGLY

*“With Mark Carney now leading Canada, the U.S. can no longer count on strong northern border cooperation, we must act to secure it ourselves.”*

64% AGREE

*Would you support increased investments to improve security and monitoring at the northern border, even if it adds to federal spending?*

62% YES / 38% NO



## 2. Voters Agree on Solutions to Address the Crisis at the Northern Border

Experts believe the crisis at the Northern Border is fueled in large part by outdated case law dating back hundreds of years that prevents authorities from pursuing cases onto tribal lands. As a result, cartel operations in these areas have gone largely unchecked. Once voters learned how these tribal immigration loopholes are being exploited, concern over northern border security deepened significantly. There is overwhelming support among respondents for changing these laws and even more voters back the creation of a joint Federal-Tribal enforcement initiative to crack down on criminal activity targeting tribal lands.

*“Cartels have exploited loopholes in immigration laws involving Native American tribes along the U.S.-Canada border to smuggle drugs, traffic humans, and evade law enforcement. These loopholes, combined with limited federal coordination, have turned some tribal lands into targets for criminal activity. Do you believe the U.S. / Canadian governments should close these loopholes and crack down on illegal activity taking place on tribal lands along the northern border?”*

81% YES / 19% NO



*“Amend U.S. immigration and customs laws to eliminate jurisdictional loopholes that prevent federal agents from pursuing suspects across tribal lands at the northern border.”*

70% SUPPORT / 30% OPPOSE

*“Authorize a joint federal-tribal enforcement initiative to shut down criminal exploitation of tribal lands at the northern border.”*

74% SUPPORT / 26% OPPOSE

Federal investigations revealed that TD Bank, Canada’s largest financial institution, pleaded guilty of laundering hundreds of millions for drug cartels, failing to flag more than 90% of suspicious transactions. As a result, the bank was fined over \$3 billion by U.S. authorities. The case has drawn fresh scrutiny to Canada’s financial system, which experts warn remains dangerously vulnerable to cartel exploitation. Voters are not only paying attention to this dynamic, but they’re also demanding action. An overwhelming majority agree the U.S. should crack down and impose sanctions on Canadian banks that facilitate money laundering for drug cartels and criminal networks, signaling a clear mandate for tougher cross-border enforcement and financial accountability.

*“TD Bank, one of Canada’s largest financial institutions, was fined over \$3 billion after U.S. authorities revealed it helped launder hundreds of millions for drug cartels, failing to flag more than 90% of suspicious transactions. Experts warn that Canada’s financial system remains highly vulnerable to exploitation by cartels and traffickers. Do you agree or disagree that the U.S. should crack down on Canadian banks that aid in laundering money for drug cartels and criminal networks?”*

83% AGREE / 17% DISAGREE



*“Impose sanctions or financial penalties on Canadian-based companies or financial networks tied to laundering cartel money or facilitating smuggling.”*

71% SUPPORT / 29% OPPOSE

### 3. **Candidates Who Prioritize Solutions to Northern Border Crisis Will Be Rewarded by Voters**

Voters overwhelmingly believe that the northern border deserves the same level of urgency and attention as the southern border. Any serious candidate for public office who ignores this growing concern does so at their own peril. In fact, candidates who champion stronger northern border enforcement - including closing tribal loopholes, penalizing complicit financial institutions, and increasing federal resources - stand to gain significant support from the electorate.

*“Would you be more or less likely to support a candidate who...”*

ACTION	MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT	LESS LIKELY TO SUPPORT
Prioritizes increased funding for Northern Border Security to stop the flow of fentanyl	75%	25%
Supported legislation to close tribal immigration loopholes exploited by Cartels	72%	28%
Supports imposing financial penalties on Canadian companies or institutions found to be laundering money for drug cartels or criminal organizations?	69%	31%

*“A serious candidate for office should treat northern border security with the same urgency as the southern border.”*

*71% Agree; 34% Agree Strongly*

## METHODOLOGY

From 5/12-5/13, Building America’s Future conducted an N=1,010 sample of likely general election voters across the country. The survey was collected via text-to-web completes and features a margin of error of (+/-3%) at the 95% confidence interval. The survey was collected and weighted to reflect current voter registration trends and past election performance.