

# U.S.-Mexico Policy Elites Survey



You are invited to be part of the study “**U.S.-Mexico Policy Elites Survey.**” It aims to understand **graduate students' views about public policymaking in the United States and Mexico**, emphasizing their perceptions regarding various policy issues, such as government intervention, individual freedoms, accountability, civic participation, and inequality.

If you agree to participate in this study, you will answer questions on those topics. **Before responding to them, you might be asked to read a brief text on Mexico’s policy problems.** Participation in this study will take **between 10 and 15 minutes**. There are no anticipated risks to participation in this project beyond what is experienced in everyday life. Your responses will contribute to a better understanding of the factors that promote policy cooperation between countries.

To protect your privacy, **we will not include any information that could directly identify**

**you.** We will not ask your name; no one will learn how you responded. According to UT-Austin's record retention policy, research data will be retained for at least three years after study completion. We plan to publish this study's results, which may be given to The University of Texas at Austin representatives and its Institutional Review Board. It is up to you to decide to be in this research study. **Participating in this study is voluntary.** Your decision to participate will not affect your relationship with The University of Texas at Austin or the institution you are enrolled in. You will not lose any benefits or rights you already had if you decide not to participate. **Even if you decide to be part of the study now, you may change your mind and stop at any time. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer.**

You will have the **opportunity to receive an Amazon gift card for \$25 USD** for your participation in this study. The allocation will be carried out from a **random selection of 40 participants.** You will be responsible for any taxes assessed on the compensation.

If you decide to withdraw before this study is completed, we will delete from our files any data you provided. If you have any questions about this research, you may contact:

**Carlos Moreno Jaimes, Principal Investigator**

**Phone:** +52 331-410-8760

**Email:** [carlos.moreno1@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:carlos.moreno1@austin.utexas.edu); [cmoreno@iteso.mx](mailto:cmoreno@iteso.mx)

Or

**Alfonso Rojas Alvarez, Co-investigator**

**Phone:** 512-552-9860

**Email:** [arojasa@utexas.edu](mailto:arojasa@utexas.edu)

**If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or wish to obtain information, ask questions, or discuss any concerns about this study with someone other than the researcher(s), please get in touch with the following:**

**The University of Texas at Austin Institutional Review Board**

**Phone:** 512-232-1543

**Email:** [irb@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:irb@austin.utexas.edu)

Please reference study number **STUDY00004399.**

**By clicking the button below, you are agreeing to be in this study. If you wish to stop participating, close your browser window.**

I agree

## **Ana's Story**

Are you an international student in the United States?

Yes

No

Please type a number between 1 and 1000.

## **Charting a New Path: The Story of Ana, a Mexican Immigrant in the United States**



Ana was born in a small town in Michoacan, Mexico, and at the age of 20, she had to emigrate to the United States, fleeing the violence produced by organized crime. In her town, criminal organizations had adopted the practice of kidnapping young girls to force them to work in illegal activities, particularly those living in poverty, just like Ana, whose family survived with a daily income lower than 10 USD. Ana and her parents decided she should leave as soon as possible.

Ana came to the United States with great fear but determination to build a better life for herself and her family. She crossed the border without documents, despite the dangerous conditions for immigrants since the U.S. government strengthened its protection measures to prevent the passage of undocumented people. During her journey, Ana had to pay a smuggler to take her across the border, endured the desert heat, hid from immigration officials, and went hungry and thirsty for several days. Finally, she managed to reach a small town in California where she was received by a Mexican family known to her aunt, who lent her a small room in their home's basement.

At first, things were not easy for Ana. She had very little money, but luckily, she got a job cleaning houses at a well below-average rate. Ana decided that she needed to learn English to qualify for a better job, so she enrolled in a community college that held classes at night. In a short time, Ana improved her English-speaking skills and was also able to study a career to become certified as a nail technician and work in a company dedicated to that field. Although her salary improved significantly, it was much lower than what the company paid to non-undocumented people. Due to her irregular legal situation, her Mexican accent when pronouncing phrases in English, and the dark color of her skin, Ana suffered episodes of discrimination at work, at school, and even in public places. Despite this, she was happy to go alone on the street without fear of being robbed, kidnapped, or raped.

As soon as her economic situation improved, Ana began sending money to her family in Mexico, allowing her brother Pedro to finish high school studies and not be forced to join a criminal group. The money she sent, however, was barely enough for her family to cover their most basic needs, but they still lacked access to decent healthcare services. After five years of immigrating to the United States, Ana had learned English, obtained a technical certificate, and had a job she liked that paid her a salary that allowed her to rent a room for herself. However, Ana missed her family, the customs of her town, and the delicious food that her mother prepared. It was impossible for her to think of visiting Mexico since entering the United States irregularly was considered a federal crime with consequences as severe as deportation. Ana's story is not unique, as there are 11.2 million Mexican immigrants in the United States, of which almost 5 million are undocumented.

## **Demographics**

What school are you enrolled in?



What is the name of your school?

What is the field of study of your master's program? Please select one option (or two if you are in a dual-degree program).

Business

Economics

Law

Public Administration

Public Policy

International Relations/ Global Affairs

Other

Once you finish your graduate studies, what do you plan to do?

Work for a government agency

Work for a nonprofit organization

Work for a think tank or research institution

Work for a consulting firm

Work for an international organization

Work in the private sector

Pursue a career in academia

Pursue a political career

Other

I don't know yet

What is your age?

What is your gender identity?

Were you born in the United States or Mexico?

Were any of your parents or grandparents born in Mexico?

In the US, there are widely varying levels of income. Here we have a scale that runs from bottom (low income) to top (high income) in terms of this distribution. **Where would you place yourself on this scale?**

		Low income							High income		Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Answer											<input type="checkbox"/>

## Political preferences

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat or Independent?

On a scale from 1 to 5 (where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest), **how much do you like the party you identify with?**

1 (I like it a bit) ▲  
2  
3  
4  
5 (I like it a lot) ▼

What is the political party in the United States that you dislike the most?

▼

On a scale from 1 to 5 (where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest), **how much do you dislike that party?**

1 (I dislike it a bit) ▲  
2  
3  
4  
5 (I dislike it a lot) ▼

Did you vote in the most recent national election (either presidential or midterm)?

▼

How likely are you to vote in the 2024 presidential election?

Very unlikely

Unlikely

Neutral

Likely

Very likely

I prefer not to answer

## Civic participation

How often do you do any of the following actions to help someone?

	Never			Very frequently	
	1	2	3	4	5
Use social media to support someone or a cause					
Make donations or help a social organization					
Meet with an authority to address a collective matter					
Participate in a demonstration					
Help a stranger					

## Discrimination and inequality

In the U.S., how frequently do you think any of the following happens?

	Never			Very frequently	
	1	2	3	4	5
People in public spaces are treated with less courtesy or respect than others.					
People receive poorer services than others (restaurants, stores, etc).					



	Never				Very frequently
	1	2	3	4	5
Most of the time certain people are more likely to be threatened or harassed.					

What do you think are the main reasons for the experiences mentioned in the previous question? Please select up to three options.

Their ancestry or national origin

Their gender identity

Their sexual orientation

Their race or color of their skin

Their religion

Their socioeconomic status

Other

Don't know

On a scale from 1 to 5 (where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest), **how much do you trust...**

	I don't trust them at all				I trust them a lot
	1	2	3	4	5
People you know personally					
People who live in your neighborhood					
Public servants (police officers, firefighters, postal service workers, etc.).					

I don't trust them at all

I trust them a lot

1

2

3

4

5

Top elected leaders

Top designated government officials

## Rule of law

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1

2

3

4

5

Public institutions in the U.S. mostly make decisions on their own, without receiving pressures from external interests.

A democratic government has the right to adopt policies benefiting the majority of people, even if that creates significant burdens for minority groups.

People should have the right to disobey a socially unfair law.

People should have the right to disobey a government they did not vote for.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
The government should have the right to monitor e-mails and any other information exchanged on the Internet.					
It is more important to have a government that achieves its goals than one that follows the rules.					
The government mostly makes policy choices based on what people like me think.					
The U.S. government always treats everyone equally according to the law.					

## **Government intervention and individual freedom**

If you had to choose, would you rather have...

A government that provides fewer services and imposes fewer taxes

A government that provides more services and imposes more taxes

If you had to choose, when thinking about anti-poverty programs, what would you prefer?

More ambitious programs aimed at a broader population, even if some of the benefits reach those who do not need it

Programs specifically targeted to the poorest people to avoid the risk of benefiting those who do not need support

I would prefer the government to cut taxes and let private businesses provide better-paid jobs to prevent poverty

Don't know

## Views on Mexico's public affairs

Corruption is a practice that occurs when a public servant or government employee abuses their functions to obtain personal benefits such as money, gifts, or favors from the citizen. **How frequently would you say these practices happen in the U.S.?**

Never

Rarely

Sometimes

Often

Always

On a scale from 1 to 5 (where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest), **how much would you say you know about Mexico's public affairs?**

Not at all

Very much

1

2

3

4

5

Answer

How do you generally get information about what happens in Mexico? Please select up to three options.

Through U.S newspapers

Through Mexico's newspapers

Through the TV

Through the radio

Through social media

Through class readings and lectures

Through conversations with family and friends

I don't get information on Mexico

I prefer not to answer

In your view, what are the **FIRST** and **SECOND** most critical issues that Mexico currently faces? Please select two options.

Taxes are too high

The cost of housing

Poverty

Corruption

Foreign people living in Mexico

Bad government performance

Abortion

Inflation

Education is poor quality

Racism and discrimination

Unemployment

Pollution and climate change

The cost of healthcare services

Drug consumption

The gap between the rich and the poor

Health services are poor quality

Crime and insecurity

Other

What do you consider are the three principal causes of these problems? Please select up to three options.

Its vicinity with the U.S. is unfavorable for Mexico

Private corporations are abusive

People distrust each other

People lack opportunities to prosper

People are lazy

The rich abuse the poor  
People do not respect the law  
Foreign governments are abusive  
Mexico's cultural heritage is a weakness  
People lack enough information  
International conditions are unfavorable  
Politicians are dishonest  
Other

How much do you agree with the following statements about the U.S.?

	Disagree			Agree	
	1	2	3	4	5
It is responsible for preventing US-made weapons from being sold to criminal organizations in Mexico.					
Mexico should strengthen border security to protect U.S. citizens.					
It should legalize the consumption of some illegal drugs.					
It should designate Mexico's drug cartels as terrorist organizations.					
It should not intervene at all in Mexico's crime problem.					
It should give foreign people the opportunity to migrate legally to					

Disagree

Agree

1

2

3

4

5

reduce workers  
shortages in the US.

Mexico must  
assume  
responsibility for  
detaining people  
from other countries  
who want to  
emigrate to the U.S.

Undocumented  
immigrants living in it  
should be deported.

The relationship between Mexico and the United States has generally focused on issues such as trade, border security, and immigration. **Do you think that the bilateral relationship should focus on other issues to explore ways of collaboration between both countries?**

Yes, new policy issues should be included in the bilateral agenda.

No, the relationship between Mexico and the United States should stick to the usual policy issues.

What other policy issues should be included in the bilateral agenda? Please select up to three options.

Climate change, energy, and the environment

Health

Education

Social policy and inequality

Science and technology

Urban and regional policy

Other

If you had the chance to participate in Mexico's presidential elections, with the current partisan layout, **who would you most likely vote for?**

If you had the chance, would you work in Mexico for at least two years?

Yes

No

Don't know

**From your point of view, how much is Mexico a democratic country?** Please answer on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 represents a fully autocratic country, and 5 represents a fully democratic country.

		Autocracy		Democracy	
1	2	3	4	5	
Answer					

### Free response

During this survey, we have asked you questions about US-Mexico relations, your views about Mexico, civic participation, discrimination and other related subjects.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?



## Raffle

This survey includes an entry for a raffle, if you would like to participate please enter an email address.

Powered by Qualtrics