



# MUSLIMS IN AMERICA POLICY POLL

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August 2020

# WHERE WE ARE NOW

In this crucial election year, so much is at stake for the entire country. The COVID-19 pandemic, with its devastating public health consequences, unprecedented unemployment levels, and the decisive movement towards law enforcement accountability in the wake of systemic anti Black violence are just a few reasons why making informed political decisions is a necessity for all communities, including Muslims in America. In a [report](#) in 2017, there are estimated to be 3.45 million Muslims of all ages living in the United States.

**The Muslims in America Policy Poll surveyed Muslims in America around the issues and policies most urgent to them in order for national Muslim civic engagement organizations to get a snapshot of issues impacting our communities and inform candidates in federal, state and local elections about the community's policy priorities.**

## THE POLL

1500 respondents reflected a snapshot of the diverse Muslim community— comprising of African American/Black, Arab/Middle Eastern, South Asians and White community members from over 45 states. The poll was conducted online over the course of January 2020-June 2020, just ahead of the November elections. The poll's responses that survey participants could choose from on "pressing policy issues" and "policy changes" that respondents wanted to see were predetermined and presented without any politicizing context.

The poll was created and distributed through a partnership of Muslim organizations including America Indivisible, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Emgage USA, Jetpac, Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), MPower Change and Polygon Education Fund — consolidating efforts to educate and mobilize a Muslim constituency.



CAIR

EMGAGE  
ACTION

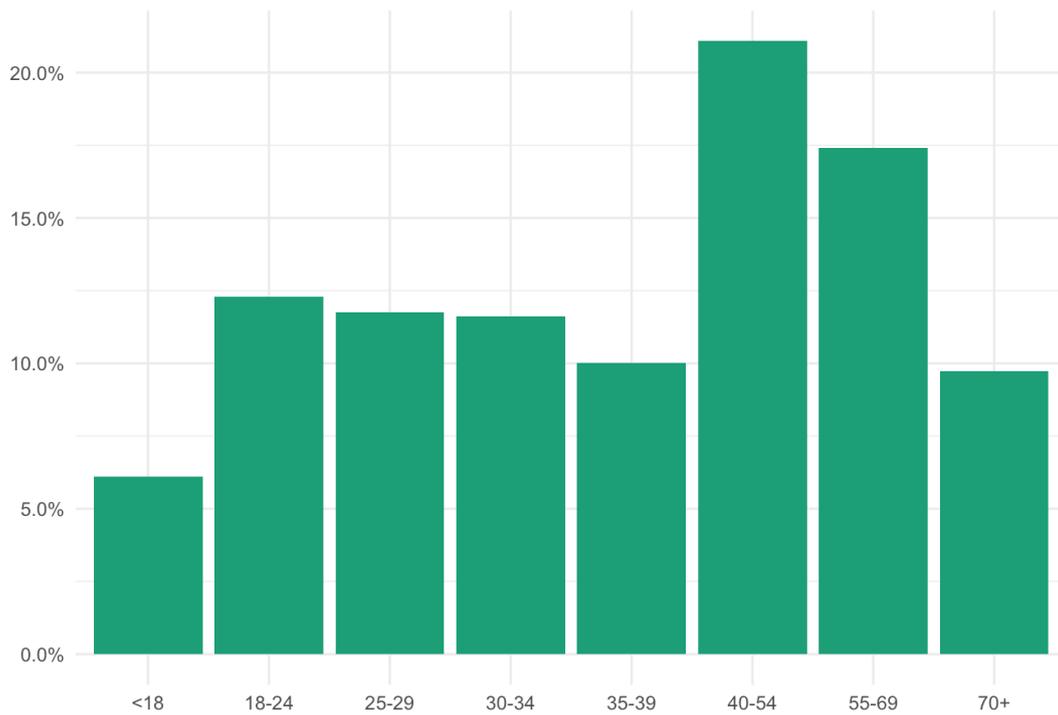
JETPAC



MUSLIM  
PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS  
COUNCIL



# OUR CURRENT STATE



**[Figure 1: What is your age?]**

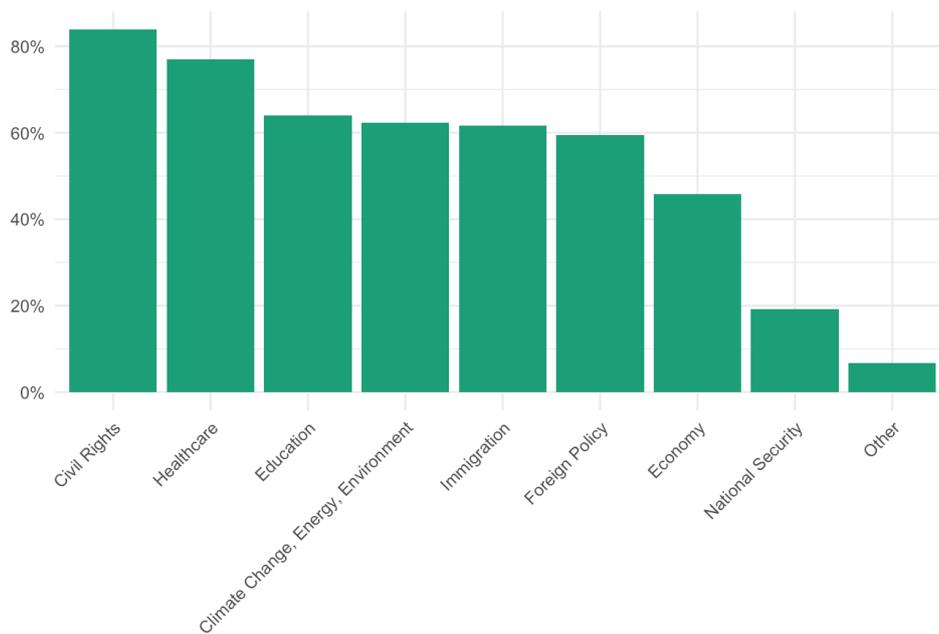
The highest percentage of participants of the survey were between the ages of 40-54 (21%) and 55-69 (17%). In contrast, the lowest percentage of respondents were under the age of 18. The poll was conducted online over the course of January 2020-June 2020, just ahead of the November elections.

The poll asked what issues, (unrelated to policies) were most pressing for individuals. We found the top issues to be:

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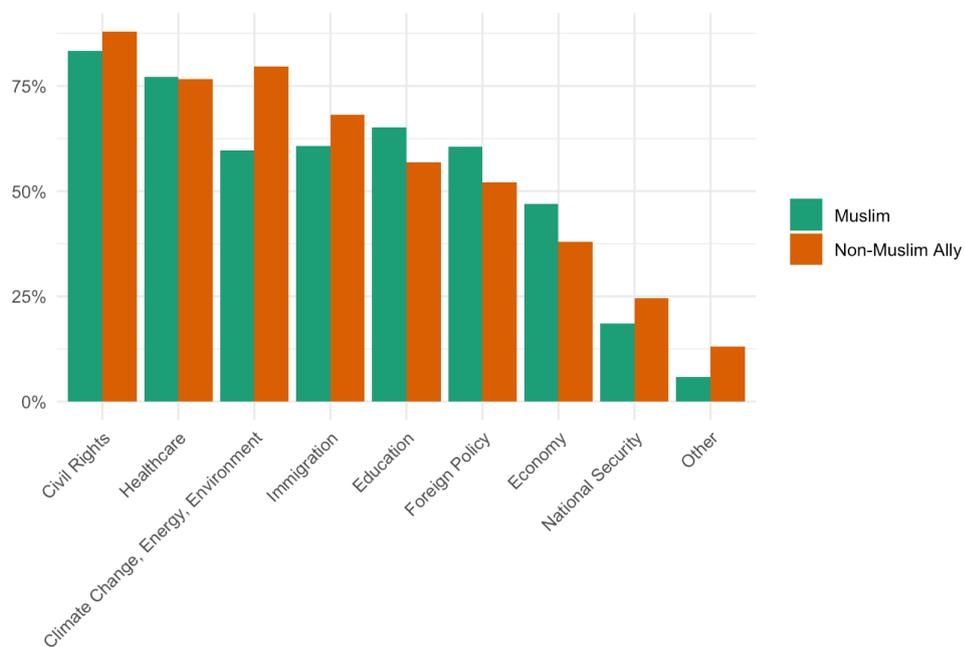
## THE FINDINGS

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**[Figure 2: Please select the issue areas that are most important to you]**

Within the Muslim community, over 80% of American Muslims feel that Civil Rights issues and policies are the most important to them. Over 65% of Muslim respondents feel that Healthcare is a top policy priority.



**[Figure 3: Please select the issue areas that are most important to you (comparing Muslim and Non-Muslim data)]**

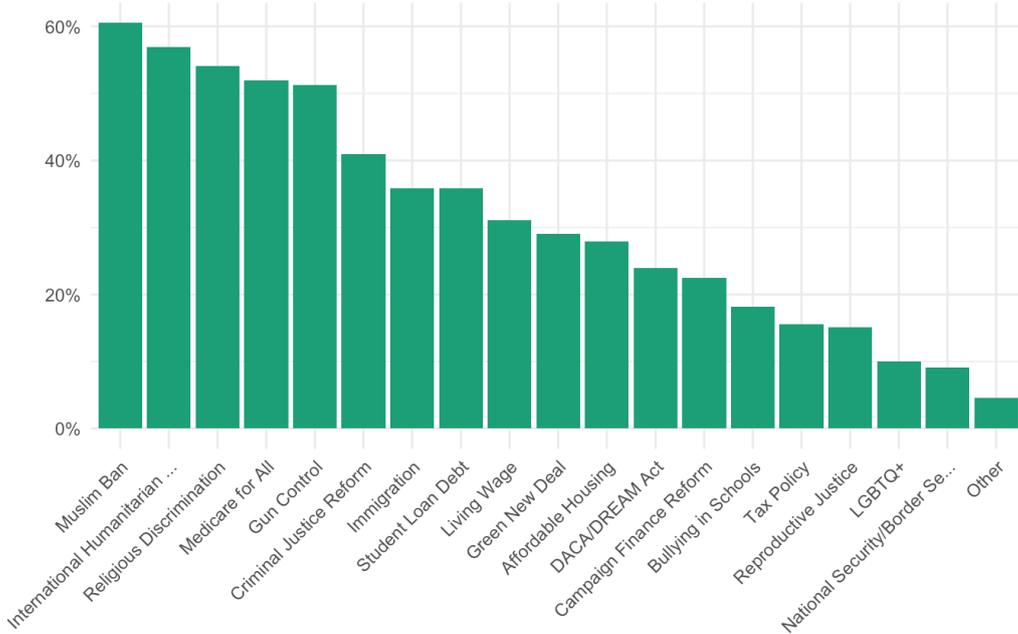
American Muslims and non-Muslim allies had similar levels of overlap in priority issue areas of Civil Rights and Healthcare.

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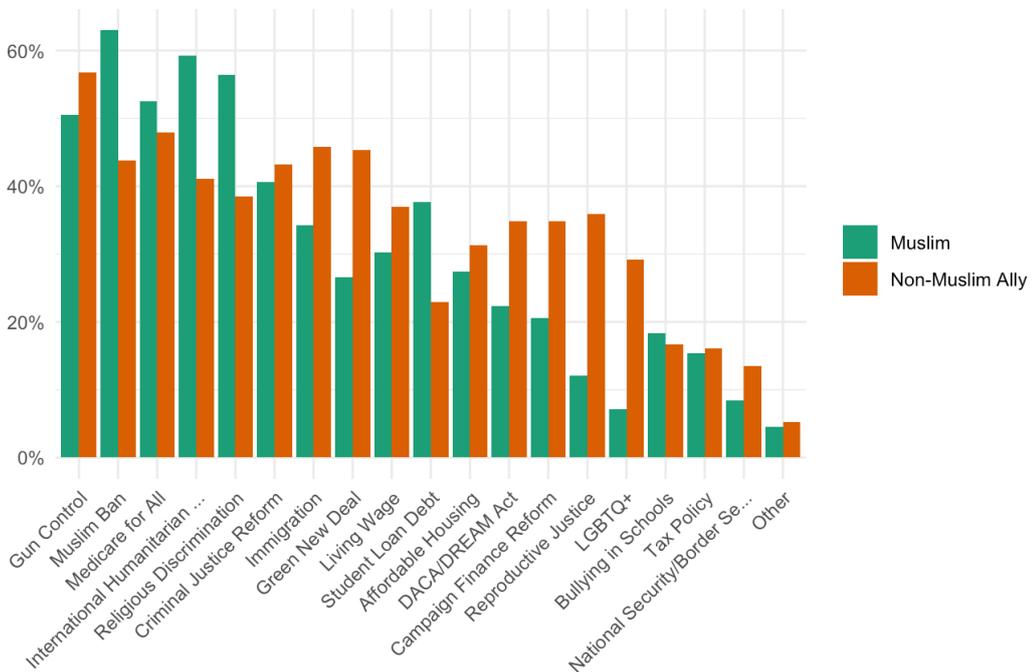
# THE FINDINGS

**[Figure 4: What policy changes would you like to see?]**

Over 60% of Muslim respondent would like to see policy changes to the Muslim Ban, which enabled vast immigration restrictions for travelers from several Muslim-predominate countries. Over 45% of Muslim respondents would like to see policy changes in these four areas: International Humanitarian Crises, Religious Discrimination, Medicare for All, and Gun Control.



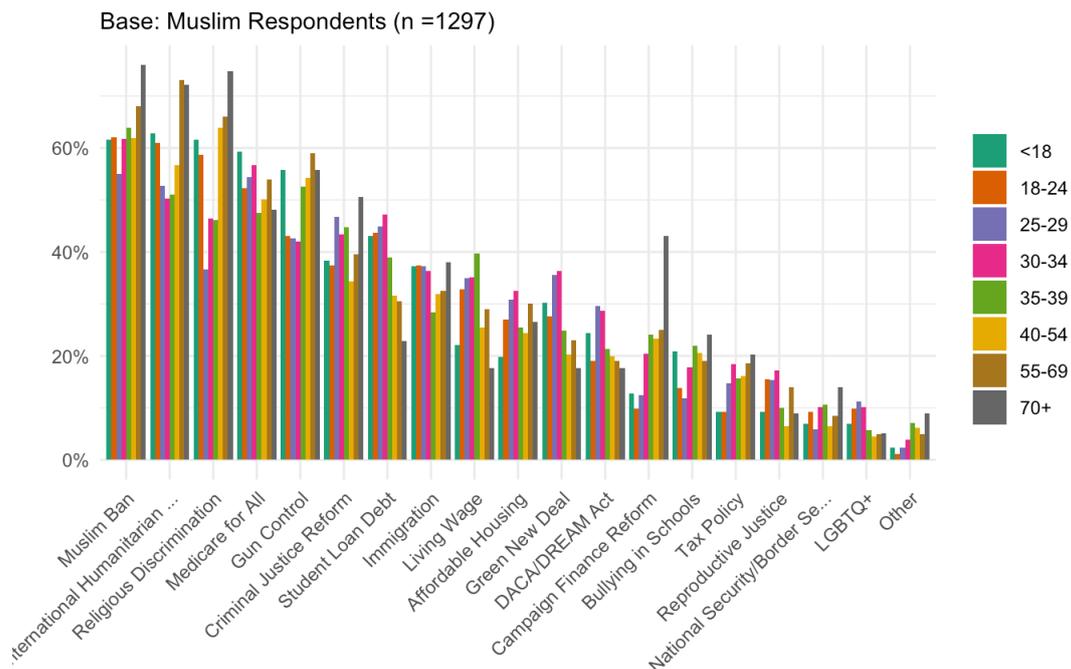
**[Figure 5: What policy changes would you like to see? (comparing Muslim and Non-Muslim data)]**



# THE FINDINGS

**[Figure 6: What policy changes would you like to see?]**

Among the various age groups examined, most ages agreed they would like to see a policy change to the Muslim Ban. Over 75% of the seventy and over age group of Muslim respondents agree that they want to see a policy change with the Muslim Ban.

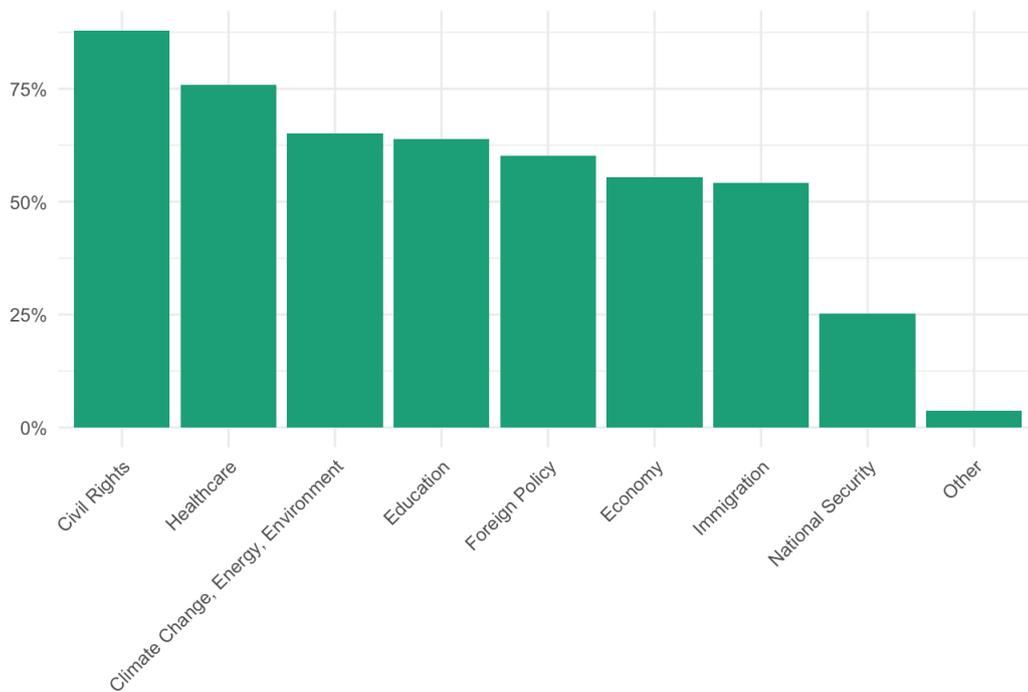


What are specific policy changes you'd like to see? (maximum 5)

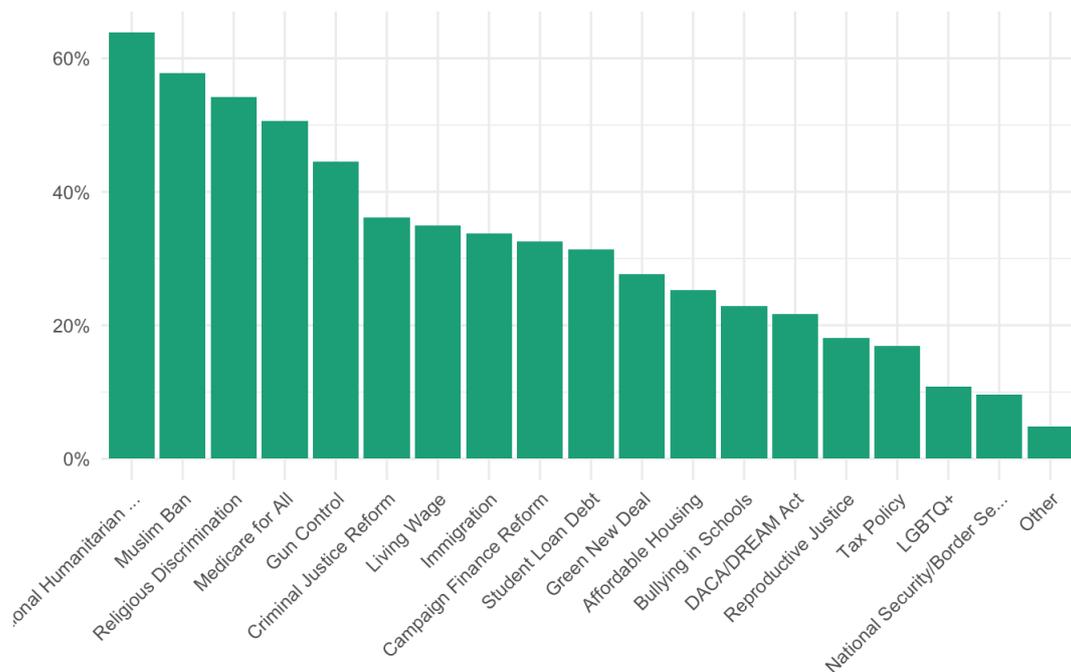
# THE FINDINGS

## STATE SURVEY ANALYSIS:

### FLORIDA



Please select the issue areas that are most important to you (maximum 5):



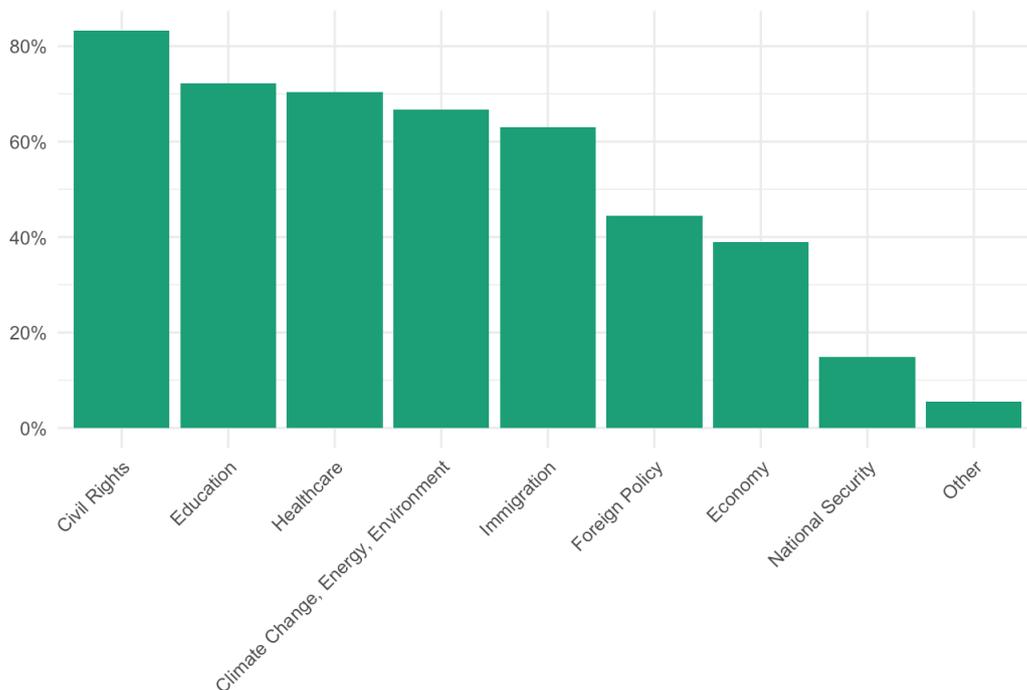
What are specific policy changes you'd like to see? (maximum 5)

# THE FINDINGS

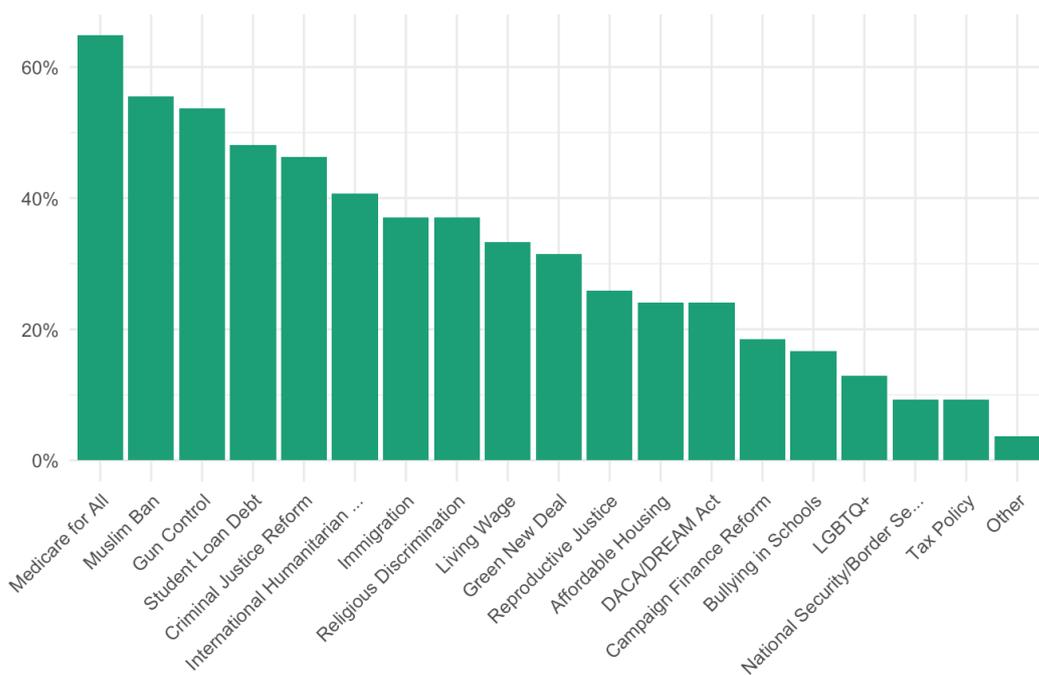
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## STATE SURVEY ANALYSIS:

### MICHIGAN



Please select the issue areas that are most important to you (maximum 5):



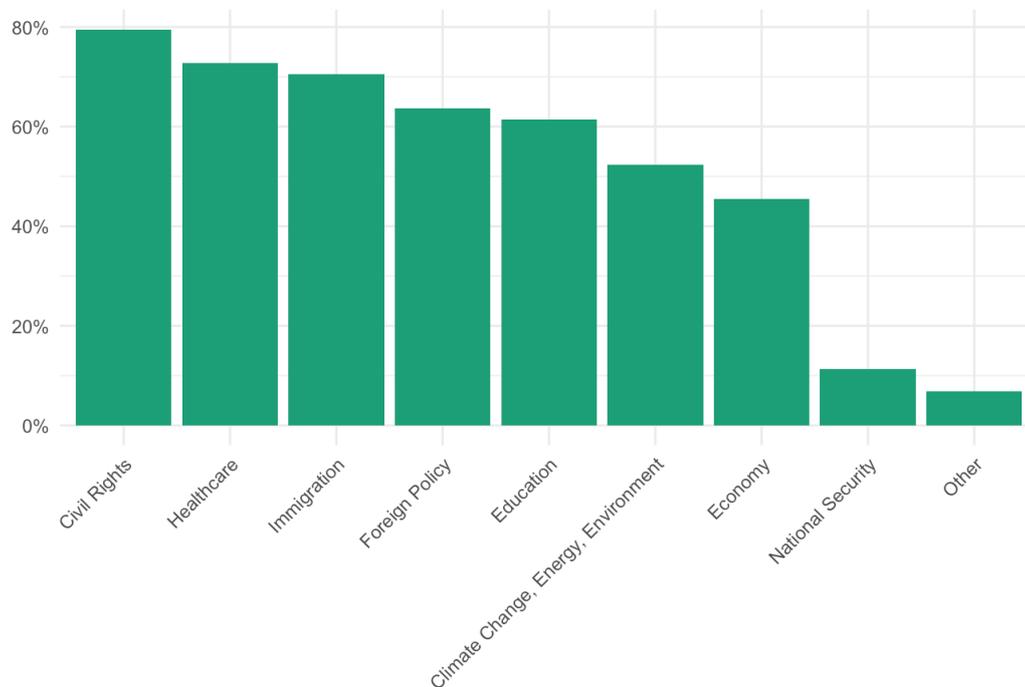
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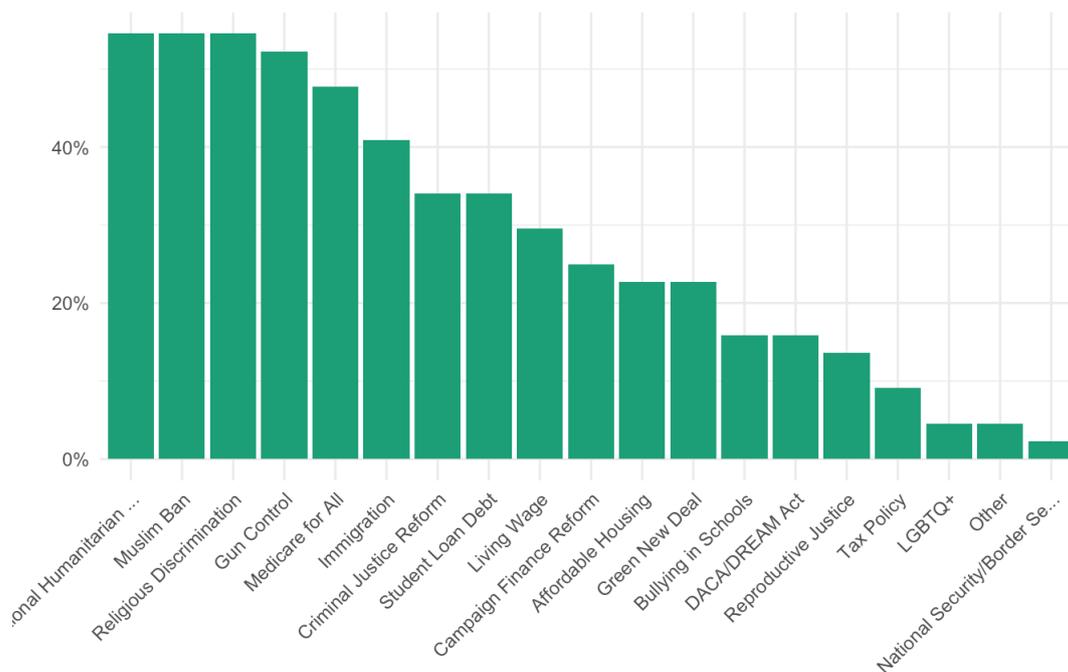
# THE FINDINGS

## STATE SURVEY ANALYSIS:

### OHIO



Please select the issue areas that are most important to you (maximum 5):

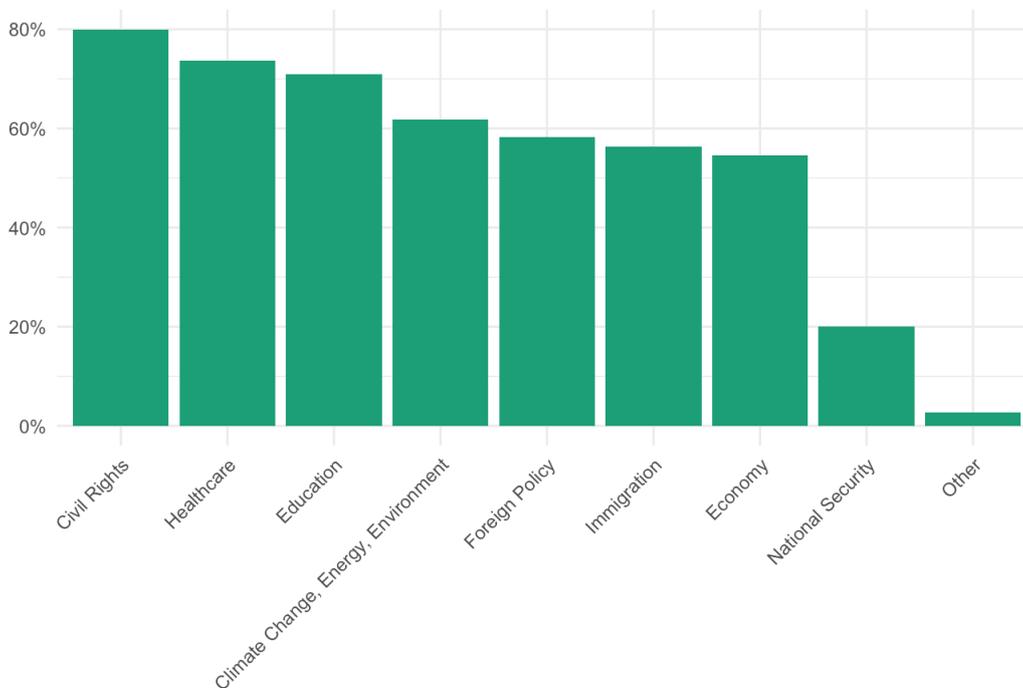


What are specific policy changes you'd like to see? (maximum 5)

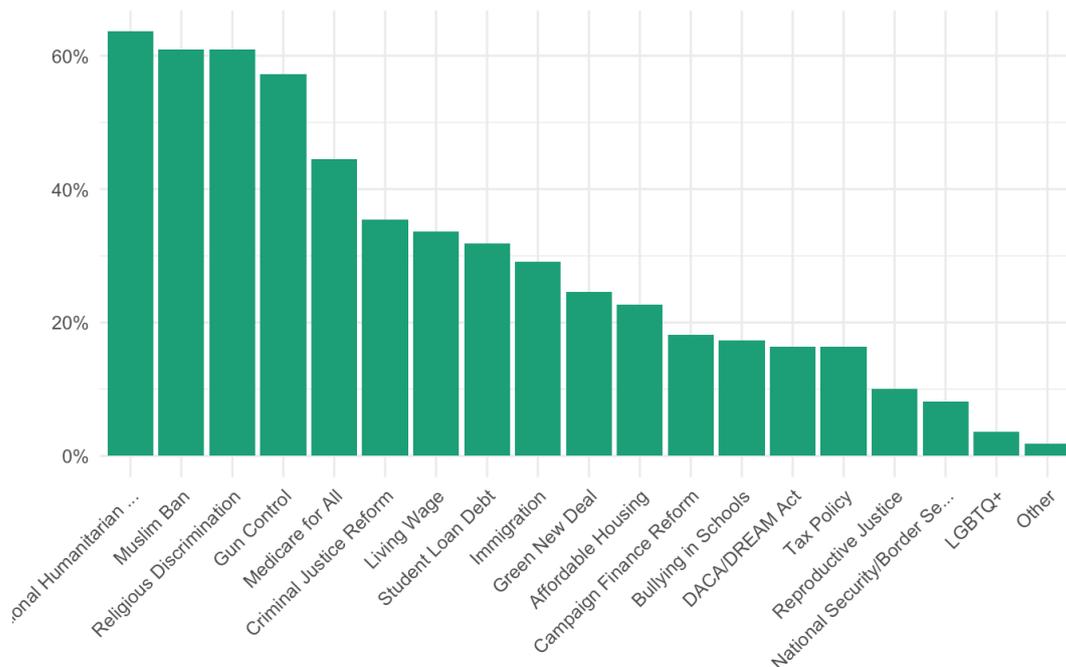
# THE FINDINGS

## STATE SURVEY ANALYSIS:

### PENNSYLVANIA



Please select the issue areas that are most important to you (maximum 5):

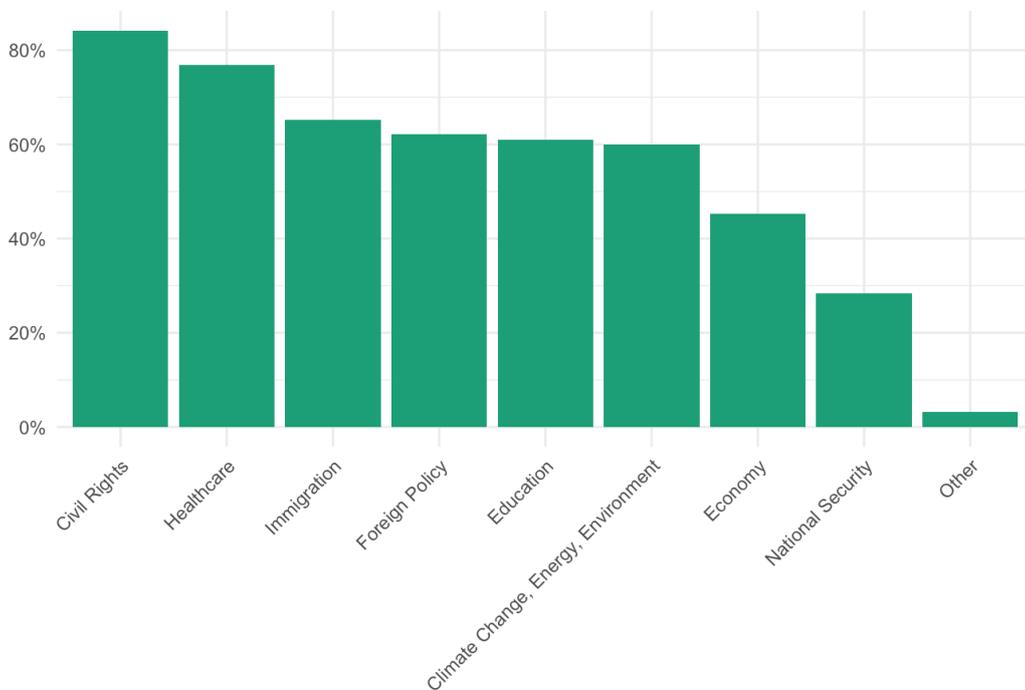


What are specific policy changes you'd like to see? (maximum 5)

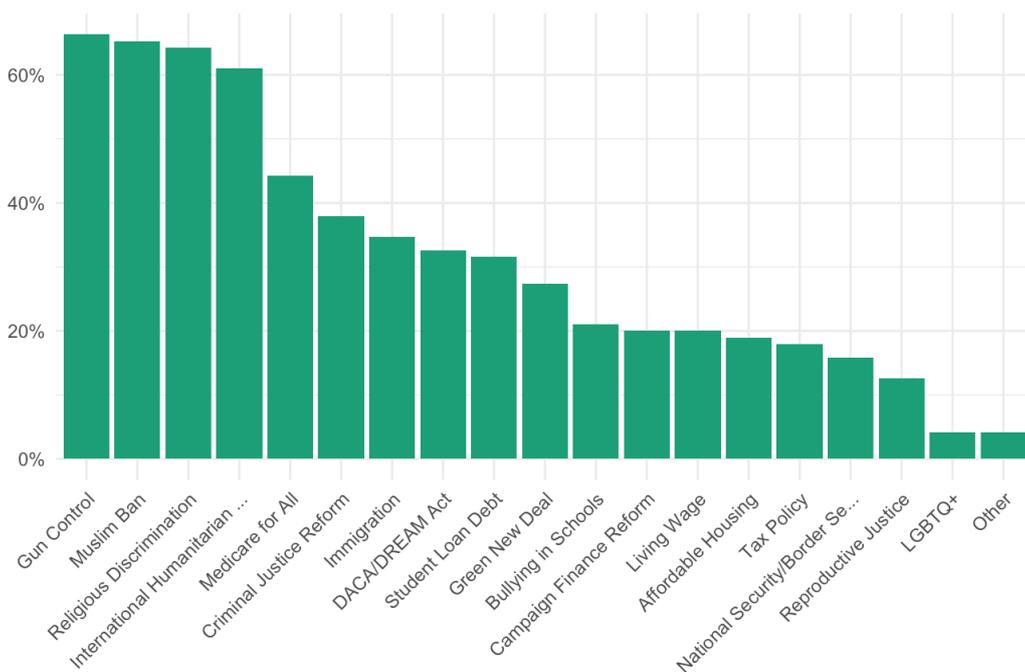
# THE FINDINGS

## STATE SURVEY ANALYSIS:

### TEXAS



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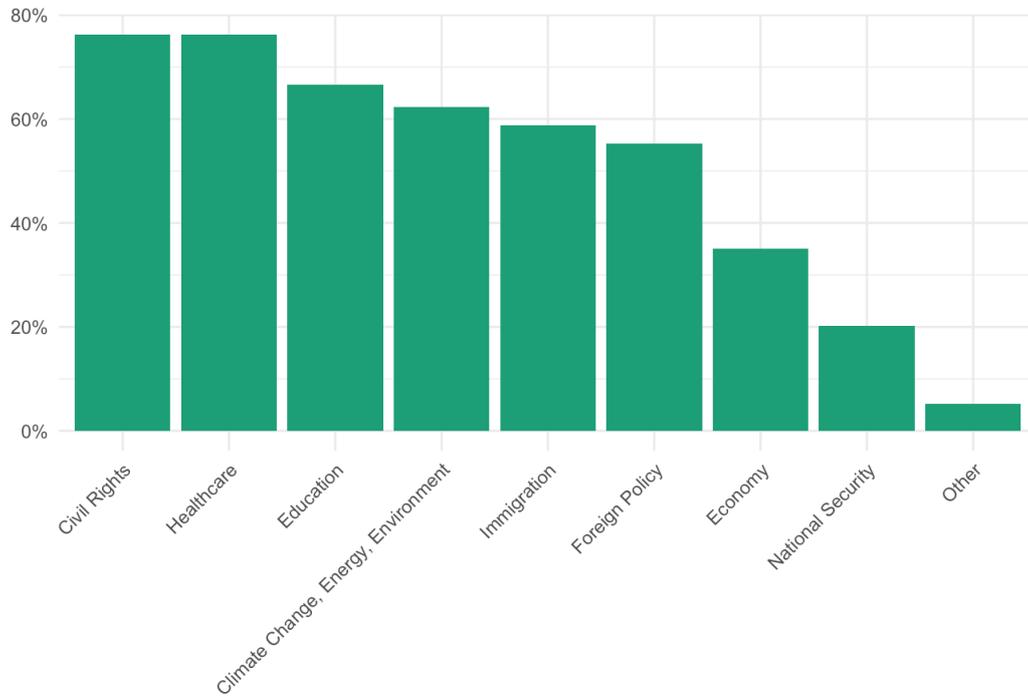


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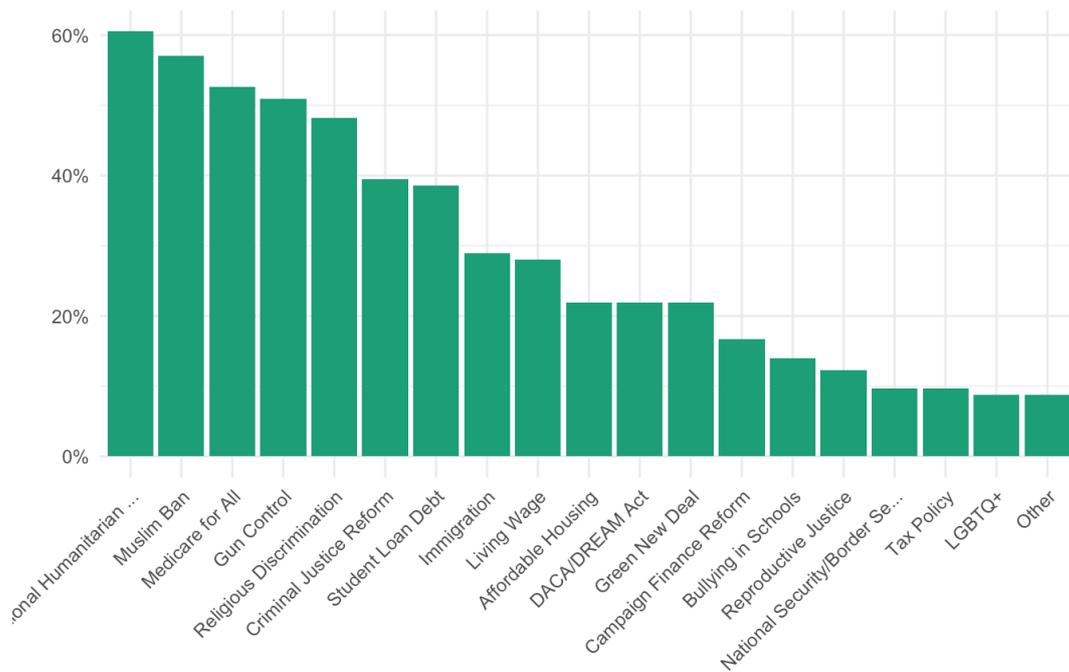
# THE FINDINGS

## STATE SURVEY ANALYSIS:

### VIRGINIA



Please select the issue areas that are most important to you (maximum 5):



What are specific policy changes you'd like to see? (maximum 5)

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# THE FINDINGS

In key battleground states heading into the election — the issues of **Civil Rights, Healthcare, Immigration** and **Education** prove to be the biggest issue area of concern for Muslims.

These states have significant Muslim voting populations and therefore have significant political power to yield. **Although Muslim voter turnout is low relative to other faith groups, we see a steady increase in Muslim voter registrations and turnout.**

According to a voter report published by Engage, just from Florida, Ohio, Michigan, and Virginia alone Muslim turnout jumped from about **130,000 votes to over 285,000 from 2014 to 2018**. And when we break down this analysis to local races, and pivot counties (or counties that have flipped) when elections often come down to a few hundred votes the Muslim voter bloc makes an impact.

2018 midterm elections, percentages of Muslims who turned out to vote:

- In Florida, 53% of registered Muslim voters submitted their ballot — **a 22 percentage point increase from 2014.**
- In Ohio, 48% of registered Muslim voters submitted their ballot — **a 29 percentage point increase.**
- In Virginia, 60% of registered Muslim voters submitted their ballot — **a 31 percentage point increase.**
- In Michigan, 50% of registered Muslim voters submitted their ballot — **a 19 percentage point increase.**

And when voters don't feel confident in their candidates — they run. **17 years later since 2001, nearly 100 Muslim candidates ran for office.**

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# THE EXPECTATION

With this information, Muslim communities, advocates, organizations, and individuals can educate and build a constituency base towards civic action. This is meant to serve as a resource for engaging with candidates, elected officials, advocating or challenging policies that serve the best interests of the Muslim community in America.

This brief survey reveals that while issues like civil rights, healthcare, immigration, and education are priorities for Muslims and non-Muslim allies alike; policies that disproportionately single out Muslims like the Muslim Ban, International Humanitarian Crises in Muslim majority countries, Religious Discrimination, are priority policies American Muslims would like to see addressed in the upcoming election.

Muslims in key battleground states also reflect this blend of broad priorities alongside policies that have direct consequences on their communities.

**We expect this to be a useful resource to inform and engage elected officials, candidates, and stakeholders as well as a tool for Muslim communities, leaders, and advocates to campaign and serve the best interests of their community.**

