
BORDER POLITICS: NINE IN TEN FEDERAL LIBERALS AGAINST BORDER REOPENING WITH THE USA MAKES IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO HAPPEN ON JULY 21, OR SOON THEREAFTER

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INTRODUCTION: WHY THE CANADA-US BORDER WILL NOT OPEN ON JULY 21ST

New York Democrat Rep. Brian Higgins doesn't blame Canadians for wanting to keep Americans out, considering the failure of the Trump administration to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. But he says the damaging border restrictions can be gradually eased without jeopardizing public health, and he and other members of Congress from northern border states will keep pressing their case. The problem is not only that a vast majority of Canadians (86%) want to keep the border shut, but that so do an even greater percentage of Federal Liberal supporters, with 90% opposed to reopening. Conversely, only 8% of Liberals support reopening with 2% strongly agreeing and 6% somewhat. Indeed, there appears to be a consensus across all parties, with Conservative supporters most likely to extend support at 17%, and even there only. In the absence of any meaningful support it will be politically impossible for the Prime Minister to open the border with our neighbors to the South. The report also reveals that Americans would not in the majority be comfortable coming to Canada where even were the border to be open, quarantine rules would make for a challenging time for tourists.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted by the firm Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies with a sample of 1,517 Canadians and 1,006 Americans and was conducted between July 3 and July 5, 2020 via web panel with a probabilistic margin of error of 2.5% 19 times out of 20 in Canada and 3.1%, 19 times out of 20 in the USA.

LESS THAN ONE IN TEN LIBERAL SUPPORTERS AGREE WITH OPENING THE BORDER WITH THE US

Do you agree or disagree with the reopening of the borders between Canada and the United States at the end of July, allowing American tourists to enter the country?

	Total	LPC	NDP	BQ	CPC	GPC
TOTAL AGREE	11%	8%	10%	4%	17%	16%
Strongly agree	4%	2%	3%	0%	6%	4%
Somewhat agree	8%	5%	7%	4%	11%	12%
TOTAL DISAGREE	86%	90%	89%	95%	81%	78%
Somewhat disagree	16%	13%	17%	26%	16%	7%
Strongly disagree	71%	78%	72%	69%	65%	71%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	6%

IN THE US THERE IS FAR MORE SUPPORT FOR ALLOWING CANADIANS TO ENTER THE BORDER WITH HALF IN AGREEMENT AND JUST OVER ONE THIRD OPPOSED TO THE IDEA

Do you agree or disagree with the reopening of the borders between the United States and Canada at the end of July, allowing Canadian tourists to enter the country?

BBI	Total	NE	MW	South	West	Male	Female
TOTAL AGREE	50%	54%	53%	44%	56%	59%	42%
Strongly agree	25%	24%	26%	24%	26%	32%	18%
Somewhat agree	25%	30%	26%	20%	30%	26%	24%
TOTAL DISAGREE	36%	35%	35%	39%	33%	31%	40%
Somewhat disagree	18%	20%	21%	18%	15%	17%	19%
Strongly disagree	18%	16%	14%	21%	18%	14%	21%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	14%	11%	13%	18%	12%	10%	18%

Travelling to the United States - Once the governments lift the protective measures put in place to fight COVID-19, which of the following would you be comfortable doing...

	Total	Man	Woman	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Comfortable	10%	14%	7%	4%	10%	9%	19%	16%	8%
Not comfortable	81%	78%	84%	89%	75%	84%	70%	79%	87%
Does not apply	9%	9%	9%	7%	15%	7%	11%	5%	6%

MORE AMERICANS UNCOMFORTABLE RATHER THAN COMFORTABLE WITH THE IDEA OF TRAVELLING TO CANADA THOUGH DEMOCRATS ARE MORE HESITANT

Generally speaking, do you consider yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or other?	Travelling to Canada - Once the governments lift the protective measures put in place to fight COVID-19, which of the following would you be comfortable doing...			Total
	Comfortable	Not comfortable	Does not apply	
Strong Republican	36.9%	36.9%	26.2%	100.0%
Moderate Republican	39.5%	41.5%	19.0%	100.0%
Independent	43.4%	32.7%	23.9%	100.0%
Moderate Democrat	27.0%	45.3%	27.7%	100.0%
Strong Democrat	28.8%	49.5%	21.6%	100.0%
Total	35.6%	38.8%	25.6%	100.0%

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