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## **News Advisory: For Immediate Release**

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### **Hazleton Mayor Lou Barletta Says Nation Behind Him - Poll Shows Most Americans Support Hazleton Anti-Immigration Ordinances, While Most Don't Believe Border Control, Federal Raids Are Working**

**Washington, D.C. (Wednesday, February 28):** Today at a National Press Club panel discussion on immigration issues sponsored by the watchdog group Judicial Watch, Pennsylvania-based Susquehanna Polling and Research, in conjunction with Hazleton, Pennsylvania Mayor Lou Barletta, released the results of a new nationwide poll conducted February 22-26 with 1,000 respondents which shows that by a 68/25 margin, Americans support the recently-passed ordinances by both Hazleton Mayor Barletta and City Council making Hazleton the toughest city in the nation to crack down on illegal aliens. In the poll, respondents were told the recently-passed Hazleton ordinances suspend the business licenses of employers who hire illegal aliens, penalize landlords who rent to illegal aliens with fines and make English the official language.

"The fact that most Americans support what we have done in Hazleton demonstrates that communities all across the country agree we need to turn to our elected officials at the local level to take action on this issue, and not rely solely on the federal government to solve this problem," Mayor Barletta said. "This issue is about Hazleton's fight for survival and the fact that people in states all across the nation agree with us emboldens me to continue to carry this message to other towns and boroughs all over the country facing similar challenges," Mayor Barletta added. Moreover, the poll also confirms that by a 67/26 margin, Americans say

they would support an ordinance similar to Hazleton's in their own communities, which shows that people not only sympathize with Hazleton, but are looking to their own communities to follow a similar path. "People continually ask me what difference a small-town mayor from an obscure small town like Hazleton can make, and this poll shows what we have done has struck a nerve with the rest of the country," added Mayor Barletta.

"The poll also shows that most Americans don't believe publicized efforts to reduce illegal immigration are working", according to Jim Lee, President of SP&R and sponsor of the poll. According to the survey, 61% don't believe beefed-up border patrol, federal raids on businesses or other efforts that have been publicized recently are helping stem the flow of illegal immigrants, while only 6% believe they are helping "a lot" and 23% believe they are helping "a little". "Given this level of skepticism [about current methods to crack down on illegal immigrants], it is not surprising most Americans are looking for leadership at the local level on this issue," Lee added. When Americans are asked to cite the one single method they believe can be the most effective tool to reduce illegal immigration (from a list of four), 40% say "imposing penalties for businesses and landlords who knowingly hire or harbor illegal immigrants", while 15% chose "beefing up border control", 14% chose "enforcing existing immigration laws with such things like more raids on businesses" and 8% chose "erecting a fence at the border with Mexico". "Americans don't appear to give current methods [of reducing illegal immigration] a passing grade, so this suggests to me that most Americans perceive that using local ordinances to crack down on both landlords and businesses can be part of the solution, not part of the problem," Lee added.

In addition to overall majority support for the Hazleton ordinance, the poll shows broad-based majority support among many types of voters including those who identify themselves as Republicans (80%), Democrats (56%), Independents (68%), both males and females (68%), voters in all age groups and in all geographic regions of the country including states in the Northeast (60%), South (74%), Midwest (73%), North Central (71%), Southwest (71%) and the West (60%). Even in the border states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California,

where the illegal immigration problem has reached critical mass, voters collectively support the Hazleton ordinances by a 65/27 margin. "The broad-based support for the Hazleton ordinance in this poll particularly among both Republicans and Democrats demonstrates this issue is not a Republican or Democrat issue, but one that transcends political lines," said Jim Lee, who conducted the poll. "What this suggests is that ordinances like the one in Hazleton have the potential to unite both Republicans and Democrats who are looking for real solutions for how to take back their communities that have been negatively affected by an influx of illegal aliens on problems like rising crime, drain on city services and a lessening of quality of life," Lee added. "Elected officials of both parties should stand up and take notice that if they have reservations about enacting such ordinances in their communities, this broad-bases helps give them the political cover to do so."

### *Methodology*

Susquehanna Polling and Research is a privately-owned polling firm and represents both political and corporate clients mainly in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware. On an occasional basis, Susquehanna Polling and Research conducts surveys expressly for public dissemination on hot topics of the day and pays for them exclusively with our company funds, including the current poll. The poll was conducted February 22-26 with 1,000 respondents contacted via telephone using our state-of-the-art computer-assisted-telephone-interviewing system (called Win-CATI). The poll has a margin of error of +/-3.1% at the 95% confidence level. Ninety-seven percent of all respondents in the poll consider themselves registered voters.

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