

Criminal Justice Reform Survey

N=1,759 Likely Voters // July 18-20, 2018

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

1. In general, do you believe the primary purpose of the criminal justice system is to...?

- 68% Punish but also rehabilitate those convicted of a crime
- 23% Punish those convicted of a crime
- 9% Rehabilitate those convicted of a crime

2. How important is it to reduce the number of people who are in prison in America today?

- 72% TOTAL IMPORTANT**
- 28% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT**

- 28% Very important
- 44% Somewhat important
- 19% Not very important
- 9% Not at all important

3. Do you think federal prison guards should be allowed to shackle or handcuff female inmates while they are pregnant and/or giving birth?

- 37% No, shackling/handcuffing should not be allowed at all during pregnancy or childbirth
- 35% Shackling/handcuffing should be allowed during pregnancy but not during childbirth
- 10% Yes, shackling/handcuffing should be allowed at all times
- 17% No opinion/Unsure

4. Thinking ahead to the midterm elections this November – how important to you is the issue of criminal justice reform as you decide who you'll be voting for?

- 75% TOTAL IMPORTANT**
- 25% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT**

- 25% Very important
- 50% Somewhat important
- 20% Not very important
- 5% Not at all important

5. Would you be more or less likely to vote for a political candidate if you knew he or she supported criminal justice reform?

60% More likely to support candidate
32% No difference in support
8% Less likely to support candidate

6. Recently, the US House of Representatives passed a criminal justice reform bill, called the FIRST STEP Act. Some of the bills details include:

- Expands the number of days prisoners can have removed from their sentence for good behavior in prison, from 47 days to 54 days per year.
- Requires that inmates are placed in a prison within 500 miles of their home, to encourage more family visits as a way to reduce recidivism.
- Mandates that female inmates are provided with sanitary napkins and tampons for free and bans the shackling of pregnant women.
- Requires the government to assist prisoners in obtaining an ID before they are released, to aid their reentry into society.
- Lowers the minimum age a prisoner may apply for “compassionate release” from 65 years to 60, as a method of lowering prison costs.

After learning more, do you approve or disapprove of the FIRST STEP Act?

70% Approve
16% Disapprove
14% No opinion/Unsure

7. When do you think the the US Senate should pass the FIRST STEP criminal justice reform act?

38% As soon as possible this year
30% Sometime in the next 1-2 years
18% Sometime in the next several years
14% The US Senate should not pass the FIRST STEP Act

8. As you may know, the FIRST STEP criminal justice reform act passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming vote of 360 to 59. If the US Senate – which is led by a Republican majority – is not able to or chooses not to pass this bill, how will this change your opinion of Senate Republicans?

47% **TOTAL MORE NEGATIVE VIEW OF SENATE REPUBLICANS**

11% **TOTAL MORE POSITIVE VIEW OF SENATE REPUBLICANS**

- 26% If the Senate doesn't pass this bill, I will have a much more negative view of Senate Republicans
- 21% If the Senate doesn't pass this bill, I will have a somewhat more negative view of Senate Republicans
- 42% If the Senate doesn't pass this bill, my opinion of Senate Republicans will remain unchanged
- 6% If the Senate doesn't pass this bill, I will have a somewhat more positive view of Senate Republicans
- 5% If the Senate doesn't pass this bill, I will have a much more positive view of Senate Republicans

9. If President Donald Trump were to publicly announce his support for the FIRST STEP criminal justice reform act, how would this change your opinion?

69% **TOTAL MORE SUPPORTIVE OF ACT**

31% **TOTAL LESS SUPPORTIVE OF ACT**

- 16% Much more supportive of act
- 53% Somewhat more supportive of act
- 21% Somewhat less supportive of act
- 10% Much less supportive of act