REFORMING THE PROBATION AND PAROLE SYSTEMS

The mission of the REFORM Alliance is to dramatically reduce the number of people who are unjustly under the control of the criminal justice system – starting with probation and parole.

After learning that there are 4.5 million people under probation or parole supervision in the U.S., about half of voters in all 8 states surveyed, think it is important to reduce the number of people on probation or parole supervision.

A MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN ALL STATES SURVEYED SUPPORT REFORM ALLIANCE’S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFORMING PROBATION AND PAROLE

The highest supported initiatives for reform to the probation and parole system across states tested was found for:

- Investing in re-entry programs
- Providing mentorship
- Rewarding good behavior

A BIPARTISAN MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN ALL 8 STATES SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PROBATION AND PAROLE INITIATIVES:

- Allowing remote probation reporting
- Decreasing caseloads for probation officers
- Providing mentorship program for those on parole or probation
- Investing in re-entry programs
- Rewarding good behavior

At least half of voters would be more likely to support a public official who wants to reform the probation and parole system in 7 of the 8 states tested.

Methodology: The research conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of the Reform Alliance was conducted among a sample of 800 California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New York, and Louisiana registered voters, and a sample of 500 Iowa and Mississippi registered voters. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of state registered voters based on gender, age, race, and educational attainment. Results from the surveys have a margin of error of ±3% or ±4% (IA & MS).

This first-of-its-kind survey shows that voters throughout the country and across parties believe it’s time to reform our probation and parole systems. This new data will bolster our advocacy efforts and help create a powerful narrative around the need for supervision reform that cannot be ignored.

JESSICA JACKSON
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