

To: Interested Parties

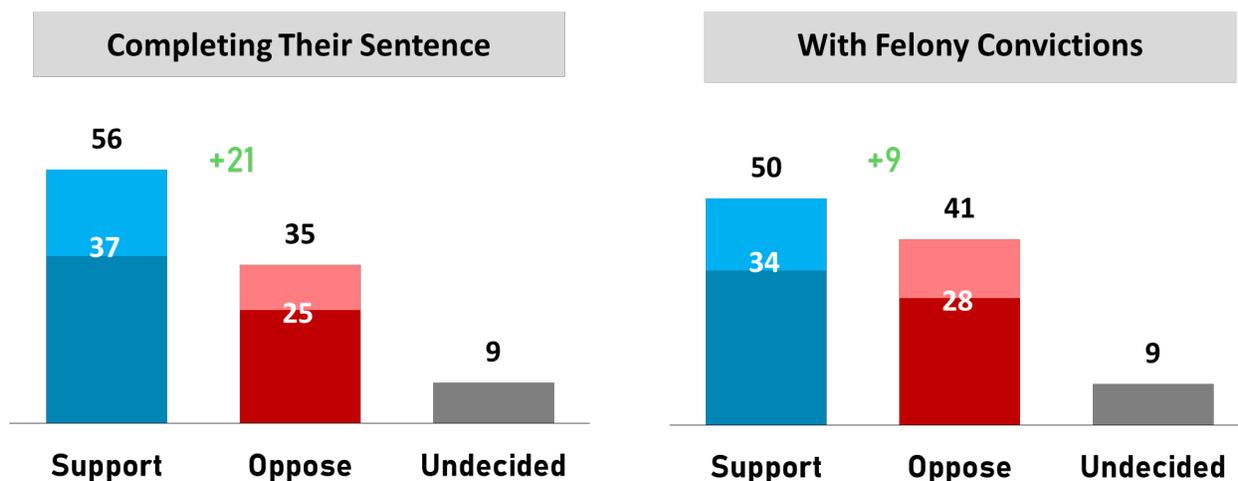
From: Daniel Gotoff, Sandra Markowitz, McCauley Pugh, and Ronan Ferrentino, LRP

RE: New National Poll shows Majority Favor Guaranteed Right to Vote for All

Date: August 9, 2022

A recently conducted national survey<sup>1</sup> by Lake Research Partners on behalf of *State Innovation Exchange*, *Stand Up America*, *The Sentencing Project*, and *Common Cause* reveals over half of voters support the full restoration of voting rights to all citizens over the age of 18, including those completing a sentence, both inside and outside of prison. Even when the term “felony convictions” is added to the proposal, a majority of voters still support expanding voting rights to justice-impacted citizens.

- **A majority of voters (56%) supports a law to guarantee the eligibility to vote for all citizens 18 and older, including citizens completing their sentence, both inside and outside of prison, compared to just 35% who say they would oppose.** Strength of support is also far higher than strength of opposition, with over a third of voters (37%) saying they would strongly support such a law, compared to 25% of voters who say they would strongly oppose.
  - When voters are asked if they would support a law that guarantees the eligibility to vote for all citizens 18 and older, **including citizens with felony convictions** both inside and outside of prison, **half of voters (50%) say they would support such a law, and 41% say they would oppose it.**



<sup>1</sup> Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey online, reaching a base sample of 1,000 likely 2022 General Election voters nationwide, as well as oversamples of 200 likely voters in Illinois, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, and Oregon (all states with recent or ongoing efforts to restore voting rights to formerly and/or currently incarcerated people). The survey was conducted July 11-17, 2022. The data were weighted slightly by gender, age, race, region, education level, and ideology. The margin of error for the base sample is +/-3.1% and larger for subgroups.

- Support in both cases is especially high among **younger voters, Black and Latino voters, voters who have a work connection** (either themselves or a family member) to the criminal legal system, and **voters who have a personal connection** (either themselves or a family member) to being involved in the criminal legal system.
  - A majority of independents (53%), white voters (55%), and half of voters over the age of 50 (50%) support such a law when the term “completing their sentence” is used.
  
- **Our survey finds that voters aren’t very aware of the voting laws in their state regarding incarceration and felony convictions.** A third of voters (34%) say they don’t know if citizens in their state who are incarcerated can vote, and another third (33%) say the same about citizens with felony convictions.
  
- **Over half of voters agree (54%) that “All citizens, regardless of if they have a felony conviction in the past, should be eligible to vote.”** These numbers are especially high with young people (65% agree), Black voters (71% agree), Latino voters (67% agree), voters who have a work connection to the criminal legal system (64% agree), and voters who have a personal connection to being involved in the criminal legal system (72% agree).
  - A majority of independents also agree (53%), as well as a majority of non-college educated voters (54%), and half of white voters (50%)

In conclusion, voters in the United States are ready for all citizens of this country to be eligible to vote, no matter their relationship with the criminal justice system, and including language about felony convictions does not deter voters. Even though many voters admit to not being fully aware of the laws in their states around voting rights, there is a belief across the nation that every citizen should be eligible for and have the right to vote.

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