

Prison Reform Survey
 November 6-13, 2025
 1,000 Registered Voters
 Verasight Panel
 Margin of error ±3

Q1. Consent language

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
Yes, I consent	1,000	100%
No, I do not consent	-	-

Q2. To start, please confirm that you are 18 years of age or older and registered to vote in the United States.

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
18 or older and registered to vote	1,000	100%
Under 18 and/or not registered to vote	-	-

Q3. How interested would you say you are in politics?

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
Very interested	479	48%
Somewhat interested	401	40%
Not very interested	81	8%
Not at all interested	37	4%
Refused	2	0%
Total Very interested/Somewhat interested	880	88%
Total Not at all interested/Not very interested	118	12%

Q4. Switching topics, which of the following statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right?

STATEMENT A: People who have committed crimes can become better citizens through rehabilitative, educational, or vocational programs in prisons.

STATEMENT B: People who have committed crimes will not become better citizens, even through rehabilitative, educational, or vocational programs.

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
Statement A, much more	375	37%
Statement A, somewhat more	457	46%
Statement B, somewhat more	127	13%
Statement B, much more	41	4%
Total Statement A	831	83%
Total Statement B	169	17%

Q.5 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Smwt agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Ref-used	Total Agree	Total Disagree
Prisons in the United States treat people sentenced there fairly.	7%	24%	30%	28%	11%	0%	32%	58%
Prisons primarily focus on punishing criminals.	31%	41%	18%	5%	5%	-	72%	23%
Prisons primarily focus on making criminals better citizens.	6%	19%	30%	39%	7%	-	24%	68%
Poor conditions in prisons not only harm prisoners, but also have negative consequences for corrections professionals, their families, and the overall health of our communities.	49%	33%	11%	4%	3%	0%	82%	15%
Former prisoners deserve a second chance, because they've already paid their debt to society.	32%	50%	11%	3%	3%	0%	83%	13%

Q.6 Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of the following proposals.

	Strongly support	Smwt support	Smwt oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Ref-used	Total Support	Total Oppose
[SAFETY] Require prisons to provide environments that are free from violence.	64%	27%	5%	1%	3%	0%	91%	6%
[TREATMENT] Require prisons to treat prisoners humanely.	65%	25%	5%	1%	3%	0%	91%	6%
[TREATMENT] Require prisons to treat prisoners fairly.	61%	29%	6%	1%	2%	0%	90%	7%
[ENVIRONMENTS/KILLSA] Require prisons to offer programs that give prisoners job skills to help them succeed after completing their sentences.	64%	28%	5%	1%	2%	0%	92%	6%
[PARENTING] Require prisons to offer programs that give prisoners parenting skills to help them succeed after completing their sentences.	55%	33%	6%	1%	3%	1%	88%	8%
[EDUCATION] Require prisons to offer programs that give prisoners educational opportunities to help them succeed after completing their sentences.	62%	30%	5%	1%	2%	0%	91%	7%
[FUNDING] Provide prisons with more resources so they can expand rehabilitative programs like addiction treatment and other programs for prisoners.	58%	30%	7%	2%	3%	0%	89%	8%

Q.7 How often, if ever, do you worry about each of the following?

	Every day	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Refused
Paying your bills	28%	34%	20%	18%	0%
Paying for food	23%	32%	21%	24%	-
Having safe housing	16%	25%	26%	34%	-
Paying for health care	21%	38%	21%	20%	0%

Q8. Have any of the following ever happened to you or someone in your family? Please select all that apply.

	n	Percent
	1,422	142%
Arrested for a crime, whether or not the crime was actually committed	383	38%
Incarcerated in jail	320	32%
Incarcerated in prison	182	18%
None of the above	536	54%
Refused	1	0%

Q9. Thinking back to the 2024 general election for president, who did you vote for?

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
Democrat Kamala Harris	438	44%
Republican Donald Trump	436	44%
Someone else	43	4%
Prefer not to say	12	1%
I did not vote in the 2024 general election for president	71	7%

Q10. Are you:

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
A man	455	46%
A woman	536	54%
Neither/nonbinary/prefer to self-describe	5	1%
Refused	4	0%

Q11. Please select your state.

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
Midwest Region	218	22%
Northeast Region	180	18%
South Region	385	39%
West Region	217	22%

Q12. In what year were you born?

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
18 to 34	198	20%
35 to 49	259	26%
50 to 64	272	27%
65+	262	26%
Refused	9	1%

Q13. In order to make sure we get a representative sample of responses, please indicate your race or ethnicity. You may choose one or more races.

	n	Percent
	1,081	108%
African American/Black	138	14%
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander	57	6%
Latino/Hispanic	106	11%
Native American/American Indian/Indigenous	23	2%
Middle Eastern/North African	4	0%
White	735	74%
Other	13	1%
Prefer not to say	4	0%
Refused	1	0%

Q14. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

	n	Percent
	999	100%
Less than high school degree	23	2%
High school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent, including GED)	240	24%
Some college but no degree	219	22%
Associate degree in college (2-year)	111	11%
Bachelor's degree in college (4-year)	247	25%
Graduate degree	156	16%
Refused	3	0%

Q15. How would you describe the community where you currently live?

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
Urban	272	27%
Suburban	511	51%
Rural	216	22%
Refused	1	0%

Q16. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or what?

	n	Percent
	999	100%
Strong Democrat	232	23%
Weak Democrat	105	11%
Independent, lean Democrat	87	9%
Independent	100	10%
Independent, lean Republican	69	7%
Weak Republican	131	13%
Strong Republican	228	23%
Other party	11	1%
Don't know/No preference	36	4%
Total Strong/Weak Democrat	337	34%
Total Independent/Ind Lean-Dem/Ind Lean-Rep	257	26%
Total Strong/Weak Republican	359	36%
Total Strong/Weak/Lean Democrat	425	42%
Total Ind	100	10%
Total Strong/Weak/Lean Republican	428	43%

Q17. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as:

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
Very liberal	141	14%
Somewhat liberal	173	17%
Moderate	321	32%
Somewhat conservative	234	23%
Very conservative	131	13%
Total Liberal	314	31%
Total Conservative	365	37%

Q18. Thinking about money from jobs; net income from businesses, farm, or rent; pensions; interest; Social Security payments; and any other money income received by members of your family who are 15 years of age or older, which of these categories best describes total pre-tax income for all members of your household combined last year (in 2024)?

	n	Percent
	1,000	100%
\$0 - \$25,000	152	15%
\$25,001 - \$50,000	198	20%
\$50,001 - \$75,000	183	18%
\$75,001 - \$100,000	152	15%
\$100,001 - \$150,000	158	16%
\$150,001 - \$250,000	91	9%
\$250,001 or more	39	4%
Prefer not to say	26	3%
Refused	1	0%