PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

turning questions into answers

## National Survey

October 6-10, 2022

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## METHODOLOGY

On behalf of Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), Robert Blizzard of Public Opinion Strategies completed a national survey of 1000 registered voters via online. The survey was conducted October 6-10, 2022 and has a credibility interval of $\pm 3.53 \%$.

## The Criminal Justice System

## There continues to be a strong sentiment the nation's criminal justice system needs "significant improvements."



As you may know, the system of police, courts, jails, and prisons is sometimes called the criminal justice system...Generally speaking, do you think the criminal justice system...Needs significant improvements...or...Is working pretty well as it is?

## More than three-quarters support "reforming the nation's criminal justice system."



And, generally speaking, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose reforming the nation's criminal justice system?

## Prisons \& Early Release

## Americans continue to believe there are "too many people in the country's prisons."



## A strong majority of voters still say it is important to reduce the number of people in prison.



By more than two-to-one, voters believe people should be considered for early release if they are unlikely to commit future crimes.

Which ONE of the following statements comes closer to your own opinion? People should stay in prison and serve their full sentences, even if they reach a point at which they are unlikely to commit future crimes
...or...
People in prison should be allowed to be considered for an early release from their sentence if they reach a point at which they are unlikely to commit future crimes


Compassionate Release
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After voters hear some background about compassionate release programs...

As you may know, compassionate release programs, sometimes known as medical, elderly, or geriatric parole or release, are programs that provide very sick or elderly people with eligibility to get out of prison early if they no longer pose a risk to public safety or are unlikely to commit future crimes.

Generally speaking, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose compassionate release programs?

## By a $70 \%-25 \%$ margin, Americans support compassionate release programs.



## More frequent church-goers are more supportive of compassionate release.



## Voters across age and race support compassionate release.



## There's overwhelming agreement that a victim's opinion about release should be considered, but not the sole factor.

The victim's opinion about compassionate release should be considered, but it should not be the sole factor in the release decision.


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