



SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC POLICY

PROGRAM FOR  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## Criminal Justice: Police, Prison and Criminal Records

- STATE OF MINNESOTA and NATIONAL -

### Field Dates:

**State of Minnesota:** July 23 - Aug 1, 2026

**National:** February 11-26, 2026

### Sample Sizes:

**State of Minnesota:** 600

**National:** 2,509

### Confidence Interval:

**State of Minnesota:** +/-5.7%

**National:** +/- 2.9%

**Samples Provided by:** Multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege. Sample collection and quality control was managed by QuantifyAI under the direction of the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation.

**Note:** Rows may not add to 100% due to rounding

**[Q13-26 withheld for future release, Q1-12 and Q27-51 previously released]**

### [Police Reform]

We are now going to ask whether you favor some proposals in Congress related to criminal justice.

Here are some proposals in Congress to reform policing:

Q52. Require police departments to make it a duty for officers to intervene when they perceive another officer is using excessive force. Also, provide officers with training for when and how to intervene.

|                              | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>              | 88%   | 11%    | 0%     |
| Republicans                  | 88%   | 12%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                    | 91%   | 9%     | 0%     |
| Independents                 | 84%   | 15%    | 1%     |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 89%   | 10%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                  | 85%   | 15%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                    | 92%   | 6%     | 2%     |

Q53. Prohibit the use of chokeholds that prevent breathing or block the flow of blood or oxygen to the brain.

|                              | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>              | 78%   | 22%    | 0%     |
| Republicans                  | 70%   | 29%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                    | 86%   | 14%    | 0%     |
| Independents                 | 76%   | 24%    | 1%     |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 82%   | 17%    | 2%     |
| Republicans                  | 76%   | 24%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                    | 86%   | 10%    | 4%     |

Q54. Require law enforcement agencies to submit information about officer misconduct to a national database so that this information is available to all other law enforcement agencies when deciding whether to hire an officer.

|                              | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>              | 89%   | 11%    | 0%     |
| Republicans                  | 87%   | 13%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                    | 92%   | 8%     | 0%     |
| Independents                 | 86%   | 13%    | 1%     |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 84%   | 15%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                  | 81%   | 20%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                    | 87%   | 10%    | 3%     |

Q55. For cases in which a law enforcement officer has been charged with using deadly force, provide funds to states so they can hire an independent prosecutor, meaning they do not regularly work closely with the officer's department.

|                 | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|-----------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b> | 78%   | 21%    | 1%     |
| Republicans     | 73%   | 26%    | 1%     |
| Democrats       | 85%   | 14%    | 1%     |

|                              |     |     |    |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Independents                 | 75% | 23% | 2% |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 76% | 21% | 3% |
| Republicans                  | 69% | 30% | 1% |
| Democrats                    | 84% | 14% | 2% |

Q56. Require all police departments to have body cameras, to have their officers wear them, and turn them on whenever they are responding to a police call or interacting with a suspect.

|                              | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>              | 90%   | 10%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                  | 90%   | 8%     | 1%     |
| Democrats                    | 90%   | 10%    | 1%     |
| Independents                 | 87%   | 12%    | 1%     |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 84%   | 15%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                  | 79%   | 22%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                    | 90%   | 8%     | 2%     |

## [Sentencing & Solitary Confinement]

Here are proposals for giving federal judges more discretion in sentencing.

Q57. Currently, when someone is convicted of selling or producing a substantial amount of drugs, a judge is required to impose a minimum sentence of 10 years. Do you favor or oppose lowering the mandatory minimum sentence to 5 years and letting the judge decide if it should be more?

|                              | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>              | 67%   | 33%    | 0%     |
| Republicans                  | 60%   | 39%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                    | 74%   | 26%    | 0%     |
| Independents                 | 64%   | 36%    | 1%     |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 74%   | 24%    | 2%     |
| Republicans                  | 76%   | 22%    | 2%     |
| Democrats                    | 73%   | 25%    | 3%     |

Q58. For prisoners who were convicted as juveniles and have served at least 20 years in prison, do you favor or oppose giving federal judges the option to release them from prison and place them on 5 years of supervised release?

| Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|-------|--------|--------|
|-------|--------|--------|

|                              |     |     |    |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| <b>National</b>              | 73% | 27% | 0% |
| Republicans                  | 70% | 30% | 1% |
| Democrats                    | 79% | 21% | 0% |
| Independents                 | 67% | 33% | 0% |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 73% | 26% | 1% |
| Republicans                  | 66% | 34% | 0% |
| Democrats                    | 81% | 17% | 2% |

Here are proposals to reform the treatment of people in prison:

First, here are proposals related to the use of solitary confinement which means putting a prisoner in a cell by themselves for 22-24 hours a day. People are put in solitary confinement for the following purposes:

- as punishment for minor or serious violations of prison rules
- for the prisoner's safety (protection from other inmates, or they are suicidal)

Currently, there are no federal laws that regulate how many days a person can be kept in solitary confinement, or for what purposes.

Proposals have been put forward to limit the use of solitary confinement.

Q59. Which do you favor:

1. Prohibit any use of solitary confinement
2. Limit the use of solitary confinement only when it is necessary for the prisoner's safety, and to no more than 15 days in a row or 20 days in a two-month period
3. Limit the use of solitary confinement as punishment for serious violations only or for their own safety, and to no more than 30 days in a row or 40 days in a two-month period
4. Do not limit the use of solitary confinement

|                              | Prohibit solitary confinement | Limit: only for prisoner's safety, no more than 15 days in a row | Limit: only as punishment for serious violations or prisoner's safety, no more than 30 days in a row | TOTAL LIMIT USE | Do not limit | Ref /DK |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------|
| <b>National</b>              | 13%                           | 47%                                                              | 23%                                                                                                  | <b>82%</b>      | 17%          | 1%      |
| Republicans                  | 10%                           | 42%                                                              | 23%                                                                                                  | <b>75%</b>      | 25%          | 1%      |
| Democrats                    | 16%                           | 53%                                                              | 21%                                                                                                  | <b>90%</b>      | 10%          | 0%      |
| Independents                 | 11%                           | 44%                                                              | 26%                                                                                                  | <b>81%</b>      | 17%          | 2%      |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 20%                           | 53%                                                              | 20%                                                                                                  | <b>92%</b>      | 7%           | 1%      |
| Republicans                  | 21%                           | 47%                                                              | 24%                                                                                                  | <b>92%</b>      | 8%           | 0%      |

|           |     |     |     |            |    |    |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|------------|----|----|
| Democrats | 17% | 67% | 10% | <b>95%</b> | 5% | 0% |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|------------|----|----|

## [Criminal Records]

As you may know, there are negative consequences to having a criminal record that go beyond serving time in prison, including difficulty getting a job, a license to practice a trade, and housing. In many states, a person can be disqualified – have their application rejected, or get fired or evicted – because of their criminal record.

Proposals have been put forward to limit these negative consequences of having a criminal record.

Do you favor or oppose prohibiting employers and licensing boards from disqualifying a person on the basis that they were:

Q60. arrested but not charged, or charged but not convicted

|                              | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>              | 65%   | 35%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                  | 66%   | 33%    | 1%     |
| Democrats                    | 65%   | 34%    | 0%     |
| Independents                 | 59%   | 39%    | 2%     |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 81%   | 18%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                  | 79%   | 20%    | 1%     |
| Democrats                    | 83%   | 16%    | 1%     |

Q61. convicted of a petty, nonviolent crime, such as littering, jaywalking, failing to pay a parking ticket, or loitering

|                              | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>              | 60%   | 39%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                  | 59%   | 40%    | 1%     |
| Democrats                    | 63%   | 36%    | 1%     |
| Independents                 | 57%   | 43%    | 1%     |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 71%   | 27%    | 2%     |
| Republicans                  | 66%   | 31%    | 2%     |
| Democrats                    | 77%   | 22%    | 1%     |

Q62. convicted of a crime unrelated to their ability to responsibly perform the job

|                 | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|-----------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b> | 57%   | 42%    | 1%     |
| Republicans     | 57%   | 42%    | 1%     |

|                              |     |     |    |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Democrats                    | 58% | 42% | 0% |
| Independents                 | 58% | 41% | 2% |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 62% | 36% | 2% |
| Republicans                  | 53% | 44% | 3% |
| Democrats                    | 69% | 30% | 1% |

Here are other proposals to limit the negative consequences of having a criminal record. For each, please say whether you favor or oppose.

Q63. Limit the period of time during which employers and licensing boards can disqualify a person for certain convictions:

- for a misdemeanor, one year after they complete their sentence
- for a felony, five years after they complete their sentence.

|                              | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>              | 79%   | 20%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                  | 79%   | 21%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                    | 82%   | 18%    | 0%     |
| Independents                 | 75%   | 24%    | 1%     |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 84%   | 14%    | 2%     |
| Republicans                  | 81%   | 17%    | 2%     |
| Democrats                    | 88%   | 10%    | 2%     |

Proposals have been put forward to reduce the amount of time it takes to get a record of an arrest or crime sealed so that it is no longer available to the public, including employers and landlords.

Q64. For a person convicted of a non-violent drug offense, automatically sealing the record of that crime five years after the person has finished their sentence or probation.

|                              | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>              | 77%   | 22%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                  | 73%   | 27%    | 1%     |
| Democrats                    | 83%   | 17%    | 0%     |
| Independents                 | 74%   | 26%    | 1%     |
| <b>Minnesota (statewide)</b> | 77%   | 21%    | 2%     |
| Republicans                  | 72%   | 27%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                    | 84%   | 12%    | 4%     |

## Methodology

**Fielding and Sample Size:** The surveys were fielded by the Program for Public Consultation (PPC) at the University of Maryland’s Civic Innovation Center, with representative non-probability samples obtained from multiple online panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege.

**National**

Field Dates: February 11-26, 2026      Total Sample Size: 2509      Response Rate: 7.6%  
Four-fifth Sample Sizes: 1991 to 2020

**State of Minnesota**

Field Dates: July 23 - Aug 1, 2026      Sample Size: 600      Response Rate: 8.5%

**Pre-Stratification and Weighting:** The samples were pre-stratified and weighted by age, race, ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, household income, and home ownership. Benchmarks were obtained from the Census Bureau’s 2024 and 2025 American Community Surveys, as well as the 2024 Current Population Survey’s Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

The national sample was also weighted by Census region and partisan affiliation. In the Minnesota sample, the distribution of partisan affiliation was within expectations, based on voter registration data for non-leaners and/or Cook’s Partisan Voting Index for leaners.

**National**

Confidence Interval of Four-fifth Samples: +/-2.9%      Min Weight: 0.25      Max Weight: 2.51      Mean Weight: 1.0

**State of Minnesota**

Confidence Interval: +/-5.7%      Min. Weight: 0.16      Max Weight: 5      Mean Weight: 1.0

Confidence Intervals were calculated using the sample variance of the weights using the following formula:  
 $CI = \text{Square root } ((1+\text{variance})/\text{sample size})$

**Sample Collection:** Sample collection was managed by Quant-E with oversight from PPC. Samples were drawn from multiple large online panels, including Cint, Prodege, and Dynata, whose members are recruited using non-probability sampling methods. The selected sample was invited to participate via email invitation, push notification, or SMS for cell phone users. Respondents were offered cash or cash-equivalent incentives to participate in the survey.

**Data Collection and Privacy:** Survey responses were collected directly on the Qualtrics platform. Only respondents with a provided link could take the survey, using their computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone.

Privacy and security measures were taken to ensure that data was collected in adherence to the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation policies for data privacy and security, as well as the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

**Quality Control:** Quality control measures in the sample collection process to disqualify duplicate respondents and survey bots included:

- checking respondents' IP addresses to determine if there are duplicate respondents
- employing an "operating system & Web browser check" to determine if there are any cross-panel duplicates
- using hCaptcha to detect and disqualify survey bots.

Quality control measures within the survey to disqualify dishonest or mischievous respondents, as well as survey bots, included:

- an attention-check question, e.g. Select the word that does not belong. [Tuesday]; [Friday]; [April]; [Wednesday]
- an honesty question, e.g. What have you done in the past week? Select all that apply. [Won a gold medal at the Olympics]; [Watched TV]; [Got a license to operate a Class SSGN submarine]; [Read a book]
- a speed limit, which disqualified respondents who moved through the first quarter of the survey at a pace roughly triple the average reading speed.

Lastly, respondents were removed from the sample who answered less than half the substantive questions, or who engaged in straight-lining.