

**Center for American Progress
National Online Survey**

**April 25 – May 1, 2018
1000 Respondents**

Q.2 What is your gender?

	Total
Male.....	47
Female.....	53
(ref:GENDER)	

Q.4 Are you currently registered to vote in (STATE)?

	Total
Yes.....	100
No.....	-
(Don't know/refused).....	-
(ref:SCREEN1)	

Q.5 Thinking about the election for Congress and other offices in November, what are the chances of your voting in the election - are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances fifty-fifty, or don't you think you will vote?

	Total
Almost certain.....	73
Probably.....	16
50-50.....	8
Will not vote.....	2
(ref:VOTE18)	

Q.6 Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	Total
Right direction.....	45
Wrong track.....	55
Right direction - Wrong track.....	-10
(ref:DIRECT)	

Q.7 How about in your local community? Do you think that things in your community are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	Total
Right direction.....	63
Wrong track.....	37
Right direction - Wrong track.....	26
(ref:DIRECT2)	

Q.8 Below are some concerns that many people have about their own communities. Please choose which 2 of these you think the Governor and legislature in your state should make their top priorities.

	Total
Health care.....	35
Crime and drugs	35
Jobs and economic growth	30
Education.....	27
Taxes and government spending	27
Immigration.....	19
Criminal justice reform	14
Traffic and congestion.....	12
(ref:CONCERNS)	

Q.9 How would you characterize crime in your local community?

	Total
An immediate crisis.....	15
A major problem, but not a crisis	37
A minor problem	36
Not really an issue	12
(ref:CRIMELOC)	

Q.10 And how would you characterize crime in the country as a whole?

	Total
An immediate crisis.....	32
A major problem, but not a crisis	56
A minor problem	10
Not really an issue	1
(ref:CRIMEUS)	

Below, you will see a list of individuals and institutions in our society. Please indicate how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one.

	Great Deal	Some	Not Much	None	Great Deal/Some	Not Much/None	GrtSm - NtNon
11 President Donald Trump.....	25	20	14	41	45	55	-10
12 The United States Congress.....	10	30	39	20	41	59	-19
13 The United States Supreme Court	21	46	27	6	67	33	33
14 Governor (FILLED IN BY STATE)	19	38	23	19	57	43	15
15 The (STATE) state legislature.....	12	42	33	12	55	45	9
16 The (STATE) court system.....	14	50	26	10	64	36	28
17 Your local police department	34	43	17	6	77	23	53

(ref:CONFIDEN)

Next, you will see some pairs of statements. After reading both statements, please indicate whether the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

	1st Stmt Much	1st Smwt	2nd Smwt	2nd Much	Both	Nei- ther	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
18 The main goal of our criminal justice system should be rehabilitating people to become productive, law-abiding citizens. OR The main goal of our criminal justice system should be identifying those who break the law and ensuring they face an appropriate punishment.	30	14	12	26	16	2	43	39	5
19 Punishing those convicted of crimes beyond the end of their sentence by blocking them from education or employment opportunities makes it harder for them to re-enter society and makes it more likely they will commit a crime again. OR Crime victims must live with the consequences of those crimes throughout their lives, so those who commit crimes in our society should suffer the consequences of those crimes throughout their lives.	29	15	14	26	12	4	44	40	4
20 It's unfair to force those who committed a crime but have since served their sentence and stayed out of trouble to report their crimes anytime they apply for a job or to further their education. OR Schools or potential employers have a right to know about an applicant's criminal history, even if they have served their sentence and the crime was committed years ago.	24	16	15	28	14	2	40	44	-3

	1 st Stmt Much	1 st Smwt	2 nd Smwt	2 nd Much	Both	Nei- ther	Total 1 st Stmt	Total 2 nd Stmt	1 st - 2 nd
21 The U.S. spends too much money on prisons - money that could be used for treatment, rehabilitation, law enforcement, and victim services. OR Our country must spend what it takes to imprison those who break the law and to keep our communities safe.	30	13	13	30	11	3	43	43	0
(ref:CRIMPAIR)									

As you may know, several states are currently considering proposals to automatically seal the records of individuals convicted of non-violent felonies or misdemeanors, if the individual has completed his/her sentence and has not committed another criminal offense. Sealing their record does not clear an individual's criminal record, but it means these individuals would not be required to disclose their criminal record when applying for a job, housing, or further education.

Supporters say such laws allow these individuals to move on with their lives, provide for their families, and become productive members of society.

Opponents say these laws undermine the punishment attached to those crimes and make communities less safe as a result.

Q.22 Would you support or oppose legislation in your state to automatically seal the records of individuals convicted of non-violent felonies or misdemeanors if the person has completed his/her sentence and has not committed another criminal offense?

	Total
Strongly support	34
Somewhat support	36
Somewhat oppose	14
Strongly oppose	7
Undecided	9
Total Support	70
Total Oppose	21
Support - Oppose	49
(ref:NONVLNT)	

Q.23 Would you support or oppose legislation in your state to automatically seal the records of individuals convicted of crimes related to the possession of marijuana if the person has completed his/her sentence and has not committed another criminal offense?

	Total
Strongly support	42
Somewhat support	31
Somewhat oppose	12
Strongly oppose	7
Undecided	8
Total Support.....	73
Total Oppose.....	19
Support - Oppose.....	55
(ref:MARIJUAN)	

Next you will see some statements in support of a proposal to seal the records of individuals convicted of non-violent felonies or misdemeanors, including marijuana convictions, if the person has completed his/her sentence and has not committed another criminal offense. For each statement, please indicate whether it is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, a little convincing, or not at all convincing reason to SUPPORT this proposal.

	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	Little Conv	Not At All Conv	DK/ Ref	Very/ Smwt Conv	Little/ Not Conv
24 Nearly 1-in-3 Americans has some sort of criminal record. With 90 percent of employers, 80 percent of landlords, and 60 percent of colleges using criminal background checks to screen applicants, this has a significant impact on their access to jobs, housing, and educational opportunities.	35	35	20	11	-	69	31
25 With unemployment near record lows and many employers struggling to find qualified applicants, this proposal would increase economic growth.	24	39	22	16	-	62	38
26 Multiple studies show that people with nonviolent misdemeanor convictions who do not commit another crime within 4 to 7 years are no more likely to commit a crime in the future than the general population.	36	35	21	8	-	71	29
27 This proposal will allow people with criminal records to move on with their lives, provide for their families, and become productive members of society.	35	35	21	8	-	70	30

	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	Little Conv	Not At All Conv	DK/ Ref	Very/ Smwt Conv	Little/ Not Conv
28 We are putting too many people in prison for too long, and spending way too much in taxpayer dollars to keep them there - money that could be better spent on alternatives like electronic monitoring, community service, and probation.....	34	31	19	16	-	65	35
29 Our criminal justice system needs to be rooted in our values and our faith, namely the principle that no one is beyond the possibility of repentance, forgiveness, and redemption.	25	35	25	14	-	61	39
30 Families and children of people with criminal records will benefit as their incomes increase, their housing improves, and other obstacles to family economic security are eliminated.....	31	36	23	10	-	67	33
31 This proposal will benefit all Americans, not just those whose records would be sealed. Taxpayers will save millions by reducing overcrowding in our prisons and court system, and communities will be made safer because fewer individuals with criminal records will commit crimes again if they are able to get a job, find housing, and further their education..... (ref:THEMEPRO)	37	34	18	12	-	70	30

Next you will see some statements in opposition to a proposal to seal the records of individuals convicted of non-violent felonies or misdemeanors, including marijuana convictions, if the person has completed his/her sentence and has not committed another criminal offense. For each statement, please indicate whether it is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, a little convincing, or not at all convincing reason to OPPOSE this proposal.

	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	Little Conv	Not At All Conv	DK/ Ref	Very/ Little/ Smwt Conv	Not Conv
32 If you want to reduce crime, there is no substitute for stronger enforcement by police and tougher sentences by judges. "Soft on crime" proposals have never worked to make communities safer.....	25	28	23	24	-	54	46
33 Sealing criminal records makes communities less safe. Parents have a right to know if a convicted criminal is working with their child; landlords should know if someone applying to live in their property has a criminal record; and colleges should know if an applicant represents a risk to other students.....	30	29	25	16	-	60	40
34 Crime rates are going down because stricter punishment is a deterrent from committing crimes. If we automatically seal the records of criminals, we are failing to hold them accountable, and crime will increase as a result.....	20	28	23	28	-	49	51
35 The movement to seal records for non-violent criminals is just the first step in a larger effort. Liberal activists use non-violent offenders to get public sympathy, but their ultimate goal is to weaken sentences for all criminals, including violent felons.....	20	27	20	34	-	46	54
36 It's hard enough for hard-working, law-abiding citizens to find a quality job with a decent salary or benefits, or to find multiple jobs just to get by. We shouldn't be giving criminals a hand up ahead of Americans who have obeyed the law and played by the rules.....	25	27	23	26	-	51	49
37 An individual's criminal record is a public record. The government should be transparent and not seal public records that the public, potential employers, and other concerned citizens should have access to..... (ref:THEMECON)	24	30	26	21	-	54	46

Q.38 After learning more about these issues, would you support or oppose legislation in your state to automatically seal the records of individuals convicted of non-violent felonies or misdemeanors if the person has completed his/her sentence and has not committed another criminal offense?

	Total
Strongly support	29
Somewhat support	35
Somewhat oppose	15
Strongly oppose	12
Undecided	9
Total Support	63
Total Oppose	27
Support - Oppose	36
(ref:NONVLNT2)	

Q.39 After learning more about these issues, would you support or oppose legislation in your state to automatically seal the records of individuals convicted of crimes related to the possession of marijuana if the person has completed his/her sentence and has not committed another criminal offense?

	Total
Strongly support	37
Somewhat support	29
Somewhat oppose	14
Strongly oppose	11
Undecided	8
Total Support	67
Total Oppose	25
Support - Oppose	42
(ref:MARIJUA2)	

[743 Respondents]

Q.40 (IF SUPPORT IN Q.38 OR Q.39) Which of the following is the best reason to SUPPORT this proposal?

	Total
It would help people with criminal records move on with their lives, provide for their families, and become productive members of society.....	51
It would save taxpayers money on prison overcrowding and court costs.....	19
People with nonviolent convictions are no more likely to commit another crime.....	11
It would make communities safer by reducing the likelihood of repeat offenders.....	10
Our laws should reflect our belief in forgiveness and redemption.....	9
(ref:SUPPCRIM)	

[174 Respondents]

Q.41 (IF OPPOSE IN Q.38 OR Q.39) What is the best reason to OPPOSE this proposal?

	Total
It will limit the public's right to know and make communities less safe.....	36
The lifetime consequences of a criminal record are a deterrent against crime	28
We shouldn't be giving criminals a hand up at the expense of law-abiding citizens.....	22
This will lead to weaker sentences for violent felons	14
(ref:OPPCRIM)	

Q.42 Thinking about the election for Congress later this year, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports legislation to automatically seal the records of individuals convicted of non-violent felonies or misdemeanors, including marijuana convictions, if the person has completed his/her sentence and has not committed another criminal offense?

	Total
Much more likely to vote for a candidate who support this proposal	31
Somewhat more likely to vote for a candidate who support this proposal	27
No difference in how you vote.....	25
Somewhat less likely to vote for a candidate who support this proposal	10
Much less likely to vote for a candidate who support this proposal	8
(ref:CANDCRIM)	

[174 Respondents]

Q.43 (IF OPPOSE IN Q.38 OR Q.39) While you currently oppose this proposal, would any of the following facts, if true, make you more likely to support legislation to automatically seal the records of individuals convicted of non-violent felonies or misdemeanors if the person has completed his/her sentence and has not committed another criminal offense? Choose any that apply.

	Total
Sealing a record is not the same as clearing or expunging a record, and an individual whose record is sealed isn't "getting away" with anything: if they are ever arrested again, law enforcement and the courts have access to their full record	30
Automatically sealing records of those without another conviction after 10 years will significantly reduce the workload of overburdened courts and save taxpayers money.....	29
Millions of those affected by this proposal have a criminal record for life purely due to a minor misdemeanor, a summary offense, or an arrest without conviction	20
Up to 100 million Americans have some type of criminal record, trapping huge portions of our country in a cycle of underemployment and poverty	15
(ref:OPP2CRIM)	

Q.44 Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana?

	Total
Strongly support	40
Somewhat support	28
Somewhat oppose.....	16
Strongly oppose.....	17
Total Support.....	68
Total Oppose.....	32
Support - Oppose.....	35
(ref:LEGALIZE)	

Next, we'd like you to indicate how much, if any, direct experience, contact, or involvement you have had with some of the issues covered in this survey. Your answers will be completely confidential.

	Yes	No
45 Have you been party to a family matter, such as a divorce or child custody case?.....	34	66
46 Have you ever filed a lawsuit, or had one filed against you?.....	20	80
47 Have you been involved in any way in a criminal case?.....	21	79
48 (IF YES IN Q47) Were you the victim of a crime in the last 5 years?.....	33	67
49 (IF YES IN Q47) Were you ever arrested and charged with a crime?.....	57	43
50 (IF YES IN Q49) Did you ever serve time in prison?.....	38	62
51 Has a member of your immediate family ever served time in prison?..... (ref:COURTSYS)	19	81

Finally, a few questions for statistical purposes.

Q.52 In what year were you born?

	Total
18 - 24.....	11
25 - 29.....	9
30 - 34.....	8
35 - 39.....	11
40 - 44.....	7
45 - 49.....	5
50 - 54.....	8
55 - 59.....	11
60 - 64.....	9
Over 64.....	21
(No answer).....	-
(ref:AGE)	

Q.53 What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	Total
1 - 11th grade.....	1
High school graduate.....	22
Vocational or technical school.....	4
Some college, but no degree.....	22
Associate degree.....	13
4-year college graduate or bachelor's degree.....	25
Graduate school or advanced degree.....	13
(ref:EDUC2)	

Q.54 Are you married, single, separated, divorced, or widowed?

	Total
Married.....	53
Single.....	30
Separated.....	1
Divorced.....	12
Widowed.....	4
(ref:MARITAL)	

Q.55 Do you have any children 18 years of age or younger living at home?

	Total
Yes.....	35
No.....	65
(ref:KIDS)	

Q.56 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or what?

	Total
Strong Democrat	27
Weak Democrat.....	15
Independent-lean Democrat	8
Independent	12
Independent-lean Republican.....	6
Weak Republican	12
Strong Republican	20
(Don't know/Refused)	-
(ref:PTYID1)	

Q.59 Which of the following do you feel best describes your political perspective?

	Total
Conservative.....	30
Liberal	26
Libertarian	3
Moderate.....	33
Progressive	6
Other.....	1
(ref:SELFIDEO)	

Q.60 In terms of your job status, which of the following are you?

	Total
Employed full-time	44
Employed part-time.....	12
Unemployed, looking for work	6
Student.....	4
Homemaker	9
Retired	22
Other.....	3
(ref:EMPLOY)	

Q.61 What is your religion?

	Total
Roman Catholic.....	21
Baptist.....	10
Non-denominational Christian.....	10
Methodist.....	5
Presbyterian.....	4
Lutheran.....	3
Evangelical.....	3
Jewish.....	3
Congregational/United Church of Christ.....	2
Pentecostal.....	2
Christian Scientist.....	2
Charismatic.....	1
Anglican/Episcopal.....	1
Mormon.....	1
Buddhist.....	1
Seventh Day Adventist.....	0
Eastern Orthodox.....	0
Unitarian Universalist.....	0
Hindu.....	0
Islam.....	0
Other.....	4
No religious affiliation.....	25
(ref:RELIG1)	

[399 Respondents]

Q.62 (IF LUTHERAN, PRESBYTERIAN, CONGREGATIONAL, EVANGELICAL, CHARISMATIC, BAPTIST, METHODIST, SEVENTH DAY, PENTECOSTAL, OR NON-DENOMINATIONAL) Do you consider yourself to be a born-again Christian?

	Total
Yes.....	63
No.....	37
(ref:RELIG2)	

Q.63 How often do you attend religious services?

	Total
More than once a week.....	9
Every week.....	22
Once or twice a month.....	10
Several times a year.....	14
Hardly ever.....	45
(ref:RELIG3)	

Q.64 In the 2016 election for President, for whom did you vote?

	Total
Hillary Clinton.....	44
Donald Trump	40
(Other candidate).....	6
Did not vote.....	10
(ref:VOTE16)	

Q.65 In the 2012 election for President, for whom did you vote?

	Total
Barack Obama	57
Mitt Romney	30
(Other candidate).....	1
(Did not vote).....	12
(ref:VOTE12)	

Q.66 What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

	Total
White or Caucasian	71
African-American or Black.....	13
Hispanic or Latino	11
Asian.....	4
Native American	1
Other.....	1
(ref:RACETHN)	

Q.67 Last year, that is in 2017, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?

	Total
Less than \$20,000.....	15
\$20,000 to under \$30,000.....	14
\$30,000 to under \$50,000.....	19
\$50,000 to under \$75,000.....	21
\$75,000 to under \$100,000.....	14
\$100,000 or more	16
(ref:INCOME)	