



New Survey Shows Overwhelming Voter Support for Parole Reform in New York

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A new survey from New Yorkers United for Justice (NYUJ) shows that an overwhelming majority of voters agree that the current parole system needs to change. In May 2021, NYUJ, in coordination with The Parkside Group, conducted a statewide poll to survey the attitudes of New York State voters on parole reform. The results were astounding. The survey of 1,600 interviews with New York voters demonstrated an absolute and undeniable appetite for parole reform, with support transcending age, race, political affiliation, and geography. The following are key takeaways from the poll.

- 1. There is an absolute appetite for parole reform, as New Yorkers of all stripes believe the current system isn't working.** By more than 5 to 1 (49% - 9%), voters across various demographics believe New York State's parole system "needs to change."

Q: Do you think New York's parole system is working well or does it need to be changed?

Breakdown	Working well	Needs to change	DK/Ref
Male	10%	50%	40%
Female	9%	49%	42%
18-34	6%	53%	41%
35-59	10%	51%	39%
60+	10%	46%	44%
White	9%	50%	41%
Black	10%	48%	42%
Latino	13%	49%	38%
Asian	11%	47%	42%
Democrat/Working Families Party	11%	44%	45%
Republican/Conservative	9%	58%	33%
Blanks/Independence Party	7%	51%	42%
Hudson Valley	11%	47%	42%
Long Island	8%	57%	35%
NYC	10%	51%	39%
Upstate West	10%	45%	45%
Upstate East	8%	48%	44%
Total	9%	49%	42%

2. Individual elements of parole reform are exceedingly popular with New York State voters. By approximately a 3 to 1 margin (60% - 21%), voters believe that people on parole shouldn't be thrown back in jail for "technical violations" like missing a meeting with a parole officer.

Q: Should people who do not commit crimes but do break certain technical rules for their parole, like missing an appointment with their parole officer, be sent back to jail?

Breakdown	Yes	No	DK/Ref
Male	23%	56%	21%
Female	19%	63%	18%
18-34	18%	65%	17%
35-59	22%	59%	19%
60+	20%	58%	22%
White	22%	58%	20%
Black	13%	71%	16%
Latino	22%	61%	17%
Asian	20%	53%	27%
Democrat/Working Families Party	16%	69%	15%
Republican/Conservative	30%	46%	24%
Blanks/Independence Party	20%	56%	24%
Hudson Valley	20%	62%	18%
Long Island	23%	60%	17%
NYC	18%	65%	17%
Upstate West	21%	57%	22%
Upstate East	27%	50%	23%
Total	21%	60%	19%

3. **New Yorkers overwhelmingly believe that people who consistently obey the rules of their parole should be able to earn a shorter parole period.** This support (75% - 12%) showed no partisan, racial, or geographic boundaries.

Q: Should people who consistently obey the rules of their parole be able to earn a shorter parole period?

Breakdown	Yes	No	DK/Ref
Male	72%	14%	14%
Female	78%	10%	12%
18-34	76%	9%	15%
35-59	74%	12%	14%
60+	75%	13%	12%
White	73%	13%	14%
Black	82%	8%	10%
Latino	76%	10%	14%
Asian	78%	11%	11%
Democrat/Working Families Party	80%	8%	12%
Republican/Conservative	67%	16%	17%
Blanks/Independence Party	72%	16%	12%
Hudson Valley	73%	11%	16%
Long Island	73%	13%	14%
NYC	78%	9%	13%
Upstate West	76%	15%	9%
Upstate East	73%	14%	13%
Total	75%	12%	13%

4. Almost all New Yorkers (91%) believe that people on parole should have access to a lawyer before they are put back in prison.

Q: Should all people, including those on parole, have basic rights like access to a lawyer before being put in prison?

Breakdown	Yes	No	DK/Ref
Male	90%	4%	6%
Female	93%	2%	5%
18-34	92%	3%	5%
35-59	91%	3%	6%
60+	92%	3%	5%
White	91%	3%	6%
Black	94%	2%	4%
Latino	90%	6%	4%
Asian	87%	4%	9%
Democrat/Working Families Party	92%	2%	6%
Republican/Conservative	89%	5%	6%
Blanks/Independents/Other	93%	2%	5%
Hudson Valley	91%	3%	6%
Long Island	93%	1%	6%
NYC	91%	3%	6%
Upstate West	93%	2%	5%
Upstate East	88%	6%	6%
Total	91%	3%	6%

5. By nearly a 5 to 1 margin (58% - 12%), New Yorkers believe that people over the age of 55 who have served at least 15 years in prison, and who do not pose a risk to public safety, should be eligible for parole.

Q: Should people over the age of 55 who have served at least 15 years in prison and who do not pose a risk to public safety be eligible for parole?

Breakdown	Yes	No	DK/Ref
Male	56%	14%	30%
Female	60%	10%	30%
18-34	57%	13%	30%
35-59	57%	13%	30%
60+	60%	11%	29%
White	55%	14%	31%
Black	70%	5%	25%
Latino	64%	10%	26%
Asian	57%	6%	37%
Democrat/Working Families Party	65%	7%	28%
Republican/Conservative	48%	19%	33%
Blanks/Independence Party	54%	14%	32%
Hudson Valley	60%	13%	27%
Long Island	50%	12%	38%
NYC	63%	10%	27%
Upstate West	55%	15%	30%
Upstate East	53%	14%	33%
Total	58%	12%	30%

METHODOLOGY

The survey of 1,600 interviews was conducted May 3rd – May 8th, 2021 on cell phones and landlines. The margin of error for this survey at the 95% confidence level is +/- 2.82% on the overall sample.