



# PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES  
 FROM: ROBERT BLIZZARD  
 DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2019  
 RE: PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE POLL RESULTS

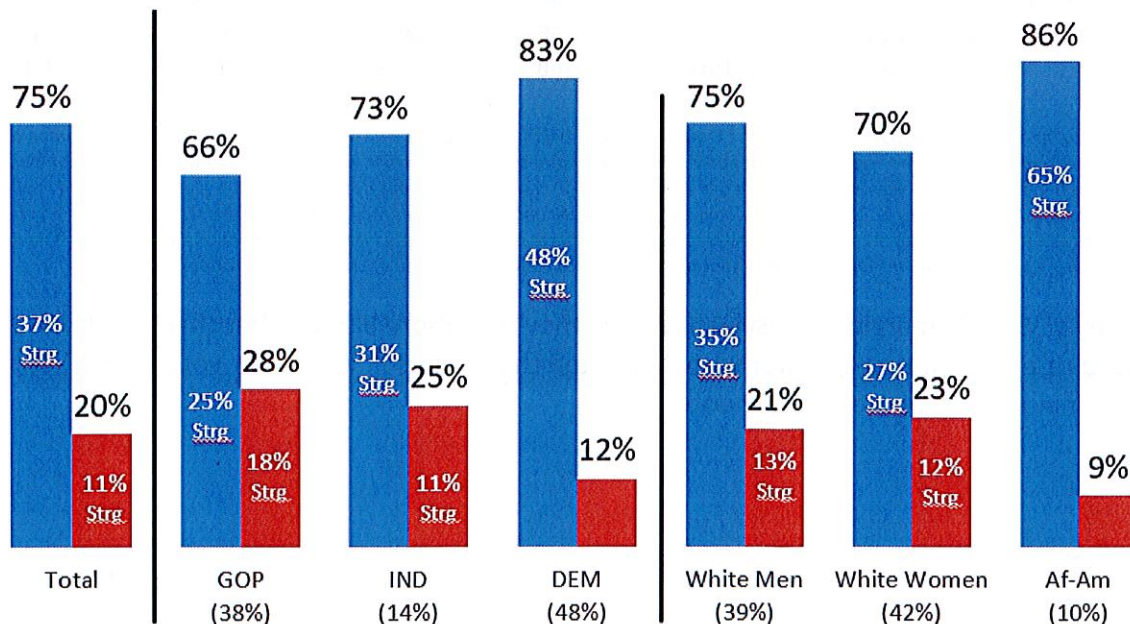
On behalf of the Justice Action Network, Public Opinion Strategies conducted a statewide survey of 500 registered voters (moe  $\pm$  4.4%), September 14-16, 2019.

- Pennsylvania voters believe the state’s criminal justice system needs significant reform.**  
 Fully 68% of voters believe the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania “needs significant improvements” versus just 26% who believe it “is working pretty well as it is.”

By a 93%-5% margin, voters agree that “We should break down barriers for people coming out of prison so they can get jobs, support their families, and stop being so dependent on government services.”

And, by a 90%-9% margin, voters agree that “The main goal of our criminal justice system should be rehabilitating people to become productive, law-abiding citizens.”

- Fully three-quarters of Pennsylvania voters support Probation Reform.**  
 Voters support the following legislative proposal\* to reform probation by a significant 75%-20% margin:

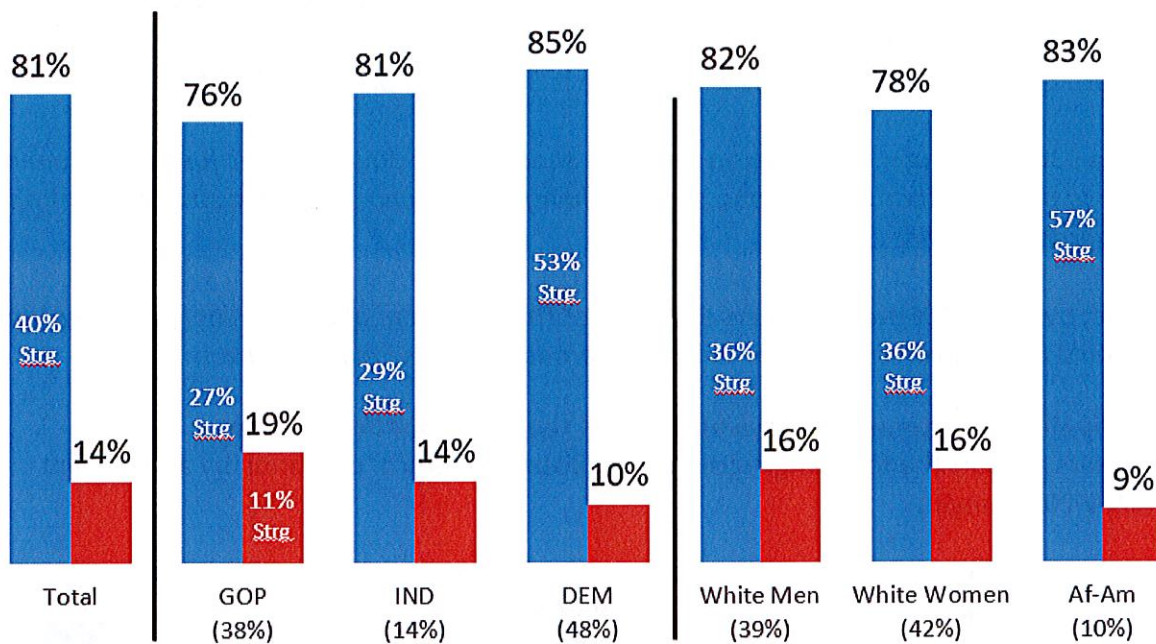


*\*"Now, there's a proposal being debated in the State Legislature which would reform how long Pennsylvanians stay on probation and the time served in prison for probation violations. This proposal would limit the length of probation terms to two years for a misdemeanor and five years for a felony. It would ban courts from extending probation terms because a person failed to pay a fine, cost, or restitution if the person is not financially able to pay, and limit jail time for technical violations of probation conditions. And, finally, it allows people on probation to earn time off the back end of their sentence for certain positive behaviors and for full compliance with their probation terms."*

And, by a 34%-12% margin, Pennsylvanians say they'd be more likely rather than less likely to vote to re-elect a State Legislator who supported this proposal, with a majority of voters (52%) saying it would make no difference in their vote.

▪ **More than 80% of Pennsylvania voters support Occupational Licensing Reform.**

Voters support the following legislative proposal\* to reform occupational licensing by an overwhelming 81%-14% margin:



*\*"Now, there's a proposal being debated in the State Legislature aimed to help those with a criminal record obtain licensing upon their release from prison by removing employment barriers and reducing re-offenses for people with criminal records. Under current law, occupational permits and licenses can be denied to people based on criminal convictions even if they are unrelated to the field in which they are seeking employment. This proposal would ensuring that occupational licenses may only be withheld from those with a conviction directly related to the occupation sought, while empowering boards to conduct individualized reviews and consider key factors, including the nature of the offense, the amount of time that has passed since conviction, and other critical considerations."*

And, by a 39%-8% margin, Pennsylvanians say they'd be more likely rather than less likely to vote to re-elect a State Legislator who supported this proposal, with most voters (50%) saying it would make no difference in their vote.