



The Promise of Measure 57 Coalition

Individuals and Organizations Working Together to Find a Better Way to Fight Crime

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Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs

Human Services Coalition of Oregon

Juvenile Rights Project

League of Women Voters of Oregon

National Association of Social Workers, Oregon Chapter

Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs

Oregon Business Association

Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Oregon Education Association

Oregon Prevention Education & Recovery Association

Partnership for Safety and Justice

SEIU, Local 503

Self Enhancement, Inc.

Stand for Children

March 2009 Poll Finds Voters Support Concept of "Second Look" for Youth



TO: David Rogers
FROM: Lisa Grove, Ben Patinkin and Melissa Chernaik
Grove Insight, Ltd.
RE: Findings from a Survey of Registered Oregon Voters
DATE: March 10, 2009

This analysis is based on 500 interviews among registered Oregon voters. The survey was conducted March 4-8, 2009. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.4 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

A Solid Majority of Voters Favor Treating 15, 16 and 17 Year Old Juvenile Offenders More Leniently.

Voters are supportive of allowing judges to reduce the sentences of 15, 16 and 17 year olds who have served out half of their sentence.

Over six in 10 Oregonians (62%) favor this approach to juvenile offenders, while about one-quarter (24%) oppose it.

In addition, Oregonians are particularly supportive of a "second look" and more leniency in prison sentences for juveniles convicted of "less serious crimes, such as robbery and assault."

Two-thirds (66%) say they support such an approach, while only one-quarter (26%) are opposed.

Voters Favor More Leniency in Sentencing for Juvenile Offenders – Potentially Reducing the Sentence for Less Serious Crimes Is Particularly Popular

Currently, Oregon treats some 15, 16, and 17 year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. The legislature is currently considering a proposal to give youth that are convicted as adults for crimes that include serious and violent offenses, the ability to go back before a judge halfway through their sentence to get a second look. The judge would then decide, using a risk assessment correctional report, whether probation is most appropriate for the future rehabilitation of the young person, or whether the youth should be required to serve out the remainder of their sentence.

OR

Currently, Oregon treats some 15, 16, and 17 year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. The legislature is currently considering a proposal to give youth that are convicted as adults for less serious crimes, such as robbery and assault, the ability to go back before a judge halfway through their sentence to get a second look. The judge would then decide, using a risk assessment correctional report, whether probation is most appropriate for the future rehabilitation of the young person, or whether the youth should be required to serve out the remainder of their sentence.

| | Serious crimes | | Less serious crimes | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Support, strongly | 36% | 62% | 40% | 66% |
| Support, not strongly | 26% | | 26% | |
| Oppose, not strongly | 5% | | 8% | |
| Oppose, strongly | 19% | 24% | 18% | 26% |
| Not sure | 14% | | 8% | |

HB 5005

DOC

Budget