

MINIMUM SENTENCING SURVEY

State of Oregon

12/10/2020 to 12/14/2020

Registered Voters

600n, +/- 4%

(due to rounding, not all results may add up to 100%)



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Q. 1. Generally speaking, would you say that Oregon; is going in the right direction, or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?

40.3% Right direction
46 Wrong track
7.2 Mixed/both (volunteered)
6.6 Unsure/no answer

Turning to a particular public policy matter in Oregon...

Q. 2. Prior to this survey, have you ever heard of Ballot Measure 11, Oregon's mandatory minimum sentencing law for violent felonies?

44.3% Yes
52.4 No
3.3 Unsure/no answer

Q. 3. Generally speaking, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ballot Measure 11, which is Oregon's mandatory minimum sentencing law approved by voters in 1994 and reaffirmed by Oregon voters in 2000, that requires mandatory minimum sentences for offenders convicted of violent felonies like murder, forcible rape, armed robbery, and kidnapping?

54.5% Favorable
23.3 Unfavorable
5.4 Mixed opinion (volunteered)
6.4 Heard, but no opinion (volunteered)
10.5 Unsure/no answer

Q. 4. Which of the following best describes your opinion of mandatory minimum sentencing laws for violent felonies? Would you say that they...

(randomly rotated)

19.1% Ensure consistent and fair sentences for serious violent felonies regardless of race or income
25 Protect victims and the public from violent offenders for a pre-set amount of time and ensures they are not released early

- 18.9 Unfairly take sentencing discretion away from judges who are in the best position to determine a sentence...or...
- 17 Disproportionately impact people of color and poor people
- 9.2 Mixed/combination (volunteered)
- 10.8 Unsure/no answer

Q. 5. Would you support or oppose the Oregon Legislature reducing the mandatory minimum sentences that were approved by voters for the violent felonies of murder, forcible rape, armed robbery, and kidnapping?

- 25.2% Support
- 53 Oppose
- 21.8 Unsure/no answer

Q. 6. If you learned that the current mandatory minimum prison sentence is 25 years for murder, 8 years for forcible rape, 7 and one-half years for armed robbery and 7 and one-half years for kidnapping, would you be more or less likely to support reducing the mandatory minimum sentences, or would it make no difference in your opinion?

- 12.9% More likely
- 25.3 Less likely
- 54 No difference
- 7.7 Unsure/no answer

Q. 7. Would you support or oppose the Legislature reducing mandatory minimum prison sentences for certain lower-level assaults and robberies, which currently carry a minimum sentence of 5 years and 10 months?

- 50% Support
- 36.7 Oppose
- 13.3 Unsure/no answer

Q. 8. Thinking more about violent felonies, such as murder, forcible rape, armed robbery and kidnapping, do you think that the Legislature should...

(randomly rotated)

- 21.9% Increase the mandatory prison sentences for violent felonies
- 4 Decrease the mandatory prison sentences for violent felonies
- 35.8 Keep current mandatory prison sentences for violent felonies the same as they are now...or...
- 29.5 Abolish mandatory minimum prison sentences for violent felonies and allow judges to use their discretion
- 8.7 Unsure/no answer

Q. 9. Would you support or oppose the Legislature replacing all violent felony mandatory minimum prison sentences with discretionary sentences, which provide judges with suggested ranges of years for various crimes, but allow defendants and prosecutors to argue for shorter or longer sentences?

57.9% Support
30.2 Oppose
11.9 Unsure/no answer

Q. 10. Would you support or oppose the Legislature increasing the mandatory minimum prison sentence for certain violent felonies, such as murder, forcible rape, armed robbery, and kidnapping?

43.7% Support
44.5 Oppose
11.7 Unsure/no answer

Turning to a related topic...

Q. 11. Generally speaking, do you believe that Oregon's judges should be elected by the voters or appointed by the Governor?

81.8% Elected by voters
10.1 Appointed by the Governor
8.1 Unsure/no answer

Finally, I have a few short questions for statistical purposes...

Q. 13. I would like to read you a list of age groups. Please stop me when I get to the one you are in.

19% 18 to 30
33.5 31 to 50
22 51 to 64...or...
25.2 65 and older
.3 Unsure/no answer

Q. 14. Which of the following do you consider to be your main race? Is it...

82.3% White
2.1 African-American
4.4 Hispanic or Latino
2.9 Asian or Indian...or...
4 Something else

- 1.2 Mixed race (volunteered)
 - 3.2 Unsure/no answer
-

Gender:

47.5% Male
52.5 Female