



To: Interested Parties
From: Global Strategy Group
Date: March 17, 2020
Re: New York voters remain supportive of criminal justice reforms

Global Strategy Group partnered with FWD.us to conduct an online survey among 800 registered New York voters from March 10th to 16th, 2020. Key findings from the research are outlined below.

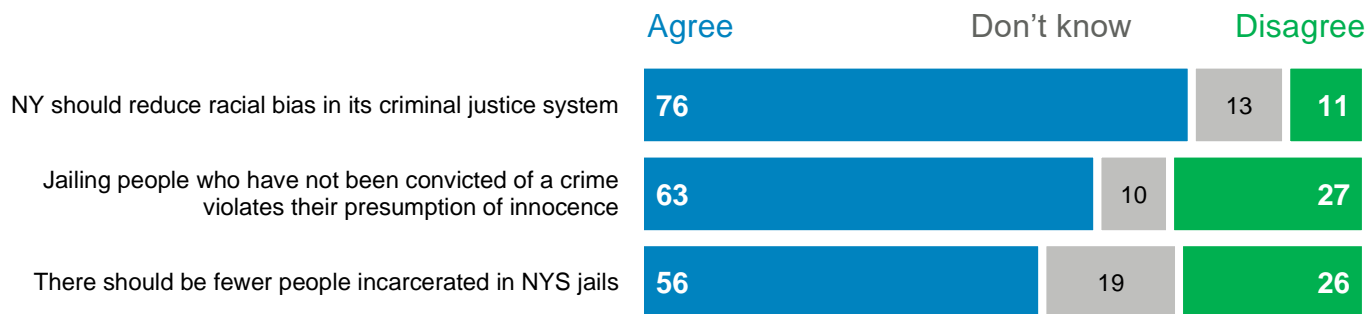
Key Findings:

- New York voters remain broadly supportive of reforms to the state’s bail system.** Across the state, voters continue to support bail reform, with the highest support coming from New York City but strong support in the suburbs and in the rest of the state as well. Majorities of Democrats and non-affiliated voters support bail reform (Dem: 75%/18%, indy/blank: 56%/37%). Among the state’s Republican voters, support for bail reform outweighs opposition at 47% support/42% oppose. A majority of voters who are undecided in a generic ballot for State Senate also support bail reform.

	Statewide	NYC	Long Island	Hud. Valley	Upstate
Ending the policy of jailing people who have been accused but not convicted of misdemeanors or non-violent felonies while they wait for their day in court*	63 / 29 Support Oppose	73 / 21	56 / 34	60 / 28	58 / 35

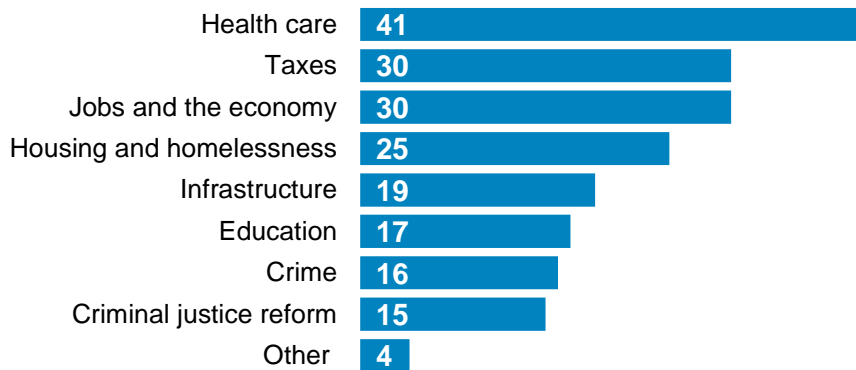
**Note: when talking about bail reform, language matters. When asked about a pretrial reform in terms of using less money bail instead of ensuring freedom, support shrinks. When voters were asked whether they support “ensuring people charged with misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges await their day in court at home without having to pay money bail,” the share of voters who said they support the policy dropped to 55% support/36% oppose statewide.*

- Voters are also in broad agreement with the basic principles behind bail reform – reducing bias, lowering the population of the state’s jails, and maintaining the presumption of innocent until proven guilty.** Agreement with these principles outweighs disagreement in every region of the state, and Democrats, non-affiliated voters, and Republicans are also in agreement on these principles, apart from reducing the population in New York State’s jails (39% agree/42% disagree among Republicans).



- Crime and criminal justice reform are not seen as important issues for New York State’s elected officials to address right now – voters want their elected officials to focus on health care, taxes, and jobs and the economy instead.** As the state and country turn their eyes to the coronavirus crisis, crime and criminal justice reforms are not seen as top issues. Health care (41% in top two most important issues) is voters’ top issue, followed by taxes (30%), and jobs and the economy (30%). Despite vocal public opposition to the bail reform law that went into effect earlier this year, crime and criminal justice reform are not seen as pressing issues for the state right now, with other issues like housing and homelessness (25%), infrastructure (19%), and education (17%) surpassing both crime (16%) and criminal justice reform (15%).

Top 2 issues NYS elected officials should address



About this poll: the survey had a confidence interval of +/-3.5%. All interviews were conducted via web-based panel and matched back to the voter file and verified as registered voters. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the population of registered voters are properly represented.