







POLLING RESULTS BY PAROLE-4-MAINE

LD 178: An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community





MAINE VOTERS SUPPORT PAROLE

HOW WE TALK ABOUT PAROLE MATTERS


-  **83%** of Maine voters support parole when told it costs \$78,000 per year to incarcerate someone and that **parole is 9x less expensive than incarceration.**
-  **79%** of Maine voters support parole when presented with the sentence, **"Parole eligibility reflects a fundamental belief in second chances and that people are capable of rehabilitating and making amends."**
-  **78%** of Maine voters support parole when told of studies that show people granted parole are **36 percent less likely to return to prison** compared to those who maxed out their sentence and were released with zero supervision.
-  **77%** of Maine voters support a person being released on parole when told that a parole board, consisting of **experts on the subject of rehabilitation**, will determine the person is not a threat to society.
-  **72%** of Maine voters support parole when told of studies from the Department of Justice that show **taxpayer costs to incarcerate someone increases drastically as people age.**


 By a **21 point margin**, Maine voters support parole-eligibility vs. the Supervised Community Confinement Program (SCCP).

POLICY MATTERS TO MAINE VOTERS





-  **92%** of Maine voters agree that parole applications should require an **in-person or virtual hearing** so that the parole board members can get a better evaluation of the person's progress and rehabilitation, rather than exclusively reviewing their file.
-  **91%** of Maine voters believe that a person should be allowed to **attend and speak at their own parole hearing** if they desire.
-  **76%** of Maine voters support a policy requiring **annual reviews** of parole-eligible people.
-  **55%** of Maine voters believe that gubernatorial nominees for the parole board should be **approved or rejected by an independent committee.**

MAINE VOTERS REJECT MASS INCARCERATION

-  **76%** of Maine voters would prefer allowing people to **complete their sentence at home or in a rehabilitation facility** with law enforcement check-ins and a job, even if that means they do not have to spend their full sentence in a prison or jail.

 By a **28 point margin**, Maine voters believe that too many people serve long prison sentences and that we should be **doing more to get incarcerated people into rehabilitation and job training**, rather than keeping them incarcerated.

FOR PAROLE BOARD MEMBERSHIP MAINE VOTERS PRIORITIZE RESTORATIVE EXPERIENCE

-  **83%** of Maine voters support selecting people with **experience in social work and public health**, like rehabilitation experts.
-  **78%** of Maine voters support selecting people from the general population, who **represent the communities that people receiving parole** would return to.
-  **77%** of Maine voters support selecting people who have **completed ongoing restorative justice training**, which involves training on rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation between victims and perpetrators.
-  **53%** of Maine voters support selecting people who have been **formerly incarcerated or impacted by the criminal legal system.**