

FINAL WEIGHTED TOPLINE

	<i>North- east (n=283)</i>	<i>Mid- west (n=368)</i>	<i>South (n=554)</i>	<i>West (n=295)</i>
Gender of respondent				
Male	49	47	48	48
Female	51	53	52	52
Region				
New England.....	26	0	0	0
Middle Atlantic.....	74	0	0	0
East North Central	0	71	0	0
West North Central	0	29	0	0
South Atlantic.....	0	0	54	0
East South Central.....	0	0	16	0
West South Central.....	0	0	30	0
Mountain	0	0	0	35
Pacific	0	0	0	65
Death penalty states	33	65	97	93
Non-death penalty states.....	67	35	3	7

Hello. This is (caller name). I'm calling from National Opinion Surveys. We are conducting a public opinion survey and I would like to ask you some questions. I am not selling anything, and I will not ask for a contribution.

Could I please speak with the (MALE/FEMALE) in your household, 18 years or older, who celebrated a birthday most recently?

First, are you registered to vote at this address?

**IF NO, ASK FOR A FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS REGISTERED TO VOTE.
 IF NONE, TERMINATE AND MARK TQ1 ON SAMPLE SHEET.**

These days, state and local governments often have to make tough budgetary choices. For each one of the following, please rate how high a priority it is for your state or local government on a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 means it is a very high priority, and 0 means it is not a high priority at all. If you are not sure, please say so. Here's the first one.

[READ ITEM EVERY 3RD QUESTION.] Rate how high a priority that should be from 0 to 10, where 10 means it should be a very high priority, and 0 means it is not a high priority at all.

RANDOMIZE Q1-7

1. Schools and libraries

Mean	8.6	8.3	8.6	8.7
10 – Priority.....	51	45	52	54
8 – 9	26	28	28	28
6 – 7	12	11	7	8
5 – Neutral	7	10	7	7
0 - 4 - Not a priority	2	4	4	3
(Don't know).....	1	2	2	1

	<i>North- east (n=283)</i>	<i>Mid- west (n=368)</i>	<i>South (n=554)</i>	<i>West (n=295)</i>
2. Public health care services.				
Mean	7.8	7.5	7.9	7.8
10 – Priority.....	38	35	43	37
8 – 9.....	29	25	23	26
6 – 7.....	14	16	12	16
5 – Neutral.....	6	11	11	10
0 - 4 - Not a priority.....	12	11	10	10
(Don't know).....	1	1	1	1
3. Emergency services like fire and rescue				
Mean	8.9	8.8	9.0	9.0
10 – Priority.....	57	52	60	58
8 – 9.....	26	32	25	27
6 – 7.....	11	10	10	11
5 – Neutral.....	3	4	2	3
0 - 4 - Not a priority.....	2	2	2	1
(Don't know).....	0	1	1	0
4. Pursuing the death penalty				
Mean	5.0	5.3	5.8	5.2
10 – Priority.....	18	18	23	17
8 – 9.....	9	12	14	14
6 – 7.....	14	14	11	13
5 – Neutral.....	20	15	21	19
0 - 4 - Not a priority.....	38	36	28	35
(Don't know).....	2	6	4	2
5. Roads and transportation				
Mean	7.3	7.2	7.6	7.4
10 – Priority.....	25	21	27	20
8 – 9.....	24	26	29	34
6 – 7.....	26	31	25	24
5 – Neutral.....	18	13	11	16
0 - 4 - Not a priority.....	7	8	7	6
(Don't know).....	1	1	1	0
6. Police and crime prevention				
Mean	8.7	8.5	8.8	8.7
10 – Priority.....	50	44	54	47
8 – 9.....	31	32	29	34
6 – 7.....	11	15	9	13
5 – Neutral.....	5	5	4	2
0 - 4 - Not a priority.....	2	3	3	3
(Don't know).....	0	0	1	1

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7. Creating jobs				
Mean	8.5	8.3	8.4	8.2
10 – Priority.....	57	52	59	52
8 – 9.....	22	20	16	21
6 – 7.....	7	15	10	10
5 – Neutral.....	6	4	7	8
0 - 4 - Not a priority.....	7	9	8	8
(Don't know).....	0	1	1	1
8. SSA: I'm going to read four statements. Listen carefully, then please tell me which of them—number 1, 2, 3, or 4—is closest to your own view:				
READ/DO NOT RANDOMIZE:				
1. The penalty for murder should be the death penalty.....	29	34	32	35
2. The penalty for murder should be life in prison <u>with</u> the possibility of parole.....	10	9	10	7
3. The penalty for murder should be life in prison with <u>no</u> possibility of parole.....	15	16	11	12
4. The penalty for murder should be life in prison with <u>no</u> possibility of parole, <u>and</u> a requirement to work to make restitution for the victim's family.....	40	38	38	43
(Don't know/refused).....	6	3	9	3
9. SSB: I'm going to read four statements. Listen carefully, then please tell me which of them—number 1, 2, 3, or 4—is closest to your own view:				
READ/DO NOT RANDOMIZE:				
1. The penalty for murder should be the death penalty.....	30	33	39	28
2. The penalty for murder should be life in prison <u>with</u> the possibility of parole.....	11	12	10	14
3. The penalty for murder should permanent imprisonment.....	14	10	9	16
4. The penalty for murder should be permanent imprisonment <u>and</u> a requirement to work to make restitution for the victim's family.....	39	35	36	35
(Don't know/refused).....	6	10	6	7
10. On a scale of 0 to 10, please tell me how much you would support replacing the death penalty with a penalty of life in prison without possibility of parole? Ten means you would be <u>extremely supportive</u> , and zero means you would not be supportive <u>at all</u> , and you can choose any number in between.				
Mean	6.2	5.5	5.4	5.7
10 – Supportive.....	30	22	24	26
8 – 9.....	16	19	18	17
6 – 7.....	10	10	8	12
5 – Neutral.....	12	14	10	10
0 - 4 - Not supportive.....	27	33	36	33
(Don't know).....	5	3	4	2

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ASK ONLY IN DEATH PENALTY STATES

11. If your state representative voted to repeal the death penalty in your state, would that make you more or less likely to vote for him or her, or would it not make a difference? **[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY ASK:]** Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?

Much more likely.....	9	18	17	14
Somewhat more likely.....	5	8	10	6
Somewhat less likely.....	10	10	8	8
Much less likely.....	28	22	29	28
No difference.....	46	40	33	43
(Don't know/refused).....	2	3	3	1
More likely	14	26	27	20
Less likely.....	38	31	36	36

ASK ONLY IN NON-DEATH PENALTY STATES

12. If your state representative voted to bring back the death penalty in your state, would that make you more or less likely to vote for him or her, or would it not make a difference? **[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY ASK:]** Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?

Much more likely.....	18	17	50	4
Somewhat more likely.....	10	11	6	18
Somewhat less likely.....	9	2	7	0
Much less likely.....	20	17	0	36
No difference.....	40	48	38	42
(Don't know/refused).....	2	4	0	0
More likely	28	29	56	22
Less likely.....	30	20	7	36

RESUME ASKING ALL

Now, I'm going to read you some statements some people have made about the death penalty. For each one, please rate how much you agree with that statement on a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 means you are in total agreement, and 0 means you do not agree at all, and you can choose any number in between. If you are not sure, please say so. Here's the first one.

[READ ITEM EVERY 3RD QUESTION.] Give this statement a rating from 0 to 10, where 10 means you are in total agreement, and 0 means you do not agree at all.

RANDOMIZE Q13-30

13. **SSA:** The death penalty carries too much risk of executing an innocent person.

Mean.....	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.6
10 – Agreement	25	26	27	26
8 – 9	14	22	20	21
6 – 7	16	13	11	17
5 – Neutral	19	16	15	14
0 - 4 – Disagreement	24	21	26	21
(Don't know).....	2	2	1	1

	<i>North- east (n=283)</i>	<i>Mid- west (n=368)</i>	<i>South (n=554)</i>	<i>West (n=295)</i>
14. SSB: I don't trust politicians with the power to decide who lives and who dies.				
Mean	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.1
10 – Agreement	36	39	40	35
8 – 9	17	20	19	20
6 – 7	7	10	9	10
5 – Neutral	14	14	13	17
0 - 4 – Disagreement	22	17	19	15
(Don't know).....	4	1	1	2
15. SSA: I don't trust the government with the power to decide who lives and who dies.				
Mean	6.4	6.6	6.5	5.8
10 – Agreement	32	32	33	25
8 – 9	11	15	14	19
6 – 7	13	10	14	7
5 – Neutral	16	20	13	16
0 - 4 – Disagreement	25	21	25	31
(Don't know).....	3	2	1	2
16. SSB: It's not up to me to decide who lives and who dies.				
Mean	7.7	7.6	7.4	8.1
10 – Agreement	53	53	49	58
8 – 9	17	15	15	16
6 – 7	5	6	9	8
5 – Neutral	11	12	9	10
0 - 4 – Disagreement	13	14	17	9
(Don't know).....	2	1	1	0
17. SSA: With a sentence of life without parole, people at least have a chance to change while serving their time.				
Mean	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.8
10 – Agreement	23	27	28	19
8 – 9	13	14	15	20
6 – 7	17	14	11	16
5 – Neutral	13	13	14	12
0 - 4 – Disagreement	32	31	31	32
(Don't know).....	2	1	1	1
18. SSB: With a sentence of life without parole, if new evidence of innocence emerges, the case can be reopened.				
Mean	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.7
10 – Agreement	66	69	62	69
8 – 9	16	12	16	11
6 – 7	6	7	9	8
5 – Neutral	6	7	7	5
0 - 4 – Disagreement	5	4	6	6
(Don't know).....	2	1	0	0

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19. The Death Penalty is against my moral beliefs				
Mean	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.9
10 – Agreement	25	23	22	28
8 – 9	12	8	11	12
6 – 7	7	7	5	4
5 – Neutral	11	14	14	9
0 - 4 – Disagreement	43	45	46	45
(Don't know).....	1	3	1	1
20. SSA: The death penalty system often discriminates on the basis of race.				
Mean	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.5
10 – Agreement	21	17	20	16
8 – 9	11	13	13	12
6 – 7	14	8	9	7
5 – Neutral	12	18	11	16
0 - 4 – Disagreement	39	38	46	44
(Don't know).....	2	5	1	4
21. SSB: The death penalty system often discriminates on the basis of race, and that is unfair.				
Mean	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.4
10 – Agreement	27	23	21	26
8 – 9	10	16	16	12
6 – 7	12	11	7	10
5 – Neutral	9	10	15	13
0 - 4 – Disagreement	35	36	35	36
(Don't know).....	6	5	6	2
22. SSA: We need the death penalty to deter murder and other heinous crimes.				
Mean	5.7	6.1	6.9	6.1
10 – Agreement	29	35	38	32
8 – 9	15	11	18	13
6 – 7	12	9	12	11
5 – Neutral	7	12	10	11
0 - 4 – Disagreement	35	31	22	30
(Don't know).....	1	1	0	3
23. SSB: We need the death penalty to show that there is a clear difference between right and wrong.				
Mean	4.9	5.7	6.0	5.5
10 – Agreement	22	29	32	28
8 – 9	10	12	14	13
6 – 7	8	10	7	5
5 – Neutral	17	11	14	13
0 - 4 – Disagreement	41	34	31	38
(Don't know).....	3	2	3	2

<i>North-</i> <i>east</i> <i>(n=283)</i>	<i>Mid-</i> <i>west</i> <i>(n=368)</i>	<i>South</i> <i>(n=554)</i>	<i>West</i> <i>(n=295)</i>
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24. **SSA:** The death penalty would be cheaper, more efficient, and more effective if we used it more rather than less.

Mean	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.4
10 – Agreement	25	28	22	24
8 – 9	9	8	18	13
6 – 7	14	8	15	11
5 – Neutral	15	16	12	11
0 - 4 – Disagreement	34	38	29	36
(Don't know).....	4	1	5	5

25. **SSB:** The death penalty would be cheaper, more efficient, and more effective if we limited the number of appeals.

Mean	6.1	6.5	6.7	6.5
10 – Agreement	29	34	36	34
8 – 9	13	11	14	17
6 – 7	11	13	10	9
5 – Neutral	17	13	11	14
0 - 4 – Disagreement	27	22	22	23
(Don't know).....	3	6	7	3

26. The death penalty makes me personally feel safer.

Mean	4.2	4.6	5.0	4.0
10 – Agreement	15	24	21	14
8 – 9	11	7	13	9
6 – 7	11	10	8	8
5 – Neutral	12	12	16	14
0 - 4 – Disagreement	50	46	41	53
(Don't know).....	2	1	1	1

27. If we're going to have the death penalty, we need to take every precaution to make sure innocent people are not executed.

Mean	8.9	9.1	9.0	8.7
10 – Agreement	68	76	71	70
8 – 9	13	9	12	10
6 – 7	10	6	7	7
5 – Neutral	5	3	5	4
0 - 4 – Disagreement	3	4	4	8
(Don't know).....	2	1	1	1

28. With new technology like DNA evidence, we don't have to worry about innocent people being wrongly executed.

Mean	5.9	5.7	6.0	5.8
10 – Agreement	25	25	24	19
8 – 9	14	14	18	18
6 – 7	11	15	15	18
5 – Neutral	19	11	16	13
0 - 4 – Disagreement	29	34	27	30
(Don't know).....	2	1	1	2

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29. The death penalty is a wasteful big government program because it costs a lot of money and it is not effective.

Mean	5.0	4.8	4.7	5.1
10 – Agreement	20	17	18	21
8 – 9	10	13	11	12
6 – 7	11	9	12	10
5 – Neutral	15	13	12	15
0 - 4 – Disagreement	40	43	43	39
(Don't know).....	4	4	4	5

30. The death penalty does not deter murder because criminals don't think about the punishment when committing their crime.

Mean	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.8
10 – Agreement	38	38	35	35
8 – 9	15	13	19	18
6 – 7	15	13	9	12
5 – Neutral	9	12	13	11
0 - 4 – Disagreement	21	22	21	22
(Don't know).....	2	3	3	2

SPLIT SAMPLE C

Now I am going to read you some facts about the death penalty in the United States. Please tell me whether you find these facts totally believable, somewhat believable, somewhat unbelievable, or totally unbelievable. **REPEAT PROMPT AS NEEDED**

(RANDOMIZE Q31 – Q38)

31. From sentencing to execution, the average appeal time of a death penalty case is 12 years, while a person who receives life without parole starts serving the sentence immediately.

Totally unbelievable	8	8	9	6
Somewhat unbelievable.....	15	9	16	11
(Don't know).....	11	14	15	7
Somewhat believable.....	30	39	31	39
Totally believable	37	31	28	37
Unbelievable	22	17	26	17
Believable	67	69	60	76

32. Since 1973, 138 people have been released from death row after being exonerated of their crimes.

Totally unbelievable	5	5	4	10
Somewhat unbelievable.....	11	15	15	9
(Don't know).....	11	12	17	8
Somewhat believable.....	36	37	33	44
Totally believable	37	31	31	28
Unbelievable	16	20	19	19
Believable	73	69	63	72

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33. Over the past 30 years, states in the South have accounted for 80 percent of all executions and have the highest murder rate. States in the Northeast have accounted for less than 1 percent of all executions and have the lowest murder rate.				
Totally unbelievable.....	6	8	19	11
Somewhat unbelievable.....	22	18	23	13
(Don't know).....	14	21	17	24
Somewhat believable.....	33	31	25	34
Totally believable.....	24	22	16	18
Unbelievable.....	29	25	42	24
Believable.....	57	54	41	52
34. SSA: Prosecuting and defending one death penalty case can cost as much as \$3 million dollars.				
Totally unbelievable.....	7	12	14	9
Somewhat unbelievable.....	18	9	16	7
(Don't know).....	12	15	16	15
Somewhat believable.....	27	32	26	36
Totally believable.....	37	33	28	33
Unbelievable.....	24	20	30	16
Believable.....	64	65	54	70
35. SSB: Prosecuting and defending one death penalty case can cost as much as \$3 million dollars. But because only 1 in 10 cases results in an actual execution, the true cost to the state per execution is about \$30 million dollars, far more than the cost of a lifetime of incarceration.				
Totally unbelievable.....	7	18	18	21
Somewhat unbelievable.....	18	16	14	18
(Don't know).....	19	21	13	5
Somewhat believable.....	32	22	29	32
Totally believable.....	24	22	26	24
Unbelievable.....	25	35	32	39
Believable.....	56	44	56	56
36. In order, the top five countries in the world who recently executed the most people were China, followed by Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and Pakistan.				
Totally unbelievable.....	9	7	8	11
Somewhat unbelievable.....	18	9	14	13
(Don't know).....	14	20	19	16
Somewhat believable.....	30	35	30	33
Totally believable.....	30	29	28	28
Unbelievable.....	26	16	22	23
Believable.....	60	64	59	61

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37. Studies in states that have had the sentence of life without parole for a long time reveal that no one with that sentence has been released from prison.				
Totally unbelievable	15	15	13	12
Somewhat unbelievable.....	25	21	21	28
(Don't know).....	15	20	22	14
Somewhat believable.....	33	28	31	27
Totally believable	12	15	14	19
Unbelievable.....	40	37	34	40
Believable.....	45	43	45	47
38. DNA evidence is only available in less than 20% of murder cases.				
Totally unbelievable	18	17	14	12
Somewhat unbelievable.....	22	20	21	28
(Don't know).....	11	20	20	15
Somewhat believable.....	35	25	29	30
Totally believable	15	19	17	16
Unbelievable.....	40	36	35	39
Believable.....	49	44	45	46

END SPLIT SAMPLE C SKIP TO Q47

SPLIT SAMPLE D

Now I am going to read you some facts about the death penalty in the United States. Please tell me whether these facts raise serious doubts, some doubts, minor doubts, or no real doubts about the death penalty in your own mind. **REPEAT PROMPT AS NEEDED**

(RANDOMIZE Q39 – Q46)

39. From sentencing to execution, the average appeal time of a death penalty case is 12 years, while a person who receives life without parole starts serving the sentence immediately.				
No real doubts	24	27	27	38
Minor doubts	21	15	19	19
(Don't know).....	14	16	12	9
Some doubts.....	26	23	25	19
Serious doubts.....	14	19	17	15
No doubts.....	46	41	46	57
Doubts.....	40	42	42	34
40. Since 1973, 138 people have been released from death row after being exonerated of their crimes.				
No real doubts	25	24	26	24
Minor doubts	10	16	16	11
(Don't know).....	14	12	12	13
Some doubts.....	33	25	24	29
Serious doubts.....	17	23	22	23
No doubts.....	35	40	42	35
Doubts.....	50	47	46	52

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41. Over the past 30 years, states in the South have accounted for 80 percent of all executions and have the highest murder rate. States in the Northeast have accounted for less than 1 percent of all executions and have the lowest murder rate.

No real doubts	24	24	24	21
Minor doubts	13	13	17	15
(Don't know).....	18	21	14	17
Some doubts.....	24	23	23	23
Serious doubts.....	22	19	22	25
No doubts	37	37	41	36
Doubts	45	42	45	47

42. **SSA:** Prosecuting and defending one death penalty case can cost as much as \$3 million dollars.

No real doubts	24	21	13	30
Minor doubts	19	24	13	19
(Don't know).....	18	15	14	8
Some doubts.....	26	13	26	14
Serious doubts.....	13	28	33	29
No doubts	43	45	27	49
Doubts	39	40	59	43

43. **SSB:** Prosecuting and defending one death penalty case can cost as much as \$3 million dollars. But because only 1 in 10 cases results in an actual execution, the true cost to the state per execution is about \$30 million dollars, far more than the cost of a lifetime of incarceration.

No real doubts	27	15	16	16
Minor doubts	12	21	17	5
(Don't know).....	8	15	14	10
Some doubts.....	21	30	18	32
Serious doubts.....	32	20	35	37
No doubts	40	35	33	22
Doubts	52	50	53	69

44. In order, the top five countries in the world who recently executed the most people were China, followed by Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and Pakistan.

No real doubts	27	26	28	34
Minor doubts	15	16	19	15
(Don't know).....	19	24	14	14
Some doubts.....	28	21	20	19
Serious doubts.....	11	13	19	18
No doubts	41	42	47	49
Doubts	39	34	39	37

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45. Studies in states that have had the sentence of life without parole for a long time reveal that no one with that sentence has been released from prison.

No real doubts	25	19	21	25
Minor doubts	21	21	21	17
(Don't know).....	18	23	14	16
Some doubts.....	27	25	27	31
Serious doubts.....	10	12	17	11
No doubts	46	40	42	42
Doubts.....	37	37	44	42

46. DNA evidence is only available in less than 20% of murder cases.

No real doubts	16	14	17	25
Minor doubts	11	17	20	12
(Don't know).....	18	19	14	13
Some doubts.....	30	24	25	27
Serious doubts.....	25	26	23	22
No doubts	27	32	37	37
Doubts.....	55	49	48	50

**END SPLIT SAMPLE D SKIP TO Q47
RESUME ASKING ALL**

47. Would you favor or oppose replacing the death penalty with a penalty of life in prison with no possibility of parole if the money saved were used to fund crime prevention measures? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE ASK:]** Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?

Strongly favor.....	45	40	43	49
Somewhat favor.....	23	22	21	16
Somewhat oppose	8	10	8	9
Strongly oppose.....	17	21	23	22
(Don't know/refused).....	7	7	5	4
Favor	68	62	64	66
Oppose.....	25	31	31	31

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Now, I'm going to read you some statements people have made in support of replacing the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison with no possibility of parole. Please tell me whether each statement I read is a VERY convincing, SOMEWHAT convincing, NOT TOO convincing, or not AT ALL convincing reason to replace the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison with no possibility of parole. If you are not sure how you feel about a particular item, please say so.

PROMPT EVERY THIRD STATEMENT: Is that a VERY convincing, SOMEWHAT convincing, NOT TOO convincing, or not AT ALL convincing reason to support replacing the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison with no possibility of parole?

RANDOMIZE LIST Q48-58

[Cost]

48. **SSA:** By the time the costs of all the trials and appeals are taken into account, the death penalty costs more than imprisoning a criminal for life. The death penalty is a huge government program that has bogged down law enforcement and wasted millions of dollars that could be used for many other purposes. States are cutting back on police forces, shutting libraries and schools, and public hospitals are closing emergency rooms, and yet we are spending millions of dollars on a death penalty system when lifetime imprisonment with no parole would cost less.

Very convincing	33	25	29	34
Somewhat convincing	37	37	40	36
Not too convincing	14	17	11	13
Not at all convincing.....	14	16	17	15
(Don't know/refused).....	3	4	3	2
Very /somewhat convincing	69	62	69	70
Not very /not at all convincing	27	34	28	28

[Cost w/restitution]

49. **SSB:** By the time the costs of all the trials and appeals are taken into account, the death penalty costs more than imprisoning a criminal for life. The death penalty is a huge government program that has bogged down law enforcement and wasted millions of dollars that could be used for many other purposes. States are cutting back on police forces, shutting libraries and schools, and public hospitals are closing emergency rooms, and yet we are spending millions of dollars on a death penalty system when lifetime imprisonment with no parole would cost less. Keep these criminals in prison for life and have them work and pay restitution to the victims' families.

Very convincing	34	35	33	27
Somewhat convincing	38	31	38	42
Not too convincing	15	15	12	17
Not at all convincing.....	10	14	14	11
(Don't know/refused).....	3	4	3	4
Very /somewhat convincing	71	66	71	69
Not very /not at all convincing	26	29	26	27

	North- east (n=283)	Mid- west (n=368)	South (n=554)	West (n=295)
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[Victims’ Families w/restitution]

50. **SSA:** Many victims’ family members say every time there is a court hearing, a conviction, or an appeal, the focus is on the defendant, but the family still has to go through their pain again and again. It’s very, very hard for the families. It reopens the wounds each time. When we condemn people to life without parole instead, family members will not be subjected to years of court hearings, and they can turn to the process of healing. If we replaced the death penalty with a sentence of life without parole with labor and restitution, we could use the money to help provide counseling services to victims’ families.

Very convincing	34	35	32	33
Somewhat convincing	37	33	36	36
Not too convincing	15	16	16	16
Not at all convincing.....	12	14	12	14
(Don’t know/refused).....	2	2	3	2
Very /somewhat convincing	72	68	68	68
Not very /not at all convincing	27	30	28	30

[Victims’ Families]

51. **SSB:** Many victims’ family members say every time there is a court hearing, a conviction, or an appeal, the focus is on the defendant, but the family still has to go through their pain again and again. It’s very, very hard for the families. It reopens the wounds each time. When we condemn people to life without parole instead, family members will not be subjected to years of court hearings, and they can turn to the process of healing.

Very convincing	37	34	30	28
Somewhat convincing	37	36	35	40
Not too convincing	16	15	14	16
Not at all convincing.....	8	11	16	15
(Don’t know/refused).....	2	3	5	2
Very /somewhat convincing	74	70	65	68
Not very /not at all convincing	25	27	30	30

[Innocence]

52. The death penalty risks executing the innocent. Many innocent people have been sent to our nation’s death rows before new evidence freed them and some innocent people may have been executed. It is unacceptable to execute innocent people, and in a system run by human beings that’s inevitable. Executing innocent people is a risk we can completely avoid by using sentences of life with no possibility of parole.

Very convincing	36	36	31	31
Somewhat convincing	38	30	42	39
Not too convincing	11	16	13	12
Not at all convincing.....	13	13	12	15
(Don’t know/refused).....	2	4	3	3
Very /somewhat convincing	74	67	72	70
Not very /not at all convincing	24	29	25	27

	North- east (n=283)	Mid- west (n=368)	South (n=554)	West (n=295)
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[Libertarian]

53. **SSA:** The death penalty is the worst of all the big government programs. It costs hundreds of millions of dollars, has shown no evidence of being an effective deterrent or keeping society safer, and is too big a role for the government to be taking. We should get rid of the death penalty, shrink the government and give that wasted money back to the taxpayers.

Very convincing	25	27	30	28
Somewhat convincing	34	30	25	28
Not too convincing	15	13	17	20
Not at all convincing.....	25	26	23	22
(Don't know/refused).....	2	4	5	2
Very /somewhat convincing	59	57	55	56
Not very /not at all convincing	39	39	40	43

[Not a deterrent]

54. **SSB:** The death penalty is not a deterrent, and we don't need it. States without the death penalty have lower murder rates than states with it. Murders happen either in the heat of the moment, or when someone thinks they can get away with it. Criminals don't think about the chance of getting the death penalty when they're committing a crime. Instead, we should use our resources on getting violent criminals off the street and using life without parole for the worst cases.

Very convincing	34	30	27	26
Somewhat convincing	32	27	31	36
Not too convincing	15	19	18	19
Not at all convincing.....	15	20	19	17
(Don't know/refused).....	5	3	4	3
Very /somewhat convincing	65	58	58	61
Not very /not at all convincing	30	39	38	36

[Moral]

55. **SSA:** Human life is the most precious thing in the world, and we need to respect it. The death penalty offers the tragic illusion that we can defend life by taking life. In reality, the death penalty diminishes all of us. Every life has value, and sometimes even the worst criminals can change and become better people after years in prison. Killing is wrong, no matter who does it.

Very convincing	30	29	27	26
Somewhat convincing	33	30	34	33
Not too convincing	19	20	16	19
Not at all convincing.....	14	19	21	18
(Don't know/refused).....	4	3	3	3
Very /somewhat convincing	62	58	60	59
Not very /not at all convincing	34	38	37	38

	North- east (n=283)	Mid- west (n=368)	South (n=554)	West (n=295)
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[Moral w/faith]

56. **SSB:** Human life is the most precious thing in the world, and we need to respect it. The death penalty offers the tragic illusion that we can defend life by taking life. In reality, the death penalty diminishes all of us. Every life has value, and sometimes even the worst criminals can change and become better people after years in prison. Our faiths teach us that “thou shalt not kill” and that vengeance is God’s and God’s alone. Killing is wrong, no matter who does it.

Very convincing	30	34	28	28
Somewhat convincing	28	26	32	31
Not too convincing	22	20	19	21
Not at all convincing.....	18	18	18	18
(Don't know/refused).....	2	3	4	2
Very /somewhat convincing	59	59	60	59
Not very /not at all convincing	39	38	37	39

[Unfairness]

57. **SSA:** Our criminal justice system should treat all people equally, regardless of how much money they make, where they live, or the color of their skin. In reality, the death penalty is applied unevenly and unfairly, even for similar crimes. Some people are sentenced to die because they couldn’t afford a better lawyer, or because they live in a county that seeks the death penalty a lot. A system that is so arbitrary should not be allowed to choose who lives and who dies.

Very convincing	37	42	34	34
Somewhat convincing	34	31	32	32
Not too convincing	15	11	17	18
Not at all convincing.....	12	10	14	14
(Don't know/refused).....	2	6	4	3
Very /somewhat convincing	71	73	66	66
Not very /not at all convincing	27	21	30	31

[Unfairness w/race]

58. **SSB:** The death penalty is particularly unfair along racial lines. Those who kill a white victim are much more likely to face the death penalty than those who kill a black victim. A system that seems to value some lives more because of race should not be deciding who lives and who dies.

Very convincing	32	29	26	30
Somewhat convincing	31	32	27	35
Not too convincing	16	17	17	14
Not at all convincing.....	17	19	24	19
(Don't know/refused).....	4	3	5	2
Very /somewhat convincing	63	61	53	65
Not very /not at all convincing	33	36	42	33

	North- east (n=283)	Mid- west (n=368)	South (n=554)	West (n=295)
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59. Sometimes in a survey like this, people change their minds. On a scale of 0 to 10, please tell me how much you would support replacing the death penalty with a penalty of life in prison without possibility of parole? Ten means you would be extremely supportive, and zero means you would not be supportive at all, and you can choose any number in between.

Mean	6.7	5.9	5.7	5.7
10 – Supportive.....	29	27	25	27
8 – 9.....	24	16	19	17
6 – 7.....	14	11	11	12
5 – Neutral.....	10	12	11	11
0 - 4 - Not supportive.....	21	30	31	32
(Don't know).....	3	4	3	2

Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

60. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else? **(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:)** Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? **(IF "NOT SURE," CODE AS "NOT VERY STRONG")** **(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:)** Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent? **(IF "NOT SURE," CODE AS "STRICTLY INDEPENDENT.")**

Strong Democrat.....	22	24	27	23
Not very strong Democrat.....	6	6	6	6
Independent/lean Democrat.....	9	6	7	4
Democrat	37	36	39	34
Strictly independent	28	29	24	30
Republican	30	30	32	31
Independent/lean Republican.....	8	11	10	6
Not very strong Republican.....	8	5	4	5
Strong Republican.....	14	14	19	20
Other.....	2	3	3	4
(Not sure/nothing).....	3	2	2	2

61. In terms of politics, do you consider yourself VERY liberal, SOMEWHAT liberal, MODERATE, somewhat CONSERVATIVE, or VERY conservative?

Very liberal.....	11	9	12	10
Somewhat liberal.....	12	16	13	15
Liberal	23	24	25	25
Moderate	34	28	32	28
Conservative	37	42	38	44
Somewhat conservative.....	21	23	17	18
Very conservative.....	16	18	21	26
(Don't know).....	7	6	6	2

<i>North- east (n=283)</i>	<i>Mid- west (n=368)</i>	<i>South (n=554)</i>	<i>West (n=295)</i>
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62. How old are you? **(IF REFUSED, ASK:)** Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?
(READ LIST.)

18-24	12	6	8	6
25-29	9	5	10	11
30-34	6	4	5	6
35-39	8	14	8	14
40-44	6	8	5	7
45-49	6	9	14	11
50-54	7	9	9	9
55-59	8	11	8	7
60-64	11	9	9	12
65-69	5	5	6	5
70-74	6	4	4	4
75 and older	12	12	12	7
(Refused)	4	4	2	2

63. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed? **(DO NOT READ LIST.)**

1st through 11th grade.....	6	6	8	6
High school graduate	25	24	29	17
Non-college post-high school (e.g., technical school)	3	3	3	3
Some college	23	28	25	27
College graduate.....	29	29	26	33
Postgraduate school	12	9	8	13
Not sure	1	0	1	1

64. Just to make sure we have a representative sample, could you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background? **[IF “NO”, ASK:]** What is your race--white, black, Asian, American Indian, or something else?

DO NOT READ

White/Caucasian.....	75	84	68	71
Black/African American.....	11	11	21	3
Hispanic/Latino	10	3	9	20
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	0	0	3
Native American/American Indian	1	0	0	1
(Other).....	1	1	1	1
(Don't know/refused).....	1	0	1	1

65. What is your religion?

Protestant (includes Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and other Christians).....	GO TO Q66 39	49	61	40
Catholic	GO TO Q66 33	23	18	27
Jewish	6	2	2	2
Muslim.....	0	1	0	1
Mormon, Latter Day Saints, LDS	0	1	0	3
Other	8	6	6	10
None	9	13	8	14
(Don't know/refused).....	5	5	4	3

<i>North- east (n=283)</i>	<i>Mid- west (n=368)</i>	<i>South (n=554)</i>	<i>West (n=295)</i>
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ASK ONLY IF PROTESTANT OR CATHOLIC Q65 = 1 OR 2

66. Do you think of yourself as a born again or evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way?

Born-again/evangelical Christian	23	30	46	28
NOT born again	57	48	39	56
(Don't know)	13	13	9	10
(Refused)	7	9	5	5

67. On average, how often would you say you attend church or religious services – once a week or more, once or twice a month, several times a year, hardly ever, or never?

Every week or more	33	41	45	40
Once or twice a month	18	16	22	13
Several times a year	16	16	13	13
Hardly ever	14	14	10	14
Never	14	10	7	16
(Don't know)	5	2	4	4

68. What is your zip code?..... _____

69. [RECORD RESPONDENT'S FIRST NAME FOR VERIFICATION]..... _____

That concludes my interview today. Thank you for your time and cooperation.