

High Propensity Voter Opinions on Incarceration Issues



an AFSC Arizona Attitudes Survey, 2013



American Friends
Service Committee





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1. Introduction

Arizona has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation, and the highest of Western states.¹ This is due in large part to the fact that Arizona has some of the toughest and longest sentences in the country. This approach has proven to be politically popular for decades, but as Arizona faces budget deficits and other economic struggles, the growing price-tag associated with corrections has come under increased scrutiny.

Arizona now spends over \$1 billion on prisons every year. This is the third highest state agency expenditure (behind K-12 education and AHCCCS) and absorbs 11% of the state's General Fund.²

About 16% of Arizona's prison population is held in facilities managed by private, for-profit prison corporations, including GEO Group and Management and Training Corporation.³ This percentage—the 11th highest in the nation—is due to increase beginning in 2014 when Arizona will send prisoners to an additional facility managed by Corrections Corporation of America.⁴

Meanwhile, many other states across the nation have responded to their own budget crises by reducing prison populations through targeted changes to their criminal sentencing laws, probation and parole policies, and prison administrative procedures. According to the Sentencing Project:

In recent years, reducing prison populations with the goal of controlling correctional costs has been a salient reason for reform in states like Kansas, New York, and New Jersey. Overall, prison populations declined by 28,582 in twenty-six states during 2011, or 1.5%.⁵

These approaches include relaxation of mandatory minimum sentences, sentence modifications allowing prosecutors and judges to reduce sentences for eligible offenders, expanding the use of "earned time," and limiting revocations of probation and parole.⁶ And the list of states includes some which are extremely conservative politically, with substantial Republican majorities and/or Republican governors, including Alabama, Oklahoma, and Louisiana.

In some cases, the reductions in prison population have been dramatic enough to justify closure of correctional facilities, yielding substantial savings for states:

In 2012, at least six states have closed 20 prison institutions or are contemplating doing so, potentially reducing prison capacity by over 14,100 beds and resulting in

1 Prisoners in 2011, Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice. December 2012, NCJ 239808.

2 "THEN AND NOW" 2003 vs.2013 General Fund Spending, State Legislature, Joint Legislative Budget Committee, <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/13AR/bh17.pdf>.

3 Prisoners in 2011, Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice. December 2012, NCJ 239808.

4 Bob Ortega, "Arizona private prison contract awarded to Tenn. Firm," Arizona Republic, May 1, 2013.

5 Nicole D. Porter, "The State of Sentencing 2012: Developments in Policy and Practice," January 2013.

6 Nicole D. Porter, "The State of Sentencing 2012: Developments in Policy and Practice," January 2013.

an estimated \$337 million in savings... This year's prison closures build on closures observed in 2011 when at least 13 states reported prison closures and reduced prison capacity by an estimated 15,500 beds.⁷

Yet Arizona's policies don't seem to be taking this into consideration. Efforts at the legislative level to enact similar sentencing policy changes have largely failed. Despite a drop in crime and a reduction in the state's prison population, Arizona recently awarded a contract for up to 2,000 additional private prison beds and is in the process of constructing a new 500-bed maximum security state-run unit costing an estimated \$50 million.⁸

The American Friends Service Committee has worked for the last 15 years on promoting sensible, fair, and cost-effective criminal justice policies in Arizona. Over this time, it has become clear that many state leaders believe that their constituents are supportive of the "tough on crime" approach, and would react negatively to efforts to reduce prison populations through alternative sanctions.

Given that conservative leaders in other states have embraced this new approach, presumably with support of their constituents, it poses a question: Are Arizona voters still wedded to the tough on crime approach? Do Arizonans support their state's harsh sentencing laws, high corrections spending, and increased use of privatization?

The data indicate that, while public safety is a very important issue, voters in Arizona believe criminal justice policies should be cost effective, and they are open to alternative approaches as a means of reducing the state budget. They also in large part believe that publicly-operated prisons do a better job than private ones.

The American Friends Service Committee hopes that this data will empower our elected leaders to continue to pursue policies that are cost-efficient, reduce recidivism and future crime, and better preserve public safety for all Arizonans.



Caroline Isaacs
Program Director, AFSC Arizona

⁷ Nicole D. Porter, "On The Chopping Block 2012: State Prison Closings," The Sentencing Project, December 2012.
⁸ Luis Carrión, "Private Prisons Expand as Crime Declines," Arizona Public Media, June 5, 2012.

ii. *Executive Summary*

The American Friends Service Committee has worked for the last 15 years on promoting sensible, fair, and cost-effective criminal justice policies in Arizona. Over this time, it has become clear that many state leaders believe that their constituents are supportive of the “tough on crime” approach, and would react negatively to efforts to reduce prison populations through alternative sanctions.

Given that conservative leaders in other states have embraced this new approach, presumably with support of their constituents, it poses a question: Are Arizona voters still wedded to the tough on crime approach? Do Arizonans support their state’s harsh sentencing laws, high corrections spending, and increased use of privatization?

Arizona has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation, and the highest of Western states.⁹ This is due in large part to the fact that Arizona has some of the toughest and longest sentences in the country. This approach has proven to be politically popular for decades, but as Arizona faces budget deficits and other economic struggles, the growing price-tag associated with corrections has come under increased scrutiny.

Arizona now spends over \$1 billion on prisons every year. This is the third highest state agency expenditure (behind K-12 education and AHCCCS) and absorbs 11% of the state’s General Fund.¹⁰

About 16% of Arizona’s prison population is held in facilities managed by private, for-profit prison corporations.¹¹ This percentage—the 11th highest in the nation—is due to increase beginning in 2014 when Arizona will send 1,000 more prisoners to a new privately-operated facility.¹²

Meanwhile, many other states across the nation have responded to their own budget crises by reducing prison populations through targeted changes to their criminal sentencing laws, probation and parole policies, and prison administrative procedures. Overall, prison populations declined by 28,582 in twenty-six states during 2011, or 1.5%.¹³ The list of states includes some which are extremely conservative, including Alabama, Oklahoma, and Louisiana.

Yet Arizona’s policies don’t seem to be taking this into consideration. Efforts at the legislative level to enact similar incarceration policy changes have not been greeted with enthusiasm. Despite a drop in crime and a reduction in the state’s prison population, Arizona recently awarded a contract for up to 2,000 additional private prison beds and is in the process of constructing a new 500-bed maximum security state-run unit costing an estimated \$50 million.¹⁴

9 Prisoners in 2011, Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice. December 2012, NCJ 239808.

10 “THEN AND NOW” 2003 vs.2013 General Fund Spending, State Legislature, Joint Legislative Budget Committee, <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/13AR/bh17.pdf>.

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12 Bob Ortega, “Arizona private prison contract awarded to Tenn. Firm,” Arizona Republic, May 1, 2013.

13 Nicole D. Porter, “The State of Sentencing 2012: Developments in Policy and Practice,” January 2013.

14 Luis Carrión, “Private Prisons Expand as Crime Declines,” Arizona Public Media, June 5, 2012.

On the positive side, there has been some recognition of the need for alternative methods for dealing with incarceration issues. For example, in 2012 the Legislature passed HB 2374, which gives county prosecutors more discretion in placing offenders on diversion. This year the Legislature passed HB 2310, which established an evaluation process and the setting of standards for mental health courts. And the public seems to support these efforts.

The data indicate that, while public safety is a very important issue, voters in Arizona believe criminal justice policies should be cost effective, and they are open to alternative approaches as a means of reducing the state budget. They also in large part believe that publicly-operated prisons do a better job than private ones.

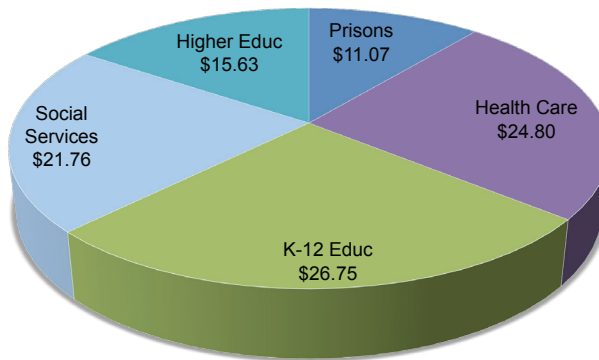
- While safety is an important value for Arizona voters, **prison policies must be subjected to a cost-benefit test just like any other government program.** Fifty-nine percent of voters in the state and 60 percent of voters living in Maricopa County say we need to pay whatever it take to make sure our communities are safe. Nearly all voters (87% Arizona voters, 86% Maricopa County voters) say **the costs and benefits of prison policies need to be evaluated just like any other government program.** Seventy percent of Arizona voters and 69% of Maricopa County voters strongly believe this to be the case.
- **When told that Arizona spends \$1 billion of its \$8.5 billion general fund on prisons, half of Arizona voters (52%) and just under half of Maricopa County voters (48%) say this is too much.** One quarter of Arizona voters (25%) and twenty-eight percent of Maricopa County voters say this is just the right amount. Only seven percent of both groups say this is too little.
- **Voters support alternative ways of handling low-risk, non-violent offenders as a strategy for helping to reduce the state budget deficit.** Seventy percent of Arizona voters and Maricopa County voters support **reducing prison time** for low-risk, non-violent offenders as a budget saving strategy. Sixty-five percent of Arizona voters and 64% of Maricopa County voters **support sending fewer low-risk, non-violent offenders to prison** in order to help close the budget deficit. Three quarters of voters (Arizona voters-79%, Maricopa County voters-76%) agree that **spending on locking up low risk, non-violent offenders should be shifted to community corrections programs** like probation and parole.
- **Three quarters of voters would rather have judges decide sentences for non-violent offenders than have mandatory sentences applied.** Seventy-seven percent of Arizona voters and 75 percent of Maricopa County voters prefer judges making decisions over mandatory sentences for non-violent offenders.
- **A majority of Arizona voters (52%) oppose private corporations running prisons in Arizona. A majority of Maricopa County voters (51%) also oppose private corporations running prisons in Arizona.** One third of Arizona voters (33%) and slightly more than one-third Maricopa County voters (37%) support private corporations running prisons in Arizona.

iii. Data

Likely voters in Arizona prioritize state support of K-12 Education, Health Care, and Social Services over support for Higher Education and Prisons.

When asked to distribute \$100 across all five areas of state support, Arizona voters allocated \$26.75 to K-12 Education, \$24.80 to Health Care, \$21.76 to Social Services, \$15.63 to Higher Education, including community colleges and universities, and \$11.07 to Prisons. Maricopa County voters had a similar order of priorities, allocating \$25.58 to K-12 Education, \$25.59 to Health Care, \$23.76 to Social Services, and \$10.86 to Prisons.

STATE FUNDING PRIORITIES



Likely Voters in Arizona

While safety is an important value for Arizona voters, prison policies must be subjected to a cost-benefit test just like any other government program.

Fifty-nine percent of voters in the state and 60 percent of voters living in Maricopa County say we need to pay whatever it takes to make sure our communities are safe. Nearly all voters (87% Arizona voters, 86% Maricopa County voters) say **the costs and benefits of prison policies need to be evaluated just like any other government program**. Seventy percent of Arizona voters and 69% of Maricopa County voters strongly believe this to be the case.

POLICY ATTITUDES

Pay whatever it takes to make sure our communities are safe.

59%

(Support in Arizona)

60%

(Support in Maricopa County)

Prison policies must be subjected to a cost-benefit test just like any other government program.

87%

(Support in Arizona)

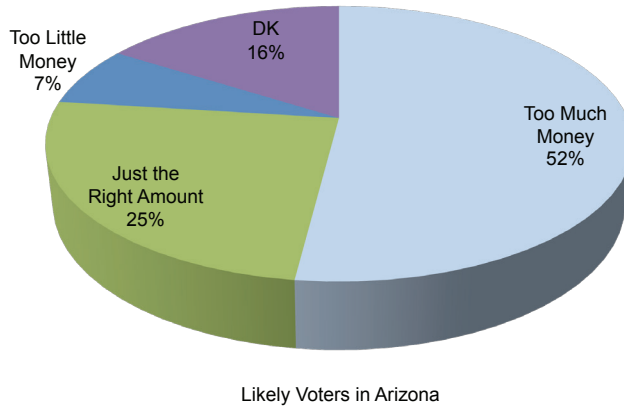
86%

(Support in Maricopa County)

When told that Arizona spends \$1 billion of its \$8.5 billion general fund on prisons, half of Arizona voters (52%) and just under half of Maricopa County voters (48%) say this is too much.

One quarter of Arizona voters (25%) and twenty-eight percent of Maricopa County voters say this is just the right amount. Only seven percent of both groups say this is too little.

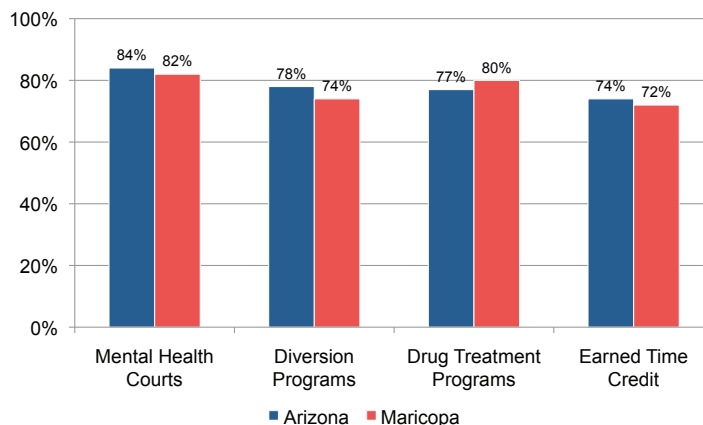
ATTITUDES TOWARD SPENDING ON PRISONS



Arizona voters support the state providing alternatives to prison in limited circumstances.

Alternatives include mental health courts (84%), diversion programs that place low-risk people on supervised probation (78%), drug treatment programs (77%), and “earned time credit” whereby sentence lengths are reduced in return for participation in treatment and education programs (74%). Maricopa voters also support mental health courts (82%), drug treatment programs (80%), diversion programs (74%), and “earned time credit” (72%).

SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON



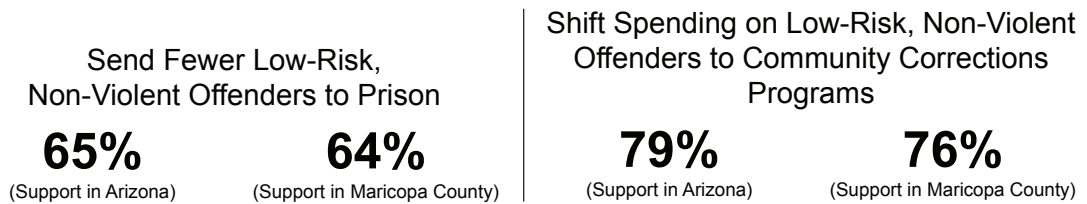
Voters support alternative ways of handling low-risk, non-violent offenders as a strategy for helping to reduce the state budget deficit.

Seventy percent of Arizona voters and Maricopa County voters support **reducing prison time** for low-risk, non-violent offenders as a budget saving strategy. Sixty-five percent of Arizona voters and 64% of Maricopa County voters **support sending fewer low-risk, non-violent offenders to prison** in order to help close the budget deficit.

Three quarters of voters (Arizona voters-79%, Maricopa County voters-76%) agree that **spending on locking up low risk, non-violent offenders should be shifted to community corrections programs** like probation and parole.

Similarly, three quarters of likely voters (Arizona voters-76%, Maricopa County voters-73%) agree that non-violent offender who break the rules of probation but have not committed a new crime, should not be sent to prison for more than 120 days.

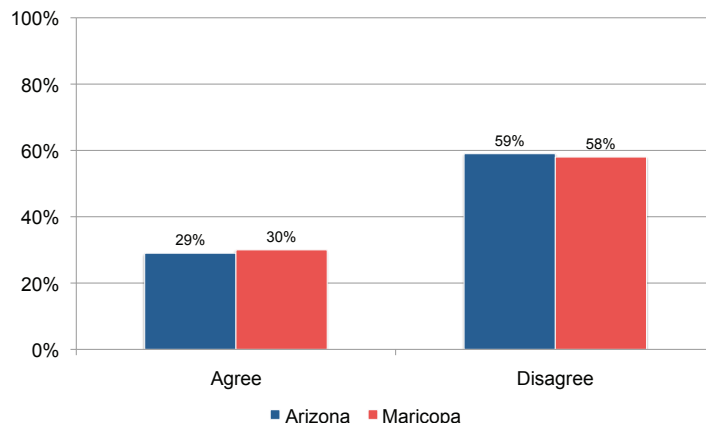
WAYS TO REDUCE STATE BUDGET DEFICIT



Majorities of Arizona voters and Maricopa County voters question the assumption that serving time in prison or jail reduces the likelihood of someone committing more crime in the future.

Fifty-four percent of Arizona voters and 58 percent of Maricopa County voters disagree that incarceration works to reduce the likelihood of committing crime in the future.

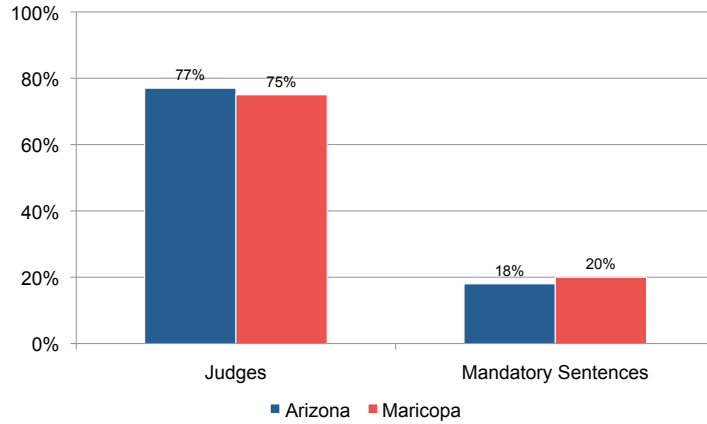
TIME IN PRISON/JAIL REDUCES LIKELIHOOD OF COMMITTING MORE CRIME IN FUTURE



Three quarters of voters would rather have judges decide sentences for non-violent offenders than have mandatory sentences applied.

Seventy-seven percent of Arizona voters and 75 percent of Maricopa County voters prefer judges making decisions over mandatory sentences for non-violent offenders.

WHO SHOULD DECIDE SENTENCES?



Although discussions about privatizing various public services are taking place, in most cases Arizona voters think privatizing public services is a bad idea.

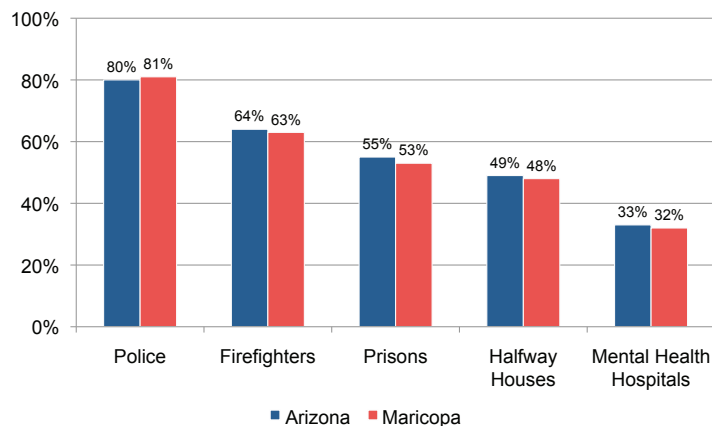
Eighty percent of Arizona voters and 81 percent of Maricopa County voters think it is a bad idea to privatize police services. Sixty four percent of Arizona voters and 63% of Maricopa County voters think it is a bad idea to privatize firefighters.

Fifty-five percent of Arizona voters and 53 percent of Maricopa County voters think it is a bad idea to privatize prisons.

Forty nine percent of Arizona voters and 48 percent of Maricopa County voters think it is a bad idea to privatize halfway houses for sex offenders. The only service receiving support for being privatized is mental hospitals. Fifty one percent of Arizona voters and 54 percent of Maricopa County voters support privatizing mental hospitals.

PRIVATIZING PUBLIC SERVICES

(Percent Opposing)



Voters believe state-run prisons in Arizona are doing a better job than privately run prisons.

State run prisons are more “accountable to the public” (55% state run prisons, 14% private prisons), better able “to control prisoner violence” (41% state run prisons, 16% private prisons), a “good value for the money” (37% state run prisons, 27% private prisons), places where “prisoners are treated humanely” (35% state run prisons, 13% private prisons), and places where “repeat criminal behavior is reduced” (28% state run prisons, 15% private prisons).

PRISON DESCRIPTORS

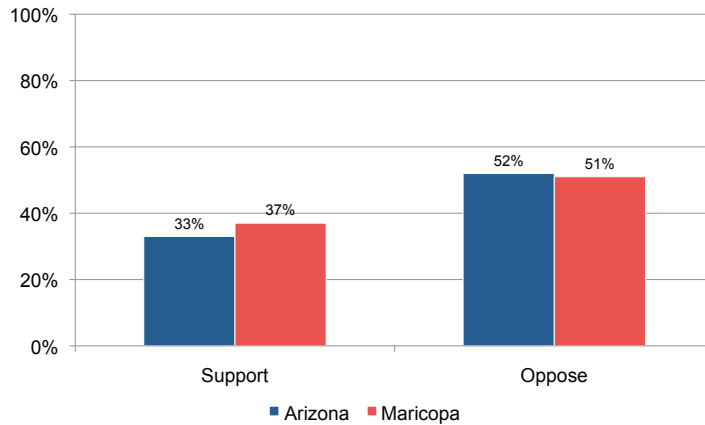
Arizona Voters	State-Run	Private
Accountable to Public	55%	14%
Ability to Control Prisoner Violence	41%	16%
Good Value for the Money	37%	27%
Prisoners are Treated Humanely	35%	13%
Repeat Criminal Behavior is Reduced	28%	15%

Maricopa County Voters	State-Run	Private
Accountable to Public	55%	15%
Ability to Control Prisoner Violence	42%	17%
Good Value for the Money	33%	30%
Prisoners are Treated Humanely	35%	16%
Repeat Criminal Behavior is Reduced	25%	17%

A majority of Arizona voters (52%) oppose private corporations running prisons in Arizona. A majority of Maricopa County voters (51%) also oppose private corporations running prisons in Arizona.

One third of Arizona voters (33%) and slightly more than one-third Maricopa County voters (37%) support private corporations running prisons in Arizona.

ATTITUDE TOWARD PRIVATE CORPORATIONS RUNNING PRISONS IN ARIZONA



iv. Methodology

American Friends Service Committee of Arizona commissioned GlobalLocal Visions, LLC, to conduct a statistically-representative telephone survey of likely voters living in Arizona. The survey focused on understanding perceptions of funding priorities in Arizona, attitudes toward imprisonment and its alternatives, levels of support for privatization of public services, and preferences for public control or private control of Arizona prisons. The survey was conducted between April 4 and April 15, 2013, using standards established by the American Association of Public Opinion Research.

GlobalLocal Visions worked with American Friends Service Committee to collaboratively develop the survey instrument used in the Arizona study. The survey instrument was thoroughly pre-tested before data collection was initiated. The survey was conducted with 600 randomly-selected, likely Arizona Voters, and included 400 randomly-selected, likely voters living in Maricopa County. "Likely voter" was defined as a registered voter with a record of voting in the last two general elections (2012 and 2010). The average length of the survey was 14 minutes. The response rate was 28.5 percent.

MARGIN OF ERROR

The sampling error associated with a 600-person survey of likely Arizona voters is +/- 4.1 percent, at a 95 percent confidence level. The sampling error associated with a 400-person survey of likely Maricopa County voters is +/- 5.0 percent, at a 95 percent confidence level. "Sampling error" is a social science term that describes the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in a specifically-defined population and interviewing a sample drawn from that population. The percentages obtained in telephone surveys such as these are estimates of what the percentage would be if the entire population had been surveyed.

SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

Data was collected by WestGroup Research in Phoenix, Arizona. Once a phone contact was initiated, trained interviewers introduced the survey to potential respondents by identifying the name of the research firm administering the survey and the purpose of the survey. Respondents were assured that nothing was being sold or solicited; and they were guaranteed confidentiality of responses. Respondents were asked for their consent to take the survey and told the survey would take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Every effort was made to obtain the highest possible completion rate. Several techniques were employed to achieve this goal. Survey fielding utilized an established pattern of callbacks to minimize non-sampling errors that occur from certain types of people not being available at particular times of the day. Also, a refusal conversion process helped to maintain the integrity of the original sampling framework and minimize non-response bias in sampling.



QUALITY CONTROL

Several quality checks were used in the collection of data. All interviewers were thoroughly trained in telephone-surveying methodology prior to interviewing. After several general training sessions, interviewers received training specific to this project including a briefing session from GlobalLocal Visions personnel. Interviewers then remained in practice mode until maximum proficiency was reached. Once an interviewer was prepared to administer the survey, supervisors performed frequent and regular monitoring of calls and data collection. Supervisors trained to check on the accuracy and validity of data collection completed a “supervisor call-back” of randomly selected calls. Each calling shift held a pre-shift meeting that prepped interviewers on updates and changes in survey procedures. Interviewer meetings were held regularly and meetings with calling center staff were also held throughout the fielding of the survey to address questions that may have arisen.

STUDY LIMITATIONS

The goal of this study was to interview a representative sample of likely voters living in Arizona. Despite the use of rigorous scientific methodology, all telephone sample studies face certain challenges and limitations. Only voters providing phone numbers at the time of voter registration were capable of participating in the study. In addition, the survey was administered in English and not available in other languages. Researchers do not believe these limitations hinder the quality of data generated in this study.

The demographics of study respondents are included on the following page. In addition, as a rough benchmark of the characteristics of the likely voter population in the state, the demographics of 2012 presidential election voters as known through exit poll data is also provided. This is not a perfect benchmark as it only includes election day voters and does not reflect the demographics of early voters. Further, the study population includes people voting in both 2012 and 2010. This is a population of high propensity voters who are most likely to vote in the next election. We know from historical records that mid-term voting populations (2010 election) are significantly smaller than general election voting populations (2012 election). Mid-term elections are more attractive to older voters and partisans, and less attractive to younger voters and independent voters. Based on the demographics of the survey population presented, the researchers believe the study data accurately reflects preferences of the base voting population for 2014.

	SURVEY RESPONDENTS		EXIT POLL RESPONDENTS*
	Arizona	Maricopa	2012
POLITICAL PARTY**			
Republican	43%	44%	35%
Democrat	36%	37%	26%
Other	21%	20%	39%
GENDER			
Women	50%	51%	51%
Men	50%	49%	49%
AGE			
18-29	1%	2%	26%
30-44	15%	13%	29%
45-64	32%	33%	32%
65+	53%	52%	12%
RACE/ETHNICITY			
White	80%	82%	74%
Minority	20%	18%	26%
EDUCATION			
HS degree or less	15%	15%	19%
Some college	37%	40%	36%
College degree +	48%	45%	44%
HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
Less than \$50,000	39%	38%	45%
\$50,000 - \$100,000	42%	38%	33%
\$100,000 +	16%	20%	23%
COUNTIES			
Maricopa	60%	100%	
Pima	16%		
Other	24%		

* Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/elections/2012-exit-poll/AZ/President>

** Source: Arizona voter registration records

v. Background Information

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Our work is based on the principles of the Religious Society of Friends, the belief in the worth of every person, and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice. AFSC was founded in 1917 by Quakers to provide conscientious objectors with an opportunity to aid civilian war victims. The Arizona office of AFSC was established in 1980 and focuses on criminal justice reform.

GlobalLocal Visions, LLC (GLV) is a full service, social research consulting firm. GLV has been conducting telephone surveys, focus groups, and secondary data analysis in Arizona since 2009. Recent clients of GlobalLocal Visions, LLC include the City of Flagstaff, Coconino County Board of Supervisors, Coconino Community College, the University of Arizona, and Copper State Consulting. GLV is co-directed by Drs. Frederic I. Solop and Nancy A. Wonders.

Frederic I. Solop, Ph.D., Co-Director, GlobalLocal Visions, LLC served as co-principal investigator for the AFSC Study. Dr. Solop is a Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Northern Arizona University. He earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University in 1990 and has been a faculty member at Northern Arizona University since that time. Dr. Solop recently completed a three year term as Department Chair. He directed NAU's Social Research Laboratory from 1999-2008. In that role, he served as principal investigator for more than 250 applied research projects valued at more than \$3 million. Dr. Solop has extensive experience conducting research for national, state, and regional governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations, mostly within Arizona. He regularly teaches social research methods classes to undergraduate, masters, and doctoral level students at Northern Arizona University. He is an active member of the American Association of Public Opinion Research, the American Political Science Association, and the Arizona Evaluation Network.

Nancy A. Wonders, Ph.D., Co-Director, GlobalLocal Visions, LLC served as co-principal Investigator for AFSC Study. Dr. Wonders is a Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Northern Arizona University and previously served a three-year term as Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Dr. Wonders earned a Ph.D. in Sociology at Rutgers University in 1990 and has served as a faculty member at Northern Arizona University since that time. She has more than 20 years of social science research experience in both the U.S. and in Europe, with special expertise conducting research in under-represented and vulnerable populations, justice systems, and global, national and local social problems. She has been a grant reviewer for the National Institute of Justice and the Hong Kong Research Council and has served on editorial boards for several scholarly journals. She has worked as a consultant on projects with governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations. Dr. Wonders is an active member of the American Society of Criminology.

APPENDIX. *Annotated Survey*

Hello, may I speak with (STATE FIRST & LAST NAME OF LISTED RESPONDENT)?

Hi. My name is (STATE FIRST NAME AND LAST NAME) and I'm calling on behalf of GlobalLocal Visions in Flagstaff. We're conducting a survey of registered voters to understand public perceptions of important statewide issues. This survey will take just a few minutes of your time. Your views are very important to us. Is now a good time to ask a few questions?

All of your answers are voluntary and confidential and will only be reported as part of a group response. If I come to any question you prefer not to answer, just let me know and I'll skip over it.

.....

1. Imagine you have \$100 to distribute to five (5) Arizona budget priorities. How much would you give to each of the following items?

	LIKELY VOTERS	MARICOPA COUNTY
Kindergarten through 12th grade education	\$26.75	\$25.58
Health care for needy citizens	\$24.80	\$25.59
Social services for children and families	\$21.76	\$23.76
Community colleges and universities	\$15.63	\$14.22
Prisons and Corrections	\$11.07	\$10.86

.....

2. Arizona currently spends \$1 billion of its \$8.5 billion dollar general fund on running prisons. Do you think this is too much money to spend on prisons, too little money to spend on prisons, or just the right amount?

	ARIZONA VOTERS	MARICOPA COUNTY
Too much	52%	48%
Just the Right Amount	25%	28%
Too Little	7%	7%
Don't Know	16%	16%

3. Many states provide alternatives to prison in limited circumstances. I'm going to read a list of alternatives and ask if you support or oppose each here in Arizona:

- "Earned Time Credit" allows those in prison to reduce the length of their sentence in return for participation in treatment or education programs.
- Mental health courts for handling cases involving people with mental health problems.
- Drug treatment programs for handling cases involving people addicted to drugs like alcohol, methamphetamine, or other drugs.
- Diversion programs that place low-risk people on supervised probation.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	In Between	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
ARIZONA VOTERS						
Mental health courts	56%	28%	2%	6%	5%	3%
Drug treatment progs	48%	29%	3%	6%	13%	1%
Diversion programs	43%	35%	4%	7%	8%	3%
Earned Time Credit	35%	39%	3%	9%	12%	3%
MARICOPA VOTERS						
Mental health courts	57%	25%	3%	7%	5%	3%
Drug treatment progs	50%	30%	3%	6%	10%	2%
Diversion programs	41%	33%	4%	8%	10%	3%
Earned Time Credit	34%	38%	4%	8%	12%	3%

4. Our legislators are often looking for ways to reduce the state budget. Do you support or oppose:

- Reducing prison time for low-risk non-violent offenders in order to help close the budget deficit?
- Sending fewer low-risk non-violent offenders to prison in order to help close the budget deficit?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	In Between	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
ARIZONA VOTERS						
Reducing Prison Time	40%	30%	2%	11%	14%	3%
Send Fewer Offenders to Prison	37%	28%	3%	14%	14%	4%
MARICOPA VOTERS						
Reducing Prison Time	38%	32%	2%	13%	12%	3%
Send Fewer Offenders to Prison	34%	30%	4%	15%	14%	4%

5. Would you agree or disagree that serving time in prison or jail reduces the likelihood a person will commit more crime in the future?

	ARIZONA VOTERS	MARICOPA COUNTY
Agree	29%	30%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	6%	5%
Disagree	59%	58%
Don't Know	7%	6%

6. There has been discussion lately about having private companies deliver services currently provided by government agencies. I'm going to read a list of services. For each, tell me if you think it's a good idea to privatize the service, a bad idea, or aren't you sure.

- Firefighters
- Police
- Prisons
- Mental hospitals
- Halfway houses for sex offenders

	Very Good Idea	Kind of a Good Idea	Kind of a Bad Idea	Very Bad Idea	Don't Know
ARIZONA VOTERS					
Mental Hospitals	26%	25%	12%	21%	15%
Prisons	17%	17%	18%	37%	11%
Halfway Houses	15%	18%	14%	35%	18%
Firefighters	15%	14%	18%	46%	8%
Police	8%	7%	18%	62%	5%
MARICOPA VOTERS					
Mental Hospitals	28%	26%	11%	21%	15%
Prisons	18%	19%	16%	37%	11%
Halfway Houses	17%	19%	15%	33%	17%
Firefighters	15%	12%	19%	44%	10%
Police	10%	5%	18%	63%	5%

7. Now I'm going to read a list of phrases and I'd like you to tell me if each phrase better describes prisons managed by private, for profit corporations, or prisons managed by the state of Arizona.

- A good value for the money
- Repeat criminal behavior is reduced
- Prisoners are treated humanely
- Ability to control prisoner violence
- Accountable to the public

	Private Corps	Both	Arizona	Neither	Don't Know
ARIZONA VOTERS					
Good Value	27%	4%	37%	13%	19%
Repeat Behavior Reduced	15%	6%	28%	26%	26%
Prisoners Treated Humanely	13%	21%	35%	9%	21%
Control Prisoner Violence	16%	15%	41%	9%	21%
Accountable to Public	14%	9%	55%	10%	12%
MARICOPA VOTERS					
Good Value	30%	5%	33%	16%	16%
Repeat Behavior Reduced	17%	7%	25%	32%	20%
Prisoners Treated Humanely	16%	21%	35%	11%	18%
Control Prisoner Violence	17%	14%	42%	10%	17%
Accountable to Public	15%	7%	55%	13%	10%

8. Currently, about one-third of Arizona prisons are managed by private corporations. Some people say private prisons are cheaper to run and more efficient. Others say private prisons are less safe and lack public accountability. On balance, do you support or oppose private corporations managing prisons in Arizona?

	ARIZONA VOTERS	MARICOPA COUNTY
Strongly Support	14%	17%
Somewhat Support	19%	20%
In Between	4%	4%
Somewhat Oppose	16%	14%
Strongly Oppose	36%	37%
Don't Know	11%	8%

9. Now I'm going to read a list of statements people make about criminal justice policy in Arizona. I'd like to know if you agree or disagree with each statement.

- It does not matter how much it costs to lock up criminals, we should pay whatever it takes to make sure our communities are safe.
- Prisons are a government program, and just like any other government program they need to be put to the cost-benefit test to make sure taxpayers are getting the best bang for their buck.
- Some of the money that we are spending on locking up low-risk, non-violent offenders should be shifted to strengthening community corrections programs like probation and parole.
- Non-violent offenders who break the rules of probation—such as missing an appointment with their probation officer—but have not committed a new crime, should not be sent back to prison for longer than 120 days.

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
ARIZONA VOTERS						
Pay Whatever it Takes	35%	24%	4%	16%	20%	2%
Cost/Benefit Test	70%	17%	2%	3%	5%	2%
Shift Money	53%	26%	2%	7%	9%	3%
< 120 Days	52%	24%	1%	7%	11%	5%
MARICOPA VOTERS						
Pay Whatever it Takes	35%	25%	3%	18%	19%	1%
Cost/Benefit Test	69%	17%	2%	4%	7%	1%
Shift Money	49%	27%	3%	9%	9%	3%
< 120 Days	47%	26%	1%	8%	13%	5%

10. When thinking about nonviolent offenders, do you believe mandatory sentences are a good idea or that judges should be able to decide the sentence?

	ARIZONA VOTERS	MARICOPA COUNTY
Judges Should Decide	77%	75%
Mandatory Sentences are Good Idea	18%	20%
Don't Know	5%	5%



**American Friends
Service Committee**

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