



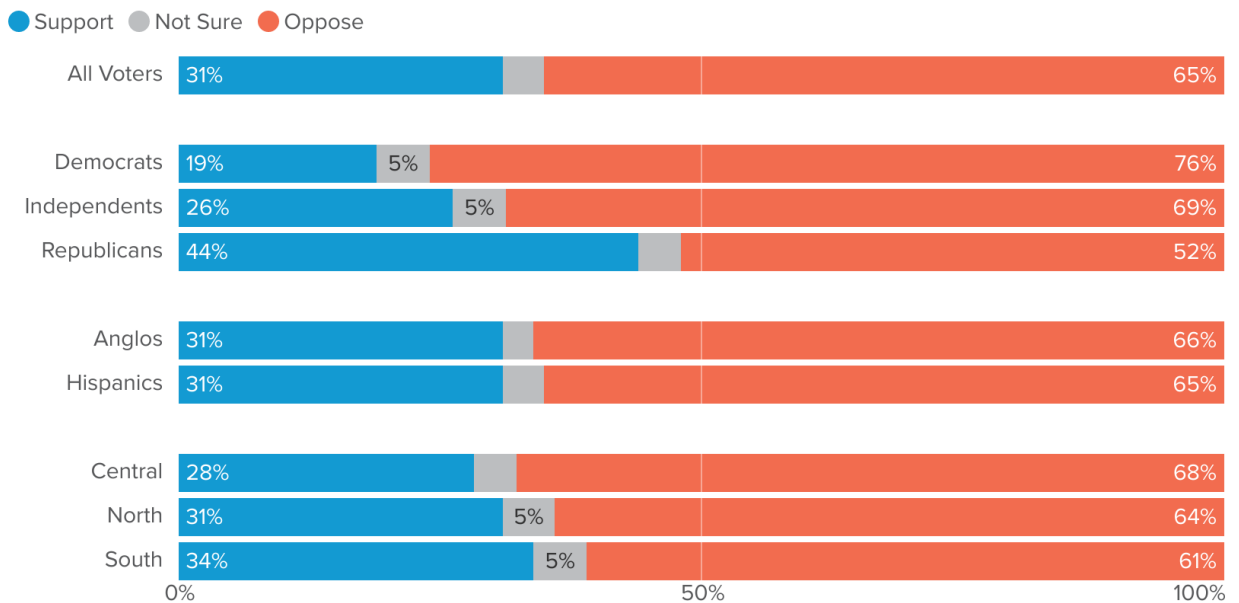
To: Fines and Fees Justice Center
From: Stephen Clermont, Change Research
Date: July 16, 2021
Re: New Mexico Survey Results

To determine where New Mexicans stand on a variety of criminal justice reform measures as it relates to fees and fines, Change Research conducted a poll of 744 registered voters statewide. Strong majorities of voters support reform proposals to make the current system fairer to everyone, especially people with low incomes. The following are highlights from this survey:

- **New Mexicans largely oppose suspending driver’s licenses of people who cannot afford to immediately pay a ticket or other court fees and fines.** Overall, 65% oppose this while just 31% support it. Majorities of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans oppose this as do both Anglo and Hispanics, men and women, and voters in all age groups and in all parts of the state.

Do you support or oppose New Mexico suspending driver’s licenses of people who cannot afford to immediately pay a ticket or other court fines or fees?

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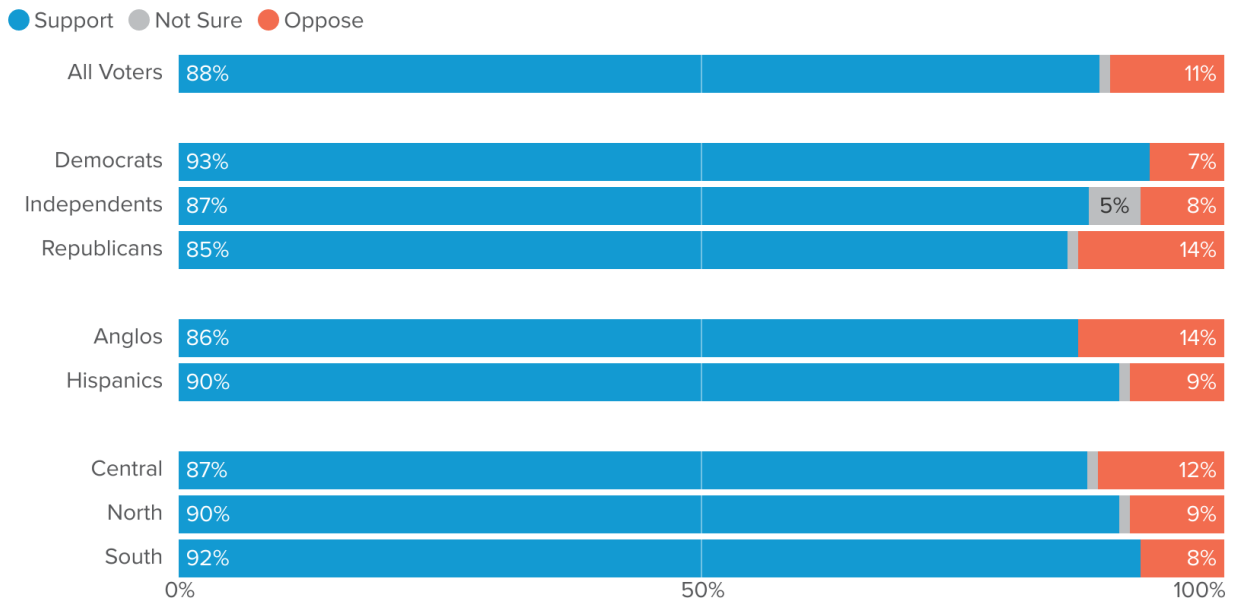


Polling was conducted online from June 5th-30th, 2021. Using its Dynamic Online Sampling and SMS text outreach process to attain a sample reflective of the electorate, Change Research surveyed 744 voters statewide from June 5th-7th using Dynamic Online Sampling. Post-stratification weights were made on age, gender, ethnicity, education, 2020 presidential vote, and region to reflect the distribution of voters within the state.

- **Nearly every New Mexican supports making minor traffic violations, including equipment violations, such as a broken tail light or cracked windshield, civil violations rather than criminal ones.** Nine in 10 (89%) support, including 59% who *strongly* support this. Only 11% oppose it. Support transcends every group in the state.

Do you support or oppose making minor traffic violations, including equipment violations, such as a broken tail light or cracked windshield, civil violations rather than criminal ones?

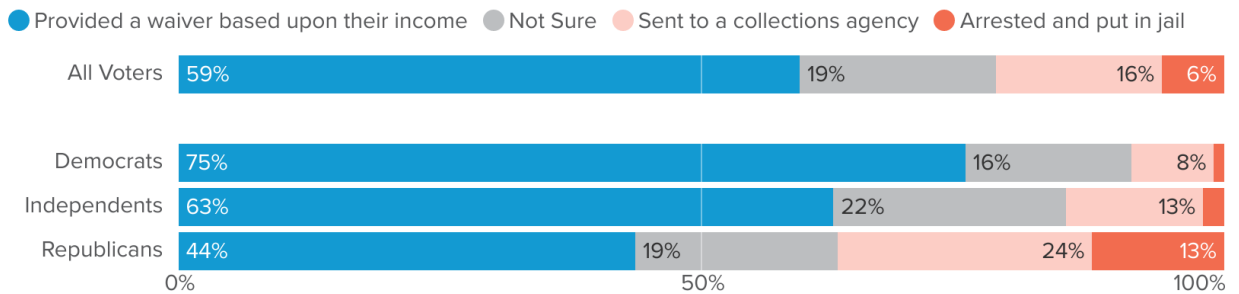
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- **Voters overwhelmingly support providing a waiver for someone who cannot afford to pay fees and fines over siccing a collection agency on people or arresting them and putting them in jail.** Three-fifths (60%) support this waiver while just 16% favor sending the case to a collection agency. Few (6%) prioritize arrest and jail time. A fifth (19%) are unsure. Fee waiver is preferred by Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.

If someone can't afford to pay fines and fees, should they be:

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- **A majority (59%) support ending the practice of arresting and jailing people simply because they cannot afford to pay fines and fees.** Just 36% oppose this. When informed that arresting and jailing people who cannot afford to pay fines and fees ultimately costs the government substantially more in court and jail costs than the amount owed, support for ending this practice swells to **76% with 17% opposed.** This support extends to all groups of the electorate.

Do you support or oppose ending the practice of arresting and jailing people simply because they cannot afford to pay fines and fees?

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(If oppose) Arresting and jailing people who cannot afford to pay fines and fees ultimately costs the government substantially more in court and jail costs than the amount owed. Hearing this, do you support or oppose ending the practice of arresting and jailing people simply because they cannot afford to pay fines and fees?

● Support ● Not Sure ● Oppose

