

To: Interested Parties

From: GBA Strategies

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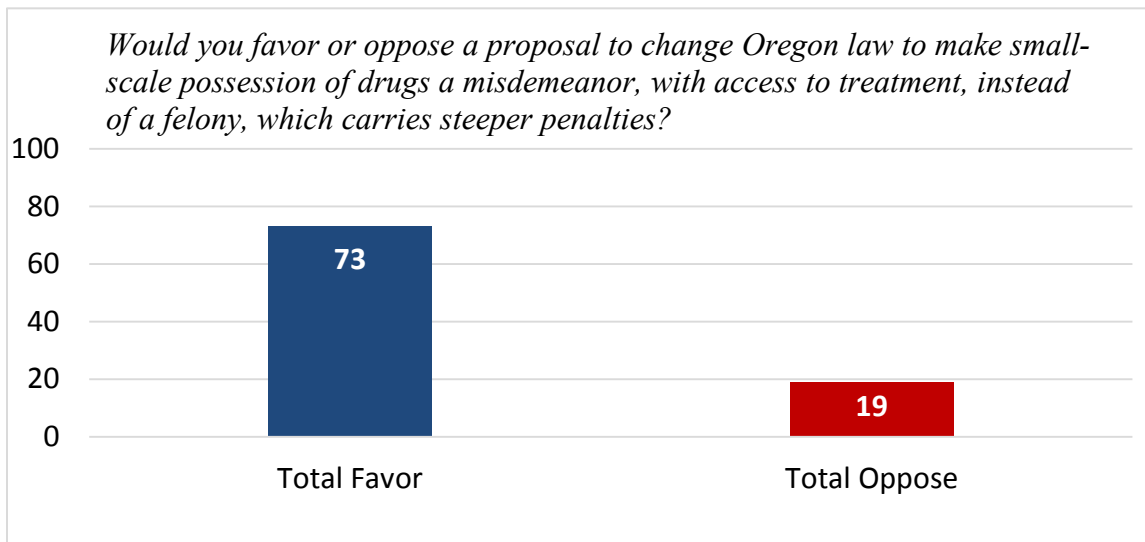
Oregon Drug De-Felonization Poll Results

A new poll shows that Oregon voters overwhelmingly favor changing Oregon law to make small-scale possession of drugs a misdemeanor instead of a felony, which carries steeper penalties. Oregonians' support for this proposal is rooted in a belief that the best way to handle people who misuse drugs is through treatment, education, and rehabilitation, rather than tough penalties. In fact, Oregonians would prefer District Attorneys and Sheriffs who think drug problems should be treated through prevention and treatment rather than through arrests and punishment.

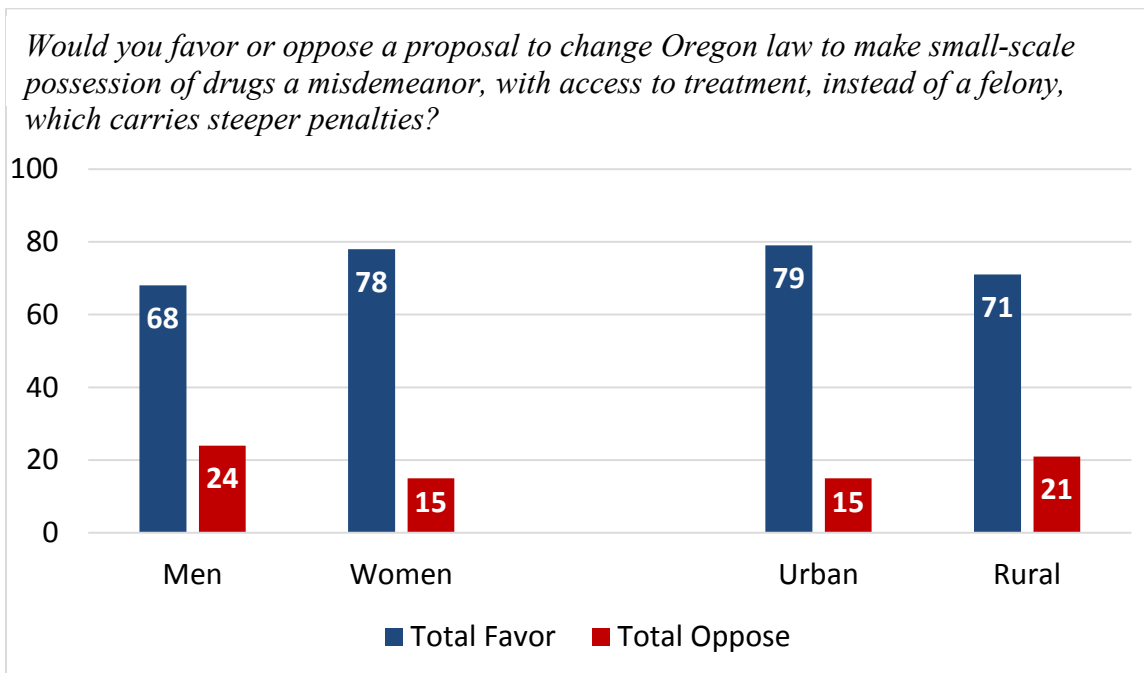
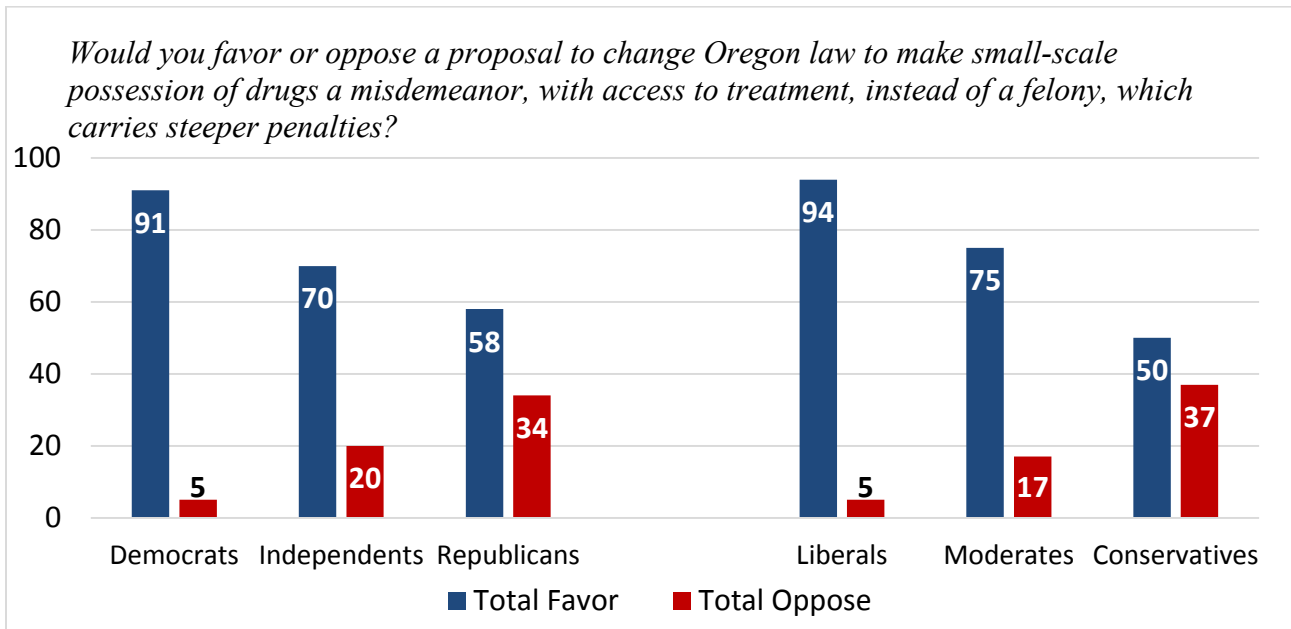
This memo highlights key findings and recommendations from a survey of 600 Oregon registered voters. The survey was conducted by GBA Strategies, by live interview, on phones and landlines, using a probability sample of registered Oregon voters, between January 26-29, 2017 and is subject to a +/- 4.0 percentage point margin of error.

Key Findings

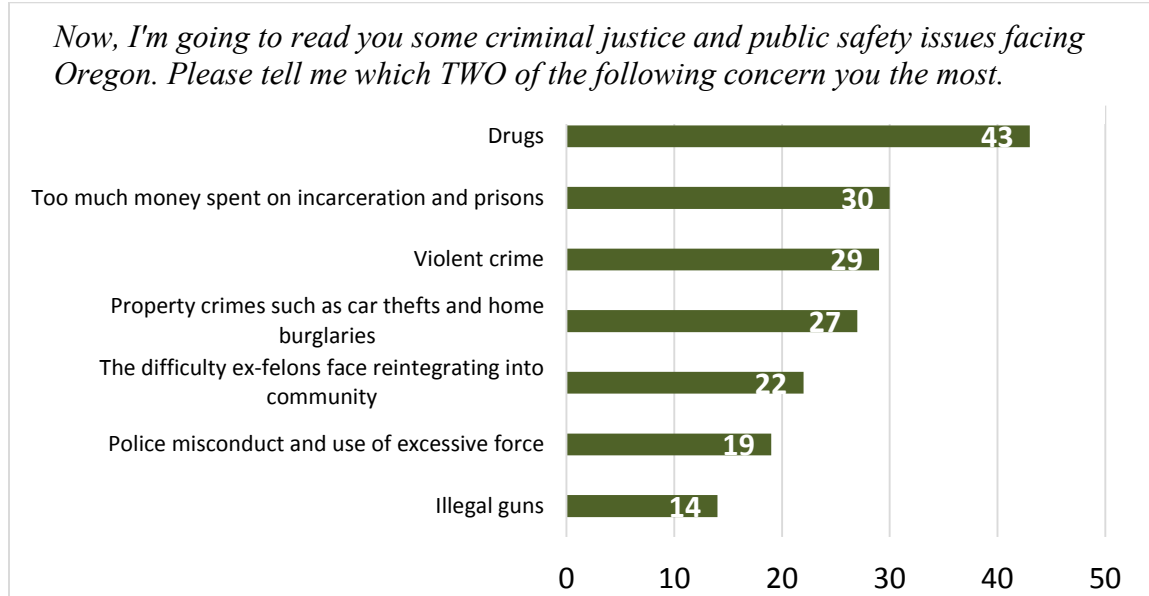
- **A broad cross-section of Oregonians overwhelmingly favors making small-scale possession of drugs a misdemeanor with access to treatment, instead of a felony, which carries steeper penalties.** Overall, 73 percent of Oregon voters favor this proposal, compared to just 19 percent who oppose it. Support for de-felonization is broad:



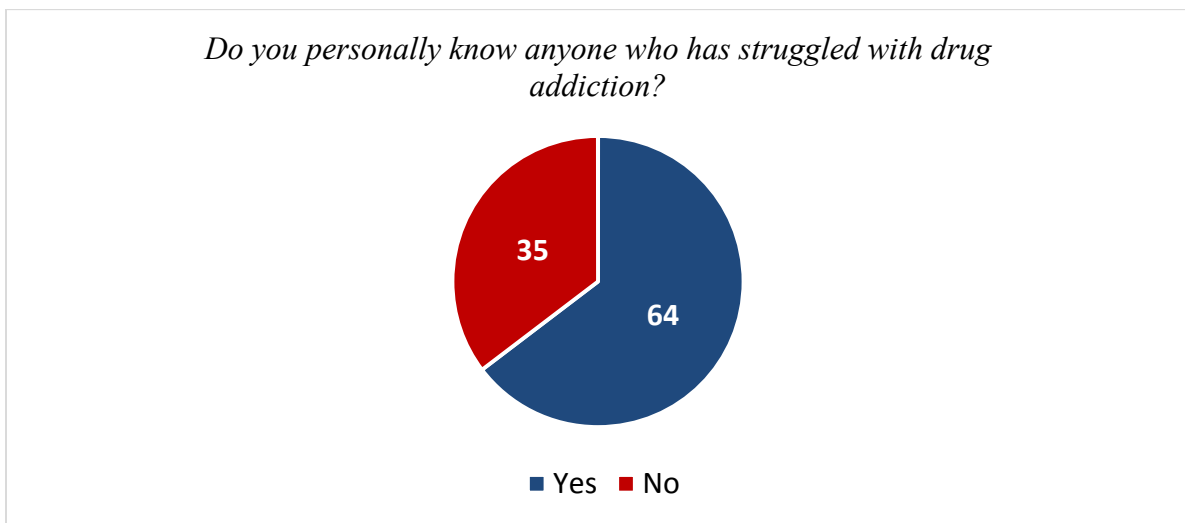
- Majorities of Democrats (91 percent), Independents (70 percent) and Republicans (58 percent) favor this proposal.
- Women (78 percent) and men (68 percent) back this proposal, as well as 79 percent in urban areas and 71 percent in rural areas.



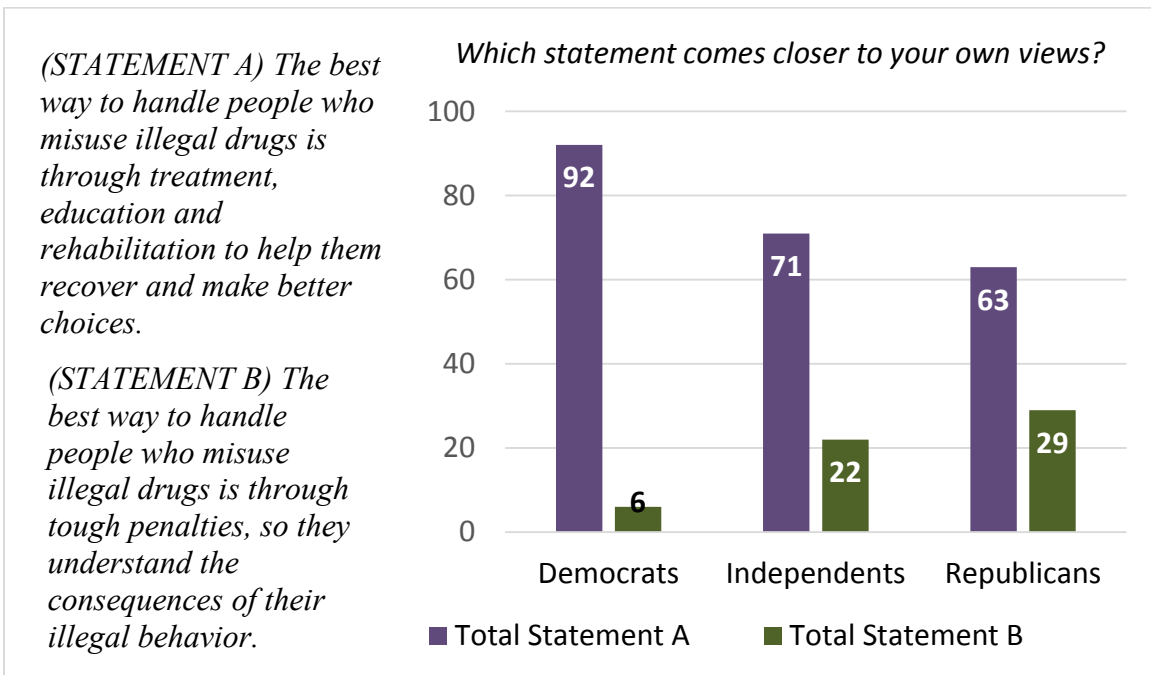
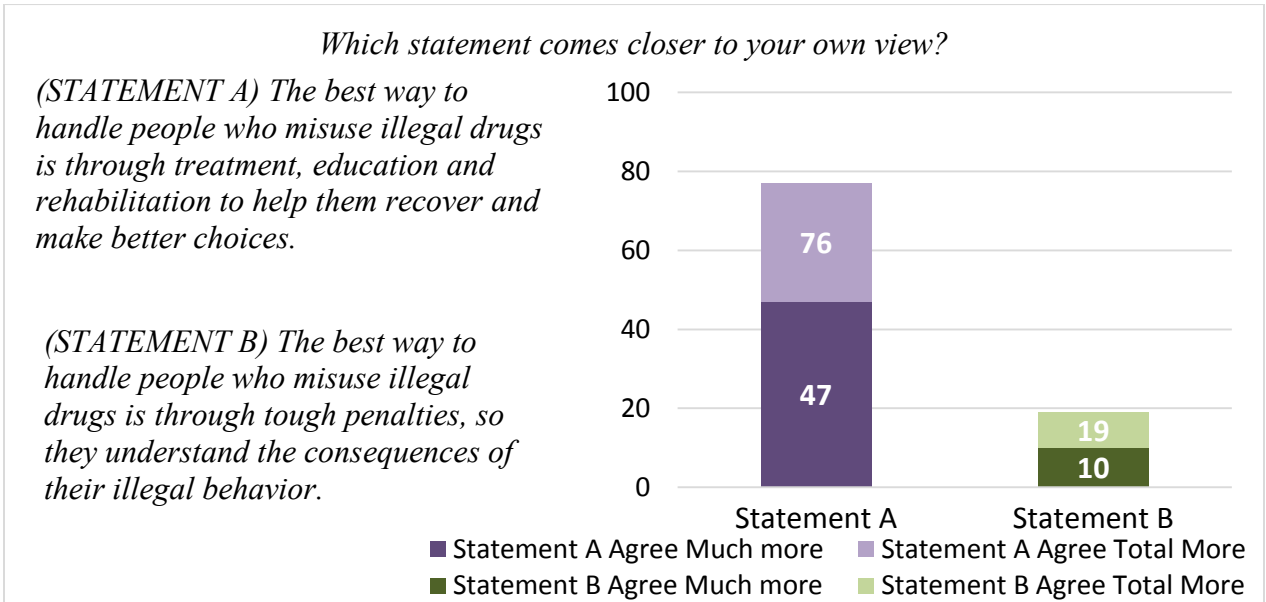
- **Drugs are overwhelmingly the top concern among criminal justice and public safety issues for voters.** Spending too much on prisons and incarceration, violent crime, and property crimes are the remainder of the top four concerns. When considering criminal justice and public safety, voters are least concerned about illegal guns.



- **Drug addiction is a widespread problem that touches the lives of many Oregonians.** Nearly 2-in-3 Oregon voters (64 percent) personally know someone who has struggled with drug addiction. Men and women, Democrats, Independents, and Republicans are all equally likely to personally know someone who has struggled with addiction.



- By a 76 – 19 percent margin, Oregonians believe the best way to handle people who misuse drugs is “through treatment, education and rehabilitation to help them recover and make better choices” rather than “through tough penalties so they understand the consequences of their illegal behavior.” This position is held by 92 percent of Democrats, 71 percent of Independents, and 63 percent of Republicans.



- Across partisan lines, Oregon voters are more likely to support a District Attorney or Sheriff that believes drug problems should be addressed through prevention and treatment, rather than arrests and punishment.** In total, 78 percent prefer a DA or Sheriff who thinks drug problems should be addressed more through prevention and treatment, while just 16 percent say arrests and punishment. This preference is exhibited by 93 percent of Democrats, 76 percent of Independents, and 61 percent of Republicans.

