

## SURVEY

As part of our campaign to promote forgiveness and reconciliation, we need your views and ideas. We ask you to help us find a good balance between safety, punishment and justice as we craft 2 bills for our legislature. Some questions ask for checks or Xs, some circling, some word answers. At the end of each answer we have provided space for you to write a longer answer. Feel free to use another sheet also. Thank you for helping.

1) How would you rate the current financial spending in corrections?

Good      bad      poor      unnecessary      not enough

other \_\_\_\_\_

2) How important is the danger factor in your decision making about releasing prisoners?

If we eliminate this factor, how does your opinion change?

\_\_\_\_\_ punishment is still very important. If you take a life, you should stay in prison.

\_\_\_\_\_ Safety is the primary reason for prisons. A person who has rehabilitated him/herself and served a minimum mandated time, should be given a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance.

Other/more here: \_\_\_\_\_

3) According to the non-profit WISTAX, Minnesota, which relies on probation and parole instead of prison; in 2008 spent 480 million on corrections compared to Wisconsin's 1.1 billion and has 12,000 fewer prisoners.

Should the Wisconsin Legislature study the details of how Minnesota does Corrections and perhaps follow suit?  
yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

What another state does has nothing to do with us \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

3) The average daily cost of probation or parole supervision in 2008 was \$3.42. The average cost of a prison inmate was \$78.95 or 20 times more than probation/parole. In Minnesota, counties get the corrections money and they chose treatment, prevention and prison alternatives. If your county was given the money directly that is now given to the state, how would you spend it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) Help us craft our JUVENILE Bill : Given the recent supreme court decisions barring the death penalty for juveniles and studies revealing insufficient brain development in kids under 18, should we continue the practice of waiving juveniles into adult correctional systems?

Yes                      No

comments \_\_\_\_\_

6) The law FFUP is drafting would provide a release path for juveniles who have spent at least 15 years in prison and are rehabilitated. Could you support such a bill?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how would the juvenile, now adult, prove he is ready for release?

Your ideas \_\_\_\_\_

7) One of our Juvenile bills sets up a board of 12 community members to decide if the prisoner is ready for parole. The panel question and engage the person seeking release and the prisoner will be able to present testimony by family, DOC staff and others. They can show programs taken and writing projects done. Victims will be allowed to testify. Could you support such a bill yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

If not, What do you think is a required check list of programs these prisoners should complete before being released : Note: Vocational, anger management, and responsible thinking are 3 programs are already required. Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8) Could you support a WI bill that provides a realistic pathway for the release of elderly prisoners? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ What do you think is a required check list of programs these prisoners should complete before being released : Note: Vocational, anger management, and responsible thinking are 3 programs already required. Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9) There are three factors that drive the legislative push to release the elderly

a) The cost for the elderly prisoner is three times the younger, about 22 thousand for younger prisoners, 68 thousand for elderly

b) According to US justice statistics, only 1.4 percent of parolees 55 years and older get into trouble with the law.

c) A prisoner is considered elderly at 55 as he/she will have same health symptoms as people in "free" population who are 8 to 10 years older, due to the stress of prison life and other actors.

Does reading these statistics/facts change your opinion about holding someone for life?

No. \_\_\_\_\_ money or dangerousness should not be a factor in whether someone is released. "You do the crime, do the time."

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ prison's main function is public safety. We are wasting money and lives.

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11) Georgetown University's POPS program (The Project for Older Prisoners) gives law students credit for working with older prisoners and helping them get a parole plan together and locate housing and support.

Should Wi legislature study the pops program and possibly do the same? yes \_\_\_\_\_

no \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

12) Do you believe a person can change? Yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe that a person who committed a violent crime in his 20's and has served 15 plus years should be given a second chance? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

Is it enough that a prisoner is legally eligible for parole, has taken all the programs possible, can show himself rehabilitated, and has an adequate support system for himself after release? Should this person be released?

Yes, we have too many people locked up and rehabilitated prisoners have much to offer and are needed out here. \_\_\_\_\_

No, the prison should do what it is doing- keep the prisoner locked up as long as possible, regardless of eligibility \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you join FFUP and prisoners' families and friends in telling legislature and parole commission to follow the law that was current when old law prisoners were sentenced and release those that are eligible under that law?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have suggestions for future surveys? \_\_\_\_\_

Send to FFUP ; 29631 Wild Rose Drive, Blue River, WI 53518.