



To: Interested Parties  
From: Danny Franklin; Jessica Reis; Bully Pulpit Interactive  
Date: March 24, 2020  
Re: Poll results

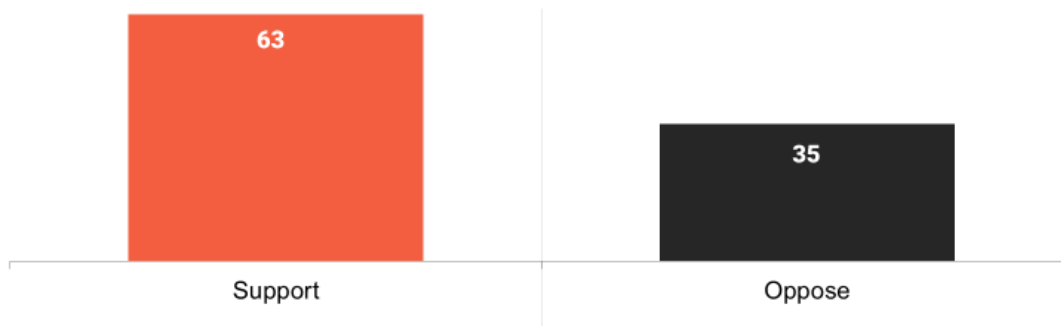
## Majority of Voters Support Releasing Vulnerable People from Prisons and Jails in times of Coronavirus

**Methodology:** Bully Pulpit Interactive conducted a poll of 1310 registered voters from March 14 to 18, 2020. The survey was mixed mode, with 709 interviews collected online and 601 over the phone, weighted proportionally and all matched to the voter file. The margin of error on the overall weighted sample of 1200 is +/- 2.8 points at the 95% confidence interval. Margin of error on subgroups is slightly higher.

As the risks associated with COVID-19 become clearer for more Americans, a significant majority of American voters support releasing vulnerable populations from prison and jail to reduce the risk of the spread of coronavirus. Sixty-three percent of registered voters support releasing vulnerable individuals who are currently incarcerated, such as pre-trial detainees who have not been convicted of a crime but are awaiting trial or elderly people at a higher health risk, to reduce the potential danger of the virus to incarcerated people and prison staff.

### A 63% MAJORITY APPROVES OF RELEASE TO REDUCE RISK IN PRISONS

**SOME PEOPLE HAVE REAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS SPREADING IN JAILS AND PRISONS, BOTH AMONG PEOPLE SERVING TIME AND TO PEOPLE WHO WORK IN PRISONS AND JAILS. THEY SUGGEST RELEASING CERTAIN PEOPLE FROM JAILS – LIKE PRETRIAL DETAINEES WHO HAVE NOT BEEN CHARGED AND JUST CAN'T AFFORD CASH BAIL, OR ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO ARE AT HIGH RISK. WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THESE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE CORONAVIRUS RISK IN PRISONS?**



This sentiment cuts across the party lines, as 53% of Republicans support releasing vulnerable individuals to reduce the coronavirus risk in prisons, along with 59% of Independents and 73% of Democrats.

Additionally, 72% support releasing elderly individuals, who research shows age out of crime.

“Now more than ever, Americans are attuned to the public health risks of a high prison population,” says Danny Franklin, a partner at Bully Pulpit Interactive. “Even before this pandemic, voters were aware of and uneasy with our growing prison population. But now, there is strong demand to release individuals who are at high risk. This is important to voters, and they want to see their elected officials act on this as well.”