

Registered Voter Omnibus

Campaign Zero District of Columbia - February 2024 Toplines



Sample Online sample of 326 voters fielded from February 13 to February 26, 2024.
 Margin of Error ±6%

1. Recently, some have proposed changing the law to allow police officers to arrest WMATA riders they suspect of misconduct if the rider refuses to provide personal information to them, such as their name or home address. And even if it isn't exactly right, which of the following is closer to your view?

I support changing the law - police should be allowed to arrest WMATA riders for failing to provide officers with their name and home address	32%
I oppose changing the law - police should not be allowed to arrest WMATA riders for failing to provide their name and home address to a police officer and should only be allowed to arrest for committing a crime	68%
Totals	100%
N	326

2. And generally speaking, whether you [support or oppose] this policy or not, do you think...

Passing this change to the law would improve public safety here in DC	34%
Passing this change to the law would not improve public safety here in DC	66%
Totals	100%
N	326

3. Now, imagine someone holding a gun while committing a crime is caught by police in the act. In this situation, even if it isn't exactly right, which of the following do you think the person should do if they wanted to avoid violence in this situation?

In this situation, the person should drop the gun - holding a gun during a confrontation with the police makes violence more likely	96%
In this situation, the person should not drop the gun - dropping the gun suggests the person was trying to pretend they weren't holding it in the first place	4%
Totals	100%
N	326

4. Lately, some on the DC City Council have proposed a new law making it a crime to drop a gun if a person is holding one during an interaction with the police. Generally speaking, would you [support or oppose] this new law?

I support this new law - it should be illegal to drop your gun during a police confrontation	18%
I oppose this new law - it should not be illegal to drop your gun during a police confrontation	82%
Totals	100%
N	326

5. And generally speaking, whether you [support or oppose] this policy or not, do you think...

Passing this law would improve public safety here in DC	31%
Passing this law would not improve public safety here in DC	69%
Totals	100%
N	326

6. Lately, some on the DC City Council have proposed a new law declaring that, in neighborhoods where the police suspect criminal activity might occur, the police should be allowed to arrest people for congregating in groups of two or more if the police suspect any of those people may be engaging in criminal activity. Even if it isn't exactly right, which of the following is closer to your view?

I support this new law - the police should be allowed to arrest groups of two or more in neighborhoods they deem to be high-risk if they believe those people are engaging in criminal activity	26%
I oppose this new law - the police should have to have probable cause before arresting people who are out in public	74%
Totals	100%
N	326

7. And generally speaking, whether you [support or oppose] this policy or not, do you think...

Passing this law would improve public safety here in DC	36%
Passing this law would not improve public safety here in DC	64%
Totals	100%
N	326

8. Currently, on-duty police officers here in DC are prohibited from reviewing some body camera footage after conducting a police stop, executing a warrant, or similar kinds of police work, to prevent reviewing such footage from interfering with their own personal recollection of events. Lately, some on the DC City Council have proposed reversing the current law to allow officers to review body camera footage in these circumstances. Generally speaking, even if it isn't exactly right, which of the following is closer to your view?

Police officers should be allowed to review body camera footage before providing their own personal recollection of events	36%
Police officers should not be allowed to review body camera footage before providing their own personal recollection of events	64%
Totals	100%
N	326

9. Currently, it is against the law here in Washington DC for the police to engage in a pursuit against someone in a vehicle if doing so could endanger or kill the suspect. Would you [support or oppose] changing the law to allow the police to conduct vehicular pursuits against people, even if doing so could put the suspect at risk of harm?

Strongly support	20%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	8%
Totals	100%
N	326

10. Currently, criminal sentences here in DC include “mandatory minimums,” which often include obligatory prison sentences regardless of the circumstances of the crime. And even if it isn’t exactly right, which of the following is closer to your view?

Asked only of respondents in Split A

I support mandatory minimums - some crimes need to be punished at a certain level no matter their circumstances	31%
I oppose mandatory minimums - while crime should be punished, the punishment should fit the circumstances of the crime	69%
Totals	100%
N	170

11. Here in DC, the maximum possible length of a sentence someone can serve for a crime here in Washington is determined in laws set by the DC City Council. In each individual case, a judge and jury decide whether a person is guilty or not guilty and, if found guilty, determines their individual sentence length. Now, some on the DC city council are proposing new mandatory minimums, which would require anyone sentenced of a crime to receive at least a certain fine or prison sentence, regardless of whether the judge or jury believed the circumstances of the crime called for a different sentence. Generally speaking, when it comes to sentencing someone convicted of a crime, who should decide the minimum length of the sentence the person receives?

Asked only of respondents in Split B

The DC City Council	14%
The judge and jury who oversaw the trial	86%
Totals	100%
N	156

12. And even if it isn’t exactly right, which of the following is closer to your view?

The standards for the food served to people in jail should be set by the Department of Health, where it will be chosen by experts in health and nutrition	85%
The standards for the food served to people in jail should be set by the Department of Corrections, where it will be chosen by experts in dealing with prisoners	15%

Totals	100%
N	326

13. In criminal sentencing, the difference between classifying theft as a misdemeanor vs felony is based on the dollar amount of the item(s) and has a significant impact on the severity of the sentence. The threshold between the two is chosen by lawmakers, and left unchanged until the legislature takes up the issue again. Would you [support or oppose] a policy adjusting this threshold for inflation, so that it increases or decreases similarly to prices and other economic indicators?

Strongly support	26%
Somewhat support	38%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	6%
Not sure	22%
Totals	101%
N	326

14. Now, imagine the Washington, DC City Council was working on a new piece of legislation. Generally speaking, would you be [more or less] supportive of that legislation if you learned the Council did not allow the public to provide any sort of input, such as through public testimony, on the final version of that piece of legislation?

More supportive	11%
Less supportive	73%
No difference	16%
Totals	100%
N	326

15. Now, imagine the Washington, DC City Council was working on a new piece of legislation designed to reduce crime and improve public safety. Generally speaking, would you be [more or less] supportive of that legislation if you learned the Council included some ideas in the legislation that have been shown to be ineffective at reducing crime or improving public safety?

More supportive	20%
Less supportive	65%
No difference	14%
Totals	99%
N	326

16. Next, consider the following statement from the Washington DC City Council Office of Racial Equity concerning the policies discussed in this survey. That statement reads, Several of the bill's provisions aimed at increasing public safety are not substantiated by evidence-based research. Further, research shows that several of these provisions are especially harmful to Black residents who are involved, or likely to be involved, with the criminal legal system. As a result, several of the bill's provisions will (or will likely) exacerbate racial inequity in the District. Generally speaking, does this statement make you [more supportive, less supportive,] or have no impact on your support for the policies discussed in this survey?

More supportive	17%
Less supportive	59%
No impact	25%
Totals	101%
N	326

17. To the best of your recollection, have you or anyone you know been contacted by a member of the city council concerning issues of crime and criminal justice here in Washington, DC?

Yes, me personally	9%
Yes, someone I know	10%
No	83%
N	326

18. Next, you will see some things that may have changed in recent years compared to the past. For each of those things, please say whether you believe that thing is .

	This is getting better	This hasn't changed much	This is getting worse	This was never a problem to begin with
Violent crime in my community	7%	24%	67%	2%
Violent crime in this country	19%	21%	59%	1%
Violence committed by the police in my community	15%	47%	29%	9%
Violence committed by the police in this country	14%	37%	47%	2%
The cost of living in my community	5%	21%	73%	1%
The cost of living in this country	7%	14%	78%	1%

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19. Please rate your feelings toward each of the people, terms, and organizations below: do you feel [very favorable toward them, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?] If you have no opinion or never heard of that person, term, or organization please select that option.

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Never heard of that person, term, or organization	Not sure
Joe Biden	35%	40%	10%	13%	1%	1%
Donald Trump	4%	6%	5%	82%	1%	1%
Brooke Pinto	5%	17%	10%	6%	43%	20%
Muriel Bowser	14%	30%	24%	25%	1%	5%
Phil Mendelson	9%	23%	19%	7%	22%	20%
Eleanor Holmes-Norton	35%	32%	9%	7%	8%	8%

20. Next, you will see some changes the DC City Council recently made to the city's budget. For each of those, please say whether you [support or oppose] that change.

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Reducing emergency rental assistance	4%	8%	20%	61%	8%
Reducing housing vouchers for homeless people	6%	7%	19%	63%	5%
Imposing a 2\$ fee for rideshare trips that traverse downtown DC	13%	18%	20%	36%	13%
Cutting funding to organizations that serve victims of domestic violence	4%	5%	15%	72%	5%
Cutting food and nutrition assistance made available via programs like food stamps and SNAP	4%	4%	12%	76%	4%

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This survey is based on 326 interviews conducted by YouGov on the internet of registered voters in Washington DC. The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, and U.S. Census region based on voter registration lists, the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, as well as 2020 Presidential vote. Respondents were selected from YouGov to be representative of registered voters in Washington DC. The weights range from 0.25 to 2.9 with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.48.

The margin of error (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage p based upon the subsetted sample is approximately 6%. It is calculated using the formula:

$$\hat{p} \pm 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{1 + CV^2}{n}}$$

where CV is the coefficient of variation of the sample weights and n is the sample size used to compute the proportion. This is a measure of sampling error (the average of all estimates obtained using the same sample selection and weighting procedures repeatedly). The sample estimate should differ from its expected value by less than margin of error in 95 percent of all samples. It does not reflect non-sampling errors, including potential selection bias in panel participation or in response to a particular survey.