

Final Frequencies (n=600)
UTAH STATEWIDE SURVEY
The Mellman Group & Public Opinion Strategies
February 20, 2015

Hello. My name is [FIRST NAME ONLY]. I'm calling long distance from _____. We are conducting a public opinion survey and I would like to ask you some questions. We are not selling anything, and I will not ask you for a contribution or donation. Could I please speak with **[ASK FOR NAME ON LIST. IF NOT AVAILABLE, SCHEDULE TIME FOR A CALLBACK.]** First, are you registered to vote at this address? **[IF NO, TERMINATE AND MARK TQ1 ON SAMPLE SHEET]**

[RECORD, BUT DO NOT ASK, GENDER:]

male..... 48
female..... 52

A. Are you or is anyone in your household a journalist, employed by a newspaper, television or radio station?

Yes **[TERMINATE]**
No..... 100
DK/refused..... **[TERMINATE]**

1. How likely would you say you are to vote in the November 2016 general election for President, Governor, Congress and other political offices -- are you almost certain to vote in the election, very likely, about 50-50, not too likely, not at all likely, or aren't you sure?

Almost certain..... 82
Very likely..... 18
About 50-50 **[TERMINATE]**
Not too likely **[TERMINATE]**
Not at all likely..... **[TERMINATE]**
DK/not sure **[TERMINATE]**

2. Generally speaking, would you say that things in Utah are going in the right direction or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction..... 70
Wrong track..... 19
Don't know **[VOL.]**..... 11

3. On a day-to-day basis, using a scale from ZERO to TEN where zero means you do NOT FEEL SAFE AT ALL and ten means you feel COMPLETELY SAFE, how safe do you personally feel in your community? Of course you can choose any number between zero and ten. **[RECORD ACTUAL NUMBER. DK/REFUSED=99]** _____

Zero	1
One	0
Two	0
Three	0
Four	1
Five.....	3
Six	4
Seven.....	9
Eight.....	29
Nine.....	27
Ten	25
[VOL] Refused	0
MEAN.....	8.4

4. Over the past two decades, do you think crime in Utah has increased, stayed the same, or gone down?

increased.....	58
stayed the same	25
gone down	8
[VOL] don't know.....	9

5. In your opinion, what should be the main purpose of sending a person to prison?

[RANDOMIZE LIST] [ALLOW ONLY ONE RESPONSE]

Q.5B What is the second most important purpose? **[ALLOW ONLY ONE RESPONSE]**

	Q.5 <u>1st</u>	Q.5B <u>2nd</u>
__To punish the individual	17	16
__To rehabilitate the individual so he might become a productive citizen.....	31	19
__To keep him locked up in order to protect society from future crimes he might commit	29	23
__To deter others who might commit crimes	5	13
__To provide justice for victims	14	22
[VOL] DK/refused.....	4	6

6. Do you think the state of Utah should sentence more offenders to prison, sentence fewer offenders to prison, or should Utah sentence about the same number of offenders to prison as it does now?

More	16
Fewer.....	21
About the same.....	43
[VOL] Don't know/refused	20

Now, I am going to read you some different statements that people make about changing and reforming the criminal sentencing and corrections system in Utah. After I read each one, please tell me if you agree or disagree with that statement. **[IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASK:]** And would you say you **STRONGLY** (agree/disagree) with that statement or just **NOT SO STRONGLY** (agree/disagree)?

[RANDOMIZE Q.7/8-Q.17]

	DIS- AGREE	Agree Strong	Agree NSS	Disagree NSS	Disagree Strong	[vol] DK
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[SPLIT SAMPLE J]

7. __We need to invest in supervision and programs that reduce the likelihood that parolees will end up back behind bars	91	8	71	19	5	3	1
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[SPLIT SAMPLE K]

8. __Forty six percent of inmates leaving Utah prisons return within 3 years. So, if we're serious about public safety, we need to invest in supervision and programs that reduce the likelihood that parolees will end up back behind bars	88	9	70	18	5	3	3
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[RESUME ASKING EVERYBODY]

9. __Prisons are a government spending program, and just like any other government spending program they need to be put to the cost-benefit test to make sure taxpayers are getting the best bang for the buck	85	12	66	19	7	5	3
10. __It does not matter how much it costs to lock up criminals, we should pay whatever it takes to make sure our communities are safe	65	33	40	24	18	15	2
11. __Policy makers should not let people out of prison early just to save money.....	81	15	62	19	8	7	4
12. __Parole and probation are just a slap on the wrist and not a substitute for prison.....	51	45	32	19	26	18	5
13. __Some of the money that Utah is spending on locking up low level offenders should be shifted to strengthening mandatory community supervision programs like probation and parole	79	15	48	30	9	6	6
14. __We have too many low-level non-violent offenders in prison. We need alternatives to incarceration that cost less and use prison beds for violent criminals	84	9	60	24	5	5	7
15. __I would support shorter prison sentences for low-level offenders if that permitted the state to pay for better probation and parole, swifter sanctions and more required substance abuse and mental health treatment for offenders...	86	11	63	23	6	5	3
16. __ It does not matter whether an offender is in prison for 14 or 20 or 26 months. What really matters is that the system does a better job of making sure that when an offender does get out, he is less likely to commit another crime.	91	8	75	16	4	4	2
17. __I would support shorter prison sentences for inmates who complete rehabilitative substance abuse and mental health treatment programs while in prison.....	85	13	58	27	6	6	2

[SPLIT SAMPLE J]

18. Do you believe that Utah spends too much on prisons and that such spending is crowding out funding for other pressing priorities like job development, education and roads and transportation? **[IF YES/NO, ASK:]** And would you say you **STRONGLY** (agree/disagree) with that statement or just **NOT SO STRONGLY** (agree/disagree)?

Yes, strongly	26	41
Yes, not so strongly.....	15	
No, not so strongly	14	
No, strongly.....	20	34
[VOL] Don't know/refused	25	

[SPLIT SAMPLE K]

19. Utah spent \$269 million dollars on prisons in 2013. Do you believe that such spending is crowding out funding for other pressing priorities like job development, education and roads and transportation? **[IF YES/NO, ASK:]** And would you say you **STRONGLY** (agree/disagree) with that statement or just **NOT SO STRONGLY** (agree/disagree)?

Yes, strongly	43	61
Yes, not so strongly.....	18	
No, not so strongly	15	
No, strongly.....	16	31
[VOL] Don't know/refused	8	

[RESUME ASKING EVERYONE]

20. Which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view: **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

__**Statement A:** In 2013, Utah spent \$269 million dollars on corrections. That's too much. There are more effective, less expensive ways to protect public safety while holding offenders accountable for their crimes.

OR

__**Statement B:** People who commit crimes belong behind bars, end of story. It may cost a lot of money to run prisons, but it would cost society more in the long run if more criminals were on the street.

[IF A OR B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Statement A, strongly.....	37	56
Statement A, not strongly.....	19	
Statement B, not strongly.....	15	
Statement B, strongly.....	24	39
[VOL] Don't know/refused	5	

[SPLIT SAMPLE J]

21. Almost half of inmates released from Utah prisons return to prison within three years. Do you believe Utah offers enough reentry services like substance abuse treatment and temporary housing to individuals who are released from prison and are transitioning back into the community?

Yes 28
 No..... 48
 [VOL] Don't know/refused 24

[SPLIT SAMPLE K]

22. Do you believe Utah offers enough reentry services like substance abuse treatment and temporary housing to individuals who are released from prison and are transitioning back into the community?

Yes 23
 No..... 42
 [VOL] Don't know/refused 35

[SPLIT SAMPLE X]

23. Currently simple drug possession is a felony which carries with it a penalty of up to 5 years in prison. A commission of Democratic and Republican criminal justice practitioners including law enforcement, judges, and treatment experts recently suggested reducing the penalty for simple drug possession to a misdemeanor which carries with it a penalty of up to 1 year in prison. Do you find this proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable? **[IF ACCEPTABLE/ UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:]** And do you feel that it is **STRONGLY** (acceptable/ unacceptable) or **NOT SO STRONGLY** (acceptable/ unacceptable)?

Acceptable, strongly..... 47 **73**
 Acceptable, not so strongly 27
 Unacceptable, not so strongly 9
 Unacceptable, strongly..... 14 **23**
 [VOL] Don't know/refused 4

[SPLIT SAMPLE Y]

24. Currently simple drug possession is a felony which carries with it a penalty of up to 5 years in prison. Some people recently suggested reducing the penalty for simple drug possession to a misdemeanor which carries with it a penalty of up to 1 year in prison. Do you find this proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable? **[IF ACCEPTABLE/ UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:]** And do you feel that it is **STRONGLY** (acceptable/ unacceptable) or **NOT SO STRONGLY** (acceptable/ unacceptable)?

Acceptable, strongly..... 44 **65**
 Acceptable, not so strongly 21
 Unacceptable, not so strongly 13
 Unacceptable, strongly..... 16 **29**
 [VOL] Don't know/refused 6

[RESUME ASKING EVERYONE]

25. Now I'm going to read you some things that people are saying about the proposal to reduce the penalty for simple drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor. With whom do you agree more?

[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

__ **Supporters** of this proposal say that prison is not the best place for people who are addicted to drugs. Requiring offenders to get treatment and increasing community supervision rather than sending them to prison will more effectively stop the cycle of addiction and make our communities safer.

OR

__ **Opponents** of this proposal say that the threat of a felony conviction and a prison sentence helps deter people from drug use. Reducing drug possession to a misdemeanor sends the wrong message and will lead to more crime.

[IF SUPPORTERS/OPPONENTS, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Supporters, strongly	50	70
Supporters, not strongly	20	
Opponents, not strongly	10	
Opponents, strongly	15	25
[VOL] Don't know/refused	5	

26. Without any reform, Utah's prison system will grow by 37% over the next 20 years, costing state taxpayers an additional \$542 million dollars. Which of the following statements comes closest to your point of view about that? **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

__ **Statement A:** State leaders should reform the system so it costs less, while implementing less costly programs that are proven to reduce future crime.

OR

__ **Statement B:** Those who violate the law need to be punished, and we should not let the cost of prison determine how many people are sentenced to prison or for how long.

[IF A OR B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Statement A, strongly.....	52	71
Statement A, not strongly.....	19	
Statement B, not strongly.....	9	
Statement B, strongly.....	15	24
[VOL] Don't know/refused	5	

As we've been discussing, Utah's prison population and spending on corrections have increased even though the crime rate has gone down. Now, I am going to read to you some things that could be done to reduce the size and cost of Utah's prison population. Please tell me if you find each of these proposals generally acceptable or generally unacceptable. **[IF ACCEPTABLE/ UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:]** And, do you feel that it is **STRONGLY** (acceptable/unacceptable) or **NOT-SO-STRONGLY** (acceptable/unacceptable)?

[RANDOMIZE Q.27-Q.32]	ACCEPT- ABLE	UNACCEPT- ABLE	Accep Strong	Accep NSS	Unaccep NSS	Unaccep Strong	[vol] DK/ref
27. __Allow all but the most serious offenders to earn time off their prison terms for completing required rehabilitation and treatment programs that are designed to increase their chances for success when they are released	83	14	54	28	7	7	3
28. __Reduce sentences for offenders convicted of drug possession and invest the savings into mandatory substance abuse and mental health programs.....	83	15	58	25	6	9	2
29. __Divert offenders convicted of low level non-violent crimes away from prison and into probation, supervision and required community-based treatment programs	87	11	61	26	6	5	2
30. __Send fewer low level, non-violent offenders to prison and reinvest some of the savings to create a stronger probation and parole system that holds offenders accountable for their crimes	86	11	57	29	6	5	2
31. __Shorten prison sentences for certain low level, non-violent crimes	86	11	55	31	7	4	3
32. __Allow prisoners to earn time off by completing treatment programs.....	81	17	52	29	7	9	3

THANK YOU. THE FEW REMAINING QUESTIONS ARE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY.

33. Have you or a member of your immediate family been a violent crime?
[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	4	15
Yes, Someone else in your household.....	9	
Yes, Both	1	
No	85	
dk/na/other	1	

34. Have you or a member of your immediate family been a non-violent crime?
[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	15	51
Yes, Someone else in your household.....	19	
Yes, Both	17	
No	49	
dk/na/other	1	

35. Have you or someone in your immediate family ever been in prison or on probation or parole?

[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	1	16
Yes, Someone else in your household	13	
Yes, Both	2	
No	83	
dk/na/other	0	

36. Are you or someone in your immediate family active in Law Enforcement?

[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	4	14
Yes, Someone else in your household	10	
Yes, Both	0	
No	86	
dk/na/other	0	

37. What is your age? **[CODE ACTUAL AGE. REFUSED=99]** _____

18-29	20
30-39	20
40-49	17
50-59	16
60+	28
na/ref	0

38. What was the last level of schooling you completed?

less than high school graduate	2
high school graduate	11
some college	34
college graduate	36
post-graduate	17
na	0

39. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else? **[IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT ASK:]** Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)? **[IF INDEPENDENT ASK:]**

Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?

strong Republican	35	54
not so strong Republican	10	
independent leans Republican	9	
independent	16	
independent leans Democratic	7	
not so strong Democrat	4	
strong Democrat	13	23
dk/na/other	7	

40. Do you consider yourself very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative or very conservative? **[IF MODERATE, ASK:]** Do you tend to lean toward the liberal or conservative side?

very liberal.....	10	22
somewhat liberal.....	10	
moderate leans liberal.....	3	
moderate.....	20	
moderate leans conservative.....	4	
somewhat conservative.....	26	
very conservative.....	25	55
DK/ref.....	2	

41. Are you black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or some other race?

black.....	1
white.....	90
Hispanic.....	5
Asian.....	2
Native American.....	0
other.....	1
ref.....	1

42. Are you Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, or something else?

Protestant.....	7
Catholic.....	7
Mormon/LDS.....	64
Jewish.....	0
Other Christian.....	5
Other Non-Christian.....	8
[VOL] DK/ref.....	8

43. In which of the following ranges does your family income fall? **[READ LIST]**

below \$12,000.....	2
above 12 but less than 20 thousand.....	5
above 20 but less than 30 thousand.....	7
above 30 but less than 40 thousand.....	11
above 40 but less than 50 thousand.....	10
above 50 but less than 60 thousand.....	9
above 60 but less than 80 thousand.....	12
above 80 but less than 100 thousand.....	9
above 100 but less than 150 thousand.....	8
above 150 thousand.....	5
[VOL] refused.....	22

44. What is your zip code? _____

Thank you for answering these questions.