

**Final Frequencies (n=600)**  
**OKLAHOMA STATEWIDE SURVEY**  
**The Mellman Group & Public Opinion Strategies**  
**March 10, 2017**

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.] [IF LANDLINE, ASK]** 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..... 47  
female..... 53

1. How likely would you say you are to vote in the November 2018 general election for 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..... 81  
very likely ..... 19  
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 Oklahoma are going in the right direction or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

right direction ..... 34  
wrong track..... 55  
don't know **[VOL]** ..... 11

As you may know, Oklahoma is facing a nearly \$900 million dollar budget shortfall. I am going to read you a list of things that could be done to deal with this shortfall. Please tell me if you believe each proposal is generally acceptable or generally unacceptable as Oklahoma seeks to solve its budget deficit problem.

**[IF ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:]** And do you feel that way **STRONGLY** or **NOT SO STRONGLY**?

<b>[ROTATE BY QUESTION Q.3-Q.9]</b>	<b>Total Accep</b>	<b>Total Unaccep</b>	<b>Strongly Accep</b>	<b>NSS Accep</b>	<b>NSS Unaccep</b>	<b>Strongly Unaccep</b>	<b>VOL DK/ref</b>
3. ___ Raising property taxes.....	<b>26</b>	<b>73</b>	7	19	15	58	1
4. ___ Raising business taxes.....	<b>42</b>	<b>50</b>	18	23	15	35	8
5. ___ Raising income taxes for wealthy individuals.....	<b>67</b>	<b>30</b>	46	21	9	21	3
6. ___ Reducing funding for transportation projects.....	<b>33</b>	<b>57</b>	12	22	23	34	9
7. ___ Reducing funding for health care services.....	<b>16</b>	<b>79</b>	7	9	15	64	4
8. ___ Reducing pay for teachers.....	<b>5</b>	<b>94</b>	3	2	5	88	1
9. ___ Reducing funding for state prisons ....	<b>36</b>	<b>56</b>	17	19	18	37	8

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

**\_\_ Statement A:** 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 that society is benefiting from locking offenders up, compared to punishing them in other ways.

**OR**

**\_\_ Statement B:** It may be more expensive to lock up criminals compared to punishing them other ways, but we need to make sure offenders go to prison so they learn the consequences of breaking the law.

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

Statement A, strongly.....	39
Statement A, not strongly .....	15
Statement B, not strongly.....	16
Statement B, strongly.....	25
Not sure/DK [VOL].....	5
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT A.....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT B.....</b>	<b>41</b>

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

**\_\_ Statement A:** One out of every 110 American adults is in prison. That's too many, and it costs too much especially because there are more effective, less expensive alternatives to prison for nonviolent offenders. Expanding use of those alternatives is the best way to reduce crime.

**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.....	51
Statement A, not strongly .....	16
Statement B, not strongly.....	9
Statement B, strongly.....	20
Not sure/DK [VOL].....	4
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT A.....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT B.....</b>	<b>29</b>

12. One proposal is to shorten prison sentences for non-violent offenders and using the money saved to pay for stronger probation and parole and more substance abuse and mental health treatment for offenders. Would you find this proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable?

**[IF ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:]** And do you feel that way STRONGLY or NOT SO STRONGLY?

Acceptable, strongly.....	61
Acceptable, not so strongly .....	23
Unacceptable, not so strongly .....	6
Unacceptable, strongly.....	8
[VOL] DK/refused.....	2
<b>TOTAL ACCEPTABLE .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>TOTAL UNACCEPTABLE.....</b>	<b>14</b>

13. Offenders on probation or parole can be required to serve a prison sentence if they don't comply with certain rules. If an offender breaks one of these rules, for example fails a drug test or misses a curfew, but does not commit a new crime, the offender has committed a technical violation. Which of the following three statements comes closer to your point of view about a technical violation like this?

**[ROTATE STATEMENTS TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP]**

   **Statement A.** The offender should be sent back to prison for up to the remainder of their sentence, which could be several years, because they violated requirements of their probation or parole

**OR**

   **Statement B.** The offender should be sent back to prison for a shorter period of time, such as one or two months, and then return to probation or parole, to make clear there are consequences for not complying with the requirements

**OR**

   **Statement C.** The offender should be required to participate in treatment and other programs designed to change their behavior instead of sending them back to prison, because these kinds of violations are not that serious.

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

Statement A, strongly.....	20
Statement A, not strongly .....	4
Statement B, strongly.....	27
Statement B, not strongly.....	9
Statement C, strongly.....	24
Statement C, not strongly.....	15
Not sure/DK [VOL].....	2
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT A.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT B.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT C.....</b>	<b>39</b>

14. People on probation or parole are under supervision by government officials for some time, usually a number of years, to confirm they follow certain rules. Some people have proposed allowing people to earn reductions in the amount of time they are under supervision for participating in programs like substance abuse and mental health treatment, or for good behavior like getting a job. Would you find such a proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable?

**[IF ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:]** And do you feel that way **STRONGLY** or **NOT SO STRONGLY**?

Acceptable, strongly.....	60
Acceptable, not so strongly.....	26
Unacceptable, not so strongly .....	5
Unacceptable, strongly.....	5
[VOL] DK/refused.....	3
<b>TOTAL ACCEPTABLE .....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>TOTAL UNACCEPTABLE.....</b>	<b>10</b>

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

    **Statement A:** People who sell drugs should face up to life in prison because they need to be punished.

**OR**

    **Statement B:** People who sell drugs must be held accountable, but shouldn't necessarily serve life in prison, because they should have a chance to rehabilitate themselves.

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

Statement A, strongly.....	16
Statement A, not strongly .....	7
Statement B, not strongly.....	24
Statement B, strongly.....	49
Not sure/DK <b>[VOL]</b> .....	5
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT A</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT B</b> .....	<b>72</b>

16. In Oklahoma, one proposal is to reduce the penalties for all drug offenses, except for the highest-level dealers. Now I'm going to tell you what supporters and opponents of the plan to reduce penalties on lower level drug offenders say and ask whether you favor or oppose it.

**[ROTATE PARAGRAPHS]**

    **Supporters** say research shows long prison terms should be used on the high-level drug dealers who profit the most from the illegal drug market. Sentencing lower-level street dealers, who may be addicts themselves, to longer prison terms is not effective. Street dealers should be punished, but not in ways that prevent them from becoming productive citizens in the future.

    **Opponents** of this proposal say that even lower-level drug dealers need to serve long prison sentences to keep them off the streets and to deter others. Reducing penalties for drug dealers sends the wrong message.

Do you favor or oppose reducing penalties for lower-level drug offenses? **[IF FAV/OPP:]** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Favor, strongly .....	49
Favor, not so strongly .....	23
<b>[VOL]</b> Undecided/Don't know.....	8
Oppose, not so strongly.....	7
Oppose, strongly .....	13
<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b> .....	<b>72</b>
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b> .....	<b>20</b>

17. \_\_\_ Which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view?

**[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

\_\_\_ **Statement A.** Our goal should be to make it less likely that non-violent offenders commit another crime, and we have other ways of accomplishing that goal that are both more effective and less expensive than prison. We should be using those alternatives more, and prison less, for non-violent offenders.

**OR**

\_\_\_ **Statement B** Some non-violent offenders commit serious drug or property crimes, and they should be punished with a prison sentence for those crimes. The best way to stop these offenders from committing another crime is to demonstrate there are serious consequences for breaking the law

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

Statement A, strongly.....	43
Statement A, not strongly .....	20
Statement B, not strongly.....	12
Statement B, strongly.....	19
Not sure/DK [VOL].....	6
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT A.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>TOTAL STATEMENT B.....</b>	<b>31</b>

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

18. Have you or a member of your immediate family been a victim of a violent crime?

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

Yes, You .....	3
Yes, Someone else in your household.....	9
Yes, Both .....	3
No .....	85
dk/na/other .....	1
<b>TOTAL YES .....</b>	<b>14</b>

19. Have you or a member of your immediate family been a victim of a non-violent crime?

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

Yes, You .....	16
Yes, Someone else in your household.....	14
Yes, Both .....	20
No .....	48
dk/na/other .....	1
<b>TOTAL YES .....</b>	<b>51</b>

20. 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 .....	4
Yes, Someone else in your household.....	15
Yes, Both .....	1
No .....	79
dk/na/other .....	2
<b>TOTAL YES .....</b>	<b>20</b>

21. 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 .....                            | 3         |
| Yes, Someone else in your household ..... | 8         |
| Yes, Both .....                           | 1         |
| No .....                                  | 87        |
| dk/na/other .....                         | 1         |
| <b>TOTAL YES .....</b>                    | <b>12</b> |
22. What is your age? **[CODE ACTUAL AGE. REFUSED=99]** \_\_\_\_\_
- |             |    |
|-------------|----|
| 18-29 ..... | 8  |
| 30-39 ..... | 12 |
| 40-49 ..... | 14 |
| 50-59 ..... | 21 |
| 60-69 ..... | 23 |
| 70+ .....   | 23 |
| Ref .....   | 0  |
23. What was the last level of schooling you completed?
- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| less than high school graduate .....        | 2         |
| high school graduate .....                  | 19        |
| vocational training/vocational school ..... | 3         |
| some college, but no degree .....           | 20        |
| a 2-year or associate degree .....          | 10        |
| a 4-year or bachelor's degree .....         | 29        |
| a post-graduate degree .....                | 15        |
| na .....                                    | 1         |
| <b>TOTAL HS OR LESS .....</b>               | <b>21</b> |
| <b>TOTAL VOCA/SOME COLL/2-YEAR.....</b>     | <b>33</b> |
| <b>TOTAL B.A./POSTGRAD.....</b>             | <b>44</b> |
24. 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 .....            | 36        |
| not so strong Republican .....     | 8         |
| independent leans Republican ..... | 6         |
| independent .....                  | 12        |
| independent leans Democratic ..... | 4         |
| not so strong Democrat .....       | 7         |
| strong Democrat .....              | 21        |
| dk/na/other .....                  | 6         |
| <b>TOTAL REPUBLICAN.....</b>       | <b>50</b> |
| <b>TOTAL INDEP/OTHER.....</b>      | <b>18</b> |
| <b>TOTAL DEMOCRAT .....</b>        | <b>32</b> |

## Party Registration (from voter file):

Democratic .....	39
Republican.....	51
Independent .....	9
Unknown .....	0

25. 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.....	9
somewhat liberal.....	8
moderate leans liberal.....	3
moderate .....	22
moderate leans conservative.....	8
somewhat conservative.....	19
very conservative.....	27
DK/ref.....	4
<b>TOTAL LIBERAL .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>TOTAL MODERATE.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>TOTAL CONSERVATIVE.....</b>	<b>54</b>

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

black .....	6
white .....	82
Hispanic.....	3
Asian.....	1
Native American.....	6
other .....	2
ref.....	1

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

below \$12,000 .....	5
above 12 but less than 20 thousand .....	4
above 20 but less than 30 thousand .....	6
above 30 but less than 40 thousand .....	9
above 40 but less than 50 thousand .....	10
above 50 but less than 60 thousand .....	10
above 60 but less than 80 thousand .....	12
above 80 but less than 100 thousand .....	8
above 100 but less than 150 thousand .....	8
above 150 thousand .....	6
<b>[VOL] refused.....</b>	<b>22</b>

28. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for answering these questions.

### Methodological Statement

*This analysis represents the findings of a survey of 600 voters representing the likely November 2018 Oklahoma electorate (based on participation in past elections) conducted by The Mellman Group and Public Opinion Strategies for The Pew Charitable Trusts. Interviews were conducted by telephone March 6 - March 10, 2017, and included both cell phones and landlines randomly selected from official voter lists. The margin of error is +/-4.0% at the 95% level of confidence. When design effects are accounted for, the overall margin of error is +/- 4.3 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The data were weighted to reflect the composition of the likely electorate for gender, region, age, race, party registration, party score, and vote history based on the voter file. The margin of error is higher for subgroups (see Appendix below).*

#### APPENDIX

<u>Subgroup (with n-size)</u>	<u>Margin of Error at 95% Confidence</u>	<u>Margin of Error at 80% Confidence</u>
Democrats (n=193)	+/- 7.0%	+/- 4.6%
Independents (n=105)	+/- 9.6%	+/- 6.2%
Republicans (n=302)	+/- 5.6%	+/- 3.7%
Oklahoma City area (n=177)	+/- 7.4%	+/- 4.8%
Tulsa area (n=157)	+/- 7.8%	+/- 5.1%
West (n=150)	+/- 8.0%	+/- 5.2%
East (n=116)	+/- 9.1%	+/- 5.9%