



MEMORANDUM

To: Deborah T. Fleischaker, Director
Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project
American Bar Association

From: Roy Occhiogrosso, James Delorey, Gretchen Wagner
Global Strategy Group

Re: Indiana Statewide Survey – Overview

Date: February 9, 2007

Global Strategy Group conducted a statewide survey among registered voters in Indiana to probe attitudes regarding the death penalty, and specifically, a statewide moratorium on the death penalty. 453 interviews were conducted February 1st-5th, 2007. No surveys were conducted on Super Bowl Sunday. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval is +/-4.6%. The margin of error for subsamples is larger.

Three in five Indianans support a moratorium on executions in the state. Fully 61% believe there should be a temporary halt to all executions in Indiana while the issue is studied. Just 31% oppose it.

- Support for a moratorium is highest among: women (63%), young people under the age of 45 (68%), Democratic men (76%), Democrats (72%), self-described Liberals (75%) and Catholics (78%).
 - There is majority support for a moratorium in all corners of the state, including the Fort Wayne area (67% support), the Indianapolis area (57%), the South of the state (60%), and the Northwest (67%).
 - Majorities of Democrats, Independents (55%) and Republicans (58%) support a moratorium on executions.
 - Self-described liberals, moderates (59%) and conservatives (58%) alike support a temporary halt to executions.

- A majority of death penalty supporters (52%) also support a moratorium, and 43% oppose it. Support for a moratorium is nearly universal among death penalty opponents, among whom 89% support a moratorium, and just 4% oppose it.

Despite support for a temporary halt in executions, support for the Death Penalty in Indiana is strong. More than two-thirds of voters statewide (68%) endorse the death penalty, including 49% who strongly support it. One in five Indianans (21%) oppose the death penalty.

- Support for the death penalty is strongest among men (71% support) and among 18-44 year olds, 73% of whom support the death penalty.
 - Opposition to the death penalty is twice as strong among Catholics (33% oppose) as it is among Protestants (17%). Of course, there are about three times as many Protestants as there are Catholics in Indiana.
 - Republicans (58%-32%) are slightly more likely than Democrats (64%-24%) to support the death penalty.
- That DNA evidence can be destroyed while a defendant is still on Death Row raises major doubts about the fairness of the death penalty in Indiana among 56% of voters, including 51% of death penalty supporters, and 42% of moratorium opponents. This is the most compelling statement we tested on the fairness of the death penalty in Indiana.
- Other messages that raise major doubts about the way the death penalty is applied in Indiana today include:
 - The irreversibility of an execution (illuminated by the example of Larry Hicks);
 - The lack of insufficient safeguards to protect the rights of mentally ill and mentally-retarded defendants; and
 - Non-compliance the lack of standards in Indiana’s crime labs and medical examiners’ offices.
- Just 52% of voters believe the Death Penalty is applied fairly in Indiana.
 - Republicans (58%) are more likely than Democrats (47%) to believe this, just as men (56%) are more likely than women (47%) to think the penalty is applied fairly.
 - Of those who think the death penalty is NOT applied fairly, there is still an even 45%-48% division on support for the death penalty.
- An astonishingly high percentage of voters (40%) believes innocent people have been sentenced to death in the last 5 years. Just 18% believe this has never happened.
- Two-thirds (66%) of Indiana voters believe that 1% or more of those executed are innocent of the crime they were charged with. Respondents’ average estimate to this question is 3%.
- The American Bar Association is trusted at least a little as a source of information by 71% of Indiana voters, including 66% of moratorium opponents. 27% of voters say they would trust the ABA “a lot,” and 44% say they would trust the ABA “a little.” Just 8% say they would trust the ABA “not at all.”