

A wide-angle photograph of the Cleveland skyline at sunset. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, red, and blue clouds. The city's skyscrapers, including the Terminal Tower, are silhouetted against the bright sky. In the foreground, a river flows through a park area with green grass and trees, reflecting the colors of the sunset.

Ohio Statewide

*Key Findings from a Survey of 500 Registered Voters
April 16-18, 2019*

Robert Blizzard, Partner



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

#19166



On behalf of the Justice Action Network, Public Opinion Strategies completed a survey of 500 registered voters in Ohio.

Three hundred respondents were contacted via landline and 200 via cell phone.

The survey was conducted April 16-18, 2019 and has a margin of error of $\pm 4.38\%$.

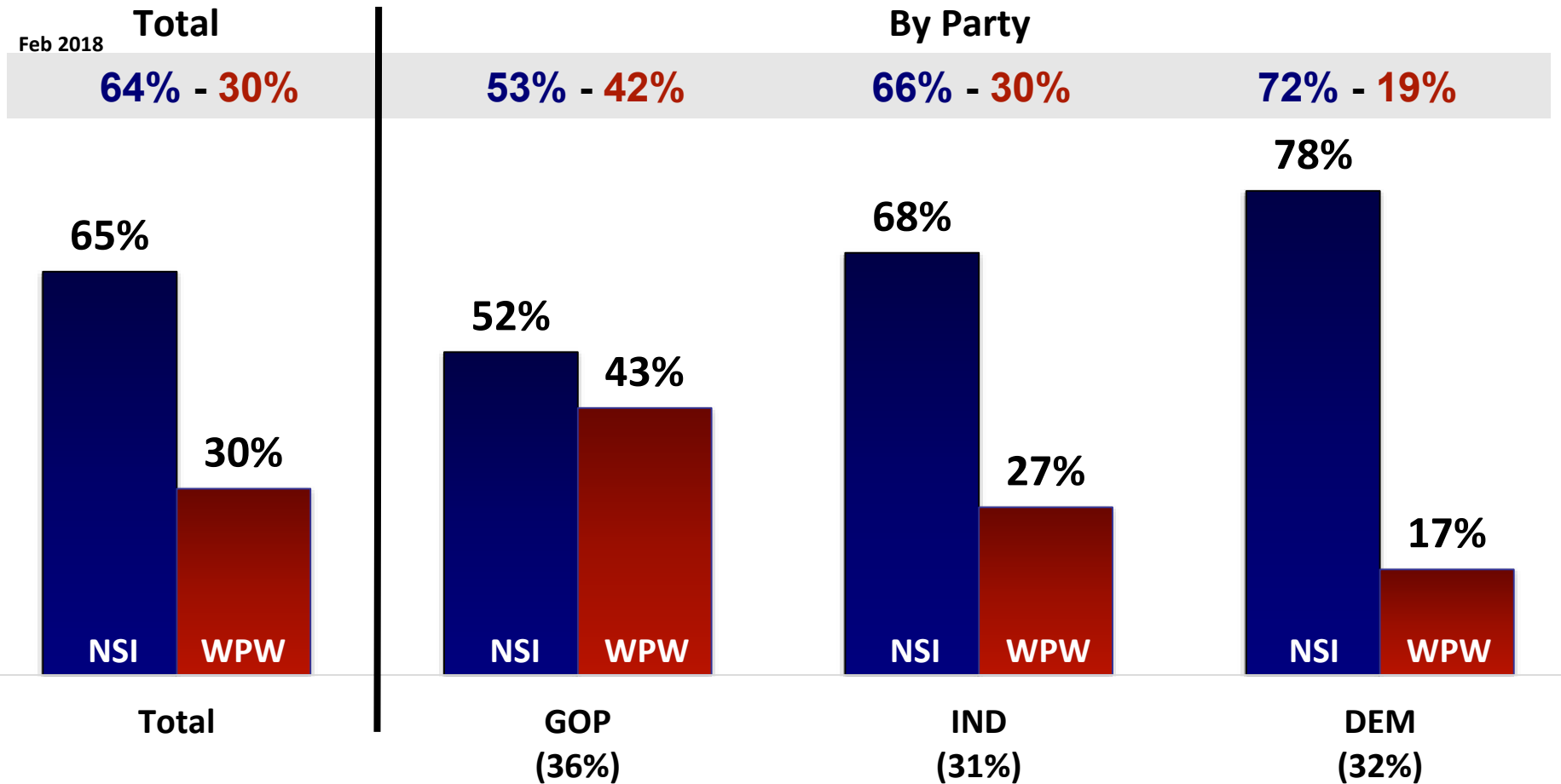
Robert Blizzard was the principal researcher on this project. Brian O'Bannon was the project director and Andrew Senesac provided analytical support.



Criminal Justice System

Nearly two-thirds of voters still believe the criminal justice system needs significant improvement.

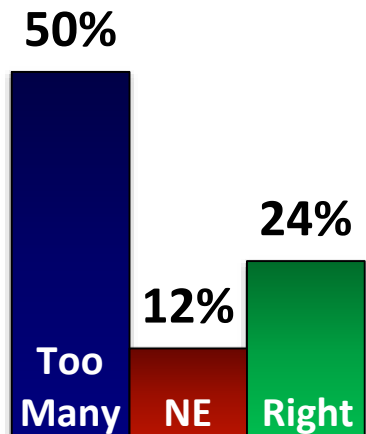
Generally speaking, do you think the criminal justice system here in Ohio needs significant improvements or is working pretty well as it is?



And, most Ohioans believe there are “too many people in prison.”

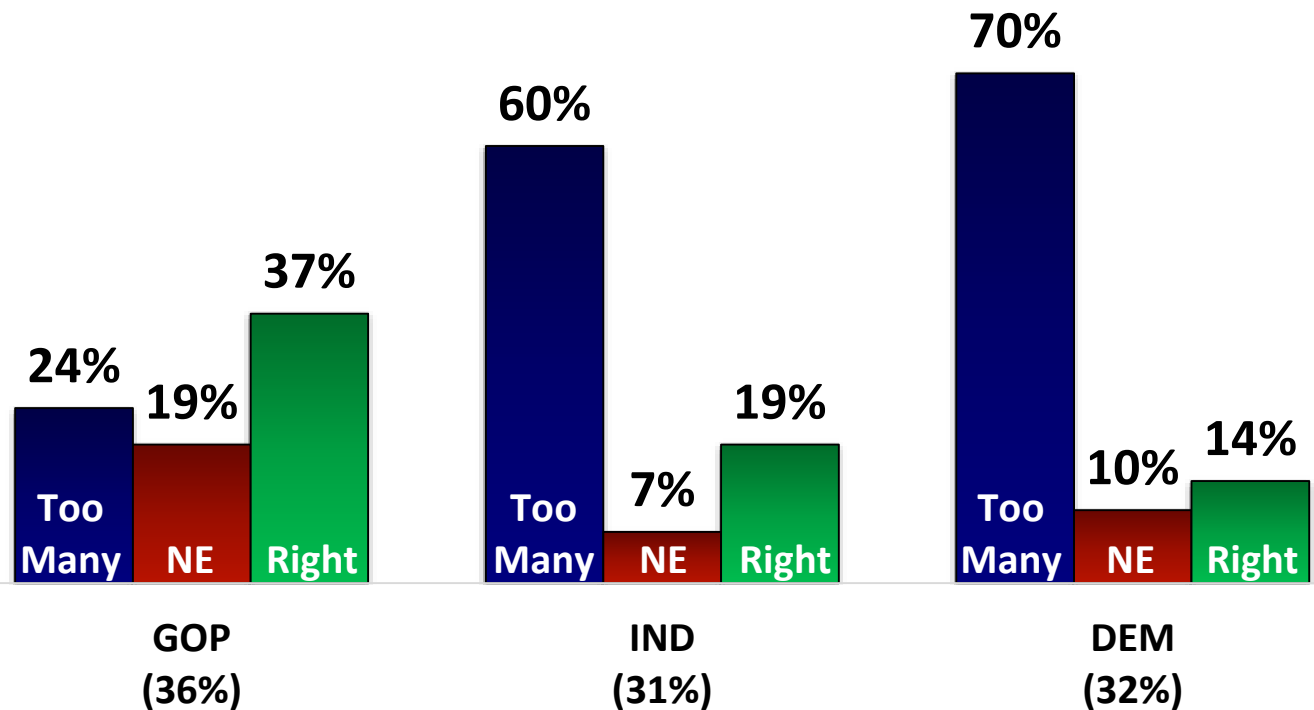
And, do you think there are too many people in prison in Ohio, not enough people in prison in Ohio, or is the number of people in prison about right?

Total



Total

By Party



Agree/Disagree Statements

%Agree-%Disagree By Key Groups	Total	GOP (36%)	IND (31%)	DEM (32%)	White Men (39%)	White Wmn (43%)	Af-Am (14%)	Cleve- land (33%)	Col- umbus (21%)	Cincy (16%)	Dayton (11%)	Toledo (9%)	Y'Town (5%)	SE Ohio (6%)
The main goal of Ohio's criminal justice system should be rehabilitating people to become productive, law-abiding citizens.	88% - 11%	85% - 13%	86% - 12%	93% - 7%	88% - 11%	88% - 11%	90% - 10%	91% - 8%	88% - 10%	79% - 21%	90% - 9%	92% - 8%	89% - 11%	88% - 12%
Some of the money we are spending on locking up nonviolent offenders, especially low-level drug offenders, should be shifted to alternatives like treatment programs, electronic monitoring, community service, and probation.	81% - 18%	67% - 32%	84% - 15%	95% - 4%	77% - 23%	83% - 16%	89% - 11%	81% - 18%	84% - 14%	84% - 15%	86% - 14%	75% - 25%	70% - 26%	75% - 25%
The state's criminal justice system should be reformed to focus more on cracking down on major drug traffickers rather than on small-time drug pushers and users who are addicted and need treatment.	81% - 17%	74% - 25%	80% - 18%	92% - 8%	77% - 20%	84% - 16%	86% - 14%	78% - 21%	86% - 14%	74% - 22%	96% - 4%	91% - 9%	72% - 28%	74% - 26%
People found in possession with high amounts of drugs should be treated as traffickers, while those caught with smaller amounts of drugs are probably addicts, and should be diverted into treatment, rather than prison.	80% - 18%	74% - 25%	82% - 17%	87% - 12%	80% - 19%	79% - 19%	83% - 15%	80% - 18%	83% - 16%	78% - 21%	85% - 12%	79% - 19%	78% - 22%	76% - 24%

Favor/Oppose Proposals

%Favor-%Oppose By Key Groups	Total	GOP (36%)	IND (31%)	DEM (32%)	White Men (39%)	White Wmn (43%)	Af-Am (14%)	Cleve- land (33%)	Col- umbus (21%)	Cincy (16%)	Dayton (11%)	Toledo (9%)	Y'Town (5%)	SE Ohio (6%)
Allow people with low-level criminal records, who have remained crime-free for a period of time, to seal or expunge their records...	87% - 12%	81% - 18%	84% - 14%	97% - 2%	85% - 14%	86% - 13%	96% - 4%	88% - 11%	91% - 8%	88% - 10%	91% - 9%	78% - 20%	77% - 23%	85% - 15%
Judges should divert people caught with smaller amounts of drugs into treatment, rather than prison, so they have a chance to address their addiction issues.	84% - 15%	78% - 22%	84% - 14%	92% - 8%	83% - 16%	85% - 15%	84% - 16%	83% - 16%	89% - 11%	83% - 16%	80% - 20%	80% - 20%	86% - 14%	88% - 12%
Reduce costly prison time for low-level, non-violent offenders in Ohio prisons and re-invest some of those savings to create a stronger, more cost-effective community based supervision programs that hold offenders accountable for their crimes.	87% - 12%	78% - 21%	87% - 11%	97% - 3%	83% - 17%	88% - 11%	95% - 5%	87% - 12%	90% - 10%	84% - 15%	89% - 10%	87% - 13%	90% - 10%	81% - 15%
Allocate funding from costly prisons to stronger mental and behavioral health treatment, along with drug treatment, for individuals who commit crimes as a result of an addiction or mental health issue.	82% - 17%	69% - 29%	84% - 14%	94% - 5%	79% - 20%	81% - 17%	92% - 8%	82% - 17%	84% - 15%	88% - 10%	77% - 22%	81% - 17%	75% - 25%	76% - 20%
Send fewer low-level, non-violent offenders to Ohio prisons so that state funding can be used to focus on drug traffickers and violent criminals in prison.	82% - 17%	77% - 22%	80% - 18%	88% - 11%	80% - 19%	84% - 15%	78% - 22%	83% - 15%	78% - 21%	87% - 12%	91% - 9%	74% - 22%	84% - 16%	62% - 38%
Overhaul the state's drug crime classifications so that those people found with only trace amounts of drugs would not be charged at all...	80% - 19%	71% - 28%	79% - 18%	90% - 10%	79% - 19%	80% - 20%	81% - 16%	83% - 15%	82% - 17%	78% - 20%	78% - 22%	77% - 23%	72% - 28%	75% - 25%



Bail Reform

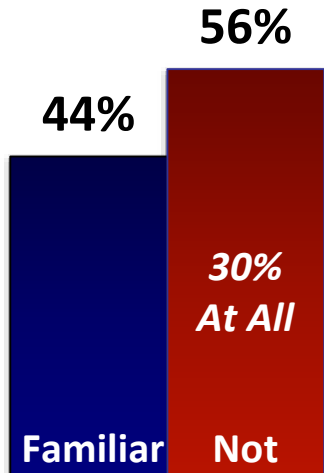
More Ohioans are now familiar with bail procedures.

How familiar are you with how bail procedures currently work in the criminal justice system here in Ohio?

Feb 2018

Total

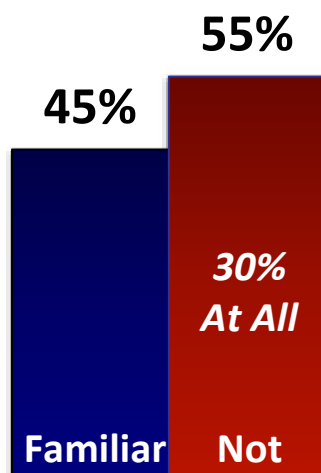
36% - 63%



Total

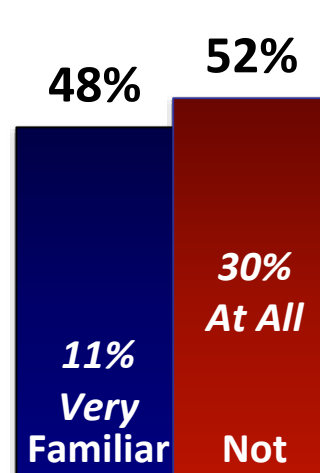
By Party

36% - 62%



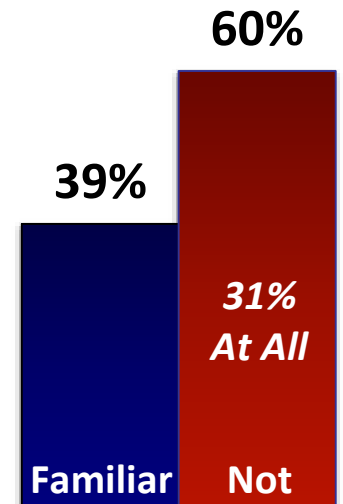
GOP
(36%)

37% - 62%



IND
(31%)

36% - 64%



DEM
(32%)

After voters hear some more about this...

Now, as you may know, after someone has been arrested in Ohio, a judge reviews their case and determines if they should be released out right, or released only after they have posted the amount of bail as specified by the judge.

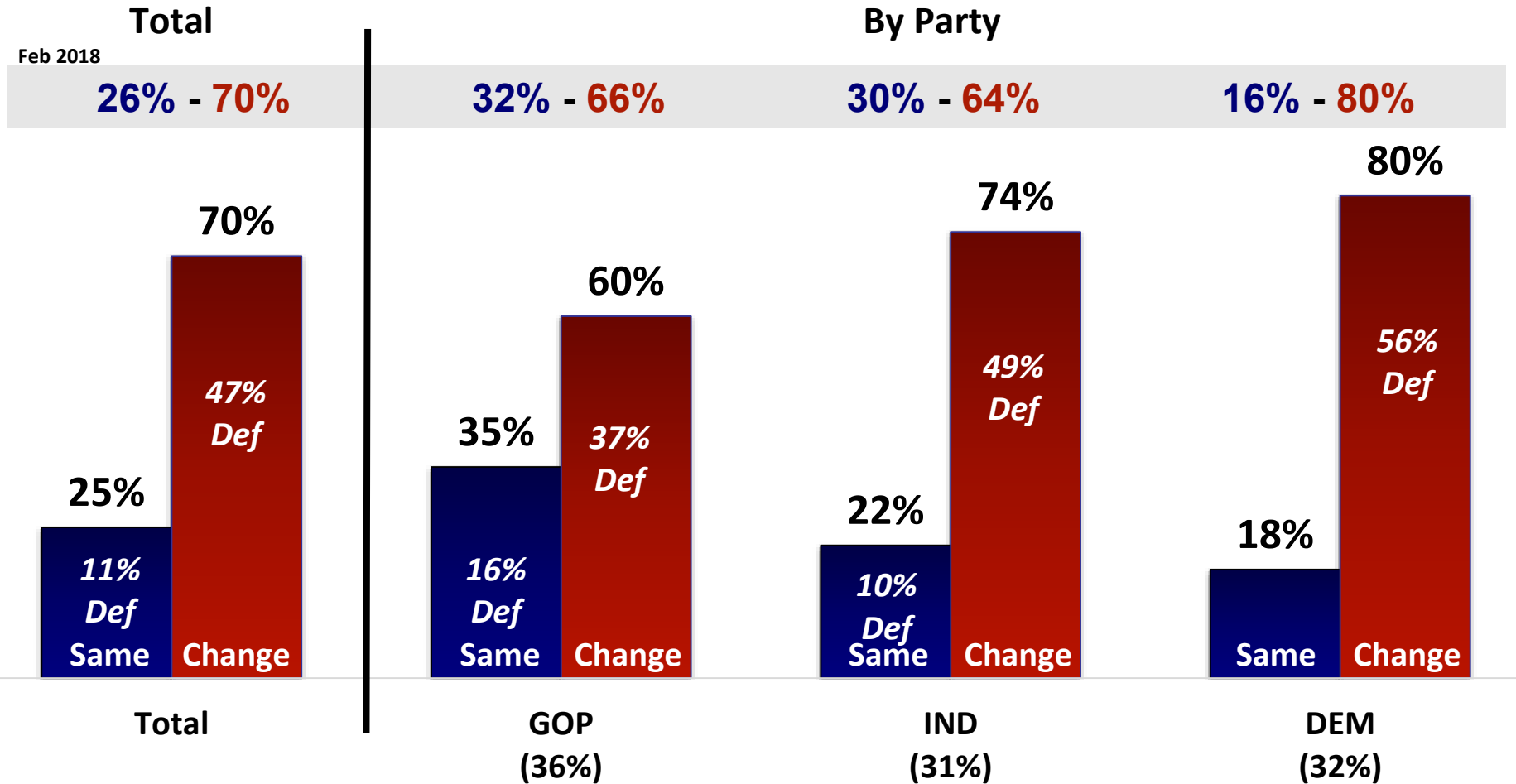
If the person CAN pay the full bail amount, or ten percent of the full bail amount to a bail bondsman as a fee, they can walk free until their court date, regardless of whether they committed a serious or violent crime.

If the person CANNOT afford paying the full bail amount or a bail bondsman because they don't have enough money, they must remain in jail until their court date. This means even people who have never been convicted of a crime can sit behind bars for weeks or months while taxpayers foot the bill.

Generally speaking, do you think bail procedures here in Ohio should remain the same, or should they be changed?

Fully 70% of Ohioans believe bail procedures should be changed.

Generally speaking, do you think bail procedures here in Ohio should remain the same, or should they be changed?



And, after voters hear from both sides...

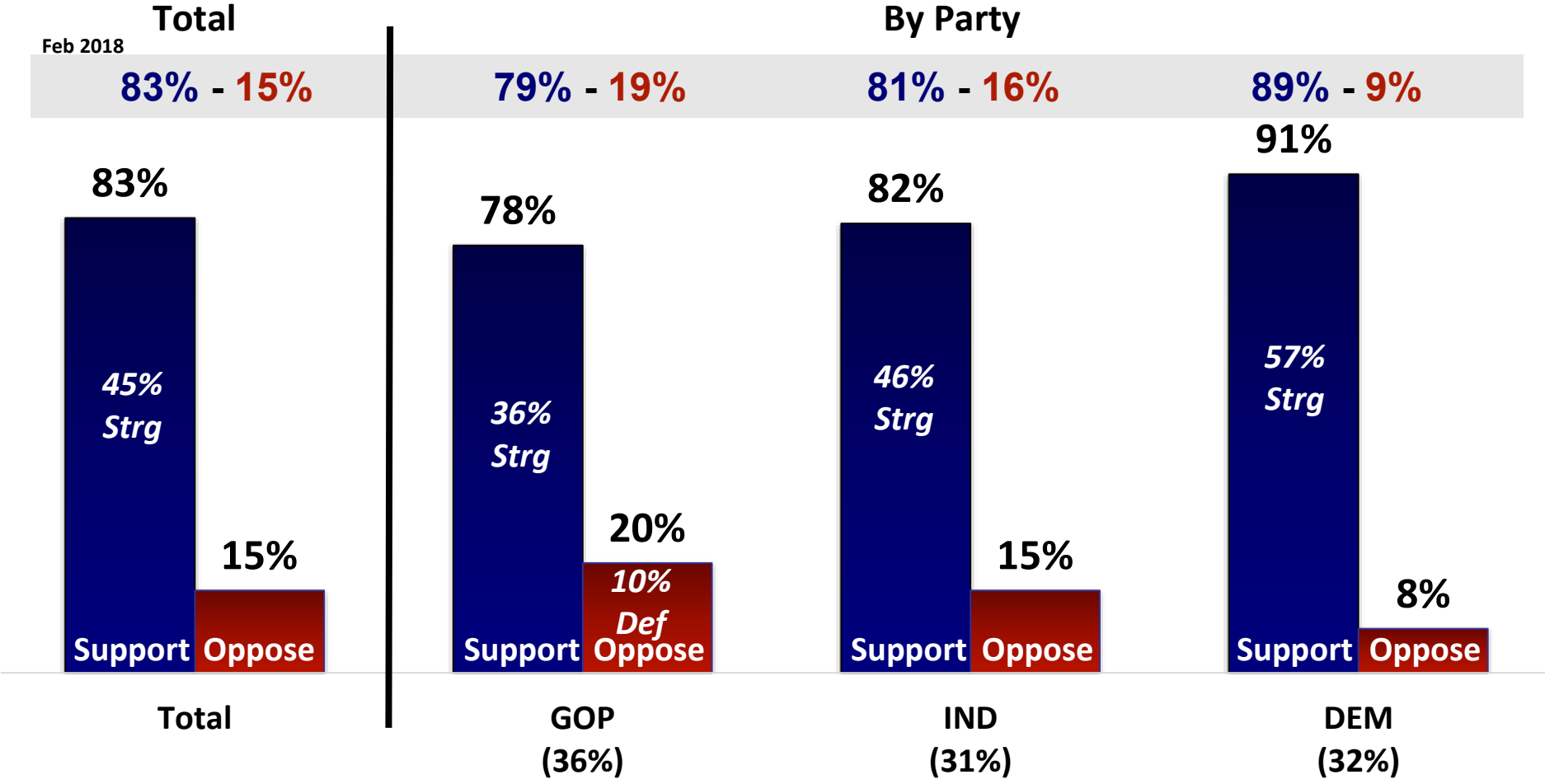
Some people say that judges should release certain defendants under the court's supervision without having to pay bail, after the judge has studied their individual case and circumstances. They say the current system in Ohio lets people who are accused of serious or violent crimes leave jail if they can pay their bail, while low-level, non-violent offenders who can't afford to pay bail are stuck in jail, even when they aren't considered a threat to public safety.

Other people say that the current system is working well now because bail bondsmen and the bail industry, which can post bail for defendants in exchange for a fee, has years of experience assessing people's risk. They say the current system ensures defendants have skin in the game, and detention is probably the best approach for defendants who can't afford anything.

Now that you have some more information, would you support or oppose judges shifting from the current cash bail system to one that allows judges to release some defendants under the court's supervision, if they are NOT considered a threat to society?

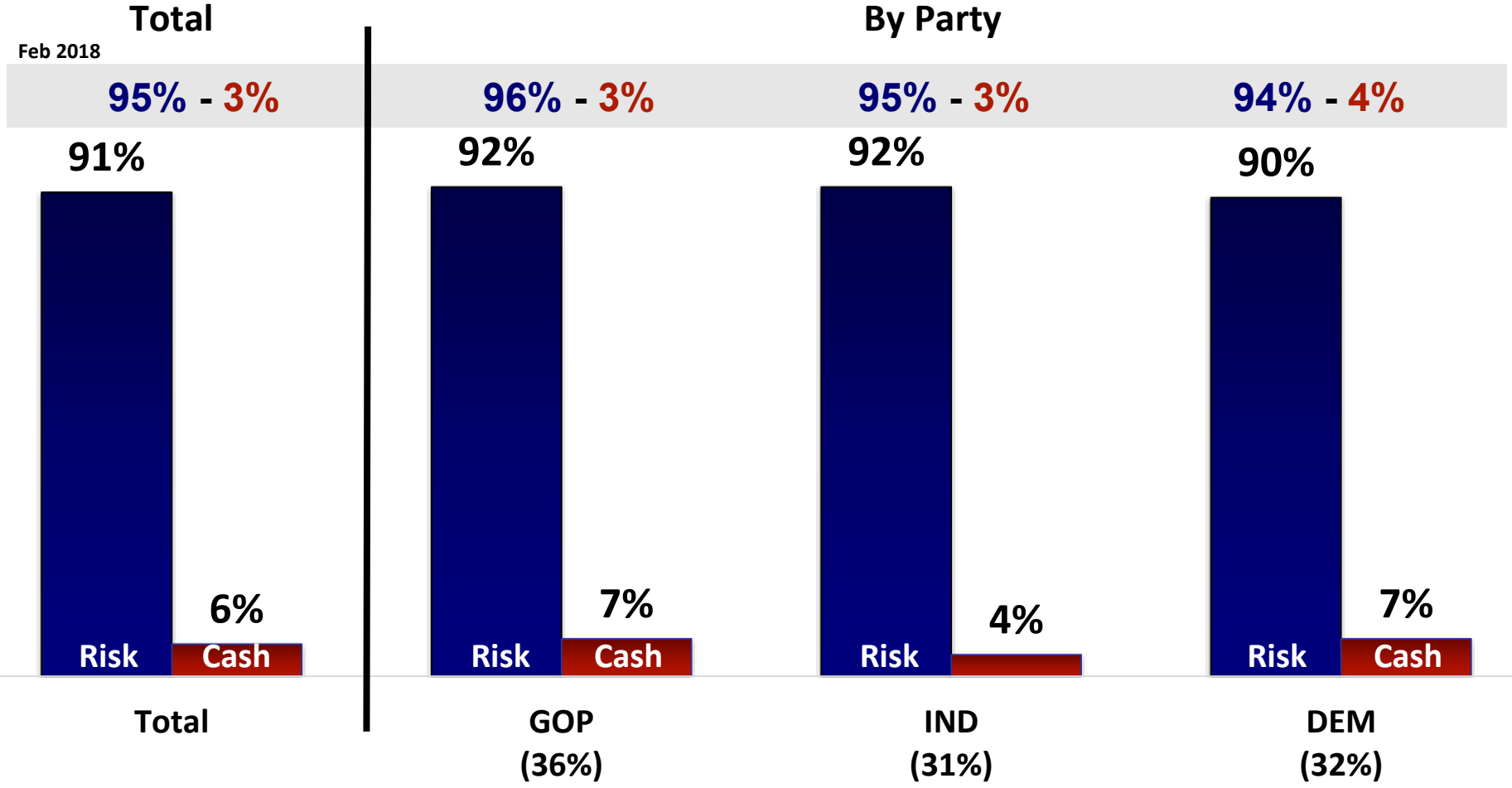
Voters support shifting away from a cash bail system by an 83% -15% margin.

Now that you have some more information, would you support or oppose judges shifting from the current cash bail system to one that allows judges to release some defendants under the court's supervision, if they are NOT considered a threat to society?



By a 91%-6% margin, voters view a person's risk to public safety outweighs their ability to pay cash bail.

And, thinking more about this issue, which of the following do you believe is MOST important to consider when deciding whether to release a defendant before their trial, a person's risk to public safety or a person's ability to pay their cash bail?



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