



MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: ROBERT BLIZZARD & BILL McINTURFF – PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
DATE: MARCH 10, 2017
RE: RECENT ARIZONA STATEWIDE POLLING RESULTS

On behalf of the U.S. Justice Action Network, Public Opinion Strategies conducted a statewide survey of 500 registered voters (moe ± 4.4%) in Arizona, March 4-6, 2017. Fully 40% of interviews were conducted via cell phone. This memo is to review the key findings from the survey.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Nearly half of Arizona voters are familiar with civil asset forfeiture, and among these voters, there’s a very strong desire for reform.**
 Fully 47% of Arizonans say they are either “very” or “somewhat” familiar with civil asset forfeiture, “that is when law enforcement can seize and sell property from a citizen based only on their suspicion that it has been involved in criminal activity.” And, among those who are familiar with it, just 5% say it is “working well” with a significant majority (58%) believing it is in “need of reform.”
- **After voters learn more about it, almost three-quarters believe civil asset forfeiture needs reform.**
 After voters are provided with some background information about civil asset forfeiture*, just 13% believe that civil asset forfeiture is “working well” versus 73% who say it is in “need of reform.”

**“Now, as you may know, through civil asset forfeiture, law enforcement here in Arizona can seize and sell property from a citizen based only on their suspicion that it has been involved in criminal activity, without having to charge the citizen with a crime. Under this rule, police departments across the state can sell or auction forfeited property to supplement their budgets. Law enforcement officials in Arizona alone have seized and forfeited over more than four hundred and eighty one million dollars in property since 2000, and current laws allow these local police departments to keep almost all of what they seize. Generally speaking, do you believe civil asset forfeiture is working well now or is in need of reform?”*

- **An overwhelming majority believe that law enforcement in Arizona should only be able to permanently seize money or other property from someone who is charged and convicted.**
 Voters were asked under which circumstances they believe law enforcement in Arizona should be able to permanently seize money or other property and...

87% *Only from a citizen who is charged and convicted.*

6% *From a citizen based on suspicion of criminal activity.*

- ***And, finally, supporting civil asset forfeiture reform can help Arizona legislators at the ballot box.*** If voters learned that their State Legislator wanted to reform civil asset forfeiture, 51% say they'd be "more likely" to vote to re-elect them, with just 7% saying they'd be "less likely." Both Republicans (38%-10%) and Democrats (61%-8%) say they would be "more likely" to re-elect their Legislators if they supported the reform of civil asset forfeiture.