



Justice Action Network Kentucky Poll

810 Interviews in Kentucky, January 5-7, 2021

Q5a. [50% saw] Governor Andy Beshear plans to sign a 10-year, \$41 million lease to reopen a for-profit prison in Eastern Kentucky. Do you support or oppose reopening corporate-owned prisons in Kentucky?

7% Strongly support
18% Somewhat support
18% Somewhat oppose
39% Strongly oppose
18% Not sure

25% *Total support*
57% *Total oppose*

Q5b. [50% saw version B] Governor Andy Beshear plans to sign a 10-year, \$41 million lease to reopen a for-profit prison in Eastern Kentucky. Do you support or oppose reopening corporate-owned prisons in Kentucky, at taxpayer expense?

7% Strongly support
12% Somewhat support
19% Somewhat oppose
53% Strongly oppose
9% Not sure

19% *Total support*
72% *Total oppose*

Q6. “Years ago, Kentucky closed all three of its for-profit prisons after there were substantiated reports of rape, sexual abuse, food deprivation, and a riot taking place in those facilities. If a for-profit prison reopens in Kentucky, the same company that ran those facilities would stand to profit.” Does this make you more or less likely to oppose reopening for-profit prisons?

57% Much more likely to oppose
18% Somewhat more likely to oppose
22% Doesn't make a difference
1% Somewhat more likely to support
2% Much more likely to support

Polling was conducted online from January 5-7, 2021. Using its Bias Correct Engine to attain a representative sample, Change Research polled 810 registered voters in Kentucky. Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, region, and 2020 presidential vote.



Q7. “Prisons with a profit incentive always create the same problems. More people get locked up, including those with addiction and mental health problems. When they get out, they often return to crime, and then prison, because their problems went untreated. This system just costs taxpayers more money, destroys more families, and makes everyone less safe.” Does this make you more or less likely to oppose reopening for-profit prisons?

- 49% Much more likely to oppose
- 19% Somewhat more likely to oppose
- 28% Doesn't make a difference
- 3% Somewhat more likely to support
- 2% Much more likely to support

Q8. “Eastern Kentuckians want good jobs, and this for-profit prison won’t provide them. Prison guards work in dangerous conditions, and have a higher risk of contracting COVID-19, and studies show that the stress and risks associated with corrections jobs lead to shorter life expectancy than the general population. Kentuckians deserve good jobs, not high-risk jobs that help a corporation turn a profit.” Does this make you more or less likely to oppose reopening for-profit prisons?

- 42% Much more likely to oppose
- 18% Somewhat more likely to oppose
- 33% Doesn't make a difference
- 4% Somewhat more likely to support
- 3% Much more likely to support

Q9. “For decades, politicians in Frankfort have said opening for-profit prisons would help the economy in rural Kentucky, but it just hasn’t worked. Prisons don’t drive economic development or support local businesses, and towns without prisons are better able to recover from recessions like the one we are currently facing.” Does this make you more or less likely to oppose reopening for-profit prisons?

- 42% Much more likely to oppose
- 21% Somewhat more likely to oppose
- 32% Doesn't make a difference
- 3% Somewhat more likely to support
- 2% Much more likely to support

Q10. “For-profit prison companies give millions of dollars to politicians every year, then get big government contracts that make them even more money, all while Kentucky taxpayers foot the bill. Kentuckians need economic opportunity, but for-profit prisons only make the rich richer and corruption deeper.” Does this make you more or less likely to oppose reopening for-profit prisons?

- 56% Much more likely to oppose
- 18% Somewhat more likely to oppose
- 22% Doesn't make a difference
- 1% Somewhat more likely to support
- 3% Much more likely to support



Q11. “The reality is that the inmate population in Kentucky is rising, causing overcrowding in prisons, which is both inhumane and dangerous as well as expensive. Reducing the overcrowding by building a new private prison would save the Kentucky government money and improve prison conditions for both inmates and workers.” Does this make you more or less likely to support reopening for-profit prisons?

- 11% Much more likely to support
- 21% Somewhat more likely to support
- 41% Doesn't make a difference
- 10% Somewhat more likely to oppose
- 16% Much more likely to oppose