![GSG GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP]

To: Interested Parties
From: Global Strategy Group
Date: June 4th, 2021
Re: **New York Voters Support Clean Slate Bill for Those that Meet Proposed Criteria**

Global Strategy Group conducted a live telephone survey of 800 registered voters in New York State from May 25th to June 1st, 2021. The survey, conducted on behalf of Clean Slate NY, finds that New York voters overwhelmingly feel it is important to give people with criminal records a fair chance and support the Clean Slate Bill by significant margins, with support intensifying as voters learn more about the proposal. Key findings from the research are outlined below.

Key Findings:

- **A strong majority of New York voters supports the Clean Slate Bill.** By a 26-point margin, registered voters in New York State say they would support a Clean Slate Bill for those that meet the proposed criteria, driven by strong support in New York City (69% support, +49 net support) and near-majority support Upstate (46%, +8) and in the New York City suburbs (48%, +11). Statewide, self-identified Democrats (74% support/15% oppose) and independents (44% support/36% oppose) support the bill by significant margins, and one in three self-identified Republicans (32% support/53% oppose) supports the Clean Slate Bill. It also enjoys net support among African American (+73), Hispanic (+40), Asian (+15), and white (+13) voters in the state.

  Question wording: Now I'd like to read you some information about a bill being discussed by state government in Albany called the "Clean Slate" bill…The "Clean Slate" bill would automatically seal a person's old conviction record if the person has served their sentence, not been convicted of another offense, goes through a waiting period, and meets additional criteria. Do you support or oppose this "Clean Slate" bill?

	Support	Not sure	Oppose
Overall	56	14	30
Upstate	46	16	38
Suburbs	48	15	37
New York City	69	11	20

- **Support rises dramatically as voters better understand the Clean Slate Bill.** When voters hear more about the specific requirements for eligibility under the Clean Slate bill, support for the bill increases and opposition decreases, with two thirds of voters supporting the bill (66% support / 27% oppose). Support increases across the state, rising to majority support Upstate (60%, +26) and in the suburbs (59%, +24). Hearing about the bill's requirements also results in net support among self-identified Republicans in the state (48% support/45% oppose) and increases support among white voters (to 61%/32%).

  Question wording: Now I am going to read you the specific requirements that allow a person to be eligible to have their conviction record automatically sealed:
  - The person must not be on parole, probation, or have any new or pending criminal charges against them;
  - There are waiting periods, that go up in years depending on the type of offense committed;
  - People who are on the sex offender register are not eligible.

  Now that you've heard this information, do you support or oppose the "Clean Slate" bill to seal the conviction record of only those people who meet the requirements that were just read?

- **Communicating about the benefits of the Clean Slate Bill can further strengthen support.** After voters hear a single positive message in support of the bill, support increases further, to 71% support/25% oppose statewide, with just 3% of voters remaining undecided as to whether they support or oppose the bill.

  Question wording: Next, I'd like to read you a bit more about the "Clean Slate" bill… New Yorkers with conviction records face barriers to employment and housing. By sealing old conviction records, the Clean Slate bill would enable people to obtain employment, find housing, provide for their families, and contribute more to their communities.

	Support	Not sure	Oppose
Initial	56	14	30
Following Specific Requirements	66	7	27
Following Positive Message	71	3	25

- **Bipartisan majorities of New York Voters prefer a "smart" approach to formerly incarcerated individuals.** When asked about their preferred approach to re-entering society, self-identified Democrats, independents, and Republicans all prefer being "smart" about those who have served their time as opposed to being "tough" on them by two-to-one margins or more.

  Question wording: Which approach do you prefer when it comes to dealing with people who have served their time in prison and are re-entering society?

  - Being smart about those who have served their time – that decreasing barriers people face so they can reenter society, find a job, and find housing is best way to reduce and prevent future crime

  - Being tough on those who have served their time – that punishment, tough laws, and exposing people's criminal histories is the best way to reduce and prevent future crime

	Being smart	Not sure	Being tough
Overall	74	11	15
Democrats	85	6	9
Independents	66	19	15
Republicans	61	13	26

- **New Yorkers feel that a Clean Slate Bill will benefit people in their communities.** Across the state, people think the bill will have a positive impact on their communities, including majorities of voters in New York City (69% positive impact/10% negative impact), Upstate (54%/13%), and the suburbs (51%/14%) who believe this to be the case. Statewide, voters also believe the bill will be particularly beneficial to Black (71% positive impact/10% negative impact) and Hispanic (69%/9%) New Yorkers.

- **Universally, New Yorkers feel it is important to give those with criminal records a fair chance.** Overwhelmingly, voters see value in the aims behind the Clean Slate Bill: nine in ten voters (91%) feel it is important to "give those with criminal records a fair chance to get a job, provide for their families, and become productive members of society," including two thirds of voters (68%) who feel it is *very* important.

ABOUT THIS POLL:
Global Strategy Group conducted a telephone survey of 800 registered voters in New York State from May 25th to June 1st, 2021. The survey had a margin of error of +/-3.5%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic, political, and demographic divisions of the population of registered voters are properly represented.