# LD 178: An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community

## Main Voters Support Parole

### How We Talk About Parole

- **83%** of Maine voters support parole when told it costs $78,000 per year to incarcerate someone and that parole is **9x less expensive than incarceration**.

- **79%** of Maine voters support parole when presented with the sentence, "Parole eligibility reflects a fundamental belief in second chances and that people are capable of rehabilitating and making amends."

- **78%** of Maine voters support parole when told of studies that show people granted parole are **36 percent less likely to return to prison** compared to those who maxed out their sentence and were released with zero supervision.

- **77%** of Maine voters support parole when told that a parole board, consisting of **experts on the subject of rehabilitation**, will determine the person is not a threat to society.

- **72%** of Maine voters support parole when told of studies from the Department of Justice that show **taxpayer costs to incarcerate someone increases drastically as people age**.

By a **21 point margin**, Maine voters support parole-eligibility vs. the Supervised Community Confinement Program (SCCP).

## Maine Voters Reject Mass Incarceration

- **76%** of Maine voters would prefer allowing people to **complete their sentence at home or in a rehabilitation facility** with law enforcement check-ins and a job, even if that means they do not have to spend their full sentence in a prison or jail.

By a **28 point margin**, Maine voters believe that too many people serve long prison sentences and that we should be **doing more to get incarcerated people into rehabilitation and job training**, rather than keeping them incarcerated.

## Policy Matters to Maine Voters

- **92%** of Maine voters agree that parole applications should require an **in-person or virtual hearing** so that the parole board members can get a better evaluation of the person’s progress and rehabilitation, rather than exclusively reviewing their file.

- **91%** of Maine voters believe that a person should be allowed to **attend and speak at their own parole hearing** if they desire.

- **76%** of Maine voters support a policy requiring **annual reviews of parole-eligible people**.

- **55%** of Maine voters believe that gubernatorial nominees for the parole board should be **approved or rejected by an independent committee**.

## For Parole Board Membership

### Maine Voters Prioritize Restorative Experience

- **83%** of Maine voters support selecting people with **experience in social work and public health**, like rehabilitation experts.

- **78%** of Maine voters support selecting people from the general population, who **represent the communities that people receiving parole would return to**.

- **77%** of Maine voters support selecting people who have **completed ongoing restorative justice training**, which involves training on rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation between victims and perpetrators.

- **53%** of Maine voters support selecting people who have been **formerly incarcerated or impacted by the criminal legal system**.

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YouGov Blue • Maine February 2023 • Online sample of 409 voters fielded from February 23 to March 03, 2023 • Margin of Error ±5.5%