

POLL PREVIEW: LATINX VOTERS WANT COMMONSENSE PRETRIAL REFORM

Latinx Americans—the United States’ fastest-growing demographic group—have [an increasing interest in criminal justice](#). A new national poll from the Pretrial Justice Institute and LatinoJustice PRLDEF shows that Latinx voters want changes at the front door—or pretrial stage—of the criminal justice system.

Latinx communities are disproportionately penalized by pretrial release decisions that are based on wealth instead of safety. The average bail set for Latinx people is almost twice that set for whites. According to one study, Latinx communities in Los Angeles paid \$92.1 million in bond deposits between 2012 and 2016; these are monies that cannot be recovered, even when charges are dropped or the person is found not guilty. Commonsense pretrial reform is key to addressing larger justice issues in the United States.

LATINX VOTERS ARE READY FOR CHANGE

- 91% of registered Latinx voters are dissatisfied with the criminal justice system; 60% want a complete overhaul or major reforms.
- Nearly nine of out 10 Latinx voters believe that the wealthy enjoy substantially better criminal justice outcomes.
- 74% of Latinx voters feel that whites have more favorable outcomes than black people, Latinx people, and other people of color.

LATINX VOTERS WANT COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS

- 47% believe that community-based supports are fairer than money bail (26%).
- 61% support eliminating money bail entirely from the criminal justice system and replacing it with pretrial services and supervision.
- Latinx voters support community-based services that help released people appear in court and not get arrested on new charges.

LATINX VOTERS SUPPORT DETENTION ONLY WHEN IT PROTECTS PUBLIC SAFETY

- Almost three in four Latinx voters (73%) would limit how long a person could be jailed before trial on non-serious offenses due to an inability to pay money bail.
- Eighty-eight percent would give judges the ability to detain people charged with a serious violent crime in jail without bail when it has been found in court that there are no options to get them back to court or to protect public safety.

Unnecessary pretrial detention due to an inability to pay money bail has serious downstream consequences. It can cost people their jobs, housing, education, health—even custody of children. It also undermines public safety. [As few as three days in jail](#) can make some people more likely be arrested on new charges.

Latinx voters care about these issues and are ready for their leaders to work for change.

