

INDIANA DEATH PENALTY FACTS

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IS FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE

A single death penalty case in Indiana can cost taxpayers as much as \$1 million.

Since 1990, Indiana has spent nearly \$20 million on death penalty defense cases.



Parke County official increased the county income tax by .25% to pay for the prosecution of capital murder charges against Chad Cottrell for the murder of his wife and two stepdaughters.

Grant County officials transferred \$500,000 from their county's road and street fund to help pay for the death penalty case of 18-year-old Craig Cain, who was charged with murdering a woman at the request of her 13-year-old granddaughter.

Cain pled guilty in exchange for a sentence of life without parole.

When the case ended in the spring of 2009 with a plea agreement for life without parole, the Terre Haute Tribune-Star reported that the county had already spent a half-million dollars on the case.

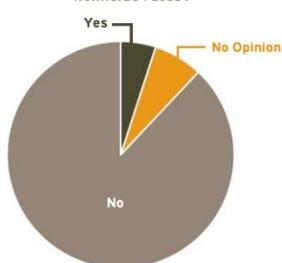
UNLIKELIHOOD OF EXECUTION

Based on sentencing and reversal rates for death penalty cases filed between January 1990 and February 2018, a death penalty request in Indiana has only a 5% chance of resulting in an execution.

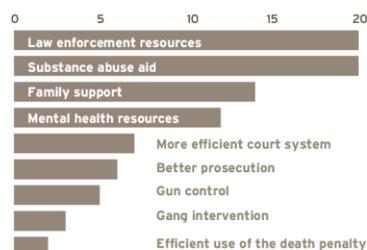
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IS NOT A CRIME DETERRENT

- States without the death penalty continue to have significantly lower murder rates than those that retain capital punishment.
- Listen to our police chiefs! The majority of law enforcement professionals surveyed agree that capital punishment does not deter violent crime.

Does the death penalty impact homicide rates?



Law enforcement rankings of the most effective crime interventions, by percentage.



88% of criminology experts state that the death penalty has no impact on homicide rates.

Police chiefs ranked the death penalty as the least effective tool in reducing violent crime, citing greater resources as the most effective intervention.

SHIFTING MONEY ELSEWHERE

Let's start being smarter with taxpayer, money in Indiana by shifting death penalty spending to impactful criminal justice reform. Law enforcement identified substance abuse aid, family supports, and mental health resources as more effective interventions in reducing violent crime.

"Prison safety depends on proper staffing, equipment, resources and training. Certainly, the money spent on trying to put someone to death for 20 years could find better use in addressing those practical needs of our correctional system."

- John Conner, former chief special prosecutor for the state of Montana for 21 years, prosecuting 5 death penalty cases involving prison homicides.

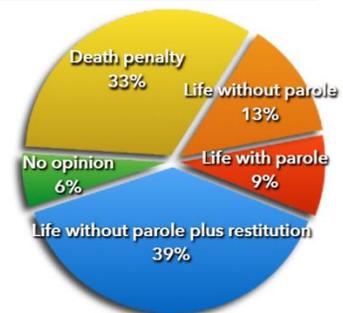
IMPACT ON VICTIMS' FAMILIES

"The death penalty offers a false promise of closure to victims' families, who are led to believe that an execution will bring relief. While families wait through the lengthy, roller-coaster appeals process, reliving our original pain again and again, the focus remains on the murderer rather than on the victims or on our own anguish as surviving family members. The death penalty is a distraction from victims' real needs, not a solution."

-Renny Cushing, whose father, Robert, was murdered

PUBLIC SUPPORT OF DEATH PENALTY AT AN ALL TIME LOW

Majority of voters would choose a punishment other than death penalty in the case of murder.



A 2010 poll by Lake Research Partners found that a clear majority of voters (61%) would choose a punishment other than the death penalty for murder.

RISK OF KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE

For every 10 people who have been executed since the death penalty was reinstated in the U.S., one person has been set free. Even with legal safeguards – we still get it wrong.

In Indiana, two men sentenced to death were later acquitted at new trials.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

- "[Nationally], racial disparities are present at every stage of a capital case and get magnified as a case moves through the legal process." (DPIC, 2020)
- In 2007, the American Bar Association Indiana Death Penalty Assessment found comparable issues in Indiana.