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

**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.