



Texas Appleseed Survey Results
Conducted November 11-17, 2022

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Methodology:

- Survey conducted from November 11-17, 2022
- Conducted online; respondents were recruited via social media ads and text messages.
- Surveyed 2,333 registered voters in Texas.
- Post-stratification was performed on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, education, and 2020 presidential vote.
- Survey was conducted in English.
- Full methodology statement can be found [here](#).

Key Findings

- Two-thirds of registered voters in Texas, including an overwhelming majority of Democrats and roughly half of Republicans, support automatic record-sealing.
- Underlying this support is the belief that those who have served their time should not be blocked from housing or jobs.
- Majorities support automatic record-sealing for each type of misdemeanor. But for felonies other than drug possession, large majorities oppose even considering record-sealing.
- Roughly two-thirds believe that the justice system in Texas places those with money at an unfair advantage, and that it does an inadequate job preparing prisoners for re-entry into society.

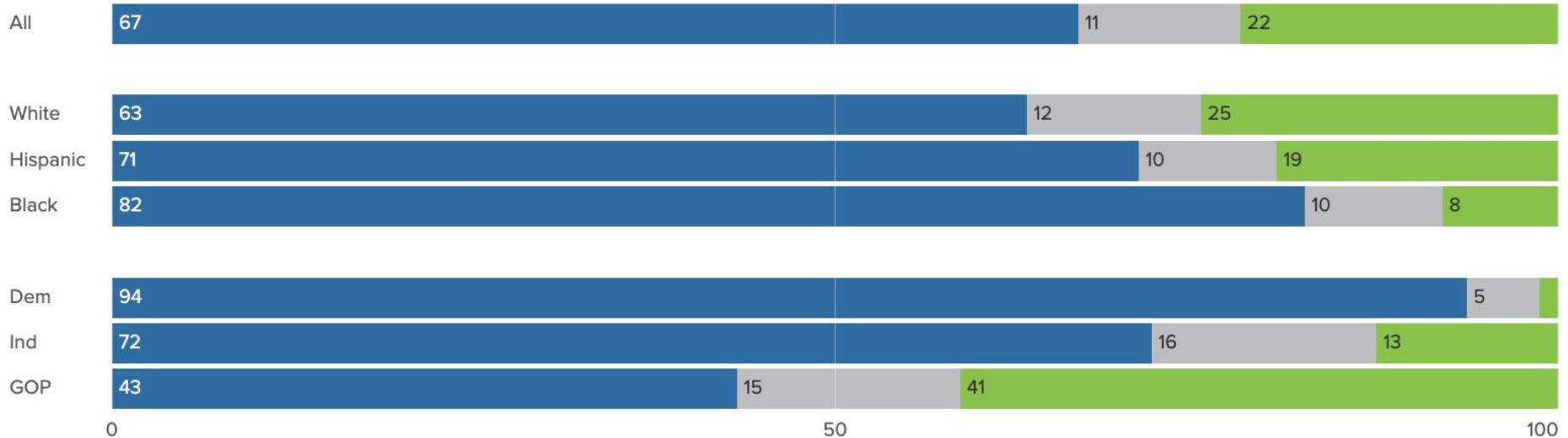
Views on Texas Criminal Justice System

Inequality in TX Criminal Justice System

- Two-thirds believe the state’s criminal justice system favors those with money or connections
- Nearly all Democrats believe this; Republicans are evenly divided

Which statement comes closer to your own view?

● The criminal justice system in Texas is really a two-tiered justice system in which those with money or powerful connections are treated differently than others
 ● Not sure
 ● The criminal justice system in Texas generally treats all citizens equally, regardless of wealth or political influence

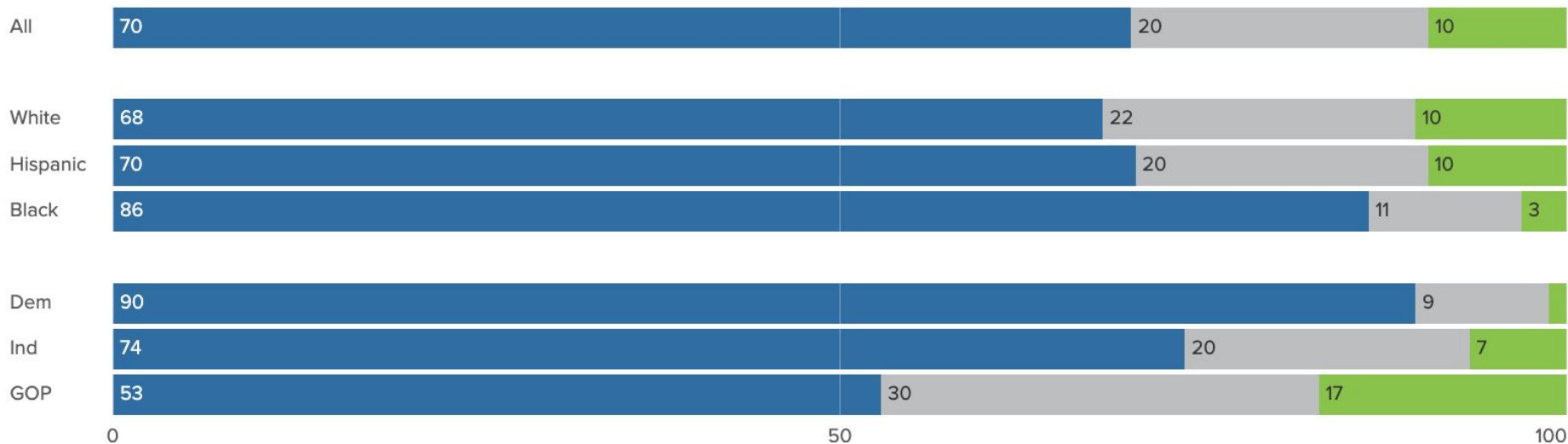


Prisoner Re-entry

- Seven in 10 say the criminal justice system doesn't do enough to prepare those convicted of crimes to re-enter their communities when they've served their time
- Majorities of all partisan groups agree

Which statement comes closer to your own view?

● Our criminal justice system doesn't do enough to prepare those convicted of crimes to re-enter their communities once they have paid their debt to society.
 ● Not sure
 ● Our criminal justice system and prisons do a good job of preparing people who have served their sentence to re-enter their communities and succeed.

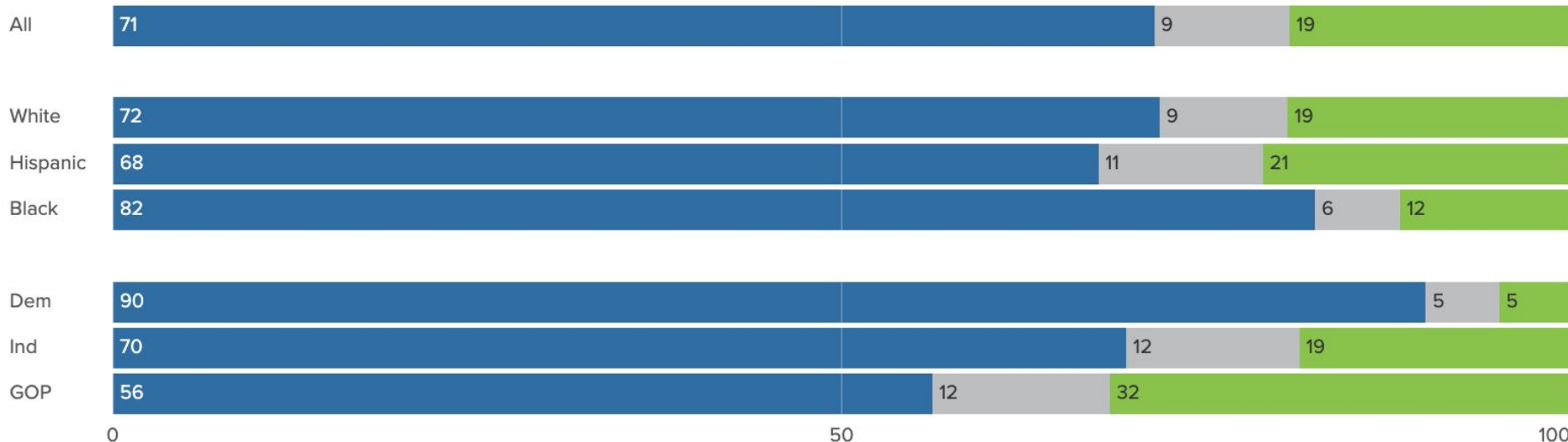


Denying Opportunities to Those Who Have Served Time

- Seven in 10 say that denying people opportunities past the end of their sentences makes it harder for them to re-enter society and likelier they'll commit another crime
- Majorities of all partisan groups agree

Which statement comes closer to your own view?

● Punishing those convicted of crimes beyond the end of their sentence by blocking them from housing, employment, education or opportunities makes it harder for them to re-enter society and makes it more likely they will commit a crime again.
 ● Not sure
 ● Crime victims must live with the consequences of those crimes throughout their lives, so those who commit crimes in our society should suffer the consequences of those crimes throughout their lives.

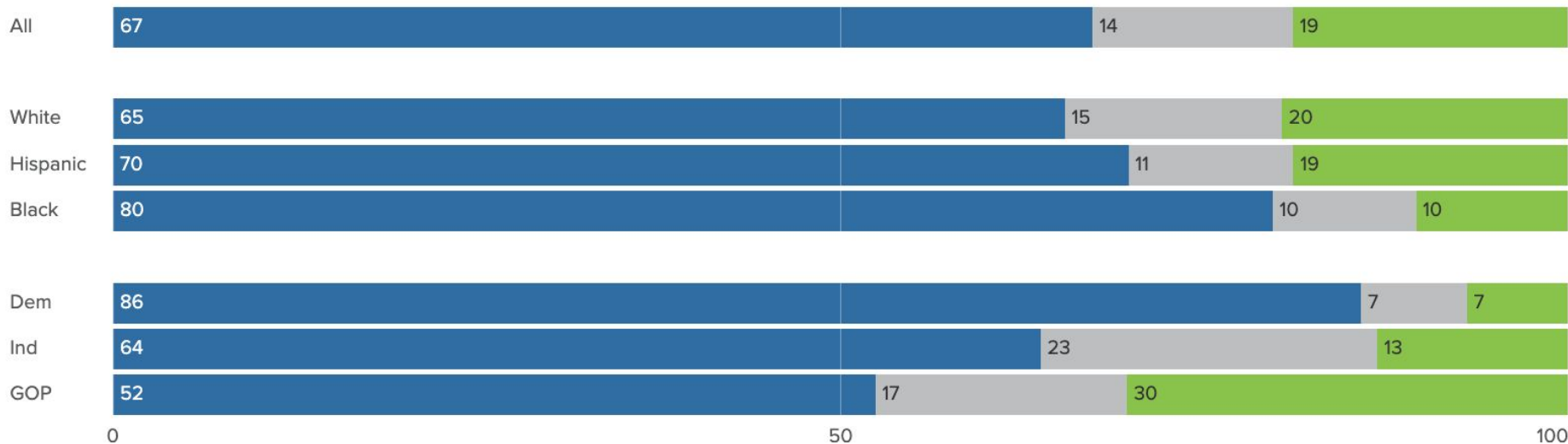


Removing Barriers Post-Pandemic

- Two-thirds say that states should remove barriers to employment, housing and education to those with criminal records post-pandemic
- Majorities of all partisan groups agree

Which statement comes closer to your own view?

● As state governments devise plans for economic recovery following the coronavirus pandemic, they should include steps to remove barriers to employment, housing, and education for people with criminal records who have completed their sentences and remained crime-free. ● Not sure ● While removing barriers to employment for people with criminal convictions might be prudent during normal times, we should not make these policies a priority when designing the economic recovery from this pandemic.



Record-Sealing

Automatic Record-Sealing: A/B Test

- Respondents were randomly assigned one of the three question wordings below.

Basic Text

As you may know, several states are currently considering proposals to automatically seal the criminal records of individuals convicted of misdemeanors or certain felonies who have completed their sentence and remained crime-free for a period of time. Record-sealing is a court system process that shields criminal records from being accessed by third parties like employers and landlords in background checks. Do you support or oppose these proposals?

Drug offenses

As you may know, several states are currently considering proposals to automatically seal the criminal records of individuals convicted of misdemeanors or certain felonies **such as drug offenses** who have completed their sentence and remained crime-free for a period of time. Record-sealing is a court system process that shields criminal records from being accessed by third parties like employers and landlords in background checks. Do you support or oppose these proposals?

Excluding serious crimes

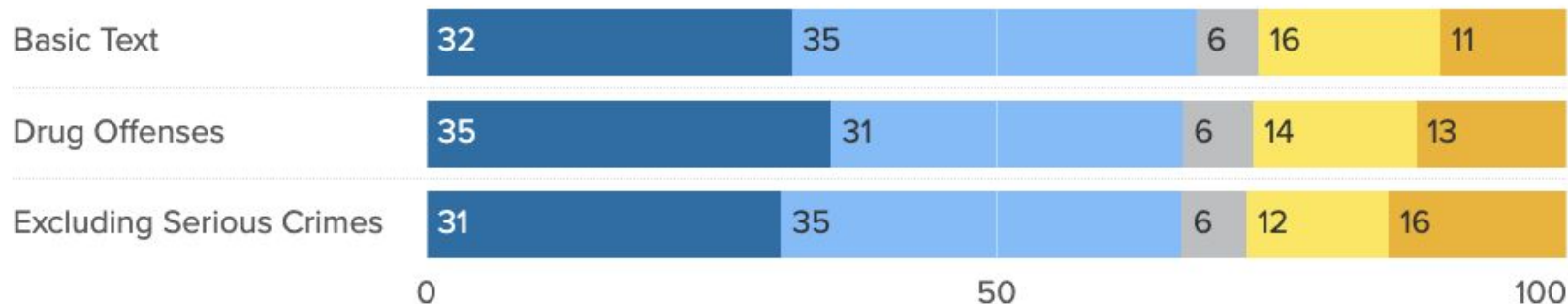
As you may know, several states are currently considering proposals to automatically seal the criminal records of individuals convicted of misdemeanors or certain felonies who have completed their sentence and remained crime-free for a period of time, **but this would not include those convicted of the most serious crimes, such as rape and murder**. Record-sealing is a court system process that shields criminal records from being accessed by third parties like employers and landlords in background checks. Do you support or oppose these proposals?

Support for Automatic Record-Sealing

- Overall, support for all three versions is 66-67% and opposition is 27-28%.
- There is slightly more strong support for the “drug offenses” version, but the difference is not statistically significant.
- Support among Republicans ranges between 46-55%; among Democrats, between 83-86%.

Do you support or oppose these proposals?

● Strongly support
 ● Somewhat support
 ● Not sure
 ● Somewhat oppose
 ● Strongly oppose

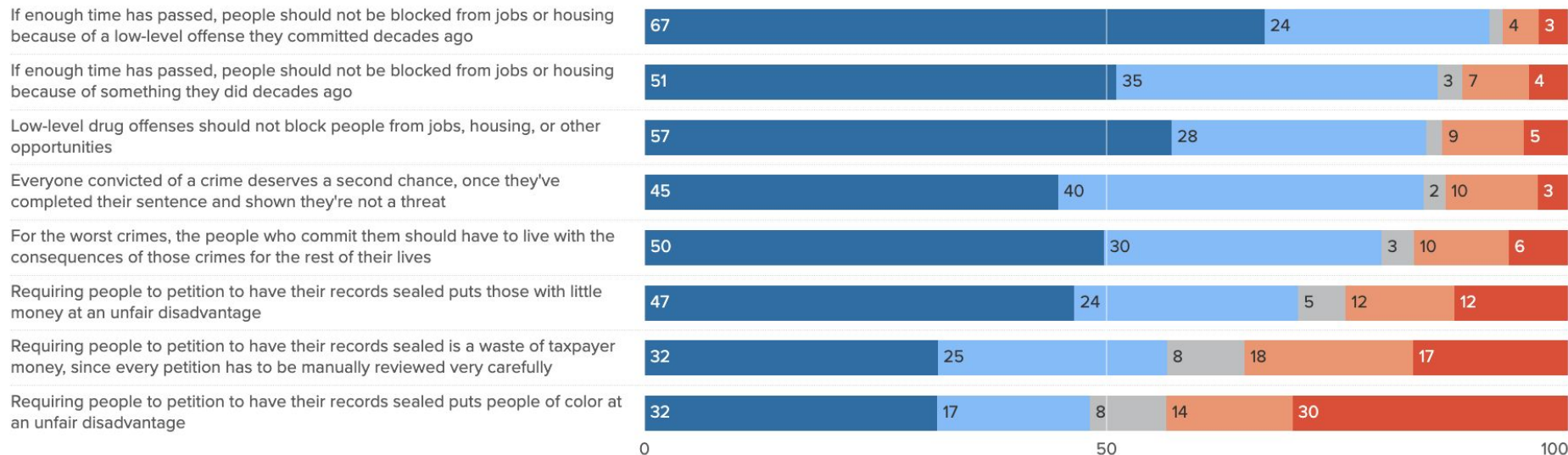


Various Sentiments Around Second Chances

- A majority of Texans support second chances, and oppose blocking people from jobs or housing, in all cases except “for the worst crimes”
- Majorities also believe that petitions are a waste of taxpayer money and put those with less money at an unfair disadvantage
- Texans are divided on whether petitions put people of color at a disadvantage

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

● Strongly agree
 ● Somewhat agree
 ● Not sure
 ● Somewhat disagree
 ● Strongly disagree



Sentiments Around Second Chances, by Race, Party

- Majorities of all partisan groups agree with every statement except the last one, on whether petitions put people of color at a disadvantage
- There is also a large partisan divide on whether petitions put those with less money at a disadvantage – though a slight majority of Republicans do agree with the statement.

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

Numbers below represent the total percentage in each group who agree with each statement.

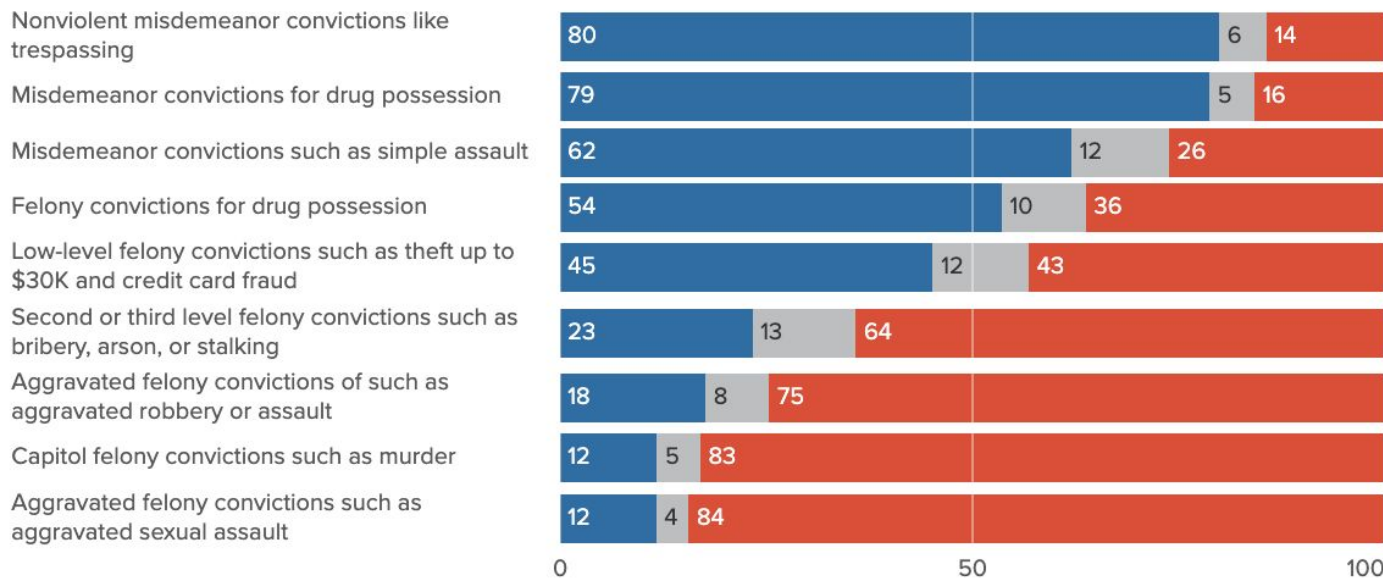
	All	White	Hispanic	Black	Dem	Ind	GOP
If enough time has passed, people should not be blocked from jobs or housing because of a low-level offense they committed decades ago	91	91	92	96	99	89	86
If enough time has passed, people should not be blocked from jobs or housing because of something they did decades ago	86	86	85	93	94	81	80
Low-level drug offenses should not block people from jobs, housing, or other opportunities	85	84	84	93	97	82	74
Everyone convicted of a crime deserves a second chance, once they've completed their sentence and shown they're not a threat	84	84	83	89	91	80	80
For the worst crimes, the people who commit them should have to live with the consequences of those crimes for the rest of their lives	80	80	84	66	72	77	87
Requiring people to petition to have their records sealed puts those with little money at an unfair disadvantage	71	69	73	85	94	72	51
Requiring people to petition to have their records sealed is a waste of taxpayer money, since every petition has to be manually reviewed very carefully	57	56	56	58	66	51	50
Requiring people to petition to have their records sealed puts people of color at an unfair disadvantage	48	42	55	77	85	49	17

Considering record-sealing for various types of offenses

- Majorities favor considering record-sealing for each type of misdemeanor, as well as felony drug possessions.
- Texans are divided on considering it for lower-level felonies like theft and credit card fraud.

Record-sealing is a court system process that shields criminal records from being accessed by third parties like employers and landlords in background checks. For each of the following types of crimes, please indicate whether you think it should or should not be considered for record-sealing.

● Should be considered ● Not sure ● Should not be considered

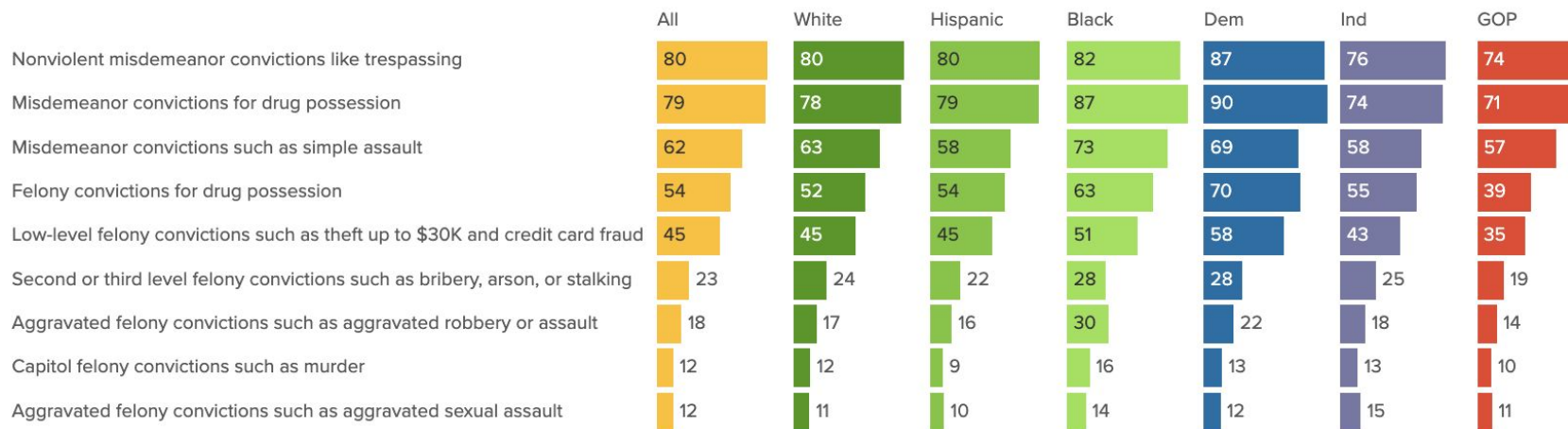


Considering record-sealing, by race/ethnicity & party

- Bipartisan majorities support considering record-sealing for all types of misdemeanors
- Majorities of independents and Democrats also support considering record-sealing for felony drug possession
- African Americans are slightly more supportive of considering record-sealing for each type of offense than white and Hispanic voters

Record-sealing is a court system process that shields criminal records from being accessed by third parties like employers and landlords in background checks. For each of the following types of crimes, please indicate whether you think it should or should not be considered for record-sealing.

Numbers below represent the percentage of each group that supports considering record-sealing for each type of offense.



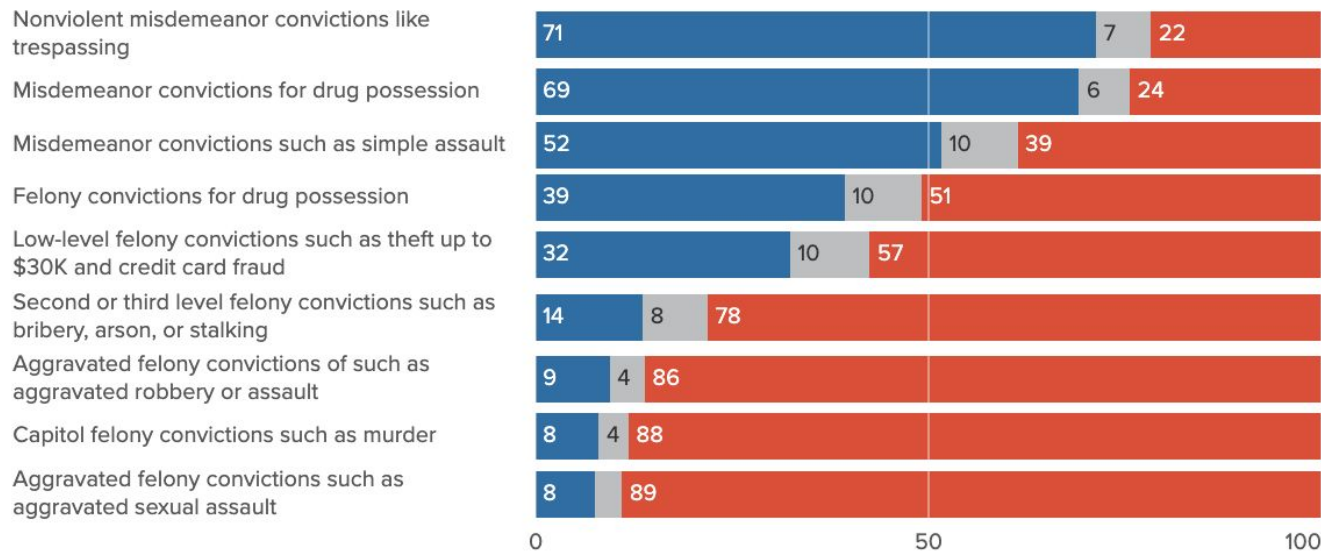
Automating record-sealing for various types of offenses

- Majorities favor automatic record-sealing for each type of misdemeanor, but oppose it for each type of felony
- For each type of offense, support for automation is slightly lower than it was for merely “considering” record-sealing.

And please indicate whether you think record-sealing should be triggered automatically for anyone convicted of each type of crime.

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● Should be triggered automatically ● Not sure ● Should not be triggered automatically

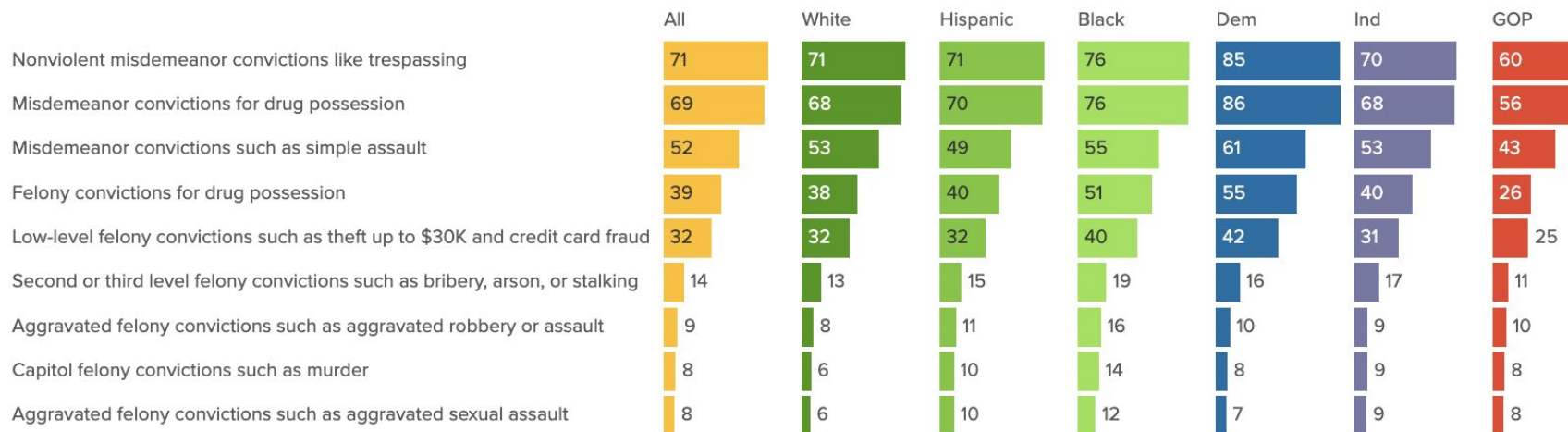


Automating record-sealing, by race/ethnicity & party

- Bipartisan majorities support automatic record-sealing for nonviolent misdemeanors
- Majorities of Democrats and independents also support automatic record-sealing for simple assault misdemeanors

And please indicate whether you think record-sealing should be triggered automatically for anyone convicted of each type of crime.

Numbers below represent the percentage of each group that supports automatic record-sealing for each type of offense.





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