



Survey Finds Over 80% of Kentucky Voters Would Vote in Favor of Marsy's Law for Kentucky: Implementing a Victims' Bill of Rights in the Kentucky State Constitution

Public Opinion Strategies and Anzalone Liszt Grove Research conducted a statewide survey of 500 likely voters (margin of error + 4.4%) January 12-14, 2016. Fully 30% of the interviews were conducted via cell phone, and the partisan breakdown of the poll is 40% Republican-52% Democrat. The purpose of this memo is to review the key findings from the survey.

Findings:

There is significant, overwhelming support for a Constitutional Amendment called Marsy's Law.

By an overwhelming 80%-11% margin, Kentucky voters strongly support the following potential Amendment to the Kentucky Constitution:

"The ballot summary for this proposed amendment says the state's Constitution would be amended to provide equal rights to victims of crime including the right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect; to be informed and to have a voice in the judicial process."

Questions for voters – two posed

Question 1:

The ballot summary for this proposed amendment says the state's Constitution would be amended to provide equal rights to victims of crime including the right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect; to be informed and to have a voice in the judicial process.

A "YES" vote means the Constitutional amendment will be approved.

A "NO" vote means the Constitutional amendment will not be approved.

If the election on this issue were being held today, would you vote YES to approve the Constitutional Amendment or NO to not approve the Constitutional Amendment?

Question 2:

This Amendment, often called Marsy's Law, is named after a 21-year-old college senior who was murdered in 1983 and was written as a result of the experiences her brother and parents faced after her murder when they were often treated as though they had no rights.

Under current Kentucky law, those accused and convicted of a crime are granted specific rights and protections, while victims of a crime ARE NOT given these equal rights. This proposed Amendment would guarantee that victims of a crime are notified, heard and granted standing to ask that those rights be protected.

In addition, this measure would ensure that victims of crime are notified of bail hearings, as well as any parole, release or escape of a criminal. And, it would create equal rights and standing for crime victims and finally grant victims and their families the voice they deserve.

Now that you have a little more information, if the election on this issue were being held today, would you vote YES to approve the Constitutional Amendment or NO to not approve the Constitutional Amendment?