

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS/
 PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE
 NOVEMBER 2011 RELIGION AND POLITICS SURVEY
 FINAL TOPLINE
 November 9-14, 2011
 N=2,001

QUESTIONS 1, 3-4, 10-12, 20, 22-25, 30-40, 42-44, 50-53, 56-59, 65-67 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 2, 5-9, 13-19, 21, 26-29, 41, 45-49, 54-55, 60-64

ASK ALL:

Q.68 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
Nov 9-14, 2011	62	28	34	31	11	20	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011 ¹	58	--	--	36	--	--	6
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	62	30	32	30	10	20	8
August, 2007	62	29	33	32	11	21	6
Early January, 2007	64	30	34	29	11	18	7
March, 2006	65	27	38	27	8	19	8
December, 2005	62	--	--	30	--	--	8
Late November, 2005	61	--	--	27	--	--	12
July, 2005	68	32	36	24	8	16	8
Mid-July, 2003	64	28	36	30	10	20	6
March, 2002	67	33	34	26	9	17	7
March, 2001	66	30	36	27	10	17	7
September, 1999	74	41	33	22	7	15	4
June, 1996	78	43	35	18	7	11	4

Earlier trends referenced in this report available from Gallup.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/150089/Support-Death-Penalty-Falls-Year-Low.aspx>

Gallup's question wording: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?"

¹ In October 2011 and before, question was asked as part of a list, except in November-December 2005.

ASK IF FAVOR (Q.68=1,2):

Q.69 Why do you favor the death penalty for persons convicted of murder [OPEN-END; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE WITH "ANYTHING ELSE"]?

BASED ON THOSE WHO FAVOR THE DEATH PENALTY [N=1222]:

Nov 9-14 2011		Gallup ² Jun 13-16, 1991
53	NET: Deserved/Appropriate punishment	53
33	It's fair/appropriate/It fits the crime/It's deserved/It's just	
15	An eye for an eye/A life for a life	
4	Because it's murder/Because murder is wrong	
3	Person doesn't deserve to live	
15	Burden on/cost to taxpayers for live in prison/ Relieves prison overcrowding	13
8	Depends on nature/severity of the crime	--
6	Serves as a deterrent/example for others	13
5	Support death penalty, if there's no doubt person did it	--
5	Prevents the person from committing more crimes	19
5	Biblical/religious reasons	--
3	Know a victim/Sympathize with families of victims	--
2	Support death penalty, generally	--
1	Person could get out/Person should never get out	--
1	Don't believe person can be rehabilitated	--
8	Other	11
3	Don't know/Refused	2

Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple mentions.

ASK IF OPPOSE (Q.68=3,4):

Q.70 Why do you oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder [OPEN-END; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE WITH "ANYTHING ELSE"]?

BASED ON OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY [N=638]:

Nov 9-14 2011		Gallup Jun 13-16, 1991
27	It's wrong/immoral to kill someone/It's not our right to kill/It's not the government's right to ill	41
27	The justice system is imperfect/Wrong person may be convicted, executed	11
16	Religious reasons/Judgment should be left to God/Humans should not judge	17
10	Person needs to pay/suffer more/Life sentence more appropriate	--
4	Depends on the situation/Not always the right punishment	--
4	Possibility of rehabilitation/People deserve second chances	6
3	Not a deterrent	7
2	Death penalty not fairly applied/Concerns about race, ability to pay lawyers	6
1	Don't believe in "an eye for an eye"	--
13	Other	16
2	Don't know/Refused	6

Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple mentions.

QUESTIONS 71-73, 76-81 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 74-75**

2 Gallup's death penalty question, which was used as a filter for questions about why people favor or oppose the death penalty for those convicted of murder, was worded as follows: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?"