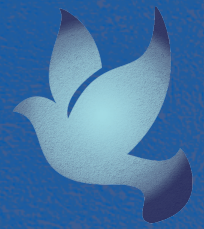


# Ohioans Continue to Support Death Penalty Repeal



**Poll info:** The Tarrance Group surveyed N= 600 voters (online) across Ohio from September 18 to September 22, 2023. The margin of error is +/-3.9%.

## Why Ohioans Support Repealing the Death Penalty

- Eleven people have been sentenced to death and then later declared innocent in Ohio. This kind of mistake is far too frequent when human lives are at stake.
- Since 1973, about one out of every 25 people sentenced to death in Ohio have later been found to be innocent. These innocent prisoners spent 190 combined years behind bars – an average of 21 years each.
- The death penalty has repeatedly been shown not to be an effective deterrent to crime.
- According to the non-partisan Legislative Service Commission, the cost of imposing a death sentence could cost taxpayers up to \$384 million. It would be more cost-effective to replace the death penalty with a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.
- Black or African American people make up 13.3% of Ohio's population and 55.8% of Ohio's death row as of January 2023.

## Topline Poll Results

When asked if Ohio should do away with the death penalty and replace it with a life sentence for murder without the possibility of parole, **56%** of respondents said yes.

When asked which punishment is preferred for 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder, **57%** of respondents chose life in prison as opposed to the death penalty.

When asked if the Ohio Governor should sign a law replacing the death penalty with a life sentence without the possibility of parole, **58%** of respondents said yes.

When asked if the risk of executing innocent people is too great, **56%** of respondents agreed.

## Ohio – By the Numbers

- 121 people are on Ohio's death row, per the August 2023 fact sheet from ODRC.
- Ohio's death row prisoner population is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation.
- The plurality of death row inmates hail from three counties—Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Hamilton—and only 33 of the 88 counties are represented on death row. The administration of the death penalty is about geography and race, not justice.



# The Push for Death Penalty Repeal in Ohio



The death penalty is an expensive, ineffective, racist, and arbitrary system that puts innocent lives at risk. Currently, 23 states, plus Washington, D.C., have cut ties with the death penalty; Ohio can and should be next

At the Ohio Statehouse, a bipartisan team of lawmakers have introduced **Senate Bill 101** and **House Bill 259**, legislation that would abolish the death penalty in Ohio once and for all.

## SB 101 and HB 259 At A Glance

### SB 101

**Sponsors:** Senators Steve Huffman (R) and Nickie Antonio (D)

**Co-Sponsors:** Senators Bill Blessing (R), Hearcel Craig (D), Bill DeMora (D), Paula Hicks-Hudson (D), Catherine Ingram (D), George Lang (R), Michele Reynolds (R), Kristina Roegner (R), Kent Smith (D), Vernon Sykes (D)

**Introduced:** March 29, 2023

**Committee:** Senate Judiciary Committee

### HB 259

**Sponsors:** Representatives Jean Schmidt (R) and Adam Miller (D)

**Co-Sponsors:** Juanita Brent (D), Jamie Callender (R), Sedrick Denson (D), Tavia Galonski (D), Latyna M. Humphrey (D), Dontavius L. Jarrells (D), Mark Johnson (R), Adam Mathews (R), Tracy M. Richardson (R), Bride Rose Sweeney (D), Cecil Thomas (D), Terrence Upchurch (D), Andrea White (R)

**Introduced:** September 12, 2023

**Committee:** House Finance Committee

## Now is the time

The momentum for death penalty repeal in Ohio has been growing for years. With terribly botched executions and an inability to obtain lethal injection drugs, all scheduled executions have been on hold since 2018. House Bill 136 from the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly– which exempts individuals with serious mental illness from receiving a death sentence – was signed into law by Governor DeWine in January 2021. These important pieces of legislation ignited conversations about Ohio’s criminal legal system and the need for equitable, effective reform. The public groundswell in favor of repealing the death penalty continues to grow, and at the Statehouse, there is unprecedented, bipartisan support. SB 101 and HB 259 can end the death penalty in Ohio once and for all.



Learn more about the campaign to end Ohio's death penalty at [NoDeathPenaltyOH.com](https://NoDeathPenaltyOH.com).

