



Support for the Death Penalty Weak in Kansas and Nationally

American Support for Death Penalty at Five Decade Low

In 2025, when Gallup surveyed Americans on the death penalty, only 52% favored the death penalty. This is the lowest support since 1972 when it was 50%. Those who oppose the death penalty were 44%, which is the highest since 1966. In Gallup's polling, they also found that among persons ages 35 to 54, death penalty support was only 46%.

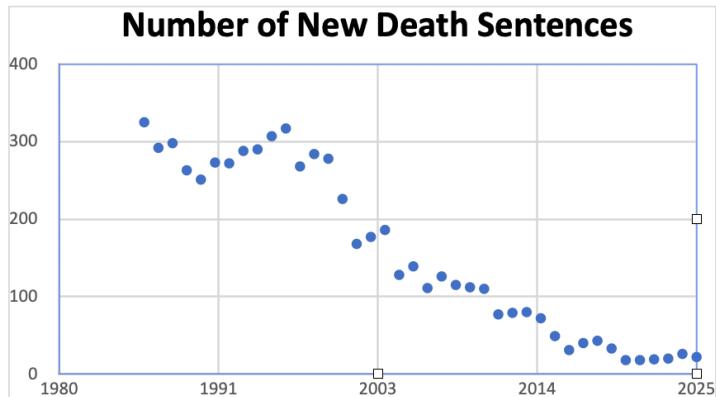
Americans' Support for the Death Penalty, 1936-2025

Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?

% Yes, in favor



Death Sentences Down: Declining Support from Juries and Prosecutors



The death penalty is also falling out of favor with US juries and prosecutors, as there has been a sharp decline in the number of death sentences handed down. 2025 marks the 5th year in a row with less than thirty new death sentences.

Death Sentence peak in 1986: 325
Death sentences in 2025: 23

Since 2016 there have been no new death sentences in Kansas.

Kansans Choose Life over Death

In a 2016 Fort Hays State University poll on criminal justice issues, Kansans supported life without parole over the death penalty by a ten point margin with 49% of Kansans choosing life without parole as the maximum sentence to murder, and just 39% choosing the death penalty.

If you could choose between the following two approaches, which do you think is the better maximum penalty for murder – the death penalty or life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole?

