



TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: ROBERT BLIZZARD – PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
SUBJECT: NORTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE POLL RESULTS ON CLEAN SLATE LEGISLATION
DATE: JANUARY 9, 2020

BACKGROUND

The North Carolina Second Chance Act (Senate Bill 562) is legislation that would automate the expunction of certain dismissed criminal charges and allow individuals to petition the court for expungement of any nonviolent misdemeanor convictions if they have remained crime free for seven years. The Second Chance Act passed the North Carolina Senate unanimously in May and is up for a vote in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

On behalf of Conservatives for Criminal Justice Reform, Public Opinion Strategies conducted a statewide survey of 800 registered voters in North Carolina, January 4-7, 2020 (+ 3.5%) to better understand public support for Clean Slate reforms. Fully 50% of respondents were contacted via cell phone and the other 50% were contacted via landline.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Voters strongly support the policies contained in the Second Chance Act to expand opportunities for eligible people to clear their criminal record.**

% Support - % Oppose Overall and by Party	Total	GOP	IND	DEM
Automatically removing criminal records when a case is dismissed, or the person is found not guilty	89%-10%	83%-15%	89%-10%	92%-6%
Automatically removing nonviolent misdemeanor convictions if the person has remained crime free for at least seven years	86%-12%	80%-18%	87%-13%	92%-6%
Allowing people to remove nonviolent misdemeanor convictions if they have remained crime free for at least five years	81%-18%	71%-27%	83%-17%	87%-12%

- **North Carolina legislators can cast their vote in support of Clean Slate legislation without fear of political fallout back home.**

Fully 43% of North Carolina voters say they would be “*more likely*” to vote for a candidate for political office if they learned they supported expanding opportunities for people to clear their criminal record, with just 10% who say it would make them “*less likely*,” and 44% who say it would make “*no difference*” in their vote.