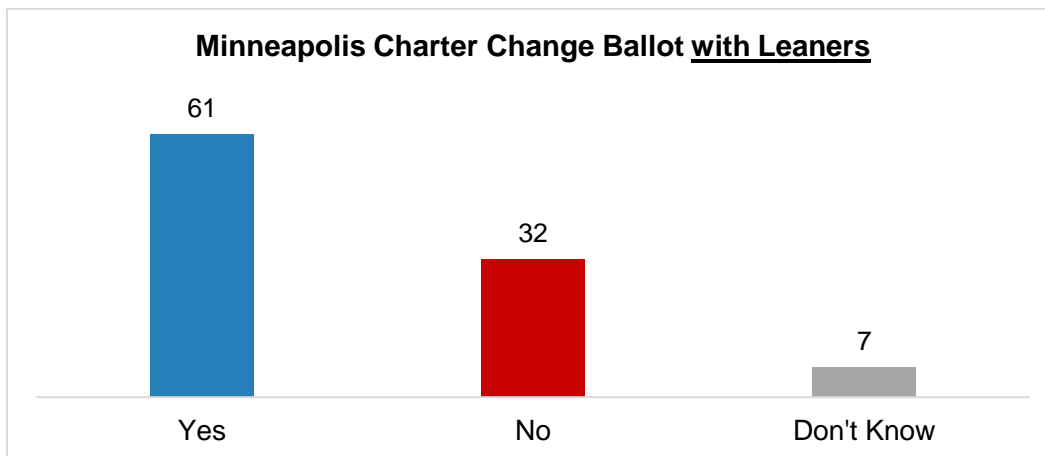


TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Katie Connolly, Senior Vice President and Paul Roos, Director
RE: Minneapolis Charter Change
DATE: August 3, 2020

- Our recent poll of likely Minneapolis voters demonstrates broad, multi-racial support for an amendment being proposed by the Minneapolis City Council that would remove the funding requirement for police officers from the city’s charter and create a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention to oversee public safety.
 - The poll was commissioned jointly by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and The Fairness Project.
- When given a short description of the amendment, a clear majority (56%) of voters say they would vote yes on this change.
 - The amendment achieves majority support with both Black and white voters, as well as both college-educated and non-college educated voters.
 - Just 30% of the Minneapolis voters surveyed say they would vote against the amendment.
- Further, when we asked undecided voters which direction they lean more toward - voting yes or voting no - support for the amendment grew to 61% while opposition rose by just 2 points (32%).
 - The proposed change finds particularly strong support among Democrats, who make up a majority of the Minneapolis electorate, and voters under the age of 50. (See *table on page 2*)

Text of the initiative as tested:

This potential initiative would create a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, that may include police officers as one part of that larger department. To allow these changes to occur, the measure would eliminate a current legal requirement that the city pay for a minimum number of police officers per resident. The potential measure would mandate that the new Department of Community Safety engage regularly with the community and take a holistic approach to public safety rooted in public health. Given this, would you vote yes or no on this potential ballot? Undecided voters were asked: Even though you are undecided, do you lean toward voting yes or no?



Minneapolis Charter Change Ballot with Leaners

Would you vote yes or no on this potential ballot?*	All Voters	Dem	Ind	<50 years old	White	Black	Non-White†	<College	College+
Yes	61	76	54	71	59	70	71	59	63
No	32	15	42	23	35	19	20	34	30
Don't know	7	9	4	6	6	11	9	7	7

*Undecided voters were asked: "Even though you are undecided, do you lean toward voting yes or no?"

†Note: non-white includes everyone who identifies as: Black, African American, Latino, Hispanic, Mexican, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, or mixed race.

- Voters in our poll expressed a deeply-held desire for substantial change in their city's approach to policing. Support for changing the City Charter is rooted in the widely agreed upon belief that the killing of George Floyd made clear that Minneapolis needs to make real and meaningful changes to the Minneapolis Police Department.
 - Agreement with this sentiment is broad, crossing party lines.
- The data suggests Minneapolis voters have a strong appetite for reallocating funding away from police and toward social and health services, recognizing that it is a poor use of public resources to have police act as mental health or social workers.
- Similarly, a majority of Minneapolis voters agree that policing as we know it is fundamentally flawed and Minneapolis needs a completely different approach to public safety.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

% Total Agree – (% Strongly + % Somewhat Agree)	All Voters	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black
After the killing of George Floyd and protests around our city, it is clear that Minneapolis needs to make real and meaningful changes to our police department.	86%	95%	81%	61%	84%	91%
Minneapolis will spend \$193 million this year on police and law enforcement, or 35% of our city budget. We should redirect some of this funding to social and health services instead of expecting police to act as mental health experts and social workers.	79%	92%	73%	42%	77%	86%
Policing as we know it is fundamentally flawed in Minneapolis and we need to take a completely different approach to public safety in our city.	69%	86%	58%	31%	66%	84%

Methodology

Benenson Strategy Group conducted 668 telephone and online interviews from July 16-23, 2020 on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union and The Fairness Project. All respondents were registered voters in Minneapolis who are likely to vote in the 2020 general election. The margin of error for the data set is $\pm 3.8\%$ at the 95% confidence level and it is higher among subgroups.

