Cato Institute National Survey on Policing and Criminal Justice

Cato Institute/YouGov • N=2,000 • November 19-24, 2015

[Q1-Q5 held for future release]

6. Is there a war on police in America today?

- Yes   65%
- No   35%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

[Q7-Q32 held for future release]

32. Do you favor or oppose requiring police officers to wear body cameras that would record video of their interactions?

- *Net–Support*   92%
- *Net–Oppose*   8%
- Strongly favor   60%
- Somewhat favor   32%
- Somewhat oppose   7%
- Strongly oppose   2%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

33. Would you be willing to pay higher taxes in order to outfit your local police department with body cameras, or not?
(ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE)

- Yes   55%
- No   45%
- Total   100%

34. Should police officers be allowed or not allowed to watch the body camera video footage after a violent encounter before making their official statement about the event?
(ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE)

- Allowed   52%
- Not allowed   48%
- Total   100%

35. Who will body cameras protect more—citizens who interact with the police, the police officers who wear them, or both equally?

- Protect the police   9%
- Protect citizens who interact with police   10%
- Protect both equally   81%
- Total   100%

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SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey was designed and conducted by the Cato Institute in partnership with YouGov. YouGov conducted the interviews online among 2113 American adults using YouGov's proprietary survey software, and matched down to a nationally representative sample of 2000, using a method called sample matching. Restrictions are put in place to ensure that only the people selected and contacted by YouGov are allowed to participate. Oversamples were collected of 333 African Americans, 334 Hispanics, and 334 Tea Party supporters to produce the final dataset. Results were weighted to be representative of a national adult sample. (Weights bring each oversampled subgroup into line with their actual proportion of the US population). Interviews were conducted between November 19 and November 24, 2015. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 3.27 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Sampling error takes into account the effect of weighting. Margin of error for subsamples will be larger due to smaller sample sizes. Additional sources of error could include question wording, context, order effects and misreporting by respondents. Errors can also occur due to practical difficulties in conducting surveys. When feasible, answer choices within questions were rotated or randomized.

The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, education, ideology, and political interest. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). Data on voter registration status and turnout were matched to this frame using the November 2010 Current Population Survey. Data on interest in politics and party identification were then matched to this frame from the 2007 Pew Religious Life Survey. For the Tea Party sample, the frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2010 Cooperative Congressional Election Study subset on respondents having a positive or very positive view about the Tea Party with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements.

The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity (where appropriate), years of education, political interest, and ideology. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles.

Full methodological details can be found at www.cato.org/project-public-opinion.

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