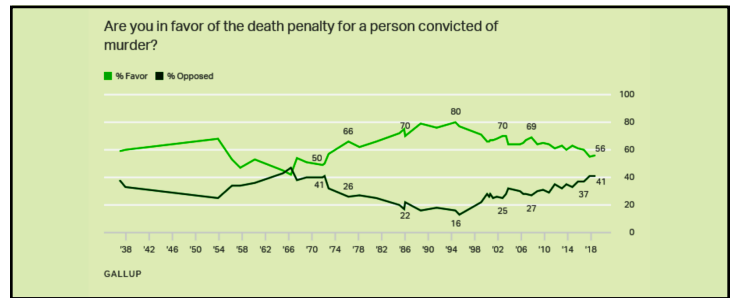
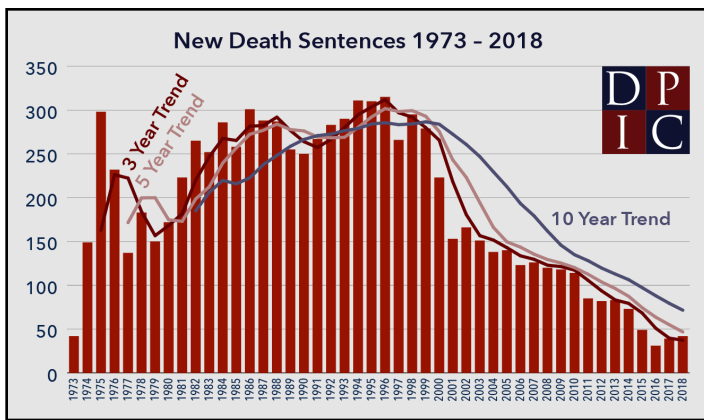


Support for the Death Penalty Weak in Kansas and Nationally

The death penalty is losing favor nationally. Gallup’s 2018 death penalty polling showed overall support for the death penalty at 56%, virtually unchanged from the 2017 historic low of 55%.¹ The Gallup poll also showed only 49% thought the death penalty was applied fairly. That is the lowest percent ever since the question was added in 2000.²



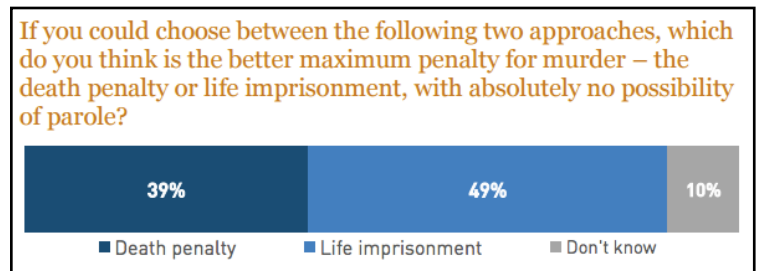
Death Sentences Reflect Declining Support for the Practice



The death penalty is also falling out of favor with juries, as there has been a sharp decline in the number of death sentences handed down. Death sentences nationally have dropped from 315 in 1996 to only 42 in 2018. Four states accounted for 57% of the new death sentences (California, Florida, Ohio, and Texas.)³

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.⁴



Kansans are Ready for Change

The 2016 Fort Hays State University poll finds strong public support for criminal justice reform, across all demographic and political groups. A full 93% of Kansans say it is somewhat or very important to make changes to the criminal justice system in Kansas.⁵

¹ Gallup: 2018 Death Penalty Trends

² Gallup: “New Low of 49% in U.S. Say Death Penalty Applied Fairly” 10/22/18

³ Death Penalty Information Center: “The Death Penalty in 2018: Year End Report”

⁴ FHSU Docking Institute of Public Affairs poll in August 2016 with 415 Kansans and a margin of error of +/- 4.8%

⁵ FHSU Docking Institute of Public Affairs poll.