What Kentuckians Say About the Death Penalty

Which of the following punishments do you personally think is most appropriate for persons convicted of first-degree murder in Kentucky?

- Death Penalty - 42.2%
- Life in prison with no chance of parole - 35.4%
- Life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years - 7.4%
- Life in prison with no chance of parole for 20 years - 2.1%
- A sentence of 20 - 50 years with a chance of parole after 85% of the sentence is served - 13%

A two-year study by a panel of Kentucky law professors, judges, and other legal scholars found major problems in the administration of the death penalty in Kentucky and recommended that the state should suspend executions until those problems were fixed. In light of these problems, would you support a decision by the governor to halt all executions until these problems can be addressed?

Source: The University of Kentucky Survey Center conducted interviews between March 4 and April 30, 2016, with 684 Kentuckians over the age of 18. The poll has a margin of error of ±3.8%.
If it were shown that because of the constitutionally mandated appeals and additional trials and housing costs associated with the death penalty that the death penalty costs taxpayers substantially more than sentencing prisoners to life with no possibility of parole would you support or oppose replacing the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole?

In the U.S. at least 155 people have been wrongfully convicted and sentenced to die for crimes they did not commit. Some innocent people have even been executed. The death penalty carries too much risk of executing an innocent person.

Death penalty cases can drag on for more than a decade, forcing victims’ families to endure years of uncertainty and waiting. In contrast, a sentence of life in prison without parole could offer swift and certain justice that allows victims to move on with the healing process as soon as the trial is over. Murderers need to be severely punished, but Kentucky’s death penalty system isn’t working and should be replaced with life in prison without the possibility of parole.