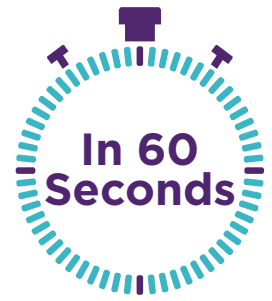


# Independent Women's Voice®

## Policing Reform



### What's at Stake

Communities throughout the country have enacted police reforms following the death of George Floyd.

The vast majority of Americans agree that cases of police brutality must be addressed. There is strong bipartisan support for policing reform that encourages fair and respectful treatment, and holds police officers accountable.

However, defunding the police is not the answer:

- The push to reduce police funding is unpopular. Only **15% of Americans support defunding the police.**
- Reduced funding would mean fewer police officers on the street and responding to calls.
- Community engagement programs—which have actually proven to be effective at improving community-police relations—are often the first things cut when funding is reduced.
- Already, **93% of police officers** today are concerned for their safety and three out of four report a reluctance to use force, even when they think it's appropriate

### Better Ways To Address Police Reform

#### Review Management Systems and Add Accountability Measures

Lawmakers should support common-sense police reform, such as:

- changes to management, training, and hiring practices
- accountability measures, such as body cameras and transparency in disciplinary records, and
- community-based alternatives.

While officers who commit wrongdoing should face consequences, the vast majority of police officers are good people who play an important role in keeping our communities safe.

#### All Americans Should Feel Safe In Their Neighborhoods

- We should work to ensure the right to feel safe in our communities.
- Rioting, looting, or the destruction of property cannot be tolerated.
- We must ensure that officers have the resources they need to respond to domestic violence calls and other crimes.
- Studies show that a strong police presence in communities deters crime.

## Addressing Misperceptions

MISPERCEPTIONS	FACTS
<p><b>Defunding the police only affects high-crime areas.</b></p>	<p>In addition to calls reporting a crime, police officers respond to a variety of calls, including non-crime calls that impact all Americans in their everyday lives, such as neighborhood disturbances, medical issues, and traffic incidents.</p>
<p><b>Black Americans are threatened by police presence in their neighborhoods.</b></p>	<p>A Gallup poll found that 81% of black Americans want the police to spend the same amount or more time in their communities. Yet, at least 13 cities have already cut funding from police department budgets or decreased officer numbers.</p>
<p><b>The presence of additional officers in a neighborhood does not reduce crime.</b></p>	<p>A Princeton University study found that cities that hired additional police officers experienced lower crime rates than those with fewer police. The study concluded that the mere presence of additional officers deterred potential offenders.</p>