

The logo consists of two parts. The top part is a grey rectangular box containing the text 'CNN | ORC' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The 'CNN' is in a stylized, outlined font, while 'ORC' is in a solid black font. A vertical line separates 'CNN' and 'ORC'. The bottom part is a solid black rectangular box containing the word 'POLL' in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Interviews with 1,010 adult Americans conducted by telephone by ORC International on September 23-25, 2011. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. The sample also includes 917 interviews among registered voters (plus or minus 3 percentage points).**

**The sample includes 807 interviews among landline respondents and 203 interviews among cell phone respondents.**

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**FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 5 PM**

14. If you could choose between the following two approaches, which do you think is the better penalty for murder -- the death penalty, or life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole?

	Sept. 23-25 <u>2011</u>	May 14-17 <u>2009*</u>
Death penalty	48%	53%
Life imprisonment	50%	46%
No opinion	2%	2%

\*Asked of half sample

CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS

	<u>The death penalty</u>	<u>Life imprisonment</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2005 May 2-5*	56	39	5
2004 May 2-4*	50	46	4
2003 May 5-7*	53	44	3
2002 May 6-9*	52	43	5
2001 May 10-14*	52	43	5
2001 Feb 19-21*	54	42	4
2000 Aug 29-Sep 5*	49	47	4
2000 Feb 20-21	52	37	11
1999 Feb 8-9*	56	38	6
1997 Aug 12-13*	61	29	10
1994 June 22	50	32	18
1993 Oct 13-18	59	29	12
1992 Mar 30-Apr 5	50	37	13
1991 Jun 13-16	53	35	11
1986 Jan 10-13	55	35	10
1985 Jan 11-14	56	34	10

\* Asked of a half sample.

15. How often do you think that a person has been executed under the death penalty who was, in fact, innocent of the crime he or she was charged with -- do you think this has happened in the past five years, or not?

	Sept. 23-25 <u>2011</u>
Yes	72%
No	23%
No opinion	5%

CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2005 May 2-5	59	33	8
2003 May 5-7	73	22	5

Question 14

If you could choose between the following two approaches, which do you think is the better penalty for murder -- the death penalty, or life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole?

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Death penalty	48%	56%	40%	56%	31%
Life imprisonment	50%	43%	57%	42%	66%
No opinion	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-6.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Death penalty	48%	42%	49%	56%	45%	45%	52%
Life imprisonment	50%	55%	49%	42%	53%	52%	46%
No opinion	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-8.0	+/-7.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-4.0

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Death penalty	48%	45%	52%	52%	45%
Life imprisonment	50%	52%	47%	47%	52%
No opinion	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Death penalty	48%	28%	50%	67%	25%	43%	63%
Life imprisonment	50%	69%	47%	31%	71%	54%	36%
No opinion	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-4.5	+/-6.0	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.5

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Death penalty	48%	36%	44%	54%	53%	38%	52%	53%
Life imprisonment	50%	61%	53%	44%	45%	61%	45%	44%
No opinion	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	3%	3%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.5	+/-7.0

	Total	Tea Pty Support	Tea Pty Neutral	Tea Pty Oppose
Death penalty	48%	67%	49%	35%
Life imprisonment	50%	31%	48%	63%
No opinion	2%	2%	2%	3%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.0

\* percentage less than 1%

CNN/ORC International Poll -- September 23 to 25, 2011

Question 15

How often do you think that a person has been executed under the death penalty who was, in fact, innocent of the crime he or she was charged with -- do you think this has happened in the past five years, or not?

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Yes	72%	69%	74%	68%	80%
No	23%	25%	22%	27%	16%
No opinion	5%	6%	4%	5%	4%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-6.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Yes	72%	80%	72%	69%	61%	76%	66%
No	23%	19%	25%	24%	28%	22%	26%
No opinion	5%	1%	4%	7%	11%	2%	8%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-8.0	+/-7.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-4.0

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Yes	72%	79%	66%	69%	74%
No	23%	16%	29%	25%	22%
No opinion	5%	5%	5%	6%	4%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Mod-erate	Conser-vative
Yes	72%	81%	73%	57%	86%	75%	62%
No	23%	16%	21%	37%	11%	20%	32%
No opinion	5%	3%	6%	6%	4%	5%	6%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-4.5	+/-6.0	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.5

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Yes	72%	70%	72%	75%	68%	79%	66%	66%
No	23%	25%	24%	20%	27%	16%	29%	27%
No opinion	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	5%	5%	7%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.5	+/-7.0

	Total	Tea Pty Support	Tea Pty Neutral	Tea Pty Oppose
Yes	72%	54%	71%	83%
No	23%	38%	25%	14%
No opinion	5%	8%	4%	4%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.0

\* percentage less than 1%