



THE 2022-2023 ANTI-REGISTRY ACTIVISM SURVEY
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THE 2022-2023 ANTI-REGISTRY ACTIVISM SURVEY: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“If an offender violates the law then yes they should and must report but maintain objectivity. Not all offenders will reoffend; 95% of offenders want to seek to be a vital part of society in all areas.” – A survey respondent

This is a survey of 695 persons who we can consider “Anti-Registry Activists” (ARAs, i.e., Registered Persons, their Loved Ones, and Others who have no direct ties to a Registered Person but are actively seeking to reform or abolish sex offense registration laws). This survey included questions on demographics, their support and participation of anti-registry activism, the impact of the registry on their personal lives, their view on certain cultural norms, and their views on politics, the government, the media, and law enforcement. Many of the survey responses have been consistent with similar studies on the experiences and attitudes of Registered Persons and their Loved Ones. There are a handful of unique, prevailing themes in this survey that shape the anatomy of the Anti-Registry Movement:

1. Older white males with higher levels of education than the average American comprise the core of the Anti-Registry Movement, yet they are more likely to experience financial and housing hardships than the average American.
2. Overall, views of anti-registry activism are positive. There is, however, a huge disconnect between what ARAs feel our movement should be striving to achieve and the individual ARA’s personal participation in the movement. While respondents mostly agree on engaging in a variety of strategies to advance these efforts, nearly half do not personally engage in any of these activities. The more labor-intensive or public the strategy, the less likely people want to get involved. Financial reasons, personal obligations, and fear for personal safety are the most cited reasons for not participating in anti-registry activism. Most activists stated they prefer to stay in their own state and not travel afar to engage in activist events. Furthermore, supporters of NARSOL are the least likely to support public awareness events and the least likely to engage in any kind of activism activity.
3. Shockingly, only 55% of ARAs believe the registry should be completely abolished; the other 45% support a law enforcement only (“LEO-only”) registry or a registry posting only those who are determined to be a “high-risk.” Those who support a limited registry believe it should be largely reserved for recidivists, trafficking convictions, CP producers, and those who admit to being or are clinically diagnosed as pedophiles. More ARAs responded they would welcome a victim advocate than those who responded they would a Minor Attracted Person or a clinically diagnosed “pedophile.”
4. Politics deeply divides ARAs just as it does for the US in general. Overall, Republican voters tend to be less engaged in activism than Democratic voters and are more likely to hold onto key cultural and political beliefs that hinder registry reform and abolition efforts, such as support for online conspiracies like the belief in cultural “grooming” or the debunked Satanic Ritual Abuse scares that have resurfaced in modern online human trafficking conspiracies. Still, even Republican voters see the Democratic Party as being more beneficial to anti-registry activism.

In short, Anti-Registry Activists are a small and fragmented group of mostly older white men on the registry and their loved ones, highly educated yet less capable of earning a living. We are positive we are making an impact yet we cannot agree on whether or not to fight for abolition of the registry or merely for reform. While most are positive our movement is making positive strides, they want us to do more yet too few engage in activism. Most activism is done at the state and local level. American politics greatly divides us and loyalty to political views may even override activism efforts. These are all major issues that with to be addressed if we are to improve our activist efforts.

INTRODUCTION

“I think that sex offenses should be treated like other offenses. As a registrant I think we should accept responsibility for our actions. However I also believe the justice system should focus on reform rather than punishment. The registry doesn't make people safer. Many of the people on the registry do not reoffend and it does not protect from those that are not on it. Instead it serves to ostracize registrants and put them back into situations where they would want to self-medicate through this very destructive behavior. Our response to this should be less malicious and more proactive. We cannot compensate for a lack of proactive treatment with reactive punishment and restriction. It won't have the effect people intend. Treat everyone, registrants included like humans and you will find that we are.” – Survey respondent

Sex offense registries have existed since the 1940s, but few states had adopted them and had largely fallen into disuse by the 1980s. A handful of high-profile cases led to President Bill Clinton signing the controversial Omnibus Crime Bill of 1994, which included the Jacob Wetterling Act, the first federal public sex offense registry law. This was followed by Megan's Law in 1996 (which created community notification standards), and again by the passage of the Adam Walsh Act in 2006 (which created a set of minimum registry standards). Each of these laws established and imposed regulations on states to create their own sex offense registries. These laws have continued to grow in scope and reach over the years. Following the landmark ruling *Smith v Doe*, 538 U.S. 84 (2003), which upheld the act of registration as a mere “regulatory” act, other regulations like residency restriction laws and proximity/presence restrictions were passed in many states.

Today, sex offense registries and the laws inspired by them have created a draconian and confusing set of rules that are virtually impossible to follow. Even persons tasked with enforcing sex offense laws struggle to accurately decipher the complex rules Persons Forced to Register (PFRs) must follow.

Not long after the passage of Megan's Law in 1996, people began banding together to challenge these oppressive laws. The efforts to reform or abolish specific sex offense laws have grown and evolved over the years. Efforts to reform sex offense laws began with small-scale grassroots efforts like the SOHopeful Legal Defense fund, eAdvocate's Geocities website, Sex Offender Support and Education Network (SOSEN), and an online petition created by Paul Shannon that would eventually lead to the creation of Reform Sex Offender Laws (RSOL), later rebranded as NARSOL. These early groups would help pave the way for newer, larger, and better-organized groups to take up the mantle to highs the early pioneers of this movement could only dream about.

Over the years, new groups have formed and established themselves as the frontrunners in the fight against the sex offense registry. Currently, the largest groups that represent this movement (for better or worse) are the National Association for Rational Sex Offense Laws (NARSOL), the Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws (ACSOL), and Women Against Registry (WAR). In addition, some state-focused groups like Texas Voices and Florida Action Committee (FAC) have large followings due in part to the size of the state. Even some states with a small population have groups, like Nebraskans Unafraid. There are also independent activist sites like OnceFallen.com providing activist resources and support for Registered Persons and their loved ones.

Conflicting estimates of Registered Persons in the US have been published by various agencies. The last NCMEC estimate, published in December 2018, concluded there were 917,771 total Registered Persons

in the US.¹ By contrast, SafeHome.Org, a private business that sells security products, conducted their own count that estimates the number of Registered Persons in the US is actually 767,023.² It is difficult to determine an actual number of Registered Persons. For example, The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) sex offense registry lists more than 78,000 Registered Persons, but only about 30,000 of those listed reside in Florida communities. (The rest are incarcerated, living in another state, deported, and deceased.) Approximately 6% Registered Persons living in Florida communities are homeless or transient.³ The NCMEC used the total number of Registrants in Florida in their counts, while it appears Safe Home used a number closer to the total number of Florida Registrants in the community. However, Safe Home published the total number of Registered Persons in Oregon; the state of Oregon lists only a handful of Registered Persons publicly.⁴

No matter whether you believe the number of Registered Persons is closer to a million or 750,000, the registry impacts over a million persons if even a third of those forced to register have a loved one who is negatively impacted due to the registry. By contrast, the largest of the registry reform and abolition groups have memberships and/or subscribers in the hundreds. When asked for estimates for the various groups, the following groups offered estimates for subscribers/members:

- Florida Action Committee (FAC): 2500
- National Association for Rational Sex Offense Laws (NARSOL): 1900
- OnceFallen is independent and while it does not offer “membership,” it has roughly 1300 subscribers through Corrlinks (a prison email service).
- Women Against Registry: 1250
- Texas Voices: 300

When you consider the fact many persons within this Anti-Registry Movement (ARM) support multiple organizations, it might be fair to estimate the number of active participants in ARM is below 4775, the total number of supporters/members you get when adding the numbers above together. (For example, nearly half of those who supported NARSOL also support ACSOL, and a fourth also supports OnceFallen.) This survey managed to obtain a rather large sample size of Anti-Registry activists and Registry Reformists—695 total respondents. Thus, this survey should be extremely helpful in understanding the key characteristics of our movement to reform/abolish the sex offense registry.

From an outsider’s view, however, our movement appears virtually nonexistent, and much of our evolution as a movement is unknown to them. In the book “The Feminist and the Sex Offender”, written by Judith Levine and Erica R. Meiners, much of the early history of our movement is unknown to them, instead contributing the organizing of our movement to Paul Shannon of NARSOL. SOHopeful, a group that was initially founded as a legal defense fund for Oregon registrants, was the first organization to “go national” and start a state affiliate program. (SOHopeful folded in 2008 as members migrated to SOSEN and RSOL, later rebranded as NARSOL.) The authors saw our early efforts as “limited”, attributed in part

¹ “Map of Registered Sex Offenders in the United States” NCMEC. 4 Dec. 2018. Accessed 7 Oct. 2019
Unfortunately the NCMEC stopped updating these counts and removed them from the NCMEC website.

² “How Many Registered Sex Offenders Are in Your State?” Safe Home. 3 May 2022. Accessed 25 Dec. 2022 at <https://www.safehome.org/data/registered-sex-offender-stats/>

³ “Sex Offender Registration and Monitoring Triennial Review – 2021.” Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA). Dec. 2021. Accessed 25 Dec. 2022 at <https://oppaga.fl.gov/Documents/Reports/21-10.pdf>

⁴ A quick scan of the Oregon registry shows only about 1200 Registered Persons are publicly listed as of 25 Dec 2022.

to registrant Internet bans that were largely overturned in 2017 *Packingham v NC* SCOTUS ruling. (The fight over registrant Internet bans continues, however, for those under supervision—probation, parole, supervised release, etc.)⁵

As the registry reform and abolition movement has grown, some groups have seemingly drifted away from grassroots activism in favor of legal professionals and research professionals. In the early days of the reform movement, Registered Persons and their loved ones were often on staff at many of these organizations. Today, lawyers, researchers, and other legal professionals play advisory roles in some groups or are key members of the management of the organization, which Registered Persons and their loved ones seemingly comprise a smaller number of key management roles.

In reference to the state of efforts to reform or abolish draconian sex offense laws, the only universal truths are activists are not a homogeneous group, and that activists do not fully agree on the goal of this movement or the means to achieve that goal. Unlike other movements that have sprouted up over the years, like #MeToo, Black Lives Matter (BLM), the Occupy Movement, the Tea Party, or similar movements, our movement lacks a unified identity. In 2014, Tom Madison, a retired activist formerly of SO Hopeful and SO Clear Media, created the term “Anti-Registry Movement” (ARM) as a way to label our efforts in hopes of creating an identity for our efforts, but many groups that can be considered a part of an Anti-Registry Movement do not use this term nearly a decade later.

As with any movement, some activist groups and individuals have occasionally expressed frustration at a perceived lack of action by other activist groups and individuals. But the few who have reached out to voice complaints offer only anecdotal examples of dissolution with the cause. Some within the cause are unhappy with other groups but continue to engage in activism, whether individually or as part of a different group.

On a personal level, I have experienced frustration with other groups for a lack of involvement in frontline activism and with the reluctance to embrace abolishment of the registry. Some anti-registry activists have promoted alternatives to the current registry scheme, such as a “law enforcement” registry or an “incremental approach” to altering the registry scheme, instead of discussing any plans to eliminate the registry. My personal impression of the movement is pessimistic because I like Registered Persons are often relegated to the role of benchwarmers, assuming we are allowed to take the field at all.

The intent of this survey is to attempt to understand the diverse needs of this category. This survey attempts to determine the following:

1. The needs of the individuals involved in registry reformist and abolitionists and whether these needs are being met by current activist organizations;
2. Where current members stand on issues related to the registry and on anti-registry efforts;
3. Member participation, or lack thereof, in various anti-registry activities and the common reasons why people choose not to engage in certain activist activities; and
4. Whether factors like political and religious beliefs and affiliations, alignment with particular activist groups, personal negative experiences with sex offense laws, and demographics like age or income influence member participation in anti-registry activism.

⁵ Judith Levine and Erica Meiners. “The Feminist and the Sex Offender” 2020. Verso publishing. pgs.90-91

METHODOLOGY

Between 11/25/2022 and 1/31/2023, a survey consisting of 98 multiple-choice questions and an ‘addition comments’ question was created and posted to the Survey Monkey website. A survey link was sent to groups and individuals who are a part of the effort to reform or abolish the sex offense registry. WAR, NARSOL, ACSOL, OnceFallen, Florida Action Committee, and Texas Voices, were solicited for responses. Persons Forced to Register, loved ones of a Person Forced to Register, and those with no direct ties to a Person Forced to Register but active in the field of registry reform/abolition were all encouraged to participate.

HOW TO READ THIS SURVEY

This is a massive survey, so the results must be broken into numerous parts. Please note that in some instances, scores may not add up to 100% since some categories allowed multiple answers. The focus is largely on anti-registry activism as a whole, but at times, discussions will take place on differences between the following groups:

- Registered Persons, their loved ones, and those who have no direct ties to a Registered Person but who are tied to anti-registry activism (attorneys, researchers, etc.)
- Left-leaning or Democrat voters and right-leaning or Republican voters
- Members of certain anti-registry activist groups
- Differences between “cisgender” males and females (i.e., those who identify as the gender assigned at birth; few who identified as transgender or non-binary participated in this study)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS USED IN THIS SURVEY

I will be using the following abbreviations and acronyms throughout this survey, listed alphabetically:

- ACSOL: Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws
- ARA: Anti-Registry Activist
- ARM: Anti-Registry Movement
- Cisgender: Those who identify as having the same gender as on their birth certificates
- Dem: Democratic voters
- FAC: Florida Action Committee
- LO: Loved ones of a Registered Person (family member, spouse, stepchildren, friend, or anyone else with a direct tie to a Registered Person)
- NARSOL: National Association of Rational Sex Offense Laws
- MAPs: Minor-Attracted Persons, i.e., some admitted to be, or diagnosed with, having a sexual attraction to anyone under the age of consent. While this term can include those attracted to pubescent teenagers, most people presume all MAPs are “pedophiles”.
- Repub: Republican voters
- RP: Registered Person, a person forced to register on a sex offense registry
- SCOTUS: Supreme Court of the US
- VIA: Victim Industry Advocates, i.e., those organizations who advocate for sex crime victims, often by promoting sex offense registry laws
- WAR: Women Against Registry

NOTE: “STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE”

The term “statistical significance” as used in research papers, in laymen’s or simple terms, refers to a difference between two numbers that is likely not the result of chance. For purposes of this survey, statistical significance will typically denote a difference of 10% or more when comparing two groups.

Example: In this survey, around 97% of Registered Persons are male and 2% are female, while only about 17% of loved ones are male while 83% are female. For those who are neither, about 50% are male, 42% are female, 5% are non-binary, and 3% are trans-female. There is great “statistical significance” in gender demographics between Persons Forced to Register, loved ones of those on the registry, and Anti-Registry Activists that do not have a loved one on the registry.

This report covers the results from all respondents; however, when discussing statistical differences between different groups (gender, political ideology, supporters of specific groups, etc.) only the stats considered “statistically significant” will be discussed.

DISCLAIMERS AND WARNINGS

CRITIQUES AND CRITICISM OF PAST ANTI-REGISTRY EFFORTS: This survey was created for the purpose in making anti-registry activism more effective. We cannot improve our efforts without an honest look at these numbers. This report contains criticism of our overall efforts, both past and future, of anti-registry groups and individual activists. However, the history of the Anti-Registry Movement has many missteps, and an honest reflection of our efforts through criticisms of these mistakes must be recognized so that we may learn from past mistakes. You are free to a dissenting opinion, of course. You may see the significance of certain results differently than the conclusions presented here. But the numbers don’t lie, even if we have differences of opinions regarding the significance of these numbers.

NOTE ON GENDER: Out of the 695 survey respondents, there were 508 males and 178 females in this study. This section only covers “cisgender” or those who identify with the gender assigned at birth, because there were not enough respondents who identified as non-binary or transgender (9 in total) to make any conclusions about their participation in anti-registry activism. For the sake of simplicity, discussions on the differences between males and females in this survey are limited solely to traditional or “cisgender” roles unless specifically mentioned otherwise.

READING THE CHARTS: Most questions into this survey were broken down into categories—

- Total Number of Respondents: There were 695 total Respondents to this survey, aka “Anti-Registry Activists” or ARA.
- Status Type: Respondents were categorized as Registered Persons or “RPs” (464 in all), “Loved Ones” of a Registrant or “LOs” (169), or those who are neither but are involved in Anti-Registry Activism, or “Others” (62).
- Gender: As noted, because so few ARAs were identified non-binary or transgender, only traditional gender roles or “cis-” Males (508 in all) and Females (178) are covered here.
- Support/Membership in an Anti-Registry Activist group: Six distinct ARA groups are listed here, not counting numerous independent groups (or those who chose “not affiliated”—NARSOL (469), ACSOL (284), WAR (232), TX Voices (59), FAC (193), and Once Fallen (138)
- Political Party: Very few who identified as anything other than left-leaning chose any party other than Democrat, and very few who identified as anything other than right-leaning chose any party other than Republican, so political alignment and party affiliation are seen as synonymous with this survey. Also, while I had listed Green Party as a separate category, so few chose Green as their political party

that their numbers were added to the “Other Party” category. Thus, the categories are Republican (193), Democratic (318), Libertarian (55), and “Other Party” (129).

Each category will contain a percentage of the respondents that fit into each category, broken down to the nearest one-hundredth of a percent, and the actual number of respondents in parentheses. However, if the last number to the right of a period is a zero, it is not typed, so 100% will not be noted as “100.00%” and 67.2% will not be written as “67.20%”.

There will be times when certain questions allowed a “Does Not Apply” response; in these instances, the total number of responses will be adjusted accordingly, so if the question only applies to 500 ARAs, not all 695, then all categories will be tallied from the 500, not the 695.

SURVEY RESULTS

The results of this survey are broken down as follows:

- Demographics of the Anti-Registry Movement
- The Registry and Anti-Registry Activism
 - Views on the Registry: Do ARAs support abolition or reform of the registry? If an ARA supports reforms, which subgroups of Registered Persons would they leave behind?
 - Support for Anti-Registry Activist Groups: Is there a lot of support for specific groups among ARAs and is there a lot of cooperation between them?
 - Participation (or lack thereof) of Anti-Registry Activists: Questions about what ARAs should be doing versus what they are actually doing
- Impact of the Registry on Personal Health
 - Personal Health and Experiences: Problems experienced on a personal level, such as harassment and discrimination, and the toll it takes on personal health and safety.
 - Bitterness and Resentment: Do negative experiences based on the registry or anti-registry activism make Registered Persons and Anti-Registry Activists less likely to help others?
 - Self-Sustaining Registrant Communities: Would Registered Persons benefit from creating and living in a community of their own creation?
- Current Cultural Norms on Sexual Offending: Do ARAs share belief in certain societal attitudes about the root causes of sexual offenses as the general public?
- Attitudes on Law Enforcement: Do ARAs trust law enforcement officials? Do ARAs support police reform efforts?
- Politics and Voting: Does party affiliation impact how ARAs participate in anti-registry activism?
- Trust in Government: Do ARAs trust the government to reform the registry? Do ARAs believe they can influence the government to make changes to the registry?
- Trust in News and the Media: How much trust do ARAs have in both traditional/legacy/mainstream media and social media? Do the political leanings play a role in promoting the registry, and can any form of the media be trusted to give fair and accurate reporting on sex offense issues?

PART 1: DEMOGRAPHICS

Questions 1-15 specifically ask questions on general demographics of Anti-Registry Activists (ARAs). In this section, I will mostly look at the total number of ARAs and the total number of Registered Persons (RPs)

Q1: *What is your status in relation to Registered Persons?*

Q1: I am a...	RP	LO	Other
Total (695)	66.76% (464)	24.32% (169)	8.92% (62)
Male (508)	88.39% (449)	5.51% (28)	6.1% (31)
Female (178)	6.18% (11)	79.21% (141)	14.61% (26)
NARSOL (469)	67.59% (317)	24.31% (114)	8.1% (38)
ACSOL (284)	72.89% (207)	21.48% (61)	5.63% (16)
WAR (232)	54.74% (127)	37.07% (86)	8.19% (19)
Texas Voices (59)	57.63% (34)	35.59% (21)	6.78% (4)
FAC (193)	69.95% (135)	24.87% (48)	5.18% (10)
Once Fallen (138)	69.57% (96)	24.64% (34)	5.8% (8)
Republican (193)	69.95% (135)	24.87% (48)	5.18% (10)
Democrat (318)	64.47% (205)	24.21% (77)	11.32% (36)
Libertarian (55)	70.91% (39)	21.82% (12)	7.27% (4)
Other (129)	65.89% (85)	24.81% (32)	9.3% (12)

Q2: *What was your gender?*

Q2: Gender	Male	Female	Non-Binary	Trans-Female	Trans-Male
Total (695)	73.09% (508)	25.61% (178)	0.72% (5)	0.58% (4)	0% (0)
RPs (464)	96.77% (449)	2.37% (11)	0.43% (2)	0.43% (2)	0% (0)
LOs (169)	16.57% (28)	83.43% (141)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Others (62)	50% (31)	41.94% (26)	0% (0)	3.23% (2)	4.84% (3)
NARSOL (469)	73.13% (343)	25.59% (120)	0% (0)	0.43% (2)	0.85% (4)
ACSOL (284)	75.7% (215)	23.24% (66)	0% (0)	0.35% (1)	0.7% (2)
WAR (232)	59.05% (137)	39.22% (91)	0% (0)	0.86% (2)	0.86% (2)
TX-Voices (59)	62.71% (37)	37.29% (22)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
FAC (193)	75.13% (145)	24.35% (47)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0.52% (1)
Once Fallen (138)	71.74% (99)	27.54% (38)	0% (0)	0.72% (1)	0% (0)
Republican (193)	74.61% (144)	25.39% (49)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Democratic (318)	69.18% (220)	28.62% (91)	0% (0)	1.26% (4)	0.94% (3)
Libertarian (55)	81.82% (45)	18.18% (10)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Other (129)	76.74% (99)	21.71% (28)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1.55% (2)

Q3: *What is your race?*

Q3: Race	White	Black/ Afro-Am.	Hispanic/ Latino	Asian	Indigenous /Native	Hawaiian /Pacific	Other
Total (695)	89.78% (624)	1.58% (11)	4.17% (29)	1.15% (8)	0.86% (6)	0% (0)	2.45% (17)
RPs (464)	89.01% (413)	1.94% (9)	4.31% (20)	1.29% (6)	0.86% (4)	0% (0)	2.59% (12)
LOs (169)	90.53% (153)	0.59% (1)	4.14% (7)	1.18% (2)	1.18% (2)	0% (0)	2.37% (4)
Others (62)	93.55% (58)	1.61% (1)	3.23% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1.61% (1)
Male (508)	89.37% (454)	1.97% (10)	4.13% (21)	0.98% (5)	0.98% (5)	0% (0)	2.56% (13)
Female (178)	91.57% (163)	0.56% (1)	4.49% (8)	1.12% (2)	0.56% (1)	0% (0)	1.69% (3)
NARSOL (469)	91.68% (430)	1.07% (5)	2.99% (14)	1.07% (5)	0.43% (2)	0% (0)	2.77% (13)
AC SOL (284)	88.73% (252)	1.41% (4)	5.28% (15)	2.11% (6)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2.46% (7)
WAR (232)	91.38% (212)	0.86% (2)	3.02% (7)	1.72% (4)	0.43% (1)	0% (0)	2.59% (6)
TX-Voices (59)	91.53% (54)	1.69% (1)	1.69% (1)	1.69% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	3.39% (2)
FAC (193)	91.71% (177)	1.55% (3)	3.63% (7)	0.52% (1)	0.52% (1)	0% (0)	2.07% (4)
Once Fallen (125)	90.58% (125)	0% (0)	3.62% (5)	0.72% (1)	0.72% (1)	0% (0)	4.35% (6)
Republican (193)	94.82% (183)	0% (0)	3.11% (6)	0% (0)	1.04% (2)	0% (0)	1.04% (2)
Democratic (318)	91.51% (291)	1.26% (4)	3.14% (10)	1.89% (6)	0.63% (2)	0% (0)	1.57% (5)
Libertarian (55)	87.27% (48)	0% (0)	7.27% (4)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	5.45% (3)
Other Party (129)	79.07% (102)	5.43% (7)	6.98% (9)	1.55% (2)	1.55% (2)	0% (0)	5.43% (7)

Q4: *What is your age range?*

Q4: Age	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Total (695)	0.29% (2)	1.15% (8)	4.6% (32)	14.96% (104)	22.16% (154)	24.75% (172)	32.09% (223)
RPs	0.22% (1)	0.43% (2)	5.82% (27)	15.95% (74)	25.43% (118)	25.65% (119)	26.51% (123)
LOs	0.59% (1)	0.59% (1)	0.59% (1)	13.02% (22)	17.75% (30)	26.63% (45)	40.83% (69)
Others	0% (62)	8.06% (0)	6.45% (5)	12.9% (4)	9.68% (8)	12.9% (6)	50% (31)
Male	0.39% (508)	0.98% (2)	5.31% (5)	14.57% (27)	23.82% (74)	25.39% (121)	29.53% (150)
Female	0% (178)	0.56% (0)	1.69% (1)	15.73% (3)	17.42% (28)	23.6% (31)	41.01% (73)
NARSOL	0% (469)	1.07% (0)	4.69% (5)	15.78% (22)	21.96% (74)	24.95% (103)	31.56% (117)
AC SOL	0% (284)	0.35% (0)	4.93% (1)	14.44% (14)	23.59% (41)	28.17% (67)	28.52% (80)
WAR	0% (232)	1.72% (0)	4.74% (4)	12.93% (11)	19.4% (30)	24.57% (45)	36.64% (57)
TX-Voices	0% (59)	0% (0)	3.39% (0)	8.47% (2)	22.03% (5)	32.2% (13)	33.9% (19)
FAC	0% (193)	1.04% (0)	3.63% (2)	11.92% (7)	26.94% (23)	26.42% (52)	30.05% (51)
Once Fallen	0% (138)	2.17% (0)	5.8% (3)	10.87% (8)	28.26% (15)	23.91% (39)	28.99% (33)
Republican	0% (193)	0% (0)	3.63% (0)	11.4% (7)	24.35% (22)	30.05% (47)	30.57% (58)
Democratic	0% (318)	0.31% (0)	4.09% (1)	14.15% (13)	19.5% (45)	26.1% (62)	35.85% (83)
Libertarian	0% (55)	1.82% (0)	7.27% (1)	20% (4)	32.73% (11)	14.55% (18)	23.64% (8)
Others	1.55% (129)	4.65% (2)	6.2% (6)	20.16% (8)	20.93% (26)	17.83% (27)	28.68% (34)

Q5: *What is the highest level of education you have completed?*

Q5: Education Level	Dropped out/never attended	High School or GED	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Masters, Doctorate, or Juris
Total (695)	1.29% (9)	13.67% (95)	20.72% (144)	11.8% (82)	26.91% (187)	25.61% (178)
RPs (464)	1.72% (8)	15.09% (70)	20.91% (97)	11.85% (55)	27.37% (127)	23.06% (107)
LOs (169)	0.59% (1)	12.43% (21)	24.26% (41)	14.2% (24)	25.44% (43)	23.08% (39)
Others (62)	0% (0)	6.45% (4)	9.68% (6)	4.84% (3)	27.42% (17)	51.61% (32)
Male (508)	1.57% (8)	14.96% (76)	20.28% (103)	11.81% (60)	27.95% (142)	23.43% (119)
Female (178)	0.56% (1)	10.67% (19)	21.35% (38)	12.36% (22)	24.72% (44)	30.34% (54)
NARSOL (469)	1.07% (5)	13.01% (61)	20.68% (97)	10.87% (51)	28.57% (134)	25.8% (121)
ACSOL (284)	1.06% (3)	11.62% (33)	21.13% (60)	10.56% (30)	28.52% (81)	27.11% (77)
WAR (232)	0.86% (2)	12.5% (29)	18.53% (43)	11.64% (27)	29.74% (69)	26.72% (62)
TX-Voices (59)	0% (0)	13.56% (8)	23.73% (14)	11.86% (7)	28.81% (17)	22.03% (13)
FAC (193)	1.04% (2)	15.54% (30)	21.24% (41)	12.44% (24)	28.5% (55)	21.24% (41)
Once Fallen (138)	1.45% (2)	12.32% (17)	26.09% (36)	13.04% (18)	26.09% (36)	21.01% (29)
Republicans (193)	1.04% (2)	16.58% (32)	21.24% (41)	14.51% (28)	26.94% (52)	19.69% (38)
Democratic (318)	0.31% (1)	9.43% (30)	18.87% (60)	9.75% (31)	27.67% (88)	33.96% (108)
Libertarian (55)	1.82% (1)	16.36% (9)	21.82% (12)	10.91% (6)	32.73% (18)	16.36% (9)
Others (129)	3.88% (5)	18.6% (24)	24.03% (31)	13.18% (17)	22.48% (29)	17.83% (23)

Q6: *What is your current employment status?*

Employed Respondents (Note: Since zero respondents choose “seasonal/migrant worker” in the survey, that survey option is not listed below.) Total who are at least partially employed: 400 (57.55%)

Q6: Job Status (Employed)	2+ Full-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	2+Part Time	Self-Employed
Total (695)	0.43% (3)	36.4% (253)	5.18% (36)	0.58% (4)	14.96% (104)
RPs (464)	0.65% (3)	37.07% (172)	5.82% (27)	0.65% (3)	15.95% (74)
LOs (169)	0% (0)	36.09% (61)	3.55% (6)	0.59% (1)	13.61% (23)
Others (62)	0% (0)	32.26% (20)	4.84% (3)	0% (0)	11.29% (7)
Male (508)	0.59% (3)	34.84% (177)	5.51% (28)	0.79% (4)	15.35% (78)
Female (178)	0% (0)	41.01% (73)	3.93% (7)	0% (0)	14.04% (25)
NARSOL (469)	0.21% (1)	37.74% (177)	5.54% (26)	0.21% (1)	13.43% (63)
ACSOL (284)	0% (0)	38.03% (108)	2.82% (8)	0.35% (1)	17.96% (51)
WAR (232)	0.43% (1)	38.36% (89)	5.17% (12)	0% (0)	14.66% (34)
TX-Voices (59)	0% (0)	28.81% (17)	8.47% (5)	0% (0)	20.34% (12)
FAC (193)	0.52% (1)	34.2% (66)	4.66% (9)	0% (0)	15.54% (30)
Once Fallen (138)	0.72% (1)	32.61% (45)	3.62% (5)	0% (0)	15.94% (22)
Republican (193)	0.52% (1)	37.31% (72)	6.22% (12)	0% (0)	19.17% (37)
Democratic (318)	0% (0)	37.11% (118)	4.72% (15)	0.94% (3)	12.89% (41)
Libertarian (55)	1.82% (1)	29.09% (16)	5.45% (3)	0% (0)	25.45% (14)
Other (129)	0.78% (1)	36.43% (47)	4.65% (6)	0.78% (1)	9.3% (12)

Respondents who are NOT Employed

Total Not Employed: 295 (42.45%)

Q6: Job Status (Not Employed)	Unemployed, But Looking	Unemployed, Not Looking	Disabled, SSI, and/or SSDI	Student/ In School	Retired
Total (695)	4.03% (28)	2.73% (19)	7.77% (54)	1.01% (7)	26.91% (187)
RPs (464)	5.39% (25)	3.02% (14)	9.27% (43)	0.86% (4)	21.34% (99)
LOs (169)	1.18% (2)	1.78% (3)	5.33% (9)	0.59% (1)	37.28% (63)
Others (62)	1.61% (1)	3.23% (2)	3.23% (2)	3.23% (2)	40.32% (25)
Male (508)	5.12% (26)	3.15% (16)	8.86% (45)	0.98% (5)	24.8% (126)
Female (178)	1.12% (2)	1.69% (3)	3.93% (7)	0% (0)	34.27% (61)
NARSOL (469)	3.2% (15)	2.99% (14)	8.32% (39)	1.07% (5)	27.29% (128)
ACSOL (284)	4.93% (14)	2.11% (6)	7.75% (22)	1.41% (4)	24.65% (70)
WAR (232)	2.59% (6)	1.72% (4)	6.9% (16)	0.86% (2)	29.31% (68)
TX-Voices (59)	1.69% (1)	0% (0)	8.47% (5)	0% (0)	32.2% (19)
FAC (193)	3.63% (7)	2.59% (5)	9.33% (18)	1.04% (2)	28.5% (55)
Once Fallen (138)	3.62% (5)	2.17% (3)	13.04% (18)	1.45% (2)	26.81% (37)
Republican (193)	3.63% (7)	2.07% (4)	7.77% (15)	0.52% (1)	22.8% (44)
Democratic (318)	2.52% (8)	1.89% (6)	8.18% (26)	0.63% (2)	31.13% (99)
Libertarian (55)	5.45% (3)	0% (0)	3.64% (2)	3.64% (2)	25.45% (14)
Other (129)	7.75% (10)	6.98% (9)	8.53% (11)	1.55% (2)	23.26% (30)

Q7: *What is your annual household income?*

Q7: HH Income	Under \$15k	\$15k-\$29,999	\$30k-\$49,999	\$50k-\$74,999	\$75k-\$99,999	\$100k-\$150k	Over \$150k
Total (695)	12.23% (85)	18.71% (130)	18.71% (130)	18.13% (126)	10.07% (70)	12.66% (88)	9.5% (66)
RPs (464)	14.22% (66)	21.77% (101)	21.34% (99)	17.03% (79)	8.41% (39)	9.05% (42)	8.19% (38)
LOs (169)	4.73% (8)	11.83% (20)	16.57% (28)	20.71% (35)	11.83% (20)	21.3% (36)	13.02% (22)
Others (62)	17.74% (11)	14.52% (9)	4.84% (3)	19.35% (12)	17.74% (11)	16.13% (10)	9.68% (6)
Male (508)	14.76% (75)	20.87% (106)	19.88% (101)	17.52% (89)	8.66% (44)	10.04% (51)	8.27% (42)
Female (178)	4.49% (8)	12.36% (22)	16.29% (29)	19.10% (34)	14.04% (25)	20.22% (36)	13.48% (24)
NARSOL (469)	12.58% (59)	17.91% (84)	19.40% (91)	18.55% (87)	10.45% (49)	12.15% (57)	8.96% (42)
AC SOL (284)	10.92% (31)	17.61% (50)	16.2% (46)	14.44% (41)	13.38% (38)	15.14% (43)	12.32% (35)
WAR (232)	10.78% (25)	15.95% (37)	18.97% (44)	17.67% (41)	9.91% (23)	15.52% (36)	11.21% (26)
TX-Voices (59)	8.47% (5)	20.34% (12)	18.64% (11)	16.95% (10)	8.47% (5)	15.25% (9)	11.86% (7)
FAC (193)	12.44% (24)	18.65% (36)	21.76% (42)	16.06% (31)	9.33% (18)	11.4% (22)	10.36% (20)
Once Fallen (138)	17.39% (24)	21.01% (29)	16.67% (23)	12.32% (17)	11.59% (16)	12.32% (17)	8.7% (12)
Republican (193)	10.36% (20)	16.06% (31)	21.24% (41)	18.65% (36)	10.36% (20)	12.44% (24)	10.88% (21)
Democratic (318)	8.81% (28)	18.87% (60)	16.67% (53)	20.13% (64)	11.95% (38)	13.84% (44)	9.75% (31)
Libertarian (55)	16.36% (9)	12.73% (7)	20% (11)	10.91% (6)	5.45% (3)	16.36% (9)	18.18% (10)
Other Party (129)	21.71% (28)	24.81% (32)	19.38% (25)	15.5% (20)	6.98% (9)	8.53% (11)	3.1% (4)

Q8: Does your household currently receive government welfare assistance? TANF, EBT/Food stamps, Medicaid/Medicare, etc.

Q8: Do your HH get welfare?	YES	NO
Total (695)	29.78% (207)	70.22% (488)
RPs (464)	31.03% (144)	68.97% (320)
LOs (169)	26.04% (44)	73.96% (125)
Others (62)	30.65% (19)	69.35% (43)
Male (508)	31.1% (158)	68.9% (350)
Female (178)	26.40% (47)	73.6% (131)
NARSOL (469)	30.92% (145)	69.08% (324)
ACSQL (284)	25.7% (73)	74.3% (211)
WAR (232)	26.72% (62)	73.28% (170)
TX-Voices (59)	27.12% (16)	72.88% (43)
FAC (193)	26.42% (51)	73.58% (142)
Once Fallen (138)	31.88% (44)	68.12% (94)
Republican (193)	26.94% (52)	73.06% (141)
Democratic (318)	32.39% (103)	67.61% (215)
Libertarian (55)	16.36% (9)	83.64% (46)
Other Party (129)	33.33% (43)	66.67% (86)

Q9: Have you or your registered loved one homeless or experienced homelessness in the past 12 months?

Q9: You or Loved one homeless?	Currently Homeless	No but was homeless in past 12 months	Haven't been homeless in past 12 months
Total (695)	3.02% (21)	5.76% (40)	91.22% (634)
RPs (464)	3.45% (16)	6.03% (28)	90.52% (420)
LOs (169)	1.78% (3)	5.33% (9)	92.9% (157)
Others (62)	3.23% (2)	4.84% (3)	91.94% (57)
Male (508)	3.54% (18)	5.71% (29)	90.75% (461)
Female (178)	1.69% (3)	5.62% (10)	92.7% (165)
NARSOL (469)	2.56% (12)	6.4% (30)	91.04% (427)
ACSQL (284)	3.17% (9)	4.23% (12)	92.61% (263)
WAR (232)	2.59% (6)	5.6% (13)	91.81% (213)
TX-Voices (59)	5.08% (3)	0% (0)	94.92% (56)
FAC (193)	3.11% (6)	6.22% (12)	90.67% (175)
Once Fallen (138)	2.9% (4)	6.52% (9)	90.58% (125)
Republican (193)	3.11% (6)	5.18% (10)	91.71% (177)
Democratic (318)	1.57% (5)	6.92% (22)	91.51% (291)
Libertarian (55)	1.82% (1)	1.82% (1)	96.36% (53)
Other Party (129)	6.98% (9)	5.43% (7)	87.6% (113)

Q10: *What is your religious affiliation?* (Note: Islam was a choice but zero ARAs chose it. “No religion” was listed with Agnostic and Atheist.)

Q10: Religion	Protestant Christian	Catholic Christian	Jewish	Buddhist	Other Faiths	Agnostic or Atheist
Total (695)	39.57% (275)	15.11% (105)	4.17% (29)	2.16% (15)	8.06% (56)	30.94% (215)
RPs (464)	39.22% (182)	14.66% (68)	3.88% (18)	2.59% (12)	7.11% (33)	32.54% (151)
LOs (169)	46.15% (78)	14.79% (25)	4.14% (7)	1.78% (3)	9.47% (16)	23.67% (40)
Others (62)	24.19% (15)	19.35% (12)	6.45% (4)	0% (0)	11.29% (7)	38.71% (24)
Male (508)	38.19% (194)	15.75% (80)	3.94% (20)	2.36% (12)	8.27% (42)	31.5% (160)
Female (178)	44.38% (79)	13.48% (24)	5.06% (9)	1.69% (3)	7.87% (14)	27.53% (49)
NARSOL (469)	37.53% (176)	14.71% (69)	4.48% (21)	2.77% (13)	8.96% (42)	31.56% (148)
AC SOL (284)	40.49% (115)	14.44% (41)	3.52% (10)	1.76% (5)	6.69% (19)	33.1% (94)
WAR (232)	43.53% (101)	14.22% (33)	4.31% (10)	2.16% (5)	9.05% (21)	26.72% (62)
TX-Voices (59)	64.41% (38)	8.47% (5)	1.69% (1)	0% (0)	10.17% (6)	15.25% (9)
FAC (193)	37.31% (72)	15.54% (30)	3.63% (7)	2.07% (4)	6.22% (12)	35.23% (68)
Once Fallen (138)	35.51% (49)	15.94% (22)	3.62% (5)	2.9% (4)	9.42% (13)	32.61% (45)
Republican (193)	63.73% (123)	17.62% (34)	1.04% (2)	1.04% (2)	4.66% (9)	11.92% (23)
Democratic (318)	27.36% (87)	15.72% (50)	6.6% (21)	3.14% (100)	5.97% (19)	41.19% (131)
Libertarian (55)	38.18% (21)	7.27% (4)	5.45% (3)	3.64% (2)	18.18% (10)	27.27% (15)
Other Party (129)	34.11% (44)	13.18% (17)	2.33% (3)	0.78% (1)	23.95% (18)	35.66% (46)

Q11: *In which US State/Territory do you reside?* (If you live outside the US, select "I do not currently live in the US")

All but six US States/Territories (Am. Samoa, Hawaii, Montana, No. Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, & Vermont) had at least one ARA; nine ARAs live outside the USA; the rest are listed below in descending order of Respondents:

- 124: California
- 82: Florida
- 39: Illinois
- 38: Texas
- 27: Pennsylvania
- 24: Missouri
- 22: Virginia
- 19: North Carolina
- 18: Ohio
- 16: Georgia
- 15: Colorado, New York, Wisconsin
- 14: Arizona, Michigan, Tennessee
- 12: Oregon
- 11: Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, South Carolina, Washington
- 10: Indiana
- 8: Connecticut, Utah
- 7: Arkansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada
- 6: Kentucky, Maryland
- 5: New Hampshire
- 4: Alabama, Iowa, Maine, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- 3: Delaware, District of Columbia, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia
- 2: Alaska, Idaho
- 1: Guam, North Dakota, Wyoming

Q12: *What is your current relationship status?*

Q12: Relationship?	Single, looking	Single, not looking	In relationship	Married or Civil Union	Poly/Non- Monogamy	Widowed
TOTAL (695)	15.97% (111)	24.17% (168)	11.65% (81)	43.45% (302)	1.15% (8)	3.6% (25)
RPs (464)	20.91% (97)	27.8% (129)	11.21% (52)	36.64% (170)	0.86% (4)	2.59% (12)
LOs (169)	2.37% (4)	14.79% (25)	11.24% (19)	65.68% (111)	0% (0)	5.92% (10)
Others (62)	16.13% (10)	22.58% (14)	16.13% (10)	33.87% (21)	6.45% (4)	4.84% (3)
Male (508)	20.67% (105)	27.17% (138)	11.61% (59)	36.81% (187)	0.98% (5)	2.76% (14)
Female (178)	2.25% (4)	15.73% (28)	11.24% (20)	64.04% (114)	0.56% (1)	6.18% (11)
NARSOL (469)	15.78% (74)	26.01% (122)	10.87% (51)	42.64% (200)	0.85% (4)	3.84% (18)
AC SOL (284)	14.44% (41)	22.89% (65)	12.32% (35)	44.01% (125)	2.11% (6)	4.23% (12)
WAR (232)	13.79% (32)	23.28% (54)	10.34% (24)	46.98% (109)	0.86% (2)	4.74% (11)
TX-Voices (59)	8.47% (5)	32.2% (19)	3.39% (2)	49.15% (29)	0% (0)	6.78% (4)
FAC (193)	14.51% (28)	27.46% (53)	6.74% (13)	46.63% (90)	0.52% (1)	4.15% (8)
Once Fallen (138)	17.39% (24)	28.99% (40)	6.52% (9)	42.75% (59)	0% (0)	4.35% (6)
Republicans (193)	13.99% (27)	20.21% (39)	9.84% (19)	53.37% (103)	0.52% (1)	2.07% (4)
Democratic (318)	16.04% (51)	24.84% (79)	11.01% (35)	41.51% (132)	1.89% (6)	4.72% (15)
Libertarian (55)	18.18% (10)	30.91% (17)	10.91% (6)	38.18% (21)	0% (0)	1.82% (1)
Others (129)	17.83% (23)	25.58% (33)	16.28% (21)	35.66% (46)	0.78% (1)	3.88% (5)

Q13: *If in a relationship, did you meet your partner before or after placement on the sex offense registry? If it doesn't apply to you, select "Does Not Apply"*

Q13: Met date before or after SOR placement?	BEFORE	AFTER	DOES NOT APPLY
TOTAL (695)	21.58% (150)	23.02% (160)	55.4% (385)
RPs (464)	23.92% (111)	28.23% (131)	47.84% (222)
LOs (169)	21.30% (36)	12.43% (21)	66.27% (112)
Others (62)	4.84% (3)	12.9% (8)	82.26% (51)
Male (508)	22.24% (113)	25.59% (130)	52.17% (265)
Female (178)	20.79% (37)	15.73% (28)	63.48% (113)
NARSOL (469)	21.32% (100)	21.54% (101)	57.14% (268)
ACSOL (284)	22.18% (63)	28.17% (80)	49.65% (141)
WAR (232)	18.97% (44)	17.67% (41)	63.36% (147)
TX-Voices (59)	16.95% (10)	13.56% (8)	69.49% (41)
FAC (193)	21.24% (41)	21.24% (41)	57.51% (111)
Once Fallen (138)	18.84% (26)	17.39% (24)	63.77% (88)
Republican (193)	27.98% (54)	21.76% (42)	50.26% (97)
Democratic (318)	20.44% (65)	22.01% (70)	57.55% (183)
Libertarian (55)	18.18% (10)	18.18% (10)	63.64% (35)
Other Party (129)	16.28% (21)	29.46% (38)	54.26% (70)

Q14: *Do you have children?*

Q14: Do you have kids?	Yes, they live with me	Yes, but they do not live with me	Yes but they're adults now	NO
TOTAL (695)	11.51% (80)	9.06% (63)	40.86% (284)	38.56% (268)
RPs (464)	10.78% (50)	10.13% (47)	34.48% (160)	44.61% (207)
LOs (169)	14.79% (25)	7.69% (13)	61.54% (104)	15.98% (27)
Others (62)	8.06% (5)	4.84% (3)	32.26% (20)	54.84% (34)
Male (508)	10.04% (51)	10.04% (51)	34.65% (176)	45.28% (230)
Female (178)	16.29% (29)	6.18% (11)	60.11% (107)	17.42% (31)
NARSOL (469)	10.45% (49)	8.96% (42)	40.94% (192)	39.66% (186)
ACSOL (284)	15.14% (43)	7.75% (22)	38.38% (109)	38.73% (110)
WAR (232)	13.36% (31)	6.03% (14)	47.84% (111)	32.76% (76)
TX-Voices (59)	10.17% (6)	1.69% (1)	55.93% (33)	32.2% (19)
FAC (193)	10.88% (21)	7.25% (14)	45.60% (88)	36.27% (70)
Once Fallen (138)	11.59% (16)	8.7% (12)	42.75% (59)	36.96% (51)
Republican (193)	10.36% (20)	11.92% (23)	50.78% (98)	26.94% (52)
Democratic (318)	12.58% (40)	7.23% (23)	38.99% (124)	41.19% (131)
Libertarian (55)	14.55% (8)	9.09% (5)	30.91% (17)	45.45% (25)
Other Party (129)	9.3% (12)	9.3% (12)	34.88% (45)	46.51% (60)

Q15: Do you currently have, or have been treated for, a diagnosed mental illness, such as depression, bipolar disorder or something else? And if so, was the diagnosis the result of you/your loved one's inclusion on the sex offense registry?

Q15: Mental Illness	Yes, due to SOR	Yes, precedes SOR	NO
TOTAL (695)	21.01% (146)	21.73% (151)	57.27% (398)
RPs (464)	24.14% (112)	23.06% (107)	52.8% (245)
LOs (169)	18.93% (32)	20.71% (35)	60.36% (102)
Others (62)	3.23% (2)	14.52% (9)	82.26% (51)
Male (508)	22.24% (113)	20.87% (106)	56.89% (289)
Female (178)	18.54% (33)	23.6% (42)	57.87% (103)
NARSOL (469)	21.54% (101)	22.81% (107)	55.65% (261)
ACSOL (284)	25.35% (72)	19.37% (55)	55.28% (157)
WAR (232)	23.71% (55)	22.84% (53)	53.45% (124)
TX-Voices (59)	30.51% (18)	10.17% (6)	59.32% (35)
FAC (193)	26.42% (51)	17.62% (34)	55.96% (108)
Once Fallen (138)	31.16% (43)	21.74% (30)	47.1% (65)
Republican (193)	23.32% (45)	13.99% (27)	62.69% (12)
Democratic (318)	17.3% (55)	25.16% (80)	57.55% (183)
Libertarian (55)	16.36% (9)	21.82% (12)	61.82% (34)
Other Party (129)	28.68% (37)	24.8% (32)	46.51% (60)

DISCUSSION

“Public charges and convictions should never be public. It is an archaic policy meant to “protect” those arrested without notifying family or the community. It does more harm than good.” – Survey respondent

Overall, Anti-Registry Activists (ARAs) are primarily persons forced to register, or “loved ones” (friends, family, etc.) of someone forced to register. Older, white males make up the majority of ARAs. Relatively few ARAs are poorly educated, with just over half having at least a four-year degree and just over 1% not having a high school diploma or GED. Just over half are Christian, though nearly a third of ARAs are non-religious, agnostic, or atheist. ARAs can be found all across the US, and unsurprisingly, most can be found in states with large populations. Just over half are married or in a relationship, and of those who are Registrants or loved ones who are in a relationship, nearly an equal amount formed the relationship before placement on the registry as those who formed the relationship after placement on the public registry. Roughly 2 out of every 5 ARAs are single but of those, most were NOT looking for a relationship. Perhaps unsurprisingly due to most ARAs being ages 45+, most households do not have children living with them, with around one out of nine of ARA households having children living with them. Finally, of those who struggle with mental illness, a nearly equal number attribute mental illness to struggles with the registry as those who attribute it to issues they had before the registry.

Racial minorities make up a significantly smaller proportion of the Anti-Registry Movement than for the total of those convicted for a sexual offense or on the registry. According to the US Sentencing Commission, 51.6% of persons sentenced for a sexual offense by the federal courts in 2018 were white, 21.7% were black, 12.9% were Hispanic, 11.9% were Indigenous American, and 1.9% were other races.⁶

⁶ “Quick Facts: Sexual Abuse Offenders.” US Sentencing Commission. 2018. Accessed 27 Sept 2023 at https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/quick-facts/Sexual_Abuse_FY18.pdf

A 2018 report covering over 488k Registered Persons found those just over 72% of RPs were white, 26.5% were black, 1.32% were Asian, 1.74% were Native American/Pacific Islander, and 4.24% were Hispanic. However, ARAs are mostly white (89%), with blacks making up only about 1.5% of the ARA respondents. The numbers of just those ARA who are RPs do not deviate from the overall ARA rates. Of the 464 RPs who took this survey, 413 (89.01%) are white, 20 (4.31%) are Hispanic, 12 (2.29%) chose “another race”, 9 (1.94%) are Black or African American, 6 (1.29%) are Asian, 4 (0.86%) are Indigenous American, and none chose Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Half of those who identified as Hispanic were in California.

ARAs are more likely to be educated than the average American. According to the US Census bureau, 89.8% of Americans ages 25+ have only a high school/GED diploma, 34.98% have a Bachelor’s degree, and 18.54% have a graduate/post-grad/professional degree.⁷ By contrast, just over half of Registered Persons, and ARAs in general, have at least a Bachelor’s degree, and around a quarter of ARAs have post-graduate education; less than 2% never finished high school or have not received a GED.

According to the 2021 US Census report “Poverty in the US”⁸, only about 4% of Americans with Bachelor’s degrees, about 10% of whites, and 4.7% of workers live below the poverty line. Yet ARAs as a whole make less money and are more likely to be on welfare despite many of them representing demographic categories that are least likely to result in unemployment. The 2023 poverty line for 2023 is \$30k for a family of four, or \$19,720 for a family of two. Whereas it is estimated that nearly 12% of Americans live in poverty, an equal number of ARAs report household incomes below \$15k/year; nearly a third of ARAs reported household incomes under \$30k/yr.

The U-6 unemployment rate is a measure of the total number of people in the United States labor force who are unemployed, underemployed, or discouraged. It's also known as the "real" unemployment rate. Around 11.94% (83) of respondents are part-time workers, those who are not disabled, a student, or retired, or the unemployed not actively seeking work. By contrast, the U-6 unemployment rate in the US in between November 2022 and January 2023 was only 6.5%.⁹ This estimate does not fully take into account those listed as “self-employed” and thus may underestimate how much a self-employed person actually works or earns from profits earned through self-employment ventures. If we look at only the 74 respondents who Registered persons *and* who are self-employed:

Q7: HH Income	Under \$15k	\$15k-\$29,999	\$30k-\$49,999	\$50k-\$74,999	\$75k-\$99,999	\$100k-\$150k	Over \$150k
Self-Employed RPs (74)	9.46% (7)	16.22% (12)	17.57% (13)	21.62% (16)	5.41% (4)	10.81% (8)	18.92% (14)

The households of around a quarter of self-employed Registered Persons make under \$30k/year, but a slightly higher number, around 30%, make over \$100k/year, suggesting self-employment may be a viable option for Registered Persons to make a decent wage. This is rather encouraging for those thinking of starting their own businesses. However, this is a sample within this survey of under 100 persons

⁷ "Educational Attainment in the United States: 2018". U.S. Census Bureau. Accessed June 23, 2018 at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2018/demo/education-attainment/cps-detailed-tables.html>

⁸ See John Creamer, Emily A. Shrider, Kalee Burns, and Frances Chen. “Poverty in the United States: 2021.” US Census Bureau. Sept. 2022. <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf>

⁹ See chart at <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/u6-unemployment-rate>

specifically engaged in anti-registry activism, so caution must be taken to make sweeping assumptions about the viability of self-employment for Registered Persons.

The US Census Bureau also notes that 28% of US households have children,¹⁰ nearly three times the amount of ARAs households at a mere 11.5%, or 10.8% of RPs.

According to Housing and Urban Development, 18 out of 10000 (or 0.18%) Americans experienced homelessness at some point in time in the year 2022.¹¹ Since around 8.8% of ARAs had responded they were currently homeless or homeless at some point within the past year, ARAs exceeded the homelessness rate by a rate of 48 times that of the average American.

According to a December 2016 Gallup report, 48.9% of Americans are Protestant, 23% Catholic, 1.8% Mormon, 2.1% Jewish, 0.8% Muslim, 2.5% other, and 18.2% none/atheist/agnostic.¹² By contrast, only 39.5% of ARAs are Protestant, 15% are Catholic, 31% are Agnostic or Atheist, 4% are Jewish, 2% are Buddhist, and 8% chose “other faiths.” Overall, ARAs are slightly less religious than the average American.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, over one in five Americans suffers from some form of mental illness (51.8 million Americans in 2021).¹³ The number of ARAs who suffered from mental illness *before* involvement with the public registry was on par with the average American. However, the negative impact of the registry has doubled overall claims of mental illness among ARAs. This is true for both Registered Persons and ARAs as a whole.

GENDER DIFFERENCES

Most respondents were male; 508 were male, while 178 were female. Since only 9 of the 695 respondents to the survey identified as non-binary or transgender, the sample size is far too small to obtain any useful statistics from those who don’t fall into the traditional male/female classification. For purposes of this survey, male and female specifically mean those who fall into the two traditional gender roles and consider themselves to be cisgender, i.e., those who believe they are of the same gender assigned to them at birth. Among male ARAs, 449 (88.39%) are Registered Persons, 28 (5.51%) are loved ones of Registered Persons, and 31 (6.1%) are ARAs not on the registry or with no loved one on the registry. Among female ARAs, 11 (6.18%) are Registered Persons, 141 (79.21%) are loved ones of Registered Persons, and 26 (14.61%) are ARAs not on the registry or with no loved one on the registry.

Female ARAs tend to be slightly older than male ARAs; in particular, 41.01% of female ARAs are age 65+ compared to male ARAs 29.53%; this of course means they are also more likely to be retired (34.27% females compared to 24.8% of males).

¹⁰ “Census Bureau Releases New Estimates on America’s Families and Living Arrangements.” US Census Bureau, 29 Nov 2021. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/families-and-living-arrangements.html>

¹¹ “The 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress.” The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Dec. 2022. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2022-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

¹² Frank Newport. “Five Key Findings on Religion in the US.” Gallup. 23 Dec 2016. Accessed 25 Sept 2023 at <https://news.gallup.com/poll/200186/five-key-findings-religion.aspx>

¹³ “Mental Illness.” National Institute of Mental Health. Retrieved 28 Aug 2023 at <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>

Female ARAs are more likely to have a Graduate level degree (30.34%) compared to male ARAs (23.43%). This seems consistent with the recent trend of women outpacing men in obtaining college degrees.¹⁴

Male ARAs are slightly but noticeably more likely to be unemployed and looking for work (5.12% males, 1.12% females) and collecting Disability, on SSI, or SSDI (8.86% males, 3.93% females). Female ARAs also reported higher household incomes than male ARAs; 47.74% of female ARAs were in households at \$75k/yr or above compared to only 26.97% of male ARAs. Male ARAs (35.63%) were more likely than female ARAs (16.85%) to live in households below \$30k/yr. Male ARAs (31.1%) are thus more likely to be on government welfare programs than female ARAs (25.4%). Male ARAs are more likely to live in low income households than female ARAs. Compare that with the aforementioned 2021 US Census study, where the official poverty rate for females (12.6%) was higher than that for males (10.5%).

Female ARAs are more likely to be married or in a civil partnership (64.04% females, 36.81% males) or widowed (6.18% of females, 2.76% of males) and less likely to be single and looking (2.25% females, 20.67% males) or single and not looking (15.73% females, 27.17% males) than Male ARAs. Male ARAs are significantly more likely to be childless (45.28% of Males, 17.42% of females). By comparison, a 2019 Pew Research Center report found that 53% of Americans are married, 9% are “cohabiting”, and 38% are “unpartnered.”¹⁵ This same report notes that unpartnered men fare worse economically—higher unemployment, lower income, and more financial vulnerability—than those in a relationship.

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ACTIVIST GROUPS

Only key differences noted by the SurveyMonkey stat counter as “statistically significant” will be mentioned in this section (generally between 5%-10%). Please note that percentages are of the total number of each group:

- Registry Status: WAR (37.07%) and Texas Voices (35.59%) had more loved ones than the other groups (avg. 21%-25%), and thus less registered persons—WAR (54.74%) and Texas Voices (57.63%) compared to the average 68%-73% for other groups. Those in the “Others” category also were more likely to NOT be affiliated with the larger anti-registry groups
- Gender: WAR (39.22%) and Texas Voices (37.29%) had more women than average (23%-28%)
- Age: WAR had the most over age 65 (36.64%), ACSOL had the least (28.52%)
- Household income: Since Once Fallen offers many resources for RPs, it is perhaps not surprising it has the most followers/supporters whose household incomes below \$30k/yr (38.4%); WAR (26.73%) had the least amount. Once Fallen also had the most supporters/members accepting welfare (31.88%) while ACSOL had the least (25.7%)
- Religion: There were significantly more Protestant Christians (64.41%) and less Atheists/Agnostics/Non-Religious (15.25%) in TX-Voices than the other groups. All other groups stayed close to the overall average.

¹⁴ Kiley Hurst. “U.S. women are outpacing men in college completion, including in every major racial and ethnic group.” Pew Research. 18 Nov 2024. Accessed 5 Feb 2025 at <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/11/18/us-women-are-outpacing-men-in-college-completion-including-in-every-major-racial-and-ethnic-group/>

¹⁵ Richard Fry and Kim Parker. “Rising Share of U.S. Adults Are Living Without a Spouse or Partner.” Pew Research Center. 5 Oct. 2021. <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2021/10/05/rising-share-of-u-s-adults-are-living-without-a-spouse-or-partner/>

- Location: Around two out of five supporters/members of the three major groups affiliated with a single state reside in the same state as that group – ACSOL (36.27%), FAC (38.34%), and Texas Voices (40.68%)
- Mental Illness: Those who have reported mental illnesses as the result of the registry most often supported OnceFallen (31.16%) and NARSOL the least (21.54%); Texas Voices supporters least reported the least mental illness preceding the registry (10.17%) with supporters of NARSOL (22.81%) and WAR (22.84%) were most likely to report struggling with mental illnesses before interactions with the registry.

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REGISTERED PERSONS, LOVED ONES OF RPS, & OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE MOVEMENT

For the sake of simplicity, I'm simplifying comparisons to "RPs" for Registered Persons, "LO" for loved ones, i.e., friends and family of Registered Persons, and "others" to refer to those not directly tied to Registered Persons but involved with reform efforts (lawyers, researchers, etc.). However, this doesn't mean those in the "Others" category does not experience issues related to working with Registered Persons, and some may care about those they work with on a personal level.

As before, the only categories of note will be "statistically significant" changes.

- Gender
 - RPs: 96.77% male, 2.37% female, 0.43% trans-female, 0.43% non-binary
 - LO: 16.57% male, 83.43% female
 - Other: 50% male, 41.94% female, 3.23% trans-female, 4.84% non-binary
- Age: RPs are slightly younger than LOs and Others; only 26.51% of RPs were age 65+ compared to LOs (40.83%) and Others (50%); RPs were more likely to be in the 45-54 age range (25.43%) compared to LOs (17.75%) and Others (9.68%)
- Education: Others (51.61%) were more than twice as likely to have a Grad/Post-Grad degree than RPs (23.06%) and LOs (23.08%)
- Employment: RCs are more likely to be unemployed and seeking work (5.39% RPs vs 1.18% for LOs and 1.61% Others) and less likely to be retired (21.34% compared to 37.28% of LOs and 40.32% of Others). That makes sense when looking at the age differences between the groups.
- Household income: RPs (57.33%) were more likely than LOs (33.13%) and Others (37.1%) to live in a household making below \$50k per year.
- Religion: LOs (46.15%) are more likely to identify as Protestant than RPs (39.22%) and Others (24.19%); By contrast, Others (38.71%) identify as Atheist/Agnostic/No Religion compared to 32.54% of RPs and 23.67% of LOs
- Relationship status: LOs (65.68%) were most likely to choose "married/civil partnership" (presumably due to the loved one being the significant other of the RP), compared to RPs (36.64%) or Other (33.87%). RPs were most likely to be single and looking (RP 20.91%, Others 16.13%, LOs 2.37%) and Single but not looking (RP 27.8%, Others 22.58%, 14.79% LOs). Of those who were in relationships, 131 of 242 RPs (54.13%) established their current romantic relationships AFTER inclusion on the registry (111 of 242, or 45.87%, established the relationship before inclusion on the registry.)
- Mental health: RPs are least likely to claim they have no mental health issues (52.8%) compared to LOs (60.36%) and Others (82.26%); 24.14% of RPs and 18.93% of LOs attribute mental health issues to registry-related issues.

Comparing the responses to this survey to those of the OnceFallen.com 2016 Jobs and Welfare Survey¹⁶, a survey of 307 Registered Persons, most demographics results were similar (i.e., within 5% of each other), including gender, marital status, and homelessness. There were few differences:

- There were more RPs identifying as 65+ (26.51%) in this survey than in 2016 (8.2%)
- There were more highly-educated RPs in this survey (50.43% having Bachelor's or higher) than in 2016 (35.53%)
- While the number who have had children were nearly identical in both surveys (around 45%), more Respondents had children living at home in the 2016 survey (16.78% in 2016 vs 10.78% in 2023) and less adult children (22.7% in 2016 vs 24.48% in 2023)
- When adding together those unemployed and not looking for work, looking for work, and disabled/SSI, the numbers in both surveys were similar (at around 21%); however, more RPs in the 2023 survey (37.07%) reported full-time employment than those in the 2016 survey (30.83%).

In the Once Fallen 2016 survey, few significant differences could be found between those who were active in the Anti-Registry Movement than those who were not. In the 2016 survey, Registered Persons who considered themselves Anti-Registry Activists were MORE likely than non-activists to have experienced homelessness (30.97% activists vs 20.86% non-activists), but LESS likely than non-activists to live in a rural area (25.32% activist vs 31.74% non-activist), to be unemployed (39.88% activist vs 45.2% non-activist), or denied employment (85.52% activist vs 91.11% non-activist). The percentage of RPs in the 2016 survey and this survey shows a consistent pattern of homelessness (3.28% in 2016 vs 3.45% in 2023).

This clearly shows a pattern that Persons Forced to Register experience more negative effects that can explained by no other phenomenon than being included on the public sex offense registry.

POLITICS – DEMOCRATS VS REPUBLICANS

Notes: Under the question for “Political Alignment,” only 2% of Repubs (4 ARAs) consider themselves “liberal” and only 4% of Dems (13 ARAs) consider themselves “conservative” so party affiliation and political alignments are, for all intents and purposes, considered equal in this survey. As the vast majority of the respondents are ARAs residing in the US and because the ARM is primarily focused on sex offense laws in the USA, perceived political alignment is also reflective of how residents of the USA view their political parties and their personal political leanings. While we did ask about other party affiliations, no other political party has any significant support except Libertarians (55 respondents) and Libertarian responses tended to fall neatly between the responses of Democratic and Republican voters throughout this survey.

- Registry status: (By numbers)
 - RPs: 135 Republican, 205 Democratic, 39 Libertarian, 85 Other parties
 - LOs: 48 Republican, 77 Democratic, 12 Libertarian, 32 Other parties
 - Others: 10 Republican, 36 Democratic, 4 Libertarian, 12 Other parties
- Gender:
 - Rep: 74.61% male, 25.39% female, 0% trans/non-binary
 - Dem: 69.18% male, 28.62% female, 2.2% trans/non-binary

¹⁶ Derek Logue. “The 2016 Once Fallen Job & Welfare Survey.” Once Fallen. March 2016. Accessed 28 Aug 2023 at https://oncefallen.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Once_Fallen_Job_and_Welfare_Survey_Results.pdf

- Education: Dems are more likely to have a grad/post-grad education (Dem 34.96% vs 19.69% Rep); Republicans are more likely to only have completed high school/GED as highest education completed (Rep 16.58% vs 9.43% Dem), yet are virtually equal on the percentage of each with a four-year or Bachelor's Degree (about 27%)
- Employment: Democratic voters are more likely to be retired (Dem 31.13% vs 22.8% Rep)
- Religion: Democratic voters (27.36%) are far less likely to be Protestant Christian than Republican voters (63.73%), but Dems are more likely to be Jewish (Dem 6.6% vs 1.04% Rep) and Atheist/Agnostic/No Religion (Dem 41.19% vs 11.92% Rep)
- Marital status: Republican voters (53.37%) were more likely than Democratic voters (41.51%) to be married or in a civil partnership; all else had similar numbers; Republican voters (27.98%) were more likely than Democratic voters (20.44%) to have met their partners before placement on the registry; Democratic voters (41.19%) are less likely to have children than Republican voters (26.94%)
- Mental illness: Democratic voters (25.16%) were more likely than Republican voters (13.99%) to claim mental illness that preceded involvement with a Registrant or landing on the registry, but Republicans are more likely to state the registry caused mental issues (23.32% Rep vs 17.3% Dem). Overall, Republican voters (62.69%) are only slightly less likely than Democratic voters (57.55%) to deny suffering from any form of mental illness.

According to a 2015 Pew research report, those who align with the Democrat party are more likely to have post-graduate degrees and be female, but less likely to be religious or be married than Republicans. In addition, older voters are more likely to be aligned with the Republican Party, though it was noted that Democrats hold the advantage over Republicans in every generation except the Silent Generation (i.e., those born between 1928 and 1945).¹⁷ This pattern tends to hold true in this survey.

A more controversial viewpoint, covered by a Psychology Today article in 2021, had concluded that those who espouse liberal, and especially “far left”, political ideology are more likely to suffer from mental illness than conservatives, but suggests it is tied to their religious ties. (This report noted that, “the beneficial relationship between religiosity and health has only been found to apply in cultures in which religion is highly respected, and does not occur in more secular cultures.”)¹⁸ But while this might hold true for ARAs who suffered from mental illness before interaction with the sex offense registry based on the results of this survey, this survey has concluded that Republicans are more likely to suffer the impact of the registry than Democrats.

Since those on the political left are less likely to be church-goers, they have one less social network to lean upon in the event they face discrimination based on status, but also have one less network to shun them once placed on the registry. Some churches can restrict church activities for RPs or deny services to them altogether. A 2010 Christianity Today study found that 37% of participants stated their church places stipulations on church attendance for RPs, and 2% stated their church bans RPs from church property.¹⁹ In addition, Democrats are more attuned to various forms of social injustice than Republicans. A 2020 survey conducted by the Democracy Fund + UCLA Nationscape project found that Democrats were more likely to claim that Blacks (+32.1%), Muslims (+21.8%) women (+20.1%) and Jews (+1.4%)

¹⁷ “A Deep Dive Into Party Affiliation.” Pew Research Center, 7 Apr 2015. Accessed 28 August 2023 at <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2015/04/07/a-deep-dive-into-party-affiliation/>

¹⁸ Scott A. McGreal. “Personality Traits, Mental Illness, and Ideology.” 17 Mar 2021. Accessed 28 Aug 2028 at <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/unique-everybody-else/202103/personality-traits-mental-illness-and-ideology>

¹⁹ Cynia Solver. “Sex Offenders in the Church Survey Executive Report.” Christianity Today International. April 2010.

are facing “a great deal” or “a lot” of discrimination than Republican respondents. Republicans were more likely to claim Christians (+16.6%), Whites (+13.5%), and Men (+5.6%) face “a great deal” or “a lot” of discrimination than Democrats.²⁰

If the conclusions written in the Psychology Today article are true, then under normal circumstances, those who are on the political right are more likely find solace in organized religion than those on the political left. However, once someone is placed on a registry, it is more likely than not they face ostracism from various groups. For Republicans whose lives revolved around the social functions their church provides, the results can be devastating. As noted by a couple of respondents:

“My husband (registrant) suffered a stroke this year which I feel was brought on from the stress of the registry. He was told he couldn’t use the bathroom at church without an escort. Baloney these idiots call themselves Christians? There not God they’re the true sinners! I’m sick of these so called protectors! The government has not created a register they created an open season hunting license for hatred, violence and death against registrants and their families.”

“I have been through the wringer with this whole ‘registry’ experience-- my offense occurred 12 years ago, and since that time, I have been moved around and not really permitted to have a ‘clean’ shot at really moving forward in a productive manner, with my life; something which may be more directly relevant to your interests, is that the whole idea of being barred from attending services, etc. at some churches, turns my stomach-- I was of the understanding that churches (Christian has been my experience) were supposed to accept ANYONE (again the Christian belief is that Jesus dined with murderers and criminals, etc.)... also there is the whole issue I have encountered with housing, etc. I am currently concerned with where I will live, once my housing contract here at the University (on-campus housing) is up in June; I have come to understand that many (most?) “regular” apartment complexes/landlords will not rent to registrants, mainly due to concerns about losing other tenants/potential tenants.”

There is at least a strong correlation between inclusion on the sex offense registry and mental health struggles for Republicans. Since churches are likely to discriminate against RPs if for no other reason than liability issues, which eliminates at least buffer tied to protecting Republicans from mental illnesses, Republicans likely face MORE discrimination overall due to registry status.

It must be made clear that even a survey of this magnitude cannot cover every conceivable circumstance in which Registered Persons (including those who are eventually removed from the registry), their loved ones, and other Anti-Registry Activists suffer under the myriad of laws. One responded even implied this survey was too divisive, adding that if he or she created the survey the survey “would not group organizations and people in categories, because that is something that we don’t like when people do that to us, the registered citizens.” But Anti-Registry Activists are not homogenous. Not every ARA is or has ever been forced to register; some have suffered a different form of ostracism and discrimination for standing with someone or supporting a Person Forced to Register; and some do not even “have any skin in the game.” One purpose of this survey was gauging just how heterogeneous we are as a collective. ARAs have disagreed on numerous issues over the years, and that will be frankly discussed in the coming chapters.

²⁰ Meredith McCoy and Perry Bacon Jr. “There’s A Huge Gap In How Republicans And Democrats See Discrimination.” FiveThirtyEight, 17 June 2020. Accessed 28 Aug 2023 at <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/theres-still-a-huge-partisan-gap-in-how-americans-see-discrimination/>

PART 2: THE REGISTRY AND ANTI-REGISTRY ACTIVISM

Questions 16 through 33 and 36 through 39 asked respondents their thoughts on the sex offense registry and on anti-registry activism. This section can be divided into a number of sections:

- Views on the Registry (Q16-Q17, Q36, Q39-Q40): Do ARAs support abolition or reform of the registry? If an ARA supports reforms, which subgroups of Registered Persons would they leave behind?
- Views on Anti-Registry Activist Groups (Q18-Q20, Q24, Q29-Q30, Q37-Q38): Is there a lot of support for specific groups among ARAs and is there a lot of cooperation between them?
- Participation in Anti-Registry Activism (Q21-Q23, Q25-Q28, Q31-Q33): Questions about what ARAs should be doing versus what they are actually doing

VIEWS ON THE REGISTRY

Q16: *Do you agree or disagree the sex offense registry actually protects the public?*

Q16: Does SOR protect public?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Disagree
Total (695)	0.72% (5)	1.44% (10)	2.01% (14)	7.05% (49)	88.78% (617)
RPs (464)	0.65% (3)	1.29% (6)	1.94% (9)	6.25% (29)	89.87% (417)
LOs (169)	0.59% (1)	1.78% (3)	1.78% (3)	5.92% (10)	89.94% (152)
Others (62)	1.61% (1)	1.61% (1)	3.23% (2)	16.13% (10)	77.42% (48)
Males (508)	0.98% (5)	1.77% (9)	1.57% (8)	7.48% (38)	88.19% (448)
Females (178)	0% (0)	0.56% (1)	2.25% (4)	5.62% (10)	91.57% (163)
NARSOL (469)	0.43% (2)	1.49% (7)	1.49% (7)	6.61% (31)	89.98% (422)
ACSOL (284)	0% (0)	1.06% (3)	1.76% (5)	3.87% (11)	93.31% (265)
WAR (232)	0.43% (1)	0% (0)	0.86% (2)	5.6% (13)	93.1% (216)
TX-Voices (59)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	3.39% (2)	96.61% (57)
FAC (193)	0.52% (1)	0.52% (1)	0% (0)	5.18% (10)	93.78% (181)
OnceFallen (138)	0.72% (1)	2.17% (3)	0.72% (1)	3.62% (5)	92.75% (128)
Republican (193)	0.52% (1)	1.55% (3)	0.52% (1)	7.25% (14)	90.16% (174)
Democratic (318)	0% (0)	1.57% (5)	2.2% (7)	6.6% (21)	89.62% (285)
Libertarian (55)	1.82% (1)	1.82% (1)	0% (0)	12.73% (7)	83.64% (46)
Other Party (129)	2.33% (3)	0.78% (1)	4.65% (6)	5.43% (7)	86.82% (112)

Q17: *What do you see as the most "ideal" form of the public sex offense registry?*

Q17: Ideal Registry?	No Registry/Abolish SOR	Limited only to those labeled "High-Risk"	Police/"LEO" Registry	All RPs listed, with pathway for removal	No changes to current registry schemes
Total (695)	55.83% (388)	20.72% (144)	20.14% (140)	3.02% (21)	0.29% (2)
RP's (464)	54.53% (253)	20.91% (97)	21.55% (100)	2.8% (13)	0.22% (1)
LOs (169)	61.54% (104)	17.75% (30)	17.16% (29)	2.96% (5)	0.59% (1)
Others (62)	50% (31)	20.97% (13)	24.19% (15)	4.84% (3)	0% (0)
Males (508)	55.31% (281)	19.69% (100)	21.65% (110)	2.95% (15)	0.39% (2)
Females (178)	57.87% (103)	21.35% (38)	17.42% (31)	3.37% (6)	0% (0)
NARSOL (469)	58% (272)	20.9% (98)	18.34% (86)	2.77% (13)	0% (0)
ACSOL (284)	60.21% (171)	19.01% (54)	19.01% (54)	1.76% (5)	0% (0)
WAR (232)	64.66% (150)	16.38% (38)	15.95% (37)	3.02% (7)	0% (0)
TX-Voices (59)	67.8% (40)	16.95% (10)	13.56% (8)	1.69% (1)	0% (0)
FAC (193)	64.77% (125)	14.51% (28)	18.65% (36)	2.07% (4)	0% (0)
OnceFallen (138)	66.67% (92)	12.32% (17)	19.57% (27)	1.45% (2)	0% (0)
Republican (193)	51.3% (99)	21.24% (41)	25.39% (49)	2.07% (4)	0% (0)
Democratic (318)	52.52% (167)	22.01% (70)	22.33% (71)	3.14% (10)	0% (0)
Libertarian (55)	69.09% (38)	14.55% (8)	14.55% (8)	1.82% (1)	0% (0)
Other Party (129)	65.12% (84)	16.28% (21)	12.4% (16)	4.65% (6)	1.55% (2)

Q39: *People listed in the registry are not a homogeneous group. Some advocates focus on certain subgroups of people. Which groups do you think should REMAIN ON the sex offense registry? Check all that apply.* (Part one of two. See next page for the rest of the stats for this question)

Q39: Who should stay on SOR?	Nobody-abolish SOR	Recidivists /Repeat Offender	Tier IIIs or “high-risk”	MAPs or pedophiles	Offenses against under 18	Offenses against under 13	All hands-on offenses
Total (695)	51.51% (358)	37.99% (264)	13.67% (95)	19.71% (137)	2.45% (17)	11.08% (77)	13.67% (95)
RPs (464)	51.94% (241)	40.09% (186)	14.87% (69)	18.1% (84)	1.94% (9)	9.91% (46)	12.28% (57)
LOs (169)	52.66% (89)	33.14% (56)	11.24% (19)	24.26% (41)	2.96% (5)	13.02% (22)	17.75% (30)
Others (62)	45.16% (28)	35.48% (22)	11.29% (7)	19.35% (12)	4.84% (3)	14.52% (9)	12.9% (8)
Males (508)	51.18% (260)	40.16% (204)	14.17% (72)	18.7% (95)	2.95% (15)	10.83% (55)	13.39% (68)
Females (178)	52.81% (94)	30.9% (55)	11.24% (20)	23.6% (42)	1.12% (2)	11.8% (21)	14.61% (26)
NARSOL (469)	53.94% (253)	36.46% (171)	13.65% (64)	18.76% (88)	2.56% (12)	10.02% (47)	12.79% (60)
ACSOL (284)	53.87% (153)	35.21% (100)	9.86% (28)	16.9% (48)	0.7% (2)	8.45% (24)	10.92% (31)
WAR (232)	56.47% (131)	31.03% (72)	10.78% (25)	15.52% (36)	0.43% (1)	9.05% (21)	9.91% (23)
TX-Voices (59)	57.63% (34)	25.42% (15)	10.17% (6)	18.64% (11)	0% (0)	6.78% (4)	6.78% (4)
FAC (193)	55.96% (108)	33.68% (65)	11.4% (22)	16.58% (32)	1.55% (3)	12.95% (25)	12.44% (24)
OnceFallen (138)	60.14% (83)	30.43% (42)	10.14% (14)	14.49% (20)	1.45% (2)	10.87% (15)	10.87% (15)
Republican (193)	46.63% (90)	40.41% (78)	12.44% (24)	24.87% (48)	3.11% (6)	11.4% (22)	14.51% (28)
Democratic (318)	48.74% (155)	39.31% (125)	16.67% (53)	17.61% (56)	1.57% (5)	11.01% (35)	13.52% (43)
Libertarian (55)	54.55% (30)	38.18% (21)	12.73% (7)	16.36% (9)	1.82% (1)	12.73% (7)	16.36% (9)
Other Party (129)	64.34% (83)	31% (40)	8.53% (11)	18.6% (24)	3.88% (5)	10.08% (13)	11.63% (15)

Q39: *People listed in the registry are not a homogeneous group. Some advocates focus on certain subgroups of people. Which groups do you think should REMAIN ON the sex offense registry? Check all that apply.* (Part two of two. See previous page for the rest of the stats for this question)

Q39: Who should stay on SOR?	Sex Trafficking Conviction	CP Creator/Producer	CP Viewers	Statutory (adult w/ willing Teen)	“Romeo & Juliet” (teen w/ teen)	“Flashers” (Indecent Exposure)	ALL of the above
Total (695)	26.62% (185)	26.76% (186)	4.46% (31)	1.44% (10)	0.14% (1)	1.29% (9)	0.29% (2)
RPs (464)	25.43% (118)	24.78% (115)	4.96% (23)	1.29% (6)	0% (0)	1.72% (8)	0.22% (1)
LOs (169)	29.59% (50)	33.14% (56)	2.96% (5)	2.37% (4)	0.59% (1)	0.59% (1)	0% (0)
Others (62)	27.42% (17)	24.19% (15)	4.84% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1.61% (1)
Males (508)	26.38% (134)	25.59% (130)	4.92% (25)	1.38% (7)	0% (0)	1.57% (8)	0.2% (1)
Females (178)	26.4% (47)	30.9% (55)	3.37% (6)	1.12% (2)	0.56% (1)	0.56% (1)	0.56% (1)
NARSOL (469)	23.45% (110)	24.09% (113)	2.99% (14)	1.07% (5)	0% (0)	0.85% (4)	0% (0)
ACSOL (284)	22.18% (63)	22.89% (65)	2.46% (7)	0.7% (2)	0% (0)	0.7% (2)	0.35% (1)
WAR (232)	21.12% (49)	25% (58)	2.59% (6)	0.43% (1)	0% (0)	0.86% (2)	0% (0)
TX-Voices (59)	23.73% (14)	20.34% (12)	1.69% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1.69% (1)	0% (0)
FAC (193)	22.28% (43)	23.83% (46)	3.11% (6)	0.52% (1)	0% (0)	2.07% (4)	0% (0)
OnceFallen (138)	22.46% (31)	24.64% (34)	2.9% (4)	1.45% (2)	0% (0)	1.45% (2)	0% (0)
Republican (193)	32.64% (63)	33.16% (64)	6.74% (13)	1.55% (3)	0.52% (1)	2.07% (4)	0% (0)
Democratic (318)	25.79% (82)	25.16% (80)	3.14% (10)	1.26% (4)	0% (0)	0.63% (2)	0.31% (1)
Libertarian (55)	25.45% (14)	23.64% (13)	1.82% (10)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1.82% (1)
Other Party (129)	20.16% (26)	22.49% (29)	5.43% (7)	2.33% (3)	0% (0)	2.33% (3)	0% (0)

Q40: *In regards to laws that prevent certain individuals from being placed on the sex offense registry for a mutual sexual act involving a teenager, a.k.a., a "Romeo & Juliet Offense," what is the maximum age difference such laws should allow without prosecution for a registerable offense?*

Q40: Age diff in R&Js?	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	5 YEARS
Total (695)	1.15% (8)	5.18% (36)	11.65% (81)	14.39% (100)	19.71% (137)
RPs (464)	1.72% (8)	4.74% (22)	11.85% (55)	16.81% (78)	18.53% (86)
LOs (169)	0% (0)	6.51% (11)	12.43% (21)	8.28% (14)	22.49% (38)
Others (62)	0% (0)	4.84% (3)	8.06% (5)	12.9% (8)	20.97% (13)
Males (508)	1.57% (8)	4.92% (25)	11.81% (60)	16.73% (85)	17.52% (89)
Females (178)	0% (0)	6.18% (11)	10.67% (19)	6.74% (12)	26.97% (48)
NARSOL(469)	1.07% (5)	4.69% (22)	10.87% (51)	13.86% (65)	21.11% (99)
ACSOL (284)	1.06% (3)	4.58% (13)	8.1% (23)	14.44% (41)	19.72% (56)
WAR (232)	0.86% (2)	3.88% (9)	8.62% (20)	15.09% (35)	19.83% (46)
TX-Voices(59)	1.69% (1)	5.08% (3)	15.25% (9)	13.56% (8)	20.34% (12)
FAC (193)	1.04% (2)	4.15% (8)	9.33% (18)	15.03% (29)	22.8% (44)
OnceFallen(138)	1.45% (2)	2.9% (4)	7.25% (10)	13.04% (18)	24.64% (34)
Republican(193)	0.52% (1)	4.66% (9)	14.51% (28)	13.47% (26)	18.65% (36)
Democratic(318)	0.94% (3)	5.66% (18)	9.12% (29)	15.41% (49)	24.21% (77)
Libertarian (55)	0% (0)	5.45% (3)	18.18% (10)	14.55% (8)	16.36% (9)
Other Party(129)	3.1% (4)	4.65% (6)	10.85% (10)	13.18% (17)	11.63% (15)

Q40: *Continued*

Q40: Age diff in R&Js?	6 YEARS	7 YEARS	8 YEARS	9 YEARS	10 YEARS	No AOC
Total (695)	5.47% (38)	2.73% (19)	1.87% (13)	1.58% (11)	15.68% (109)	20.58% (143)
RPs (464)	5.82% (27)	3.02% (14)	1.72% (8)	1.51% (7)	15.52% (72)	18.75% (87)
LOs (169)	4.73% (8)	1.78% (3)	1.78% (3)	0.59% (1)	16.57% (28)	24.85% (42)
Others (62)	4.84% (3)	3.23% (2)	3.23% (2)	4.84% (3)	14.52% (9)	22.58% (14)
Males (508)	5.91% (30)	2.95% (15)	1.97% (10)	1.57% (8)	15.55% (79)	19.49% (99)
Females (178)	4.49% (8)	2.25% (4)	1.12% (2)	1.69% (3)	16.29% (29)	23.6% (42)
NARSOL (469)	6.4% (30)	2.99% (14)	1.49% (7)	1.49% (7)	16.2% (76)	19.83% (93)
ACSOL (284)	6.34% (18)	3.87% (11)	2.46% (7)	2.11% (6)	17.96% (51)	19.37% (55)
WAR (232)	5.6% (13)	2.16% (5)	3.02% (7)	2.16% (5)	17.24% (40)	21.55% (50)
TX-Voices (59)	3.39% (2)	3.39% (2)	3.39% (2)	0% (0)	20.34% (12)	13.56% (8)
FAC (193)	6.74% (13)	2.59% (5)	2.59% (5)	1.04% (2)	17.1% (33)	17.62% (34)
OnceFalln(138)	5.07% (7)	2.17% (3)	2.9% (4)	1.45% (2)	19.57% (27)	19.57% (27)
Repub (193)	5.18% (10)	1.55% (3)	1.04% (2)	1.55% (3)	18.13% (35)	20.73% (40)
Dem (318)	5.35% (17)	3.46% (11)	2.83% (9)	1.89% (6)	12.89% (41)	18.24% (58)
Libertarian (55)	1.82% (1)	1.82% (1)	0% (0)	1.82% (1)	18.18% (10)	21.82% (12)
Other Pol (129)	7.75% (10)	3.1% (4)	1.55% (2)	0.78% (1)	17.83% (23)	25.58% (33)

Q36: *Do you think the sex offense registry will EVER be reformed or abolished?*

Q36: Will SOR ever go away?	YES, it will be ABOLISHED	The SOR will only be REFORMED	No, the SOR will remain AS IS	No, the SOR will only get WORSE
Total (695)	21.44% (149)	48.78% (339)	8.35% (58)	21.44% (149)
RPs (464)	20.04% (93)	46.12% (214)	7.76% (36)	26.08% (121)
LOs (169)	24.26% (41)	54.44% (92)	7.69% (13)	13.61% (23)
Others (62)	24.19% (15)	53.23% (33)	14.52% (9)	8.06% (5)
Males (508)	19.69% (100)	47.64% (242)	8.07% (41)	24.61% (125)
Females (178)	26.4% (47)	51.69% (92)	8.99% (16)	12.92% (23)
NARSOL (469)	21.11% (99)	50.53% (237)	6.82% (32)	21.54% (101)
ACSOL (284)	21.83% (62)	52.46% (149)	7.39% (21)	18.31% (52)
WAR (232)	25.86% (60)	47.41% (110)	7.33% (17)	19.4% (45)
TX-Voices (59)	27.12% (16)	54.24% (32)	5.08% (3)	13.56% (8)
FAC (193)	23.83% (46)	45.60% (88)	4.66% (9)	25.91% (50)
Once Fallen (138)	32.61% (45)	39.86% (55)	5.80% (8)	21.74% (30)
Republican (193)	13.99% (27)	52.33% (101)	9.84% (19)	23.83% (46)
Democratic (318)	23.27% (74)	51.57% (164)	7.23% (23)	17.92% (57)
Libertarian (55)	29.09% (16)	43.64% (24)	7.27% (4)	20% (11)
Other Party (129)	24.81% (32)	38.76% (50)	9.3% (12)	27.13% (35)

DISCUSSION

“The registry is misleading to the public. The registry projects inaccurate and misleading information.” – A survey respondent

It should not be surprising that the vast majority of those who engage in anti-registry activism on any level are generally skeptical of the dubious claim that the registry protects the public. But what is surprising is that anti-registry activists are nearly evenly divided between those who only desire to make reforms to the sex offense registry and those who want to abolish the registry, with a slight edge to abolitionists. This is greatly concerning.

If you are an abolitionist, then your desires are easy to summarize; abolitionist do not have to decide who deserves to stay on a publicly accessible registry and who does not. Abolitionists simply want the registry to be completely and utterly abolished. To be clear, the Anti-Registry Movement should not be in the business of improving the efficacy of the registry, but abolishing ALL registry schemes. At the risk of angering some readers, if you are not in favor of efforts to abolishing the sex offense registry, you are not anti-registry.

“Reformists”, for lack of a better word, are willing to make sacrifices or even agreed to conditions contrary to their desires for a small victory. Levine & Meiners found ACSOL’s 2017 push for a tiered registry to undermine abolitionist efforts, adding that, “lobbying efforts sometimes great the sharp edges of the worst proposals making them collateral enough to gain wider support among lawmakers—yet still bad for people with sex-related convictions. For example, California’s ACSOL was a key factor in the 2017 amendment to the state’s Sex Offender Registration Act that established three tiers of registrants based on the conviction and risk assessment, affecting the length and conditions of registration. At first glance this legislation looks like a win: it replaces a system that required, essentially, lifetime registration for the approximately 100,000 people on California’s public registry. Yet the terms are still severe: 10 years registration for tier 1, 20 for tier 2, and lifetime registration for tier 3. The legislation also placed

everyone convicted of child pornography offenses on tier 3 and required a judge and the district attorney to authorize each removal from the registry. Most critically, the campaign left in place the assumptions underlying the registry, namely that some people do deserve to be on the list – just a smaller number, for less time.”²¹

ACSOL’s push for a three-tiered registry contradicts our efforts to reform and/or abolish the sex offense registry schemes. ACSOL’s board of a three-tiered registry scheme divided anti-registry activists. ACSOL had pushed for years to get a tiered registry on the books. ACSOL had implored their members to write to the California legislature who support AB 702 (2013) adding, “Reasons to Support AB 702... Tiered registries exist in 46 of the nation’s 50 states and successfully protect the citizens of those states.”²² This is simply untrue, as fifteen states, including California, have a lifetime registration requirements for ALL registrants. These states are: Alabama, Arizona (except kidnapping & false imprisonment w/o sexual element), California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho (except juveniles), Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wyoming. Some of these states listed allow at least some Registrants to petition for removal from the registry after a set number of years but removal is NOT guaranteed. California’s Tiered registry still requires lifetime for all unless the registrant petitions the court for removal.

Even ACSOL’s mission statement (which has not changed since 2013) contradicts Bellucci’s comments: “The public sex offense registry and residency restriction laws do not protect children but instead ostracize and dehumanize individuals and their families.”²³

Bellucci’s official stance promoting a tiered registry was controversial among anti-registry activists. Some of the comments in the ACSOL comment sections included:

- “The bottom line is that the Tier System will allow people to eventually get off the Registry.”
- “By the way, regardless of what this does for ME, I am in full support of this bill...any relief for any person is better than NONE!”
- “I can honestly say that I am truly disgusted with what I am reading in these comments here. A forum such as this should be bringing people together for the common good, and for the most part, all I see is, “how can this law help me, me, me, me?”
- “I have some serious reservations about this bill.”
- “No offense guys, but no one wants to be on the registry... A tiered system that will eventually allow you to fall off the registry is better than nothing? Don’t get arrested? I’m presently conviction free and even afraid to getting a parking ticket? Support Janice! She is doing more for you than anyone else?”
- “There is a danger here... If I had to choose between being on the registry for 25 years with full address showing, or lifetime with just my zip code showing, then I would choose lifetime.”
- “I for one WILL NOT support a tired system, and I WILL NOT leave anyone behind to save myself! I want to see more people placed on the registry, and none taken off. Only then will people have the power of the masses to abolish it altogether.”²⁴

²¹ Supra., Levine & Meiners, pg. 91

²² “Tiered Registry Bill Introduced.” ACSOL. 3 Apr 2013. Accessed 15 May 2024 at <https://all4consolaws.org/2013/04/tiered-registry-bill-introduced/>

²³ See <https://web.archive.org/web/20130901123728/http://californiarisol.org/about-us/>, see also <https://all4consolaws.org/about-us/>, both accessed 19 Aug 2024

²⁴ Ibid. See comment section.

There were some reservations, to which Janice Bellucci, Executive Director of ACSOL, replied, “It is troubling me to read comments that don’t support a tiered registry. What don’t you understand? The state has had a lifetime registry for virtually all sex offenders for more than 50 years. We are trying to break that dam. This is an incremental process. Think evolution not revolution. We shall overcome...eventually. Help your fellow registrants get off the registry and before you know it, you will be off the registry, too. How? Write to your elected officials and let them know you support AB 702.”²⁵

Janice Bellucci and some members of the comment section took active efforts to confront but not rationally argue legitimate criticism. There were no counterarguments other than “trust the process.”

This effort to compromise for the sake of some small victory and give relief to some of the registry came at a heavier price than ACSOL anticipated. As ACSOL reported in 2017, “The newest version of the Tiered Registry Bill was created behind closed doors and was made public only a few days ago. The new bill resembles a monster of Frankenstein its jumbled and sometimes contradictory provisions. The new bill helps some and hurts many others. The new bill differs dramatically from previous versions of the Tiered Registry Bill (SB 421) in several ways. The most dramatic difference is the assignment of all individuals convicted of felony child pornography (CP) to Tier 3. Due to that difference, there has been a loud hue and cry from registrants and family members who would be affected both directly and indirectly.”²⁶ By 2017, there were fewer critics. Did they leave or were they censored?

As of 2024, CP offenses are considered Tier 3 offenses in California and efforts to remove CP offenses from Tier 3 status have been unsuccessful. ACSOL continues to solicit monetary donations for the problems they helped create by supporting the tiered registry scheme.²⁷

The biggest groups seem fearful to take a hardline stance against the registry. As noted by Levine and Meiners:

“As the most visible face of the movement, NARSOL is studiously moderate. It wants to ‘reform civil commitment processes’—not abolished civil commitment. It supports ‘removal of residency and proximity restrictions against registrants after their court imposed sentence is satisfied’—but not complete repeal of restrictions that have no positive effect on public safety yet render thousands of registrants homeless. In fact, an activist in one local group told Judith that “everyone is against the registry and civil commitments,” but making those positions public “would get us laughed off the map.”²⁸

ACSQL’s experience with promoting a tiered registry scheme should serve as a warning to anti-registry activists who believe in “incrementalism” or other softball approaches to addressing the unconstitutional registry is the best way to approach this issue.

Given ACSOL’s support of the tiered registry and NARSOL’s perceived reluctance to take a hard stance on abolition, it is unsurprising that supporters of both organizations were less likely to state they want sex offense registry abolished.

²⁵ Ibid. See comment section posted by Janice Bellucci, 6 Apr 2013

²⁶ “Janice’s Journal: The Path Forward for CA tiered registry (SB 384).”

²⁷ See “ACSQL News Alert: \$10,000 Challenge Grant Offered in Support of Improving Tiered Registry Law!” ACSOL, 13 Aug 2024. Accessed 15 Aug 2024 at <https://all4consolaws.org/2024/08/acsol-news-alert-10000-challenge-grant-offered-in-support-of-improving-tiered-registry-law/>

²⁸ Supra., Levine & Meiners. pg. 91

Among those who believe that a registry should continue to exist, there was an even split between those who wanted a Law Enforcement-Only (LEO) Registry” and those who believe the registry should only exist for those considered a “high risk” or “tier 3.” But both approaches have their own set of issues.

LEO Registry: Law enforcement agencies have a long history of weaponizing the registry against those on the list. Here are but a few examples:

- Pasco County, FL sheriff's deputies violated court orders to stop harassing Registrants who were suing the county over sex offense laws.²⁹
- The Nassau County, FL Sheriff's Office started posting red signs in front of the homes of Registrants in 2015 that stated the homeowner was a “convicted sexual predator and lives in this location.”³⁰
- The Marion County, IN Sheriff's Office conducted a compliance check operation in 2022; sheriff Kerry Forestal boasted his intent was for Registrants to move out of his county, adding, “"I am not really there for their convenience, they need to go back there and serve their county or their state...We do not want you here."³¹

This is merely a sample of stories where law enforcement agencies have weaponized the registry; therefore, law enforcement cannot be trusted with maintaining a public registry.

Those who support keeping those labeled a “Tier 3” or “high-risk” need only look at the aforementioned issue with CP offenses being listed as a Tier 3 as one key reason not to support such a notion. State rules differ on what constitutes a “Tier 3” offense. In January 2008, Ohio became the first state to adopt the federal Adam Walsh Act (AWA), known at the time as SB 10. Prior to SB 10, Ohio had utilized a risk assessment scheme to determine who should be classified as a Tier 3; under Ohio’s old registration scheme, 77% of Ohio registrants were classified as “sexually oriented offenders” (i.e., Tier I), 4% were labeled “habitual sexual offenders” (Tier II), and 18% were labeled “sexual predators” (Tier III). Ohio SB 10, in accordance with federal guidelines, reclassified people according to offense type rather than by risk assessment; under SB 10, only 13% of offenders were reclassified into Tier I, 33% were in Tier II, and 54% were in Tier III.³² My personal story is also a condemnation of the tier system; because I was convicted in a state with a lifetime-for-all requirement, other states automatically classify me as a Tier 3.

Admittedly, abolishing the registry is a hard sell, and the results of this survey suggest this is true even among anti-registry advocates. Overall, just over one in five ARAs believe the registry will someday be completely abolished, while an equal number of ARAs believe the registry will only get worse. Nearly

²⁹ Josh Solomon. “Lawyer suing Pasco County wants Sheriff Chris Nocco held in contempt; sheriff calls allegations ‘baseless.’” Tampa Bay Times. 5 Apr 2016. Accessed 7 Apr 2016 at Lawyer suing Pasco County wants Sheriff Chris Nocco held in contempt; sheriff calls allegations “baseless”

³⁰ Dan Scanlan. “Red signs brand homes of registered sexual predators in Nassau County for Halloween.” Jacksonville.com. 28 Oct 2015. Accessed 15 Aug 2024 at <https://www.jacksonville.com/story/news/crime/2015/10/28/red-signs-brand-homes-registered-sexual-predators-nassau-county/15685876007/>

³¹ Lucas Gonzalez and Katie Cox. “‘We don’t want you here’: Sheriff says over 1,800 sex offenders live in Marion Co., 52% aren’t from here.” WRTV. 24 Aug 2022. Accessed 15 Aug 2024 at <https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/crime/there-are-1-800-sex-offenders-living-in-marion-county-more-than-half-of-them-arent-from-here>

³² Amy Borror Written Testimony. Hearing on the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. 9 Mar 2009. Accessed 16 Aug 2024 at https://web.archive.org/web/20170128113737/https://judiciary.house.gov/_files/hearings/printers/111th/111-21_47923.PDF

half of ARAs believes the registry will only be reformed but never abolished. Those who support only reform but not abolishment of the registry, are more likely to support the two largest groups in the anti-registry movement, namely, NARSOL and ACSOL. The Law enforcement-only (“LEO Registry”) has been promoted at past NARSOL conferences, and so it should be unsurprising that one in five NARSOL supporters support a “LEO Registry,” more than any other group. Furthermore, NARSOL supporters are the least likely to believe the registry will be abolished. Considering the particularly harsh laws in Florida, Florida Action Committee supporters are the most likely to believe the registry will get worse. Those who support Once Fallen and Texas Voices are the most likely to believe the registry will be abolished someday; Once Fallen supporters are less likely to believe the registry will ONLY be reformed; and Texas Voices supporters are the least likely to believe that the registry will get worse.

This survey has already shown that around two-thirds of Anti-Registry Activists (ARAs) are Registered Persons. Because they directly feel the negative effects of the public registry, they are more likely than their loved ones or those who enter the Anti-Registry Movement without a connection to someone on the registry to believe things will get worse. We could speculate that the very nature of our activism exacerbates negative feelings because much of our work involves sifting through legislation and news stories that negatively target Registered Persons. Registered Persons are thus far more likely as their loved ones (RPs 26% vs 14% LOs) and more than thrice as likely (RPs 26% vs 8% Others) to think the registry scheme will get worse in the coming years.

The category deemed “Others,” i.e., those who are engaged in anti-registry activism but are neither on the registry nor have a loved one on the registry, tend to have vastly different views in a couple of key areas that is cause for concern. Those in the “Others” category are less likely than Registered Persons and their loved ones to strongly disagree the registry protects the public (77% Others vs 90% RPs & LOs), while being more likely to admit the registry protects the public to a slight degree (16% Others vs 6% RPs & LOs). Those in the “Others” category are also less likely to say nobody should be listed on the public registry (45% Others vs 52% RPs & 53% LOs).

Those in the “Others” category do seem to have a different viewpoint than those directly impacted by the registry. For example, Janice Bellucci wrote an article posted on the ACSOL website entitled, “Glimmers of Hope” where she published the following:

“There are glimmers of hope on the horizon for registrants and their families. Most of that hope is based upon recent court decisions. However, one piece of hope comes in the form of a recently published newspaper article. Both will be discussed below.

One form of hope comes from a recently published newspaper article about a person charged with shooting and killing another person. The headline of that article identified the suspect in that killing as a parolee. It was only upon reading the full article that the suspect was also identified as a person required to register.

I take hope from this article because I have read many articles in the past identifying the suspect in a case as a “sex offender” even when the crime in question did not involve a sex offense. The most egregious example of that was an article about a person who burned trash in his backyard in violation of a city ordinance.

The headline for that article identified the person who burned the trash as a “sex offender.” What difference did it make that this person had previously been convicted of a sex offense? If a person convicted of murder had burned trash in his back yard, would the headline have been written to read “murderer burns trash in back yard?” Of course not.

The fact that the recent article did not identify the suspect in a shooting as a “sex offender” is a huge step in the right direction. That is because the newspaper realized that use of the term “sex offender” was not appropriate. Perhaps they also realized that use of the term “sex offender” would not help them sell more newspapers...”³³

This article was in response to the news that James Lewis Spencer II was arrested charged in Texas for the May 2023 shooting death of Sean Connery Showers, a Registered Person. Other news media referred to Showers as a “sex offender.”³⁴ Those on the registry may fail to see solace in an article about a vigilante murdering a Registered Person. How can we find solace in an article about the murder of a Registered Person, simply because an article from a single new article failed to refer to the victim as a “sex offender”?

Janice Bellucci is the Executive Director of ACSOL but has no direct ties to the sex offense registry. Bellucci’s story is well-known to many within the Anti-Registry Movement—she was introduced to anti-registry activism through Frank Lindsey, who worked as her plumber. Lindsey had told Bellucci he was writing a book about his experiences as a Registered Person, and his story drew her into efforts to reform the registry.³⁵ Bellucci’s viewpoint is not from the perspective of someone on the registry nor has a loved one of the registry. Bellucci’s second argument that she is encouraged by favorable court rulings is from her perspective as an attorney, but that viewpoint may be countered by numerous unfavorable court rulings.

What constitutes a victory may also differ between those directly impacted by the registry and those who are not. In 2013, Bellucci filed litigation against Charles “Chuck” Roderick, Brent Olsterblad, and Sarah Shea on behalf of around ten people over the private registry website Offendex. The Offendex crew used registry data as part of an extortion scheme, but also made false claims certain people who were not on the public sex offense registry were convicted of sex crimes. The ultimate disposition of this case was in favor of some of those those suing Offendex; David Ellis (falsely accused of a sex crime) was nearly \$2.2.million, Lois Flynn (Roderick’s ex-wife, who was dating Ellis) was awarded \$780,000, and Susan Galvez (the mother of a Registered Person) was awarded \$467,000 in damages.

Adam Galvez, a Registered Person harassed and extorted by the Offendex group, was not awarded any damages. In court, Galvez called Rodrick a “bad man.” Her son, Adam Galvez, 39, pleaded guilty to child molestation in 1996. Adam Galvez told reporters he considered his mother’s win a victory for the family. He said he felt vindicated the moment the judge declared him a plaintiff and he no longer faced the threat of Rodrick’s lawsuit. “I had nothing to lose,” he said. “The jury did what was right. If they had gotten the time to get to know who I am, they probably would have ruled differently.” Galvez also told reporters that two jurors told him after the trial that his conviction and background made it hard for them to award him damages. But he said they both wished him well.³⁶

³³ “Janice’s Journal: Glimmers of Hope.” ACSOL. 8 Feb 2024. Accessed 17 Aug 2024 at <https://all4consolaws.org/2024/02/janices-journal-glimmers-of-hope/>

³⁴ See for example, Michelle Homer, Ugochi Iloka, Sammy Turner. “Bond raised for man accused of killing convicted sex offender.” KHOU 11. 5 Feb. 2024. Accessed 17 Aug at <https://www.khou.com/article/news/crime/houston-sex-offender-shot-killed/285-d5865c75-f898-410d-82ff-138265f7a3ef> –See also “Texas man allegedly murders convicted sex offender.” Fox News. 6 Feb 2024. Accessed 17 Aug 2024 at <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6346358777112>

³⁵ See “Show Up, Stand Up, Speak Up” by Janice Bellucci. Self-Published book. 2020. pgs. 3-4

³⁶ Matthew Clarke. “Arizona Jury Awards \$3.4 Million against Owner of Sex Offender Websites.” Prison Legal News. 30 Nov 2015. Accessed 17 Aug 2024 at <https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2015/nov/30/arizona-jury-awards-34-million-against-owner-sex-offender-websites/>, see also Robert Anglen. “Jury awards \$3.4M to victims

Janice Bellucci nevertheless took to ACSOL to declare this case a victory for Registered Persons, stating, "This is a major victory for registered citizens in our nation...The court's decision today to enter a default judgment in favor of the plaintiffs sends a clear signal to Mr. Rodrick and to others like him who break the law by illegally demanding funds from registered citizens."³⁷ Yet the harassment continued as Roderick appealed his decision.

In 2016, the AZ Central news site reported that the nature of the lawsuit changed from extortion of Registered Persons to false allegations made against those who were not on sex offense registry:

"The lawsuit originally was filed on behalf of 10 people who said Rodrick used government records to create his own database and demand money to remove the records under the threat of increased exposure. Some claimed their names appeared on Rodrick's websites long after their names had been removed from official sex-offender registries. Others said their names remained on Rodrick's websites after they paid him a removal fee.

A judge last year dismissed claims filed by several plaintiffs who were sex offenders, saying Rodrick was protected from liability under federal law because he was republishing information from official records and not creating original content.

U.S. District Court Judge Susan Bolton said those plaintiffs could not prove Rodrick was "responsible for the development or creation of information" on his websites despite his demands for money for records removal. Bolton, however, refused to dismiss claims filed by plaintiffs who "have never registered as sex offenders or been convicted of a sex-related offense."

The three plaintiffs include a retired U.S. Marine Corps major who never has been arrested or charged with a crime; the mother of a sex offender in Washington state who launched his own website to challenge Rodrick in 2013; and a man who was arrested on a sex-related charge years ago but who says he was not classified as a sex offender or required to register as one."³⁸

The results of these lawsuits provided no direct relief for Adam Galvez or anyone on the public registry. Lawsuits filed by Registered Persons were dismissed, and Galvez received no financial compensation. The judges even sided with the Offendex group by ruling they were merely republishing existing public information.

In another instance where Bellucci has been disingenuous, Bellucci has erroneously claimed that she "led the nation's first sex offender protest in the City of Carson on March 7, 2015."³⁹ In 2007, the first attempt at protesting sex offense laws took place in Miami Beach, FL to protest the practice of forcing Registered Persons to live under a bridge along the Julia Tuttle Causeway in the center of Biscayne Bay. However,

of sex-offender websites." AZ Central. 15 May 2014. Accessed 17 Aug 2024 at <https://www.azcentral.com/story/money/business/consumer/2014/05/15/jury-awards-m-victims-sex-offender-websites/2159268/>

³⁷ "OWNER OF WEBSITES LOSES CASE IN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT." ACSOL. 5 Aug 2014. Accessed 17 Aug 2024 at <https://all4consolaws.org/2014/08/owner-of-websites-loses-case-in-federal-district-court/>

³⁸ Robert Anglen. "Phoenix website owner's attorney denies harassment claims in federal court trial." AZ Central. 29 June 2016. Accessed 17 Aug 2024 at <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2016/06/29/phoenix-website-owners-attorney-denies-harassment-claims-federal-court-trial/86313212/>

³⁹ See Janice Bellucci's Biography page at Practising Law Institute. Accessed 17 Aug 2024 at <https://www.pli.edu/faculty/janice-bellucci-i1430503>

law enforcement and the city's Chamber of Commerce ended those plans under threat of arrest. The first successful protest was held in Columbus, OH in December 2007 to protest the passage of the Adam Walsh Act, an event attended by over 50 people.⁴⁰ The first protest in California was in front of the Coalinga State Hospital in 2008.⁴¹ Members of Once Fallen and WAR both joined DC Registrant Dennis Sabin in January 2014 at a protest in front of the Washington DC Superior Court in support of Sabin's "Idiots Registry" project (a project that placed registry officers and others who support the registry on a parody registry).⁴²

It seems that Registered Persons and their Loved Ones are desperate to allow outsiders like Janice Bellucci to fight their battles for them. And because we are allowing these outsiders to control the direction of the movement, we are willing to accept mere reforms and water down our goals and messages. The fears of these others become our fears. Reforming the registry, as opposed to abolishment of the registry, means someone must be sacrificed for the "greater good," as seen in the push for the tiered registry in California.

Let me be clear – this is not a condemnation of those who want to be a part of anti-registry activism. Authors like Lenore Skenazy and Judith Levine, researchers like Emily Horowitz, and attorneys like Ron Kleiner and Jamie Benjamin have put their own reputations on the line to defend those persons forced onto public pillories. But we must not be so desperate as to accept a watered-down version of our message for the sake of a short-term, symbolic victory. Those who join anti-registry groups should have the interests of ALL Registered Persons in mind.

Therein lies the issue with the state of the Anti-Registry Movement, an issue that has seemingly been around since the early days of this movement. If we are not advocating the abolition of the public registry, who should be sacrificed for registry reform? Overall, 38% of ARAs believe that "recidivists" or "repeat offenders," i.e., those who committed more than one offense, should remain on the registry. Registered Persons were about 5% more likely to choose this option over loved ones or those in the "Other" category. Just over one in four ARAs believe those who produce CP or convicted of sex trafficking should be kept on the registry. Just under one in five ARAs said those admitted or diagnosed as "pedophiles" should remain on the registry. One out of three among those in the "Loved Ones" category said CP producers should remain on the registry; while one in four loved ones said pedophiles should remain on the registry. Those who identify as Republican voters were 7% more likely to say those admitted or diagnosed as "pedophiles" as those who identify as Democrats.

There are some deep divisions within this movement that must be addressed. The comments left by respondents to this survey show there are a myriad of vastly different opinions. There is a rift between abolitionists and those who believe the registry should continue to exist, albeit in a limited capacity that was made evident by the very words of members of the Anti-Registry Movement:

⁴⁰ Derek Logue. "A Concise History of the Anti-Registry Movement." Once Fallen. 27 Mar 2024. Accessed 17 Aug 2024 at <https://oncefallen.com/history-of-anti-registry-movement/>

⁴¹ David Kennerly. "Tom Madison Opening Demonstration at Coalinga State Hospital." YouTube. 12 Mar 2008. Accessed 17 Aug 2024 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25egS8jo4UM>

⁴² Justin Moyer. "Sex offender can continue to post photos, judge says." Washington Post. 28 Jan. 2014. Accessed 17 Aug 2024 at https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-news/sex-offender-can-continue-to-post-photos-judge-says/2014/01/28/4687f63a-8861-11e3-a5bd-844629433ba3_story.html

- “The government has no idea how many sex offenders are in this country from all over the world and they aren’t registered. The registry gives people a false sense of security because there are always those with a first offense and those from around the world who aren’t registered in this country. The registry puts the person registered and their family in dangerous situation.”
- “Sex offences are wrong and harmful. Registering all offenders is an emotionally charged knee jerk reaction. Informed thoughtful reform is needed.”
- “Only the worst sex offenders or the sex offenders who repeatedly offend should be on the registry.”
- “Not all offenses are the same yet we are all group as the same and suffer.”
- “SORNA is against the U.S constitution.”
- “I believe there should be a difference between various offenders. Some acts are less intrusive or damaging than others.”
- “I strongly feel that the registration laws need complete abolition and reformed. The registry is currently filled with so many people that have non-violent offenses such as a picture or a conversation. This is ruining people lives and destroying their futures. How messed up is it that we classify sexual offenses with a registry but not murderers?”
- “The registry is a false hope, one designed solely to allow politicians to grandstand. There should be a registry for all criminal activities, but the paper trail would quickly envelop any local sheriff’s office in 50 states. So, they picked this one crime for a registry only because it offered, as stated, a solid grandstand position for seeking an election or reelection. My greatest concern is the new case that may begin in the lower district courts and make its way to the current unquestioned-right-leaning Supreme Court. If such a case happens, the general “quiet” state of the registry, so far as it exists at this time, nationwide, will be catapulted into the forefront of the current American populace seeking ANY reason to take their beloved guns to the streets to shoot all they think should be shot because they think or live differently. The LGBTQ community would be decimated. Interracial couples would suffer the same fate. Their children would also suffer at the hands of armed right-wing extremists seeking only to kill people because they are not white male Christians. There should be a registry for ALL offenses or NO offenses, and that position emanates from the perspective of equal treatment under the law.”
- “We need to focus on how registry causes more harm than ‘good’. It was intended for the ‘worst of the worst’ but now includes so many lesser offenses it is useless. Was sold as a way to ‘solve crimes’ but I’ve never seen any instance where a cop used the registry to solve a crime he couldn’t using other means (like solving murders etc.). Need to break perception that anybody who commits a ‘sex crime’ is out of control and needs public monitoring. Politicians like Mark Foley and Anthony Wiener committed crimes, but we don’t register all politicians because of it.”
- “All states should have a path to being taken off of the registry.”
- “As the loved one of a registrant who was very low risk, I would love to see the registry greatly changed. Many people are punished more and longer than they should be.”
- “I believe lifetime registration should be abolished across the board.”
- “I believe that ideally, there should be no registration for citizens period. The men and women who have to register have served their time, and should be allowed to lead productive lives. The ALI has presented the best case for reform; if the registry has to exist at all, let it be for the most serious of offenders so LEO’s can focus their time/money to protect the community. If the focus of putting the ALI recommendations to the forefront of thought for legislators, maybe they can see the benefit of returning to the community those with convictions who want to prove themselves as reformed.”
- “I am for abolishing the registry since once prison time is served, punishment should be done. The registry is just a vehicle for collecting more money and soothing the masses, the fear that the negativity generates is self-perpetuating and does nothing to actually solve the issue. Also for those who are repeat offenders, there could be a private courts-only list that is used to get them treatment and help, not as an avenue for more punishment. The record and felony charges keep people from working good jobs and being responsible citizens who can contribute to society.”

- “Fuck ‘people’ who think registries should exist. I’d love to see every single one of them dead. They are not my fellow Americans or humans. They are enemies. As long as registries exist.”
- “On the question “who SHOULD be on the registry?” I checked “no one, it should be abolished”, but I was surprised you didn’t put an option for “Violent offenders and kidnappers whose victims are child strangers”. This was the type of convicted criminal, and the ONLY TYPE, that Megan’s Law was originally intended to inform the public of, when they move into your neighborhood. If the registry only contained violent offenders AND those whose victims were CHILDREN, and those whose crimes involved force, weapons, violence or threat, then I MIGHT support the existence of a registry with community notification (not residency restrictions though), because there would be so few people on it, it might actually serve that intended purpose.”
- “Not all offenders or their crimes are equal. It’s never black and white and across the board. Every case is different...They need to be reviewed case by case...”
- “I believe the registry should be completely abolished. I would love to be able to retire to the Philippines, but I am unable to do so because of the International Megan’s Law.”
- “The Registry needs to be abolished, because it causes harm to the individuals and their families. It’s a life sentence and is unconstitutional.”
- “The registry only does harm to both victims and accused. It costs billions with nothing to show for it. Take a fraction of that money and use it to actually help victims and reform for the perpetrators. I’m not against punishment that meets the crime. But there must be a purpose and an end result envisioned for both victims and perpetrators based on therapy investigations and facts, not emotions or political benefits. The registry is doxing; ask Elon Musk what he thinks about that.”
- “A recent thought: use better data, or get rid of registry entirely. I.e.: regular interviews with friends/acquaintances/partners (wisdom of crowds) if there is consistent dangerous behavior-that is documented... combined with more objective data tracking... i.e.: I would voluntarily submit to browser tracking and other tracking/data processing if it would give me a path off of the registry. They should use better science, or abolish the registry entirely. Not advocating excessive monitoring... Just think it’s an important rhetorical point: either be more scientific and effective and HUMANE. Or stop doing it entirely. The current model neither protects the public or reforms offenders. It is a scape goat mechanism used for political and social capital-a mechanism used to manipulate public emotions. A helpful reform would be more proactive sex education on subjects like consent and substance abuse... more proactive observation of parents to notice if sexual/physical/emotional abuse might predispose that person to sexually inappropriate or dangerous behaviors. Complex, but, there’s some comments.”
- “This has been a horrible experience for our family. Lifetime punishment for all of us. I hope I live long enough to see the registry abolished.
- The registry as a money making scheme will continue no matter how unworkable it becomes, similar to the war on drugs. Too many people make a living from it now to be stopped.”
- “The Registry must be reformed before being abolished. I believe that is the fastest track. I bet law makers will be up to reform first, as example just leaving the public registry for violent/repeated offenses, take off all the “no victim” and “no physical contact” offenses.”
- “Stop one size fits all thinking. People’s lives are being ruined, not helped.”
- “The Biggest problem with the registry is that the public does not understand that it is not just a registry, it is a means by which those on the registry are subjected to laws and restrictions only because they are on the registry, and not whether they are actually a risk to the “anyone”, and can be prosecuted and sent to prison for longer terms than the offence for which they were originally convicted and subject to registration.”
- “I believe the community needs to be protected, however if sex offenders are on a registry list, then murderers, thieves, white collar crime, in other words all groups of criminals should have their own registries, so I could see what kind of people live near me. Or, No list at all. Also, If someone has been on the registry for 10 or more years without re-offending they should be off the list.”

- “End (the) fascism that is the registry.”
- “The registry is wrong. Educate people about sexual abuse to prevent from happening. If the person has done their time and learned from it, they should not be required to register.”
- “The sooner the registry is reformed to be limited to serious repeat offenders the better, get all the states to have a single set of requirements for registry.”
- “A more productive Registry would be for those who commit domestic violence.”
- “Not that there should be “no age of consent,” but rather than a state attempt to legislate a range of age differences into a concept of coercion is morally dubious...Do you believe those with great influence in society (media, pop culture, etc.) “groom” children into acceptance and participation of “sexualized” lifestyles? I object strongly to the use of the word “groomed” which is a media invention. The society as a whole helps promote a sexualized view of youth while at the same time protecting its own dissonance by casting others as witch figures, lepers, and not just ‘predators’ but since that will not serve as ‘super predators.’”
- “I wish formerly incarcerated people could be seen as people rather than as labels - all of them! As a culture we fail our confused or disturbed countrymen badly.”
- “Sex offense registry is a violation of constitutional protections and human rights!”
- “I don't believe in preventing anyone from talking about something - although threatening speech should not be allowed - no one should be censored...this is not a communist country. But I believe the only ones who should know about the whereabouts of a formerly incarcerated person are the police. Everyone deserves a chance to change their life. If they don't, and commit more crimes then incarcerate them for a longer period of time.”
- “I believe ankle bracelets should be banned”
- “I believe there may be some advantage to a LEO registry for those truly deemed to be at high risk for re-offense, but always with a path for removal from the registry. In some cases, warning a community may make sense -- and this has been done in Canada on rare occasions, despite the registry being for law enforcement only. This is a rare case where legally the person served their time but remained a high likelihood to reoffend. There's a larger conversation to be had about rehabilitation and treatment for those who may be at high risk to reoffend, and the effects of branding a person a sex offender then being angry when they behave in ways that match the label they've been handed for life without any/much support for them to behave differently. The mandatory registration of people who have committed a sex-related offence needs to be abolished and the decision (and appeal process) of registration left in the hands of judges.---As a side note: I'm a Canadian female convicted of distributing CP in the forms of cartoon images and fictional stories to a person I was in an abusive relationship with (at their request/demand). I refused to find them actual images of children, and acquiesced to sending them things I deemed 'not as bad'. There needs to be a discussion regarding the current systems that prevent others from reporting people (as in my case) and a pathway for people to get help rather than to become ensnared in the legal system. As I saw it back then, I was in a no-win situation and chose what I viewed as the least bad option at the time. I'd do things differently now if I could go back in time -- but I still don't think reporting would have been my first choice of solution. My experience with registration has been triggering -- I've been brought into a room alone with one male officer, where they take photos of most of my tattoos and identifiable markings, and often try to make friendly conversation. Friendly conversation isn't necessarily bad, but the gender and power dynamics are important to consider when speaking to a person who is required to register. I have experienced many instances of sexual abuse and had photos taken that I did not want to be taken (and had them shared with others without my consent), so being alone with a male officer taking photos of me is disturbing. Not to mention the fact that my charges and psychiatric profile do not indicate any risk for hands-on offences, so it's upsetting to be treated as if I'm at risk for those things. The rote application of always taking photos is questionable, and the lack of trauma-informed registration procedures is harmful.”

- “Remember, it's not that 80% of all sex offenders will reoffend or recidivate, it is supposed to read, that, 80% of all untreated sex offenders will or may reoffend which is shocking. These are the ones who should be on a registry for not agreeing to treatment or help.” (Note: The Respondent referenced to the 1987 Psychology Today article that was misquoted by SCOTUS Justice Anthony Kennedy when he wrote the majority opinion in the infamous Smith v. Doe in 2003. This report was even condemned by the author of the report.)
- “After a person pays their debt to society, they should be allowed to move forward in their life without the stigma of the registry. They have paid their DEBT!”
- “I hope someday soon they will abolish the registry. If a person had enough money they wouldn't be on the registry. It's a fact.”
- “There has to be a national agreement if the registry is to exist. All these different states laws and individual county/city different requirements should be abolished.”
- “I am a victim of sexual abuse, the mother of a daughter who was sexually abused and now the mother of a son who is serving a 9 year sentence for CP. I feel my voice matters and that a lot of damage is done to victims because of the message that we are so damaged now that we can never be fixed. That's utter crap. When murderers get a lighter sentence than my son (who had no actual victims—no, I'm not saying CP is ok) then you are telling me and my daughter that we would have been better off being murdered than molested and I so disagree with that.”
- “As a senior my one main regret would be to have to leave this world with my son still subject to these laws, Megan's laws make negative impact on our lives.”
- “The registry is proven to be ineffective, is contradictory to the purpose of the Family Court system in relation to minors found delinquent & is discriminatory when considering there's no such registry for equally "dangerous" individuals found guilty or delinquent for capital crimes, DUIs, & sale of drug offenses.”
- “When a drug dealer sells to kids or pregnant women and destroy families they have in turn murdered their victims, and traumatized children for years to come. But this is acceptable because it's not a sex crime.”
- “It is a law of HATE.”
- “Being on Megan's list is bad on all!!! If you are not financially good then it's an uphill battle every day try to find a place to live and get turned down only certain jobs you can work.”
- “Arsonists, gang members, narcotics offender have to register but not for life. Murders don't register. Each sex offense should be considered individually. When they lump everybody together it saves them time and money but hurts everybody else.”
- “I would like to see as a condition of the registry, an attempt to reunite family with first individual and then family counseling. If successful, registry length greatly shortened.”
- “No place is perfect, but continental Europe is by and large much more sane in handling sex crimes. Robust privacy law helps too. I'm not asking for anarchy, but a society more like Austria or Germany.”
- “My personal opinion no one should be registered for any crime.”
- “Should schools be allowed to show sex offender profiles in public schools to groups of children when some of the students have a relative on the registry? Even when the registered person's offence has nothing to do with children?”
- “Hoping the registry eliminates low risk offenders.”
- “There is so much that I would like to say. The registry is cruel and added punishment and the sentencing technically never stops. It is very unfair and unconstitutional.”
- “The registry do harm to the lives of people who recognized their mistakes and accepted the consequences and now won't to move on in a more productive life.”
- “Not all sex offenders are a threat to the community.”
- “Stop the hate. Stop the violence. And stop the STIGMA!”

- “I am a retired school teacher. Reform must take place for the Romeo Juliet law. I feel repeated sex offenders should be monitored more closely, but not same sex partners. I was raped by my stepdad who continued to rape other children until the father of one of the children shot and killed him. My stepdad was never convicted. My son’s victim is my granddaughter. I do not agree with what he did, and he served 4 years in the military brig. He regrets what he did and is trying to lead a better life for his child and himself. He did not force or rape her. She has forgiven him, and she is 18 now. Was 13 when it happened. It divided our family. I will support my son in any way that I can because he is trying to do what is right.”
- “What about all the guns? What about that? Isn’t that the USA’s number #1 threat to the public right now. Or any violent crime. Put those offenders on parole supervision for life. That’s the answer right? It works so well and is the perfect solution. Am I correct? Well, what are you waiting for? Parole for life for everyone!!!!”
- “There should be a way to restore full citizenship after 10 yrs. Of good behavior at a minimum.”
- “Registration and public exposure harms the registrants’ chances of reintegration.”
- “On the issue of “Romeo and Juliet” laws - I think the exact allowable age gap should vary depending on the exact age group (a ten year old with a fourteen year old would be *very* different from a relationship between a fourteen year old and eighteen year old), but I do think it should be constructed in such a way that it doesn’t create unfortunate situations like they have in Utah, where you can have a fourteen and sixteen year old start a relationship, but a fifteen and seventeen year old getting together would technically be a misdemeanor and a registerable offense.”
- “I feel that sex offender registries do NOT take into account collateral damage such as loved ones who live at that address, or even neighbors (who live in a complex) to arson damage. Registers set OTHERS up to suffer for the ills of the registered offenders.”
- “I know we will abolish the registry and civil commitment!”

SUPPORT FOR ANTI-REGISTRY ACTIVIST GROUPS

- Q18: *Which organizations do you follow, support (financially or otherwise), and/or a member of? Check ALL that apply.*

Q18: ARA Support	NARSOL	ACSOL	WAR	TX-Voices	FAC	Once Fallen	Other Groups	None of them
Total (695)	67.48% (469)	40.86% (284)	33.38% (232)	8.49% (59)	27.77% (193)	19.86% (138)	24.89% (173)	7.91% (55)
RPs (464)	68.32% (317)	44.61% (207)	27.37% (127)	7.33% (34)	29.09% (135)	20.69% (96)	23.49% (109)	6.68% (31)
LOs (169)	67.46% (114)	36.09% (61)	50.89% (86)	12.43% (21)	28.4% (48)	20.12% (34)	26.04% (44)	10.65% (18)
Others (62)	61.29% (38)	25.81% (16)	30.65% (19)	6.45% (4)	16.13% (10)	12.9% (8)	32.26% (20)	9.68% (6)
Males (508)	67.52% (343)	42.32% (215)	26.97% (137)	7.28% (37)	28.54% (145)	19.49% (99)	24.02% (122)	7.87% (40)
Females (178)	67.42% (120)	37.08% (66)	51.12% (91)	12.36% (22)	26.40% (47)	21.35% (38)	26.97% (48)	7.87% (14)
NARSOL (469)	100% (469)	43.92% (206)	39.45% (185)	10.45% (49)	31.13% (146)	24.31% (114)	30.06% (141)	0.21% (1)
ACSOL (284)	72.54% (206)	100% (284)	46.48% (132)	9.51% (27)	36.62% (104)	29.23% (83)	22.89% (65)	0% (0)
WAR (232)	79.74% (185)	56.9% (132)	100% (232)	15.52% (36)	42.24% (98)	36.64% (85)	33.62% (78)	0% (0)
TX-Voices (59)	83.05% (49)	45.76% (27)	61.02% (36)	100% (59)	52.54% (31)	40.68% (24)	45.76% (27)	0% (0)
FAC (193)	75.65% (146)	53.89% (104)	50.78% (98)	16.06% (31)	100% (193)	40.41% (78)	29.02% (56)	0% (0)
OnceFallen (138)	82.61% (114)	60.14% (83)	61.59% (85)	17.39% (24)	56.52% (78)	100% (138)	41.3% (57)	0% (0)
Republican (193)	60.62% (117)	31.61% (61)	37.31% (72)	10.88% (21)	27.98% (54)	19.17% (37)	19.69% (38)	8.29% (16)
Democratic (318)	69.5% (221)	46.86% (149)	29.87% (95)	6.92% (22)	26.10% (83)	18.55% (59)	27.99% (89)	6.6% (21)
Libertarian (55)	74.55% (41)	47.27% (26)	36.36% (20)	7.27% (4)	29.09% (16)	25.45% (14)	29.09% (16)	5.45% (3)
Other Party (129)	69.77% (90)	37.21% (48)	34.88% (45)	9.3% (12)	30.01% (40)	21.71% (28)	23.26% (30)	11.63% (15)

Q19: Which organization is doing more harm than good? The top answer was “none of the above” (638, 91.8%). NARSOL received the most votes (33, 4.75%), followed by WAR (16, 2.3%), ACSOL (12, 1.73%), other anti-registry organizations (12, 1.73%), FAC (10, 1.44%), OnceFallen (7, 1.01%), and Texas Voices (1, 0.14%)

Q19: Who hurts cause	NARSOL	ACSOL	WAR	TX-Voices	FAC	Once Fallen	Other Groups	None of them
Total (695)	4.75% (33)	1.73% (12)	2.3% (16)	0.14% (1)	1.44% (10)	1.01% (7)	1.73% (12)	91.8% (638)
RPs (464)	5.39% (25)	1.51% (7)	1.94% (9)	0% (0)	1.29% (6)	0.65% (3)	1.94% (9)	91.16% (423)
LOs (169)	4.14% (7)	2.96% (5)	3.55% (6)	0.59% (1)	1.78% (3)	1.18% (2)	1.78% (3)	92.31% (156)
Others (62)	1.61% (1)	0% (0)	1.61% (1)	0% (0)	1.61% (1)	3.23% (1)	0% (2)	95.16% (59)
Males (508)	5.71% (29)	1.57% (8)	2.36% (12)	0.20% (1)	1.57% (8)	1.38% (7)	1.97% (10)	90.35% (459)
Females (178)	2.25% (4)	2.25% (4)	2.25% (4)	0.00% (0)	1.12% (2)	0% (0)	1.12% (2)	95.51% (170)
NARSOL (469)	2.99% (14)	0.64% (3)	2.77% (13)	0.21% (1)	1.28% (6)	1.07% (5)	1.49% (7)	93.39% (438)
ACSOL (284)	3.87% (11)	2.11% (6)	3.52% (10)	0% (0)	0.35% (1)	0.35% (1)	1.06% (3)	91.90% (261)
WAR (232)	5.17% (12)	1.29% (3)	3.02% (7)	0% (0)	0.86% (2)	1.29% (3)	1.72% (4)	90.95% (211)
TX-Voices (59)	5.08% (3)	0% (0)	5.08% (3)	0% (0)	1.69% (1)	3.39% (2)	1.69% (1)	88.14% (52)
FAC (193)	5.18% (10)	0.52% (1)	3.63% (7)	0% (0)	2.07% (4)	1.04% (2)	1.55% (3)	90.67% (175)
OnceFallen (138)	7.25% (10)	2.17% (3)	4.35% (6)	0% (0)	2.17% (3)	0.72% (1)	3.62% (5)	86.96% (120)
Republican (193)	3.11% (6)	2.07% (4)	1.55% (3)	0% (0)	1.55% (3)	0.52% (1)	1.04% (2)	94.30% (182)
Democratic (318)	3.46% (11)	1.57% (5)	1.26% (4)	0% (0)	1.26% (4)	0.94% (3)	0.94% (3)	93.71% (298)
Libertarian (55)	10.91% (6)	3.64% (2)	1.82% (1)	0% (0)	1.82% (1)	1.82% (1)	3.64% (2)	83.64% (46)
Other Party (129)	7.75% (10)	0.78% (1)	6.2% (8)	0.78% (1)	1.55% (2)	1.55% (2)	3.88% (5)	86.82% (112)

Q20: Who do you think should NOT be advocating publicly to reform or abolish the registry? Check all that apply. Choices:

1. A person currently listed on the Sex Offense Registry
2. An adult (age 18+) whose loved one is on the sex offense registry
3. A minor (under 18) whose loved one is on the sex offense registry
4. An independent researcher or research organization
5. A criminal justice advocacy group not directly tied to any registry reformists
6. Attorneys
7. Victim advocates
8. NONE OF THE ABOVE

Q20: Who shouldn't be in ARM	Current RP	LO Age 18+	LO Age under 18	Indep. Research orgs	Non-RP CJ Advocates	Attys.	VIAs	None of the above
Total (695)	7.19% (50)	1.58% (11)	7.05% (49)	2.3% (16)	7.34% (51)	3.74% (26)	9.93% (69)	75.25% (523)
RPs (464)	7.54% (35)	1.29% (6)	6.9% (32)	2.59% (12)	7.54% (35)	4.31% (20)	11.85% (55)	72.84% (338)
LOs (169)	6.51% (11)	2.37% (4)	6.51% (11)	2.37% (4)	6.51% (11)	2.96% (5)	7.1% (12)	81.07% (137)
Others (62)	6.45% (4)	1.61% (1)	9.68% (6)	0% (0)	8.06% (5)	1.61% (1)	3.23% (2)	77.42% (48)
Males (508)	7.87% (40)	1.57% (8)	7.09% (36)	2.56% (13)	8.46% (43)	4.53% (23)	11.81% (60)	72.24% (367)
Females (178)	5.06% (9)	1.69% (3)	7.3% (13)	1.69% (3)	3.93% (7)	1.69% (3)	5.06% (9)	83.71% (149)
NARSOL (469)	6.82% (32)	1.49% (7)	6.61% (31)	1.71% (8)	5.76% (27)	3.62% (17)	8.96% (42)	78.46% (368)
ACSOL (284)	6.69% (19)	1.41% (4)	5.28% (15)	2.46% (7)	7.39% (21)	4.58% (13)	10.56% (30)	77.46% (220)
WAR (232)	5.6% (13)	1.72% (4)	8.19% (19)	1.72% (4)	5.17% (12)	2.16% (5)	10.78% (25)	78.45% (182)
TX-Voices (59)	6.78% (4)	1.69% (1)	3.39% (2)	1.69% (1)	6.78% (4)	5.08% (3)	11.86% (7)	81.36% (48)
FAC (193)	6.74% (13)	1.04% (2)	6.74% (13)	2.07% (4)	6.74% (13)	4.15% (8)	10.88% (21)	77.2% (149)
OnceFallen (138)	7.97% (11)	0.72% (1)	5.07% (7)	0.72% (1)	5.07% (7)	2.17% (3)	14.49% (20)	75.36% (104)
Republican (193)	7.25% (14)	1.04% (2)	8.81% (17)	2.59% (5)	9.84% (19)	4.66% (9)	13.47% (26)	70.98% (137)
Democratic (318)	5.35% (17)	1.89% (6)	6.6% (21)	1.89% (6)	4.4% (14)	2.83% (9)	5.66% (18)	81.76% (260)
Libertarian (55)	9.09% (5)	0% (0)	3.64% (2)	1.82% (1)	9.09% (5)	1.82% (1)	10.91% (6)	76.36% (42)
Other Party (129)	10.85% (14)	2.33% (3)	6.98% (9)	3.1% (4)	10.08% (13)	5.43% (7)	14.73% (19)	65.12% (84)

Q24: Which strategies should registry reform or abolition groups be currently engaging in? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

1. Litigation/ Lawsuits	5. Protests/Awareness events
2. Influencing lawmakers	6. Gathering resources for Registrants in need (housing/employment/social services)
3. Influencing media	7. Support Groups (in person and/or online)
4. Public speaking events	

Additionally, five ARAs (0.72%) chose “none of the above,” while 85 ARAs (12.23%) offered numerous other suggestions, including social media campaigns, developing registrant-supportive businesses, relational organizing & canvassing, directly engaging POTUS, writing OpEds, school assemblies to warn young men about the registry, debunking myths, eliminating background/registry checks, pushing for transparency of registry offices and registry supporters, helping RPs obtain pardons, zoom meeting, sponsor a lobbyist, legal defense funds, taking on TV shows publishing misleading info, educational videos, positive stories of RPs, support orgs open to assisting RPs, billboards, and working with various sex-positive organizations.

Q24: Our Game plan	Lawsuits/ Litigation	Influence Pols	Influence Media	Public Speaking	Protests Events	Resource Gathering	Support Groups
Total (695)	89.64% (623)	90.65% (630)	87.05% (605)	71.22% (495)	60.72% (422)	81.58% (567)	79.71% (554)
RPs (464)	91.38% (424)	89.66% (416)	87.93% (408)	68.97% (320)	59.27% (275)	78.45% (364)	76.72% (356)
LOs (169)	86.98% (147)	92.9% (157)	85.21% (144)	76.92% (130)	63.31% (107)	91.72% (155)	88.76% (150)
Others (62)	83.87% (52)	91.94% (57)	85.48% (53)	72.58% (45)	64.52% (40)	77.42% (48)	77.42% (48)
Males (508)	90.16% (458)	89.76% (456)	86.22% (438)	67.91% (345)	58.27% (296)	78.54% (399)	76.97% (391)
Females (178)	87.64% (156)	92.70% (165)	88.76% (158)	79.21% (141)	66.29% (118)	90.45% (161)	87.08% (155)
NARSOL (469)	93.18% (437)	91.04% (427)	88.91% (417)	72.28% (339)	63.75% (299)	83.58% (392)	81.24% (381)
ACSOL (284)	95.42% (271)	94.01% (267)	90.49% (257)	75.7% (215)	66.55% (189)	86.27% (245)	83.8% (238)
WAR (232)	91.38% (212)	95.26% (221)	92.24% (214)	78.88% (183)	71.55% (166)	88.79% (206)	84.05% (195)
TX-Voices (59)	91.53% (54)	96.61% (57)	94.92% (56)	88.14% (52)	69.49% (41)	91.53% (54)	91.53% (54)
FAC (193)	91.71% (177)	93.26% (180)	92.23% (178)	77.2% (149)	66.84% (129)	83.42% (161)	80.31% (155)
OnceFallen (138)	92.03% (127)	94.93% (131)	92.75% (128)	78.99% (109)	70.29% (97)	89.86% (124)	82.61% (114)
Republican (193)	84.97% (164)	92.23% (178)	86.01% (166)	69.43% (134)	56.99% (110)	76.17% (147)	73.06% (141)
Democratic (318)	94.03% (299)	93.4% (297)	90.57% (288)	73.27% (233)	62.89% (200)	85.22% (271)	82.7% (263)
Libertarian (55)	89.09% (49)	87.27% (48)	83.64% (46)	58.18% (32)	56.36% (31)	80% (44)	83.64% (46)
Other Party (129)	86.05% (111)	82.95% (107)	81.4% (105)	74.42% (96)	62.79% (81)	81.4% (105)	80.62% (104)

Q29: Do you agree or disagree that the efforts of registry reformists and abolitionists have succeeded in positively impacting the public narrative on sex offense discussions and legislation?

Q29: Is ARM making a diff?	Strongly Agree	Slightly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Total (695)	13.09% (91)	39.14% (272)	25.18% (175)	12.52% (87)	10.07% (70)
RPs (464)	14.44% (67)	39.44% (183)	23.71% (110)	13.15% (61)	9.27% (43)
LOs (169)	8.28% (14)	39.64% (67)	27.81% (47)	13.02% (22)	11.24% (19)
Others (62)	16.13% (10)	35.48% (22)	29.03% (18)	6.45% (4)	12.9% (8)
Males (508)	14.57% (74)	38.19% (194)	23.82% (121)	12.99% (66)	10.43% (53)
Females (178)	9.55% (17)	39.89% (71)	29.21% (52)	11.8% (21)	9.55% (17)
NARSOL(469)	12.79% (60)	41.15% (193)	24.09% (113)	12.79% (60)	9.17% (43)
ACSOL (284)	15.85% (45)	44.72% (127)	20.77% (59)	10.92% (31)	7.75% (22)
WAR (232)	15.52% (36)	41.38% (96)	24.14% (56)	12.93% (30)	6.03% (14)
TX-Voices(59)	20.34% (12)	52.54% (31)	8.47% (5)	10.17% (6)	8.47% (5)
FAC (193)	16.06% (31)	40.41% (78)	24.35% (47)	12.44% (24)	6.74% (13)
OnceFallen(138)	16.67% (23)	44.2% (61)	19.57% (27)	11.59% (16)	7.97% (11)
Republican(193)	15.03% (29)	35.75% (69)	26.94% (52)	13.47% (26)	8.81% (17)
Democratic(318)	12.89% (41)	43.08% (137)	22.64% (72)	11.95% (38)	9.43% (30)
Libertarian (55)	5.45% (3)	40% (22)	34.55% (19)	5.45% (3)	14.55% (8)
Other Party(129)	13.95% (18)	34.11% (44)	24.81% (32)	15.5% (20)	11.63% (15)

Q30: Do you feel registry reformists and abolitionists are currently doing enough to change public opinion about the sex offense registry?

@30: Are ARAs doing enough?	Yes: They're all doing the best that they can	Yes: Only some are; others can do more	No, they aren't doing enough	Unsure or don't know
Total (695)	36.26% (252)	19.71% (137)	26.19% (182)	17.84% (124)
RPs (464)	37.93% (176)	18.75% (87)	25.86% (120)	17.46% (81)
LOs (169)	36.09% (61)	17.16% (29)	27.22% (46)	19.53% (33)
Others (62)	24.19% (15)	33.87% (21)	25.81% (16)	16.13% (10)
Males (508)	36.61% (186)	19.69% (100)	26.77% (136)	16.93% (86)
Females (178)	36.52% (65)	19.66% (35)	24.72% (44)	19.1% (34)
NARSOL(469)	36.67% (172)	20.26% (95)	27.72% (130)	15.35% (72)
ACSOL (284)	38.03% (108)	23.24% (66)	22.89% (65)	15.85% (45)
WAR (232)	34.48% (80)	23.71% (55)	26.29% (61)	15.52% (36)
TX-Voices(59)	50.85% (30)	18.64% (11)	22.03% (13)	8.47% (5)
FAC (193)	36.79% (71)	23.83% (46)	22.28% (43)	17.1% (33)
OnceFallen(138)	36.96% (51)	26.81% (37)	24.64% (34)	11.59% (16)
Republican(193)	36.27% (70)	17.62% (34)	27.46% (53)	18.65% (36)
Democratic(318)	38.36% (122)	21.7% (69)	24.53% (78)	15.41% (49)
Libertarian (55)	27.27% (15)	23.64% (13)	30.91% (17)	18.18% (10)
Other Party(129)	34.88% (45)	16.28% (21)	26.36% (34)	22.48% (29)

Q32: Do you think working with victim industry advocates (VIAs) and victim advocating agencies helps or harm efforts to reform or abolish sex offense registry laws?

Q32: VIAs help or hurt?	Completely harms- we can't coexist	Does more harm than good	Neither helps nor harms us	Helps more than it harms us	Completely helps/can't succeed w/o them	Unsure/ Don't Know
Total (695)	2.16% (15)	6.91% (48)	7.05% (49)	20.29% (141)	30.79% (214)	32.81% (228)
RPs (464)	2.8% (13)	7.76% (36)	8.19% (38)	20.47% (95)	29.96% (139)	30.82% (143)
LOs (169)	0.59% (1)	4.73% (8)	4.14% (7)	21.3% (36)	28.99% (49)	40.24% (68)
Others (62)	1.61% (1)	6.45% (4)	6.45% (4)	16.13% (10)	41.94% (26)	27.42% (17)
Males (508)	2.76% (14)	7.87% (40)	7.87% (40)	20.67% (105)	30.71% (156)	30.12% (153)
Females (178)	0.56% (1)	4.49% (8)	4.49% (8)	20.22% (36)	30.34% (54)	39.89% (71)
NARSOL (469)	2.35% (11)	6.4% (30)	6.4% (30)	22.81% (107)	30.49% (143)	31.56% (148)
ACSOL (284)	2.46% (7)	7.39% (21)	7.75% (22)	23.24% (66)	28.52% (81)	30.63% (87)
WAR (232)	3.02% (7)	9.05% (21)	6.03% (14)	20.26% (47)	28.02% (65)	33.62% (78)
TX-Voices (59)	1.69% (1)	5.08% (3)	1.69% (1)	16.95% (10)	40.68% (24)	33.9% (20)
FAC (193)	1.55% (3)	6.22% (12)	7.77% (15)	23.32% (45)	29.53% (57)	31.61% (61)
Once Fallen (138)	4.35% (6)	10.87% (15)	8.7% (12)	18.12% (25)	26.09% (36)	31.88% (44)
Republican (193)	3.11% (6)	10.88% (21)	7.25% (14)	13.99% (27)	24.35% (47)	40.41% (78)
Democratic (318)	1.26% (4)	3.14% (10)	5.97% (19)	26.1% (83)	37.42% (119)	26.1% (83)
Libertarian (55)	0% (0)	14.55% (8)	9.09% (5)	20% (11)	23.64% (13)	32.73% (18)
Other Party (129)	3.88% (5)	6.98% (9)	8.53% (11)	15.5% (20)	27.13% (35)	37.98% (49)

Q38: If a person who identified as a registry reformist or abolitionist identified as a "Minor Attracted Person" or "Pedophile", how would you react?

Q38: React to MAP or pedophile in ARM?	I would actively work to expel person from ARM	I would simply not work with this person	I would work cautiously with this person	I wouldn't treat this person any different from other ARAs	Unsure/ I don't know
Total (695)	4.75% (33)	4.75% (33)	22.45% (156)	46.33% (322)	21.73% (151)
RPs (464)	4.53% (21)	3.66% (17)	21.77% (101)	48.28% (224)	21.77% (101)
LOs (169)	4.73% (8)	7.69% (13)	26.63% (45)	37.28% (63)	23.67% (40)
Others (62)	6.45% (4)	4.84% (3)	16.13% (10)	56.45% (35)	16.13% (10)
Males (508)	4.53% (23)	4.53% (23)	21.85% (111)	48.23% (245)	20.87% (106)
Females (178)	5.62% (10)	5.62% (10)	23.6% (42)	40.45% (72)	24.72% (4)
NARSOL (469)	4.9% (23)	3.62% (17)	22.39% (105)	48.19% (226)	20.9% (98)
ACSOL (284)	4.23% (12)	4.58% (13)	19.37% (55)	51.41% (146)	20.42% (58)
WAR (232)	3.45% (8)	4.74% (11)	24.14% (56)	48.71% (113)	18.97% (44)
TX-Voices (59)	6.78% (4)	8.47% (5)	16.95% (10)	45.76% (27)	22.03% (13)
FAC (193)	4.15% (8)	5.7% (11)	18.65% (36)	44.56% (86)	26.94% (52)
Once Fallen (138)	5.07% (7)	3.62% (5)	23.19% (32)	47.83% (66)	20.29% (28)
Republican (193)	6.22% (12)	7.25% (14)	21.24% (41)	41.97% (81)	23.32% (45)
Democratic (318)	3.14% (10)	3.77% (12)	24.21% (77)	50.94% (162)	17.92% (57)
Libertarian (55)	3.64% (2)	5.45% (3)	16.36% (9)	40% (22)	34.55% (19)
Other Party (129)	6.98% (9)	3.1% (4)	22.48% (29)	44.19% (57)	23.26% (30)

Q37: Do you think registry reform and abolition groups should be discussing topics related to “Minor Attracted Persons” (MAPs) or people who openly admit to struggling with feelings of pedophilia?

Q37: Should we discuss pedophilia & MAPs?	We should have open & public discussions	Discussions should only be closed-door	MAPs have no place in the ARM
Total (695)	45.47% (316)	32.66% (227)	21.87% (152)
RPs (464)	42.24% (196)	33.84% (157)	23.92% (111)
LOs (169)	47.93% (81)	32.54% (55)	19.53% (33)
Others (62)	62.9% (39)	24.19% (15)	12.9% (8)
Males (508)	43.7% (222)	33.27% (169)	23.03% (117)
Females (178)	48.88% (87)	31.46% (56)	19.66% (35)
NARSOL (469)	44.99% (211)	32.41% (152)	22.6% (106)
ACSOL (284)	44.37% (126)	35.56% (101)	20.07% (57)
WAR (232)	46.55% (108)	35.78% (83)	17.67% (41)
TX-Voices (59)	45.76% (27)	28.81% (17)	25.42% (15)
FAC (193)	41.45% (80)	37.82% (73)	20.73% (40)
Once Fallen (138)	39.13% (54)	41.3% (57)	19.57% (27)
Republican (193)	42.49% (82)	29.53% (57)	27.98% (54)
Democratic (318)	50.31% (160)	33.65% (107)	16.04% (51)
Libertarian (55)	36.36% (20)	32.73% (18)	30.91% (17)
Other Party (129)	41.86% (54)	34.88% (45)	23.26% (30)

DISCUSSION

“Attempting to learn more, but find that group are very ‘busy’ in their own direction and have not much interest or desire to assist where it does not benefit their agenda. Kind of sucks to claim one thing, get you on an e-mail but refuse to even get back on question interest or need for assistance or direction. Very Sad, seems that only the “Registered” continue to suffer...” – One survey respondent who is frustrated with the perceived lack of assistance from our movement

NARSOL, ACSOL, and WAR are often seen as the three main anti-registry activist groups because all three engage in activism at a national level in various ways. All of the groups mentioned in this survey state explicit desires to reform or abolish the registry:

- ACSOL: “Sex offense laws and policies should be based on sound research and common sense, not fear, panic or paranoia. Current laws and policies that paint all people convicted of a sex offense with one broad brush are counter-productive, wasteful, and cause needless harm...The public sex offense registry and residency restriction laws do not protect children but instead ostracize and dehumanize individuals and their families.”⁴³
- FAC: “Florida Action Committee (FAC) intends to inform the media, public, and legislators with facts versus myths about the sex offender registry and citizens forced to register. Registry schemes are proven to be harmful to society and unconstitutional. Therefore, FAC works to reform the registry in Florida.”⁴⁴

⁴³ “About Us.” ACSOL. Accessed 19 Aug 2024 at <https://all4consolaws.org/about-us/>

⁴⁴ “About Us.” FAC. Accessed 19 Aug 2024 at <https://floridaactioncommittee.org/about-us/>

- NARSOL: “We advocate for the abolishment of dehumanizing registries as they are ineffective, wasteful, and contradictory to rehabilitation and public safety.”⁴⁵
- Once Fallen: “OnceFallen.com advocates for the ethical and positive treatment and support for those who offended so that they may live productive and offense free lives. We support evidence-based (PROVEN) methods of prevention, education and treatment. We believe the public registry, residency restrictions, community notification, registry fees, GPS monitoring, and other post-release sanctions are NOT evidence-based and are ineffective as methods to achieving an offense-free society. Thus, we will publicly oppose these oppressive sanctions until these sanctions are fully abolished.”⁴⁶
- Texas Voices: “We believe that once a person has completed his sentence, he has paid his debt to society, and no retroactive law should be imposed to continue his punishment for a lifetime...Public registries provide no measurable protection for children or the general public yet endangers the well-being of children and family members of registrants. Public registration, proximity restrictions, and residency restrictions that are extended beyond an individual’s sentence are punitive and thereby violate protected constitutional rights.”⁴⁷
- WAR: “Women Against Registry (WAR) is an organization dedicated to the abolition of the sex offender registry.”⁴⁸

NARSOL is by far the largest of these groups, with three out of every five ARAs in this survey are supporters or members of NARSOL. ACSOL is in second place, though it may be noted that while ACSOL may be seen as a national-level activist group, their primary focus is California. FAC is the largest activist group solely focused on state-level activism, with Texas Voices in second place. Once Fallen, the information and activist resource website that created this survey, receives support from only one in five ARAs. The larger the activist group, the more influence that organization has and the more resources it can obtain.

Many ARAs are supporters of multiple ARA groups:

Member	NARSOL	ACSQL	WAR	TX Voices	Once Fallen	FAC	Others
NARSOL	X	43.92%	39.45%	10.45%	24.31%	31.13%	30.06%
ACSQL	72.54%	X	46.48%	9.51%	29.23%	36.62%	22.89%
WAR	79.74%	56.9%	X	15.52%	36.64%	42.24%	33.63%
TX-Voices	83.05%	45.76%	61.02%	X	40.68%	52.54%	45.76%
Once Fallen	82.61%	61.59%	60.14%	17.39%	X	56.52%	41.3%
FAC	75.65%	53.89%	50.78%	16.06%	40.41%	X	29.02%
Others	81.5%	37.57%	45.09%	15.61%	32.95%	32.37%	X

While most ARA groups have a nearly equal percentage of supporters who are Registered Persons, their loved ones, and those in the ‘Other’ category, but ACSOL has a slightly larger percentage of support from Registered Persons, WAR and Texas Voices have a higher percentage of loved ones of Registrants, and those in the “Others” category comprise a higher percentage of other anti-registry groups. There are

⁴⁵ “The Sex Offender Registry.” NARSOL. Accessed 19 Aug 2024 at <https://www.narsol.org/about/assertions/the-sex-offender-registry/>

⁴⁶ “ONCE FALLEN MISSION STATEMENT, DISCLAIMERS, AND CONTENT USE POLICIES” on main page at <https://oncefallen.com/>

⁴⁷ “About Texas Voices.” Texas Voices. Accessed 19 Aug 2024 at <https://texasvoices.org/about-texas-voices/>

⁴⁸ “Our Position on the Registry.” WAR. Accessed 19 Aug 2024 at <https://www.womenagainstregistry.org/about-war/our-position-on-the-registry>

significantly more Democratic voters in NARSOL (+11%) and ACSOL (+14%) than Republican voters, while there are more Republican voters in WAR (+7%) than Democratic voters.

Overall, there are more Anti-Registry Activists have a positive outlook on the direction of the movement as a whole than there are folks with a negative outlook. Just over half of ARAs believe the Anti-Registry Movement is having at least a positive impact in their lives, compared to just 22.5% who disagree it is making a positive impact. Over a third of ARAs believe that anti-registry groups are doing the best job they can under the circumstances, with nearly one on four ARAs feel only some groups are doing their part; just over one in four ARAs feel we could all be doing more for the sake of anti-registry activism. Texas Voices supporters (51%) have the most positive outlook on the Anti-Registry Movement as a whole. Loved ones are least likely to strongly agree anti-registry efforts are making positive changes (8% LOs, 14% RPs and 16% others), while those in the “Others” category are less likely to say anti-registry activists are all doing the best they can (24% versus 38% RPs and 36% LOs) and more likely to say only SOME groups are doing their best and others need to do more (34% versus 19% RPs and 17% LOs).

It is hard to compare the results of this survey to the results of surveys that gauged the views of other recent movements, like the Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement or the #MeToo campaign, since every respondent to this survey identifies as someone who is involved in anti-registry activism. So for the sake of argument, we can look at how women view the #MeToo movement and how Black Americans view Black Lives Matter. The satisfaction results of this survey are comparable to women who believe the #MeToo movement is a positive movement; 57% of women agree it is at least slightly positive compared to 13% who viewed it as at least slightly negative. About 59% of women believe the #MeToo movement will lead to positive changes in society, compared to 34% who felt it was a distraction.⁴⁹ However, Black Americans have an overwhelmingly positive view of the Black Lives Matter movement—48% view BLM as very positive, 36% say BLM is “somewhat” effective, and only 14% say it has little to no impact on bringing attention to issues of racism; 51% of Black Americans describe BLM as “empowering” and/or “inclusive,” while 28% describe BLM as “divisive” or “dangerous.” This was even after a drop in overall support since 2020.⁵⁰ Of course, these surveys are not a cross-section of only #MeToo or Black Lives Matter Activists, but overall, those who are impacted by the work of activists often see that work in a positive light.

Anti-Registry Activists have a largely positive view of all of the activist groups within the Anti-Registry Movement. NARSOL received the most negative votes, but considering it has the most support and thus the largest group among ARAs, the results are not surprising. This does not take into account why anyone feels animosity or disdain for a particular group or individual within the Anti-Registry Movement. Though the numbers of “haters” remains small, NARSOL not only had the lowest satisfaction rating, it had roughly two and a half times more negativity from Registered Persons as the next organization on the list.

One former NARSOL Board member posted a negative critique of NARSOL and the Anti-Registry Movement as a whole. The critica argued:

⁴⁹ Erin Pinkus. “TIME/SurveyMonkey poll: #MeToo movement.” Survey Monkey. 2017. Accessed 19 Aug 2024 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/curiosity/timesurveymonkey-poll-metoo-movement/>

⁵⁰ Juliana Horowitz, Kiley Hurst and Dana Braga. “Support for the Black Lives Matter Movement Has Dropped Considerably From Its Peak in 2020.” Pew Research. June 2023. Accessed 19 Aug 2024 at https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/06/ST_2023.06.14_BLM-Support_Report.pdf

“I didn’t join for a title. I joined with purpose: to drag that organization from the dark ages into the 21st century. I aimed to open the door to fresh voices, younger leaders, and a generation that understands how modern advocacy must be built—out loud, online, and energized.”

“But what I encountered wasn’t innovation or strategy. It was calcification.”

“NARSOL functions like a dominant introvert agency—quiet, inward-facing, and strangely cautious for a cause that demands public courage. While introversion may serve well in legal circles or support groups, it fails when you’re trying to lead a national movement. What the organization needed—and still needs—is a bold dose of extroversion. It needs fire-starters, relationship-builders, and unapologetic storytellers. Instead, it clings to quiet comfort, controlled environments, and top-down leadership that sees any fresh perspective as a threat rather than an opportunity.”

“While I served on the board, I made it my mission to go on a listening tour. I personally reached out to people within the organization—members, volunteers, supporters. I didn’t call to talk—I called to listen. And what I heard was both startling and eye-opening. Members felt disconnected, voiceless, and ignored by the very leadership that claimed to represent them. They had ideas, passion, and needs—but they were being overlooked, even dismissed. I took those concerns back to the board, expecting reflection and action. What I got was indifference. What those members got was silence. And that silence continues to this day.”

“That’s when I realized real change wouldn’t come from the top. So, I left...”

“I now see NARSOL scrambling to do what it could have done all along: build relationships with elected officials—and, just as importantly, with its most prized asset: its membership. Desperate for traction, they’re considering expensive lobbyists or attempting to reinvent the wheel. But the truth is, the wheel was already built—they just didn’t want to ride it.”

“And it’s not just a matter of being stuck in the mud—it’s as if they’ve packed the mud around their own wheels and called it strategy.”

“Even more concerning is how NARSOL continues to turn away people who want to help. Former members—experienced, motivated, and full of renewed energy—have expressed a desire to re-engage. Rather than welcoming them with open arms, leadership folds its arms in silence...”

“NARSOL isn’t alone in this dysfunction. ACSOL suffers from similar stagnation. While it’s earned praise for its legal efforts, its structure remains overly centralized—heavily reliant on a single voice and personality. It has become protectionist, almost cult-like in its hierarchy. And Women Against Registry (WAR) has suffered its own setbacks, increasingly caught up in splintered leadership and unclear strategy. Rather than uniting behind common goals, these organizations seem more interested in one-upping each other than building a movement.

“All of them—NARSOL, ACSOL, WAR—are 501(c)(3) nonprofits. But I’ve never seen a single press release or announcement showing they’ve given a dime toward charitable work...”

“Movements aren’t just about filing lawsuits. They’re about lifting people. And right now, too many national advocacy groups are lifting only themselves.”⁵¹

These are great words but they also come from a former activist that did his own share of alienating people from the movement, including falsely claiming the author of this report engaged in “swatting” him (i.e., the act of calling into a police station with the intent of getting a person’s houses raided by a SWAT team), posted my mugshot, and worked to have my social media accounts deleted following a false allegation levied against me in 2019. Dwayne Daughtry engaged in his own campaign to stymie activism through personally attacking and campaigning against a fellow activist. This critique, while largely fair and accurate, also reeks of hypocrisy and a lack of self-awareness.

It is often said that “everybody’s a critic.” Criticism is probably as old as humanity itself. Our word “critic” was derived from the Latin word *criticus*, which in turn was likely borrowed from the Greek adjective *kritikós*, meaning “discerning, capable of judging.” Everyone who reaches out to an anti-registry activist group or individual activist reaches out to us for a reason, and that reason is most likely a personal issue. Many have their own opinions as to what services we should be offering and how we should offer these services. While I cannot speak for other groups, Once Fallen has received negative feedback from those who expect services that Once Fallen does not offer.

If we were to make a positive-to-negative ratio of supporters of each group versus those who feel an organization is doing more harm than good to make a satisfaction rating (or “hater” to use Internet vernacular), the ranking would look like this:

- Texas Voices: 59 supporters for every hater
- ACSOL: 23.7 supporters for every hater
- Once Fallen: 19.7 supporters for every hater
- FAC: 19.3 supporters for every hater
- WAR: 14.5 supporters for every hater
- Other ARA groups: 14.4 supporters for every hater
- NARSOL: 14.2 supporters for every hater

The most popular strategies among Anti-Registry Activists in this survey included influencing lawmakers, filing litigation, influencing the media, and gathering useful resources such as information about housing, employment, and social services) to help returning citizens forced to register it on their feet, all agreed upon by over four out of five ARAs. Support groups were just below 80% by less than half a percent. Public speaking events and protests or public awareness campaigns received the least votes but retained the support of at least three out of five ARAs. Texas Voices (at 88%) ranked 10 points higher than other groups in valuing public speaking events and +8% in offering support groups (92%); NARSOL supporters (at 64%) ranked lowest for valuing protests & public awareness events. Loved ones placed a higher value on resource gathering and support groups. While not statistically significant, RPs were least likely to pick protests/public awareness campaigns and public speaking campaigns and more likely to select litigation/lawsuits. Republican voters were less likely to choose litigation/lawsuits, gathering resources, and support groups than Democratic voters.

⁵¹ Dwayne (“Sam”) Daughtry. “The Quiet Collapse of Sex Offense Advocacy.” Substack. 25 July 2025. Accessed 29 July 2025 at <https://dsdaughtry.substack.com/p/the-quiet-collapse-of-sex-offense>

When given the option to suggest other strategies, about 12% of Anti-Registry Activists took the opportunity to make suggestions. These suggested strategies included social media campaigns, developing registrant-supportive businesses, relational organizing & canvassing, directly engaging POTUS, writing OpEds, school assemblies to warn young men about the registry, debunking myths, eliminating background/registry checks, pushing for transparency of registry offices and registry supporters, helping RPs obtain pardons, zoom meeting, sponsor a lobbyist, legal defense funds, taking on TV shows publishing misleading info, educational videos, positive stories of RPs, support orgs open to assisting RPs, billboards, and working with various sex-positive organizations.

There are numerous strategies we can employ while engaging in anti-registry activism. Most of these we have tried to various degrees. These are all great suggestions, but such projects require people willing to put forth the work required to engage in all these activities.

Three out of four Anti-Registry Activists believe everyone has a role to play in anti-registry activism. Among those who believe some groups should not be participating in efforts to reform or abolish the registry, victim advocates (69, 9.93%) or at the top of the list at nearly 10% of ARAs, followed by criminal justice advocacy groups not directly tied to registry reformists, a person currently required to register, and minors whose loved one are on the registry. Registered Persons are most likely to say “victim advocates” (12%). Republicans were more likely to think victim industry advocates should be excluded from anti-registry activism (+7%), and more likely to think criminal justice agencies not directly tied to anti-registry activism should also be excluded (+6%). Overall, Democratic voters (+11%) were more likely to say no one should be excluded from anti-registry activism than Republican voters.

Despite the fact that only 50 out of the 695 ARAs (7.19%) responded they felt a person currently listed on the registry should not be advocating against the registry, some people within the Anti-Registry Movement believe Registered Persons should be on the front lines of anti-registry activism. This attitude is reflected in a small study comprised solely of members of NARSOL. Most of the responses stated they believed that “family members have more perceived credibility as a witness than the registrants themselves” and it is “a preference for the family members to testify over the registrants themselves as they can shed light on the far reaching effects of the registry; that it does not just impact those on the registry but that family members experience collateral consequences of registration as well as is supported by previous research.”⁵² This attitude feels counterintuitive; it implies Registered Persons should have a diminished voice if they are even allowed to have a voice at all.

In the past, the author of this study was informally told by other ARAs that research, studies, and surveys conducted by Registered Persons held little to no value, even in the context of “for us, by us” or internal discussions. While this may be true among those outside the anti-registry activism sphere but writes reports on our movement, ARAs should not have the same attitude.

From the early days of the Anti-Registry Movement, the author of this report has advocated for transparency within the movement. NARSOL, to their credit, has been transparent by publicly posting the names of key staff members on their website.⁵³ This does not come without risk; in a June 2025 hate campaign by the far-right extremist group known as the ‘Proud Boys’, organized an online hate campaign focusing primarily on one Transgender Registrant on staff while falsely claiming NARSOL funnels

⁵² Tyler, J. L. W., University of Texas at, Tyler, D. J. S. B., University of Texas at, & Tyler, S. T., University of Texas at. (2024). Campaigning for change: How state-level groups advocate for legislative sexual offense reform. *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice & Criminology*. <https://doi.org/10.21428/88de04a1.2ad1315d>

⁵³ See <https://www.narsol.org/about/leadership/>

money from victim advocacy into anti-registry activism. The group targeted five staffers who are or were previously forced to register⁵⁴ but did not mention the other staff members who were not on the registry.

Despite the threats and vitriol, it is still important to be transparent, because the common accusation is that we are trying to hide something.

VICTIM INDUSTRY ADVOCATES (VIAs)

“Try to get Geraldo Rivera, Van Jones, Greta Susteren, and “Dr Phil” on our team and involved. Also, Mrs. Wetterling and Elizabeth Smart.” – One respondent who believes we should reach out to those who advocated for and supported registration laws

“Without the involvement of victim advocacy, there will never be reform of any of the sex offense social control legislation.” Another respondent

Allowing Victim Industry Advocates (VIAs) into efforts to anti-registry activism feels akin to two warring nations seeking a ceasefire rather than as comrades-in-arms. The majority of VIAs strongly advocate in favor of increasing sanctions against Registered Persons. A couple of examples:

- Among other things, Florida’s controversial “Lauren’s Kids” charity boasts of legislation to increase residency restrictions,⁵⁵ which led to an increase of homeless Registrants in South Florida.
- Parents For Megan’s Law has a contract with Suffolk Co., NY to conduct compliance checks on Registered Persons. This vile practice was upheld by the 2nd Circuit Court.⁵⁶

This is not to say that all victim advocates blindly support the public registry. In 2007, Patty Wetterling, the woman who helped advocate for the first federal sex offense registry law (named after her son, Jacob Wetterling), wrote an Op-Ed condemning the sex offense registry. “I’m worried that we’re focusing so much energy on naming and shaming convicted sex offenders that we’re not doing as much as we should to protect our children from other real threats,” Patty Wetterling wrote in 2007. “We need to keep sight of the goal: no more victims. We need to be realistic. Not all sex offenders are the same. Not all sex offenses are the same. We need to ask tougher questions: What can we do to help those who have offended so that they will not do it again? What are the social factors contributing to sexual violence and how can we turn things around? ...We need better answers. We need to fund prevention programs that stop sexual violence before it happens. We need to look at what can help those released from prison to succeed so that they don’t victimize again -- and that probably means housing and jobs and treatment and community support.”⁵⁷ But Wetterling is in the minority among victim advocates.

Roughly half of Anti-Registry Activists believe that working with Victim Industry Advocates is at least somewhat helpful (one out of three believe we “cannot succeed” without their assistance). One out of

⁵⁴ See “Autonomous Proud Boys and Local Citizens Unite To Expose NARSOL.” Proud Boys News. 14 June 2025. Accessed 23 June 2025 at <https://proudboys.club/news/autonomous-proud-boys-and-local-citizens-unite-to-expose-narsol/>; see also <https://exposingnarsol.org/>. Note that while I condemn the actions of these vigilantes, I must reference the attacks in hopes they are properly documented and reported.

⁵⁵ See “Legislative Advocacy.” Lauren’s Kids. Accessed 28 Aug 2024 at <https://laurenskids.org/advocacy/legislation/>

⁵⁶ Amanda Ottaway. “Second Circuit Backs Home Checks for Sex Offenders.” Courthouse News. 4 Sept 2019. Accessed 28 Aug 2024 at <https://www.courthousenews.com/second-circuit-backs-home-checks-for-sex-offenders/>

⁵⁷ Patty Wetterling. “Patty Wetterling: The harm in sex-offender laws.” Sacramento Bee. 14 Sept 2007. Accessed 28 Aug 2024 at <https://web.archive.org/web/20071214102600/http://www.sacbee.com/110/story/377462.html>

three ARAs unsure if VIAs are helpful or harmful, with loved ones being significantly more likely than Registered Persons or others to be unsure. One in ten ARAs believe VIAs will cause more harm than good for anti-registry activism. Men are twice more likely than women to believe VIAs harm, not help, the Anti-Registry Movement.

MINOR-ATTRACTED PERSONS (MAPs) AND AGE OF CONSENT (AoC)

“I don’t think a specific hardline age difference limit will solve any problems. That’s why I chose there should be no age of consent. Some current laws are based on how long two people have been together. Perhaps an expansion of that train of thought to include additional considerations for how well they know each other and the level of care between them could establish a starting point to determine if legal penalties are applicable on a case by case basis. As for a number of other questions such as event participation, minor attracted persons, and media/government contact I believe it depends on the specifics in each instance. Openly agreeing or disagreeing to most things in a vacuum without knowing the details is generally a bad idea. There are plenty of things I would seek to put into the proper context upfront.” – One survey respondent expressing apprehension over the topic of AoC laws

Anti-Registry Activists generally do not share opinions at all on legal age of consent laws, pedophilia, or the community of those who refer to themselves as “Minor Attracted Persons.” After all, anti-registry activism is focused on legal reforms of post-conviction sanctions. But long before the modern internet allowed people to freely accuse people of being “groomers” and “pedophiles”, people slowly banding together to help create what we now know as the “Anti-Registry Movement” had to deal with online vigilantes falsely claiming Anti-Registry Activists were advocating for abolishing age-of-consent laws and/or “normalizing pedophilia.” Early efforts against anti-registry activism largely came from small groups of online vigilantes, most notably from Perverted-Justice, the group most known for working with NBC’s highly controversial “To Catch a Predator” series. Or, more specifically, an spinoff group known as Absolute Zero United. (This was the group that led the counter-protest at the Silent No More rally in Columbus, OH in 2007.)

While Absolute Zero United went inactive in 2013, and Perverted-Justice also went defunct in 2019, their efforts led to some residual effects. Members of the group had spent years spreading claims that anti-registry groups were tied to “pro-pedophile activism,” and that has led to wild accusations against many anti-registry activists.⁵⁸ As a result, some ARAs may express reluctance to engage in public discussions against the sex offense registry or work with certain organizations.⁵⁹

Those outside the Anti-Registry Movement often cannot differentiate between our efforts to reintegrate people who have served punitive sanctions into society (something every group should be doing) and efforts to abolish age-of-consent laws or “normalizing pedophilia”, something we do not do. What does the term “normalizing pedophilia” even mean? “Normalize” is defined as “to allow or encourage (something considered extreme or taboo) to become viewed as normal. Example: “Let’s normalize real

⁵⁸ See Holly Hansen. “Anti-Sex Offender Registry Group Holds National Conference in Houston.” The Texan. 26 Jun 2023. Accessed 29 Aug 2024 at https://thetexan.news/issues/criminal-justice/anti-sex-offender-registry-group-holds-national-conference-in-houston/article_0dac0b74-9033-5a1e-925c-2b93f33e190a.html. See also Betsy Dupuis. “A brief history of NAMBLA and the Pedophilia lobby in Texas: Part I.” Surviving Austin. 8 Aug 2024. Accessed 29 Aug 2024 at <https://survivingaustin.substack.com/p/a-brief-history-of-nambla-and-the>

⁵⁹ See, for example, “RSO recently said he feels that NARSOL is a “tainted well.” Reddit. Accessed 29 Aug 2024 at https://www.reddit.com/r/SexOffenderSupport/comments/bs117u/rso_recently_said_he_feels_that_narsol_is_a/

talk around mental health.”⁶⁰ This definition is problematic because the assumption people are making is simply having a discussion about the issue is equal to supporting it, i.e., making it seem “normal” and thus “okay.” It is broken logic that is then used to misrepresent the message of ARM. “Normalizing pedophilia” has never been the purpose or goal of the Anti-Registry Movement. Having honest discussions on the subject of sex offenses should be openly discussed—how to prevent abuse the right way, how should we address the myriad of ineffective sex offense legislation that stymies reintegration efforts, and so on.

“Pedophile” is a clinical term, denoting prolonged sexual attraction to prepubescent minors. “Sex Offender” is a common and quasi-legal term denoting someone who has been convicted of an offense deemed sexual in nature, but may not even involve a minor or even a person (as in the case for CP offenses), or even an offense that is not necessarily sexual in nature (such as holding someone against their will). You can be convicted of a registerable sex offense without being diagnosed as having pedophilia. The reverse is also true—you can be a clinically diagnosed or admit to suffering from pedophilia without having committed a sex offense. Nobody can be a “convicted pedophile” because there is not a criminal statute called “pedophilia.” Further exacerbating the issue is the term “Minor Attracted Person” (MAP), which is a term for anyone who is attracted to anyone under the age of 18. So a person could be a MAP but be solely attracted to those ages 16-17, which is above the age of consent in many US states. Yet, the general public, particularly victim advocates routinely use MAP as a euphemism for “pedophile.” And even when Victim Industry Advocates admit that “that there should be appropriate and improved avenues for pedophiles to seek help and therapy,” these groups oppose even having discussions on the subject and accuse any who try of having dialogue with attempting to “normalize pedophilia.”⁶¹

Yet, the general public uses these words interchangeably. People often use the term “convicted pedophile” in many circumstances where a person could not even be diagnosed with pedophilia. Age of consent laws are between age 16 and 18 in the US, with 16 being the most common age, but the universal age for consent for making and/or sharing nude images is 18 nationwide. Thus, a 16-year-old could have consensual sex with a 16-year-old classmate but can get arrested for sharing nude selfies. That minor could be charged with “production”, “distribution”, or “possession” of Child Pornography.

Derek Logue (the author of this report) has been an Anti-Registry Activist for about two decades, and has experienced numerous personal attacks firsthand. For example, in January 2010, CNN wrote an article about civil commitment, and Logue was quoted in the article, but labeled him a “convicted pedophile.” Logue complained and CNN edited the article to refer to him as a “sex offender”⁶² (as if that was better), Logue received a series of threatening calls from a small group of individuals calling and emailing from Kansas. In 2012, Logue was interviewed by Russia Today (RT) on the subject of castration; at the time, RT allowed certain videos to be downloaded; the file extension name was “kidfucker”, which was changed after Logue complained to the news outlet. Which this is only one ARA’s example, other ARAs have shared similar negative experiences.

⁶⁰ “Normalize.” Merriam-Webster. Accessed 29 Aug 2024 at <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/normalize>

⁶¹ See Olivia Burnett. “Exposing the Dangerous Movement to Normalize Pedophilia as a Sexual Orientation.” Exodus Cry. 20 Jan 2022. Accessed 30 Aug 2024 at <https://exoduscry.com/articles/exposing-the-dangerous-movement-to-normalize-pedophilia-as-a-sexual-orientation/>

⁶² Bill Mears. “Can sex offenders be held after serving criminal sentences?” CNN. 12 Jan 2010. Accessed 15 Sept 2024 at <https://www.cnn.com/2010/CRIME/01/12/scotus.sex.offender.law/index.html>

The lynch mob mentality with discussing the topic of pedophilia or with the MAP community extends to any efforts to even have a discussion about the issue. In 2022, sociology professor Allyn Walker conducted a study of 42 diagnosed persons who claimed they were attracted to prepubescent minors. Walker found:

“When these study participants realized they were attracted to children, they were usually horrified. They worried they were “monsters” destined to abuse a child. This fear often led them to ask for help. But those who told loved ones about their attractions risked abandonment; those who told a therapist risked being denied care, outed to family or mistakenly reported to the police. Because these experiences were common, others refused to reach out for support, even if they wanted help to stop themselves from acting on their attractions.”

My findings indicate that making help more available to people who are attracted to children can prevent abuse. But increasing the availability of help for these individuals means increasing education about attractions to children among people who have these attractions, their friends and family, mental health care providers and beyond. We should of course continue condemning child sexual abuse, but we simultaneously need to broaden awareness that people with attractions to children are not doomed to abuse; they can consistently make positive choices and help keep children safe.”⁶³

Walker was attacked online. Walker wrote, “(T)he writers were less concerned with preventing child sexual abuse and more focused on attacking me personally. I had expected most to argue against my proposed prevention strategies. But almost no one did. Instead anti-trans and anti-gay sentiments were the most prominent theme in my hate mail, showing up in 78 of 231 messages, with frequent claims that my transgender identity equated to mental illness and insinuations of a harmful gay or trans “agenda.”... This wasn’t just transphobia; it was using the notion of child abuse victimhood—the very cruelty these writers claimed they opposed—as a weapon to demean and stigmatize. People also wrote to me with death threats and threatened sexual violence against children in my family.”⁶⁴ More than 15,500 people signed an online petition calling for their removal from Old Dominion University, and Walker resigned as a professor, later landing a position at Johns Hopkins University’s Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.⁶⁵

Miranda Galbreath, Licensed Professional Counselor at Pennsylvania Department of Corrections faced similar backlash after an intentionally edited portion of a video Galbreath posted on YouTube to make it appear she was “defending pedophiles.” The entire video was not shared by those who attacked Galbreath online but in the full video, Galbreath made it clear that people who abuse children should be punished and that talking candidly to those who abuse children helps develop strategies to prevent abuse. Galbreath was smeared by the vile “Liberals of TikTok” Twitter page and received death threats from far-right extremists. Galbreath later told a reporter that she lost her job and now works in private practice.⁶⁶

⁶³ Allyn Walker. “Preventing Child Abuse Should Not Be Controversial. My Own Hate Mail Reveals That It Is.” *Scientific American*. 15 Jan 2024. Accessed 30 Aug at <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/preventing-child-abuse-should-not-be-controversial-my-own-hate-mail-reveals-that-it-is/>

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ AP. “Professor whose ‘minor-attracted person’ research on pedophilia created stir lands new job.” *Washington Times*. 15 May 2022. Accessed 30 Aug 2024 at <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/may/15/allyn-walker-professor-whose-pedophilia-research-c/>

⁶⁶ Andrew Mark Miller. “Licensed Pennsylvania sex therapist defends ‘minor-attracted persons’ in viral video.” *Fox News*. 11 Aug 2024. Accessed 30 Aug 2024 at <https://www.foxnews.com/us/licensed-pennsylvania-sex-therapist-defends-minor-attracted-persons-viral-video>

The Anti-Registry Movement has struggled with terminology, presumably in part due to the public backlash we face simply by advocating against the sex offense registry. Over the years, we've shifted terminology away from the use of "sex offender" because of the negative effect of the term. The "S.O." in the acronyms of anti-registry organizations now stands for "sex OFFENSE" rather than "sex OFFENDER" because it signifies a move away from the past. Throughout this survey, the term Registered Person, Registrant, or even Person Forced to Register is used to denote a person currently required to register to be placed on the public sex offense registry.

Those outside ARM view our efforts attack us for the use of our own terminology. Recently, Anna Slatz, a far-right extremist and known Nazi sympathizer, led an online attack on an ARA for use of the term "Person Forced to Register," deriding it as "latest progressive newspeak."⁶⁷ (Newspeak, according to Merriam-Webster, is "propagandistic language marked by euphemism, circumlocution, and the inversion of customary meanings."⁶⁸)

But some ARAs dislike the term "Person Forced to Register"; one ARA wrote in a NARSOL Op-Ed that the term PFR "perpetuates a victim mentality. A person forced to register is a person who has no control over his life or his future. He can do nothing to make his life better. When he is forced, he is a victim and will remain a victim as long as he sees himself as being forced... Rather than being forced, they are required, obligated, but they are choosing to comply with a law—no matter how wrong or how despised—that says they must register. They have control of their actions, their lives, and their futures. It's just semantics, some will say, and yes, it is, but semantics matter. Words matter. Many, many very active and capable advocates are required to register. They protest. They lobby. They speak out at legislative hearings. They write editorials. They volunteer with advocacy organizations and other worthy criminal justice reform movements. They serve on the boards of such organizations. They become NARSOL contacts and advocates and form NARSOL state groups. They are not sitting and waiting for someone else to save them. They take the responsibility for their lives and their future, and they do all that they can to work for the betterment of people who are required to register and for the abolishment of the registry."⁶⁹

ARAs disagree on the terminology of what to call those who fight against post-release sanctions for persons convicted of sex offenses; no doubt some readers may be angered that I've chosen to refer to respondents to my survey as "Anti-Registry Activists" and the collective efforts to change sex offense legislation as an "Anti-Registry Movement." So if we struggle to define ourselves, surely we struggle with the term "Minor-Attracted Person" (MAP). Even those who identify as MAPs have divided over terminology, with some preferring to use the term NOMAP (Non-Offending Minor-Attracted Person) to separate themselves from those who have committed an offense.

Among respondents to this survey, Just over one in five ARAs (21.87%) believe MAPs "have no place in our movement"; while it is not surprising that Republicans (28%) were far more likely to shun MAPs than

⁶⁷ See <https://x.com/Slatzism/status/1795858463903379935>

⁶⁸ "Newspeak." Merriam-Webster. Accessed 29 Aug 2024 at <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/newspeak> ; The site adds, "Newspeak was characterized by the elimination or alteration of certain words, the substitution of one word for another, the interchangeability of parts of speech, and the creation of words for political purposes. The word has caught on in general use to refer to confusing or deceptive bureaucratic jargon."

⁶⁹ Sandy Rozek. "What's in a word?" NARSOL. 26 July 2024. Accessed 29 Aug 2024 at <https://www.narsol.org/2024/07/whats-in-a-word/>

Democrats (16%), it is a little surprising to know that Registered Persons (24%) were the most likely to shun MAPs (compared to 20% of Loved Ones and 13% of those in the “Others” category).

Nearly half of ARAs (45.47%) believe we should have to open and public discussions about MAPs, and one out of three ARAs (33.66%) believe discussions should remain behind closed doors. Those in the “Others” category (63%) are far more likely than Loved Ones (48%) and Registered Persons (42%) to say there should be open discussions about MAPs; this means, of course, Registered Persons and their Loved Ones (at 33%-34%) were more likely to opt for discussions behind closed doors than those in the “Others” category (24%).

Only about one in twenty ARAs (4.75%) stated they would actively work to expel a MAP from the movement and an equal amount (4.75%) stated they would refuse to associate with a MAP. Loved Ones (8%) are slightly more likely than “Others” (5%) or Registered Persons (to refuse to work with a MAP (LOs 8% vs 4% RPs and 5% Others), while “Others” (7%) are only slightly more likely to push to expel a MAP than Registered Persons and their Loved Ones (5% each). Republicans (42%) are far less likely to say they’d treat a MAP the same as any other activist compared to Democrats (51%).

Just under one in four ARAs (22.45%) would work cautiously with a MAP, while nearly half (46.33%) would treat a MAP the same as any other activist. Loved Ones (27%) are most likely to work cautiously with MAPs compared to 22% of Registered Persons and 16% of Others. Those in the Others category (56%) are the most likely to treat MAPs the same as any other activist, compared to 48% of Registered Persons and 37% of Loved Ones.

Since the early days of the Anti-Registry Movement, anti-registry activists have had to tow a fine line between acceptance that every Registered Person should be a part of anti-registry activism and excluding those with activities that are harmful to our own efforts. The front page of Once Fallen places the following disclaimer: “The members of OnceFallen.com (and members of the Anti-Registry Movement) do not promote or condone sexual abuse of any kind, nor we do not work to lower/ abolish age of consent laws; we DO NOT affiliate, support, or align ourselves active members of such groups like NAMBLA or “Boychat/ Girlchat” sites, or other sites that are known to promote illicit activity, or with groups or individuals that promote sex offense registries in any form (including tiered registries, Law Enforcement-Only registries) or who attack anti-registry activists.”

The intent is not to discourage those struggling with pedophilia from seeking help; some advocacy groups share various organizations like Virtuous Pedophiles or B4U-Act to help those struggling with such issues to find a support group to encourage them never to act out. While the majority of Registered Persons are not admitted or diagnosed with pedophilia, some are, but some persons who admitted or diagnosed with pedophilia have never acted out. However, the stigma of the term “pedophile” exists even among those who have been convicted of sexual offenses.

To be clear, the Anti-Registry Movement’s focus is not so much on prevention of sexual abuse but on working on the issues related to post-release sanctions faced by those forced to register, from residency restriction laws to community notification to the registry. However, Anti-Registry Activist groups have made “no more victims” part of their mission statements. We encourage and support positive treatment and prevention programs when they exist. But it seems we cannot even be allowed to have honest conversations about prevention because the stigma even prevents us from talking about this subject, even amongst ourselves.

Of course, whenever we encounter the online lynch mobs, we must consider the reality that poorly educated lynch mobs were here to stay but the storm blows over. Following the story that former football assistant at Penn State University Jerry Sandusky had allegedly abused minors, the same people that form

lynch mobs sent death threats to Gerry Sandusky, an announcer for the Baltimore Ravens. (Note: That's Gerry with a G and no relation to Jerry with a J.) As noted by NBC Sports in 2012, "Gerry Sandusky has been called a pervert, told to rot in hell and dealt with all other manners of negative spew despite having a Twitter bio that is devoted to pointing out the difference in their names and their lack of any actual association. His Twitter feed is filled with pleas to notice the difference in their names and requests to rethink the desire to see him burn in Hades as well as a sign that he hasn't lost his sense of humor passed along via FoxSports.com. 'I feel like a Geico commercial. In the time it takes you to send me a hate tweet, you could read my bio and see that I'm not related.'"⁷⁰

I feel like our movement could learn from "Gerry with a G." In 2020, Gerry Sandusky wrote about the aftermath of being targeted for his name alone. He wrote:

"All these years later I still get the flinch, the visible look of startle in people's eyes when they hear my name... I still remember the day the story first broke thinking, '\$%!) this is going to be a nightmare marathon. Even to this day I get several recommendations a week on social media that I should change my name. I just chuckle and wonder how those people handle the challenges in their lives..."

I was adamant then and remain so now that changing my name was not an option. I had a few good reasons at the time:

- *My parents are gone and this is the name they left in my stewardship*
- *What am I teaching my children if I run and hide from challenges?*

The passage of time has certainly reinforced my thinking. There is something I call "The Penn State Principle." It's the principle that school forgot in the original handling of the case:

The easy decision in the short term is rarely the right decision in the long term.

Time has a way of teaching us that lesson over and over. My father didn't take the easy way out by avoiding fighting in World War II as an 18-year-old. He landed on the shores of France. He risked his life. And he did it with the name Sandusky on his dog tags... That same name was on the hospital bracelet he wore on his wrist on the day he died holding my hand. I believe I will see my father and my mother again. What exactly do I say if I change my name? Sorry, things got a little tough what with social media and all. I folded. Hope you don't mind. Not a chance.

There is a higher good we are all called to serve at different times in life. When the storm hits, when the unpredictable challenge presents itself you have the opportunity to be one of two things:

- *A lighthouse that shows others the way in a storm*
- *An outhouse, the kind of person who is full of you know what and falls apart in the storm*

*It's really that simple. Whether you lead a family, a business, a community or any other group of people, here is the most important lesson I can share with you from my experience. Do you want to be a lighthouse or an outhouse? No matter what life throws at us, we can always choose our response."*⁷¹

⁷⁰ Josh Alper. "It's a tough time to be named Gerry Sandusky." NBC Sports. 29 June 2012. Accessed 30 Aug 2024 at <https://www.nbcsports.com/nfl/profootballtalk/rumor-mill/news/its-a-tough-time-to-be-named-gerry-sandusky>

⁷¹ Gerry Sandusky. "Okay, Let's Talk About the Name." Sandusky Group. 2 Oct 2020. Accessed 30 Aug 2024 at <https://www.sanduskygroup.com/okay-letx27s-talk-about-the-name>

Comments from ARAs:

- “I feel the most effective method to abolish the registry would be a public awareness campaign rather than litigation.”
- “I want to believe that someday we will be freed by uncorrupted justice in the world but...”
- “I have been disappointed on the lack of work being done to counter International Megan's Law.”
- “We need to seriously work together in having nationwide ‘Peaceful’ demonstrations against the registry.”
- “Please continue to fight for reform and stay in the public view. Only by being a topic will people stay interested. The public doesn't understand that the registry will never prevent tragedies like Adam Walsh. It just gives law enforcement a larger list of suspects to investigate. Research shows that the majority of sex crimes against children are due to the child being left alone unsupervised or with left alone with a trusted individual. A registry cannot fix that.”
- “NARSOL does nothing for NY registrants.”
- “I support NARSOL because sex offender registries are an outrageous concept. We do have a criminal punishment system (though it works poorly) for people who commit crimes, and only in exceptional circumstances is a life sentence appropriate. I am fortunate to be able to donate to dozens of charitable organizations, and Vivante Espero is one of them, but my main priorities are on other topics including health freedom, fair taxation, and governmental accountability. Following the Jeffrey Epstein events, it does appear that pedophiles have a big role in government, but I have no special knowledge in this regard.”
- “I wish us all the best of luck in convincing the country that yes registering and living restrictions are a punishment.”
- “Good luck on reform. The general public has a very warped view of offenders.”
- “Somehow all the groups need to work together, pool their resources to end the registry for good.”
- “Activists should also address incarcerated future registrants are ineligible for most ideal prison programs.”
- “I understand that there are risks with the removal, however there are risks with driving and most adults Americans participate. It is the responsibility of the parents to educate their children and family members of the dangers and risks in this country. The government, police, and state legislation CANNOT be left to consider ALL Americans while seeking personal agendas. The media is a tool used by those who will finance them the best (mainly lobbyists, state and federal governments). We as a community must stand together and speak out against any tyranny that violates our constitutional rights. Just because the Supreme Court deemed it “not a punishment” doesn't mean people are not being punished by housing, locations of mysterious “random” parks, and even Churches. These laws not only affect the RSO, it also affects our children by limiting our ability to be supportive parents. We can't participate in helping our children, as well as other people's children/ families, to NOT become sexually deviant because we are expelled from society. Those of us who want to alert the general public of what to look out for are pushed away from the places where we can assist, and that is the irony of the registry. I will end with this, I someone told their children that they had to stay in the house, stay off of social media, not go to the park or to school or be anywhere around places where other children may be, how would that child not associate that with “PUNISHMENT”? There is no way that I could say “this is not a punishment”. The Supreme Court is twisting the constitution. Even and animal knows when it is being “Punished” due to its restrictions.”
- “I am no longer required to register in my state of Penn but I still contribute to some entities that fight the registries and I daily follow the news/events on sites that want to abolish the registry. The registry must go!! It has become an overblown up balloon of crap and not nearly what it was intended to do when first created.”

- “Also, there are other constitutional areas that this fight can still be fought over, i.e., Bill of Attainder, the 5th Amendment. I have long believed that many we thought were fighting for this were sabotaging the effort.”
- “Churches need to be a big part of the effort for change. They are a big influence on communities & could help families affected by the registry.”
- “Treatment providers need to get onboard and up-to-date with current data too.”
- “I was involved in a class action lawsuit against my state for lifetime GPS. I believe that every PFR should do what they can to fight the registry.”
- “Considering the low rate of reoffending, why is there no discussion on innocent people convicted?”
- “Take the ‘polygraph’ out of the equation.”
- “Need more effort to restrict personal information being gathered on registrants to profit businesses”
- “Thank you for taking the time to put this together. I hope that positive representation of ‘Low Risk Offenders’ can eventually come about, and that the public can be educated on the differences between ‘low Risk’ and ‘High Risk’.”
- “I am in a relationship with a person who had a registration obligation when I met him, but his obligation has since expired. We will never forget the impact that his registration obligation had on us, and we continue to be concerned for our friends who still are required to register.”
- “In my opinion, the public registry, residency restrictions, and registration requirements are punitive.”

PARTICIPATION IN ANTI-REGISTRY ACTIVISM

Q21: *Have you ever personally participated in any call to action or attended any event promoted by registry reform or abolition groups? If so, what have you done?*

- Attended a public rally/protest/vigil
- Attended a closed-door conference hosted by an anti-registry group
- Attended a legislative meeting
- Called legislator or media
- Sent a written/typed letter in the mail to legislators/media
- Emails to a legislator/media
- Run, participate in, or sponsor a state affiliate or activist group
- None of the above

Q21: What have you done?	Gone to Public Rally	Attend Closed Conf.	Attend Legis. Meeting	Called Leg. Or Media	Letter to Leg. Or Media	Email Leg. Or Media	Work w/ State Affiliate	None of the Above
Total (695)	9.64% (67)	24.03% (167)	15.83% (110)	22.01% (153)	32.23% (224)	41.87% (291)	14.1% (98)	42.16% (293)
RPs (464)	8.62% (40)	22.63% (105)	11.21% (52)	19.40% (90)	30.17% (140)	38.36% (178)	12.93% (60)	46.55% (216)
LOs (169)	12.43% (21)	25.44% (43)	22.49% (38)	25.44% (43)	36.09% (61)	47.93% (81)	14.2% (24)	34.32% (58)
Others (62)	9.68% (6)	30.65% (19)	32.26% (20)	32.26% (20)	37.1% (23)	51.61% (32)	22.58% (14)	30.65% (19)
Males (508)	8.86% (45)	22.44% (114)	13.39% (68)	20.87% (106)	29.92% (152)	38.78% (197)	13.58% (69)	46.06% (234)
Females (178)	11.8% (21)	28.65% (51)	22.47% (40)	25.28% (45)	38.76% (69)	50.56% (90)	15.17% (27)	32.02% (57)
NARSOL (469)	9.17% (43)	23.45% (110)	15.78% (74)	22.17% (104)	33.26% (156)	45.42% (213)	15.35% (72)	38.59% (181)
AC SOL (284)	12.68% (36)	32.39% (92)	21.13% (60)	27.82% (79)	41.55% (118)	52.11% (148)	17.96% (51)	32.04% (91)
WAR (232)	15.95% (37)	31.03% (72)	24.14% (56)	32.76% (76)	43.53% (101)	59.48% (138)	21.98% (51)	28.88% (67)
TX-Voices (59)	18.64% (11)	33.9% (20)	25.42% (15)	40.68% (24)	45.76% (27)	61.02% (36)	25.42% (15)	30.51% (18)
FAC (193)	13.47% (26)	27.46% (53)	19.69% (38)	27.98% (54)	34.72% (67)	51.81% (100)	20.73% (40)	36.27% (70)
OnceFallen (138)	18.84% (26)	30.43% (42)	23.19% (32)	33.33% (46)	40.58% (56)	59.42% (82)	22.46% (31)	33.33% (46)
Republican (193)	8.81% (17)	19.69% (38)	11.92% (23)	18.65% (36)	29.02% (56)	40.41% (78)	8.29% (16)	45.08% (87)
Democratic (318)	11.01% (35)	28.3% (90)	19.81% (63)	23.58% (75)	35.22% (112)	43.4% (138)	19.18% (61)	38.05% (121)
Libertarian (55)	5.45% (3)	16.36% (9)	20% (11)	21.82% (12)	27.27% (15)	38.18% (21)	9.09% (5)	47.27% (26)
Other Party (129)	9.3% (12)	23.26% (30)	10.08% (13)	23.26% (30)	31.78% (41)	41.86% (54)	12.4% (16)	45.74% (59)

Q22: *Would you be willing to personally attend/participate in activism efforts in the future, and if so, what activities would you participate in?* (Note: 17 total ARAs chose a future option while also choosing they would not participate “due to health/financial reasons” or simply chose “none.” Numbers below were recalculated by subtracting those who chose they would not participate “due to health/financial reasons” or simply chose “none” in each category. It only changed the percentages in each category displayed in each category between 0.5% and 3% on average in each category, however)

Q22: What Will You Do?	Go to Public Rally	Attend Closed Conf.	Attend Legis. Meeting	Call Leg. Or Media	Write Leg. Or Media	Email Leg. Or Media	Work w/ State Affiliate
Total (695)	38.42% (267)	56.55% (393)	48.35% (336)	40.14% (279)	58.27% (405)	66.62% (463)	26.04% (181)
RPs (464)	36.85% (171)	57.11% (265)	47.2% (219)	37.93% (176)	54.74% (254)	63.58% (295)	26.72% (124)
LOs (169)	42.01% (71)	55.62% (94)	49.11% (83)	42.01% (71)	67.46% (114)	75.15% (127)	23.67% (40)
Others (62)	36.85% (171)	57.11% (265)	47.2% (219)	37.93% (176)	54.74% (254)	63.58% (295)	26.72% (124)
Males (508)	36.22% (184)	55.71% (283)	46.85% (238)	37.99% (193)	53.74% (273)	62.2% (316)	25.98% (132)
Females (178)	44.38% (79)	58.99% (105)	53.37% (95)	45.51% (81)	71.35% (127)	79.78% (142)	26.4% (47)
NARSOL (469)	40.72% (191)	60.34% (283)	51.39% (241)	41.15% (193)	59.7% (280)	69.3% (325)	29.64% (139)
ACSOL (284)	44.37% (126)	66.55% (189)	57.75% (164)	50% (142)	67.96% (193)	75% (213)	32.39% (92)
WAR (232)	48.28% (112)	69.4% (161)	59.91% (139)	51.72% (120)	67.67% (157)	75% (174)	37.5% (87)
TX-Voices (59)	47.46% (28)	67.8% (40)	66.1% (39)	49.15% (29)	69.49% (41)	77.97% (46)	40.68% (24)
FAC (193)	40.93% (79)	56.48% (109)	49.22% (95)	43.01% (83)	62.69% (121)	69.43% (134)	31.61% (61)
OnceFallen (138)	49.28% (68)	65.22% (90)	59.42% (82)	47.83% (66)	67.39% (93)	72.46% (100)	40.58% (56)
Republican (193)	31.09% (60)	52.33% (101)	44.56% (86)	36.79% (71)	56.48% (109)	63.73% (123)	20.73% (40)
Democratic (318)	45.91% (146)	61.64% (196)	54.09% (172)	44.65% (142)	63.21% (201)	72.96% (232)	31.13% (99)
Libertarian (55)	32.73% (18)	58.18% (32)	54.55% (30)	38.18% (21)	49.09% (27)	61.82% (34)	20% (11)
Other Party (129)	33.33% (43)	49.61% (64)	37.21% (48)	34.88% (45)	52.71% (68)	57.36% (74)	24.03% (31)

Q23: *How far you are you willing to travel to personally attend an public event?*

Q23: Willing to travel?	Only in own community	Only in own state	Up to a day's drive away	Only if 100+ attend event	Anyplace, any time, no limits
Total (695)	18.13% (126)	25.76% (179)	17.7% (123)	9.78% (68)	9.35% (65)
RPs (464)	18.32% (85)	28.23% (131)	15.73% (73)	8.41% (39)	9.27% (43)
LOs (169)	17.75% (30)	18.93% (32)	23.08% (39)	13.02% (22)	8.28% (14)
Others (62)	17.74% (11)	25.81% (16)	17.74% (11)	11.29% (7)	12.9% (8)
Males (508)	19.09% (97)	26.97% (137)	15.55% (79)	8.27% (42)	9.84% (50)
Females (178)	14.61% (26)	21.91% (39)	24.16% (43)	14.61% (26)	7.87% (14)
NARSOL (469)	18.55% (87)	26.65% (125)	18.55% (87)	10.45% (49)	9.17% (43)
AC SOL (284)	17.25% (49)	22.54% (64)	17.25% (49)	15.14% (43)	12.68% (36)
WAR (232)	12.5% (29)	24.14% (56)	22.84% (53)	15.95% (37)	12.07% (28)
TX-Voices (59)	11.86% (7)	25.42% (15)	15.25% (9)	18.64% (11)	13.56% (8)
FAC (193)	20.21% (39)	20.73% (40)	16.06% (31)	13.47% (26)	11.4% (22)
Once Fallen (138)	16.67% (23)	24.64% (34)	19.57% (27)	10.87% (15)	14.49% (20)
Republican (193)	18.13% (35)	24.35% (47)	21.76% (42)	7.77% (15)	8.29% (16)
Democratic (318)	16.35% (52)	26.73% (85)	16.67% (53)	11.95% (38)	9.12% (29)
Libertarian (55)	25.45% (14)	25.45% (14)	16.36% (9)	7.27% (4)	9.09% (5)
Other Party (129)	19.38% (25)	25.58% (33)	14.72% (19)	8.53% (11)	11.63% (15)

Q25: *Various registry reform and abolition groups are planning a private, closed-door conference on Sunday, March 5, 2023, visits to federal legislators ("Hill Visits") on Monday, March 6, 2023, and a public vigil at the steps of the SCOTUS building in Washington DC on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Do you plan on taking part in this event?*

Q25: Going to DC in 23?	ALL Events	Vigil Only	Conference Only	Hill Visits Only	All except Vigil	All Except Conference
Total (695)	6.91% (48)	0.86% (6)	1.29% (9)	0.58% (4)	1.29% (9)	0.14% (1)
RPs (464)	6.68% (31)	0.86% (4)	0.65% (3)	0.22% (1)	1.51% (7)	0% (0)
LOs (169)	7.69% (13)	1.18% (2)	2.37% (4)	1.78% (3)	1.18% (2)	0.59% (1)
Others (62)	6.45% (4)	0% (0)	3.23% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Males (508)	6.3% (32)	0.79% (4)	0.79% (4)	0.2% (1)	1.18% (6)	0% (0)
Females (178)	8.43% (15)	1.12% (2)	2.81% (5)	1.69% (3)	1.69% (3)	0.56% (1)
NARSOL (469)	6.61% (31)	0.64% (3)	0.85% (4)	0.43% (2)	1.71% (8)	0% (0)
ACSOL (284)	9.86% (28)	0.35% (1)	1.06% (3)	0% (0)	2.46% (7)	0% (0)
WAR (232)	13.79% (32)	0.43% (1)	2.59% (6)	0.43% (1)	1.72% (4)	0.43% (1)
TX-Voices (59)	8.47% (5)	0% (0)	5.08% (3)	0% (0)	3.39% (2)	0% (0)
FAC (193)	7.77% (15)	0.52% (1)	1.04% (2)	0.52% (1)	1.04% (2)	0% (0)
Once Fallen (138)	10.14% (14)	0.72% (1)	2.17% (3)	0% (0)	2.17% (3)	0.72% (1)
Republican (193)	6.74% (13)	0.52% (1)	2.07% (4)	0% (0)	0.52% (1)	0% (0)
Democratic (318)	8.49% (27)	0.94% (3)	1.26% (4)	1.26% (4)	2.2% (7)	0% (0)
Libertarian (55)	5.45% (3)	1.82% (1)	1.82% (1)	0% (0)	1.82% (1)	0% (0)
Other Party (129)	3.88% (5)	0.78% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0.78% (1)

Q26: *If you are not planning on attending the event, what are your reason(s) for not attending? Check ALL that apply. If you are going, select “I’m Going – SKIP”* 57 ARAs skipped this question because they planned on attending the DC events. Options included:

- Too far away
- Will cost too much to attend
- Cannot get away from job or family obligations
- Don’t want to register my travel
- Concerned for my personal safety
- Afraid of arrest
- It is not going to change anything
- Don’t want to be associated with certain participants

“Other” included free space for further explanation. (21.44% (149) chose “Other”.) “Other reasons” cited by ARAs include health issues, being on supervision, too much paperwork to travel, never heard of the event until the survey & no time to plan for it.

Q26: Why not DC?	Too far away	Too Costly	Job/Fam plans	Register Travel	Personal Safety	Fear of Arrest	Won’t change	Hate ARAs
Total (695)	35.4% (246)	39.14% (272)	36.26% (252)	23.74% (165)	22.01% (153)	15.11% (105)	8.35% (58)	2.45% (17)
RPs (464)	34.91% (162)	41.38% (192)	34.27% (159)	34.48% (160)	25.65% (119)	20.69% (96)	9.7% (45)	2.59% (12)
LOs (169)	34.91% (59)	34.32% (58)	41.42% (70)	1.78% (3)	15.98% (27)	2.96% (5)	4.14% (7)	2.37% (4)
Others (62)	40.32% (25)	35.48% (22)	37.1% (23)	3.23% (2)	11.29% (7)	6.45% (4)	9.68% (6)	1.61% (1)
Males (508)	36.02% (183)	41.14% (209)	34.65% (176)	30.71% (156)	24.21% (123)	19.29% (98)	9.65% (49)	2.36% (12)
Females (178)	32.02% (57)	32.02% (57)	41.01% (73)	3.37% (6)	16.29% (29)	3.93% (7)	4.49% (8)	2.25% (4)
NARSOL (469)	34.12% (160)	39.23% (184)	36.89% (173)	23.24% (109)	22.17% (104)	14.93% (70)	9.17% (43)	2.56% (12)
ACSOL (284)	31.34% (89)	36.27% (103)	36.97% (105)	23.94% (68)	22.54% (64)	14.08% (40)	6.69% (19)	2.11% (6)
WAR (232)	29.31% (68)	35.78% (83)	37.5% (87)	17.67% (41)	15.09% (35)	10.78% (25)	6.47% (15)	0.43% (1)
TX-Voices (59)	27.12% (16)	35.59% (21)	35.59% (21)	18.64% (11)	11.86% (7)	10.17% (6)	5.08% (3)	3.39% (2)
FAC (193)	34.2% (66)	36.79% (71)	34.72% (67)	26.42% (51)	23.32% (45)	19.69% (38)	9.33% (18)	1.04% (2)
OnceFallen (138)	36.23% (50)	39.13% (54)	31.88% (44)	18.12% (25)	18.84% (26)	15.94% (22)	5.07% (7)	2.9% (4)
Republican (193)	39.38% (76)	41.97% (81)	36.27% (70)	25.91% (50)	21.24% (41)	16.58% (32)	9.33% (18)	1.55% (3)
Democratic (318)	32.7% (104)	36.48% (116)	35.53% (113)	20.44% (65)	22.64% (72)	14.78% (47)	6.6% (21)	2.83% (9)
Libertarian (55)	36.36% (20)	32.73% (18)	38.18% (21)	23.64% (13)	18.18% (10)	9.09% (5)	9.09% (5)	1.82% (1)
Other Party (129)	35.66% (46)	44.19% (57)	37.21% (48)	28.68% (37)	23.26% (30)	16.28% (21)	10.85% (14)	3.1% (4)

- Q27: *What factors may prevent you from active involvement in various registry reform or abolition events in the future? Check ALL that Apply.* “Other issues”, chosen by 22.59% (157) of ARAs, include being on supervision, health issues, lack of transportation, fear of police and political climate, or does not feel anti-registry efforts address personal needs. Regular responses include:

1. Personal safety concerns (fear of being “outed” or assaulted)
2. Financial issues
3. Too busy (work, school, family, etc.)
4. This movement is ineffective
5. People might think we’re promoting or normalizing “pedophilia”
6. I’m only concerned about getting myself/loved ones off the registry
7. Too Depressing (constant bad news)
8. Don’t like other activists

Q27: Barriers	Personal Safety	Money Issues	Too Busy	“ARM Sucks”	Fear of Pedo Lbl	Only in it for self	Too Sad	Hate ARAs
Total (695)	41.29% (287)	48.06% (334)	34.68% (241)	6.04% (42)	21.87% (152)	5.61% (39)	16.69% (116)	1.15% (8)
RPs (464)	47.84% (222)	49.57% (230)	34.48% (160)	6.25% (29)	26.08% (121)	6.25% (29)	19.4% (90)	0.86% (4)
LOs (169)	30.77% (52)	47.93% (81)	33.73% (57)	2.96% (5)	15.38% (26)	5.33% (9)	12.43% (21)	1.18% (2)
Others (62)	20.97% (13)	37.1% (23)	38.71% (24)	12.9% (8)	8.06% (5)	1.61% (1)	8.06% (5)	3.23% (2)
Males (508)	44.29% (225)	49.8% (253)	34.65% (176)	6.3% (32)	25.79% (131)	6.1% (31)	18.9% (96)	1.38% (7)
Females (178)	32.02% (57)	43.26% (77)	33.71% (60)	5.62% (10)	11.24% (20)	4.49% (8)	10.67% (19)	0.56% (1)
NARSOL (469)	41.36% (194)	48.19% (226)	35.82% (168)	6.4% (30)	21.75% (102)	4.48% (21)	16.63% (78)	0.43% (2)
ACSOL (284)	44.37% (126)	47.89% (136)	35.21% (100)	4.58% (13)	22.54% (64)	3.17% (9)	16.2% (46)	0.7% (2)
WAR (232)	38.36% (89)	46.12% (107)	32.76% (76)	5.17% (12)	22.84% (53)	3.88% (9)	17.24% (40)	0% (0)
TX-Voices (59)	30.51% (18)	47.46% (28)	35.59% (21)	6.78% (4)	13.56% (8)	5.08% (3)	11.86% (7)	0% (0)
FAC (193)	45.6% (88)	47.15% (91)	34.2% (66)	6.22% (12)	21.76% (42)	7.25% (14)	18.65% (36)	0% (0)
OnceFallen (138)	37.68% (52)	55.8% (77)	29.71% (41)	5.07% (7)	16.67% (23)	2.9% (4)	13.77% (19)	0.72% (1)
Republican (193)	39.9% (77)	49.22% (95)	31.61% (61)	5.18% (10)	24.87% (48)	9.33% (18)	20.21% (39)	1.04% (2)
Democratic (318)	45.28% (144)	44.97% (143)	37.11% (118)	4.4% (14)	18.55% (59)	3.77% (12)	12.58% (40)	0.63% (2)
Libertarian (55)	40% (22)	36.36% (20)	29.09% (16)	14.55% (8)	32.73% (18)	3.64% (2)	16.36% (9)	1.82% (1)
Other Party (129)	34.11% (44)	58.91% (76)	35.66% (46)	7.75% (10)	20.93% (27)	5.43% (7)	21.71% (28)	2.33% (3)

LACK OF PARTICIPATION: This table shows the “NO” answers for past and future participation in activist events (From questions 21, 22, 23, and 25)

Lack of Participation	Past	Future: b/c health / \$\$\$	Future: Other	Not willing to travel	No vigil but wanted to	No vigil no matter what
Total (695)	42.16% (293)	11.51% (80)	7.48% (52)	19.28% (134)	72.81% (506)	16.12% (112)
RPs (464)	46.55% (216)	12.07% (56)	8.19% (38)	20.04% (93)	73.28% (340)	16.81% (78)
LOs (169)	34.32% (58)	8.28% (14)	6.51% 11	18.93% (32)	71.01% (120)	14.2% (24)
Others (62)	30.65% (19)	16.13% (10)	4.84% (3)	14.52% (9)	74.19% (46)	16.13% (10)
Males (508)	46.06% (234)	12.99% (66)	8.86% (45)	20.28% (103)	73.62% (374)	17.13% (87)
Females (178)	32.02% (57)	7.30% (13)	3.37% (6)	16.85% (30)	70.22% (125)	13.48% (24)
NARSOL (469)	38.59% (181)	10.66% (50)	5.54% (26)	16.63% (78)	75.91% (356)	13.86% (65)
ACSOL (284)	32.04% (91)	8.45% (24)	5.63% (16)	15.14% (43)	73.59% (209)	12.68% (36)
WAR (232)	28.88% (67)	8.62% (20)	4.31% (10)	12.5% (29)	71.55% (166)	9.05% (21)
TX-Voices (59)	30.51% (18)	10.17% (6)	5.08% (3)	15.25% (9)	69.49% (41)	13.56% (8)
FAC (193)	36.27% (70)	10.36% (20)	6.22% (12)	18.13% (35)	75.65% (146)	13.47% (26)
Once Fallen (138)	33.33% (46)	15.22% (21)	5.8% (8)	13.77% (19)	73.19% (101)	10.87% (15)
Republican (193)	45.08% (87)	11.4% (22)	9.33% (18)	19.59% (38)	72.02% (139)	18.13% (35)
Democratic (318)	38.05% (121)	8.81% (28)	5.97% (19)	19.18% (61)	71.7% (228)	14.15% (45)
Libertarian (55)	47.27% (26)	8.81% (28)	5.97% (19)	16.36% (9)	76.36% (42)	12.73% (7)
Other Party (129)	45.74% (59)	16.28% (21)	10.85% (14)	20.16% (26)	75.19% (97)	19.38% (25)

- Q28: *Would you engage in a public campaign against the registry if it involved an act of “civil disobedience”? (sit-in, interrupting an event, etc.)*

Q28: Civil Disobedience?	YES	NO	UNSURE
Total (695)	15.83% (110)	40.72% (283)	43.45% (302)
RPs (464)	16.16% (75)	42.89% (199)	40.95% (190)
LOs (169)	12.43% (21)	37.28% (63)	50.3% (85)
Others (62)	22.58% (14)	33.87% (21)	43.55% (27)
Males (508)	15.94% (81)	42.91% (218)	41.14% (209)
Females (178)	15.17% (27)	34.83% (62)	50% (89)
NARSOL (469)	14.93% (70)	41.15% (193)	43.92% (206)
ACSOL (284)	16.55% (47)	36.97% (105)	46.48% (132)
WAR (232)	17.24% (40)	34.91% (81)	47.84% (111)
TX-Voices (59)	15.25% (9)	35.59% (21)	49.15% (29)
FAC (193)	17.1% (33)	34.2% (66)	48.7% (94)
Once Fallen (138)	18.84% (26)	30.43% (42)	50.72% (70)
Republican (193)	13.99% (27)	48.19% (93)	37.82% (73)
Democratic (318)	16.67% (53)	39.31% (125)	44.03% (140)
Libertarian (55)	12.73% (7)	34.55% (19)	52.73% (29)
Other Party (129)	17.83% (23)	35.66% (46)	46.51% (60)

Q31: *Do you agree with the following statement? I am willing to openly express my opinion about the registry online even if others strongly disagree with me.*

Q31: Talk about anti-registry?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Total (695)	40.14% (279)	31.94% (222)	17.84% (124)	6.76% (47)	3.31% (23)
RPs (464)	42.03% (195)	30.82% (143)	17.67% (82)	5.82% (27)	3.66% (17)
LOs (169)	33.14% (56)	31.36% (53)	22.49% (38)	10.65% (18)	2.37% (4)
Others (62)	45.16% (28)	41.94% (26)	6.45% (4)	3.23% (2)	3.23% (2)
Males (508)	41.34% (210)	32.87% (167)	16.14% (82)	6.1% (31)	3.54% (18)
Females (178)	35.96% (64)	29.21% (52)	23.03% (41)	8.99% (16)	2.81% (5)
NARSOL(469)	40.72% (191)	31.98% (150)	17.06% (80)	7.04% (33)	3.2% (15)
ACSOL (284)	44.37% (126)	28.17% (80)	16.9% (48)	6.34% (18)	4.23% (12)
WAR (232)	44.4% (103)	28.45% (66)	17.67% (41)	7.33% (17)	2.16% (5)
TX-Voices(59)	50.85% (30)	28.81% (17)	18.64% (11)	0% (0)	1.69% (1)
FAC (193)	45.6% (88)	31.09% (60)	16.06% (31)	3.63% (7)	3.63% (7)
OnceFallen(138)	46.38% (64)	25.36% (35)	22.46% (31)	2.17% (3)	3.62% (5)
Republican(193)	39.9% (77)	34.2% (66)	16.58% (32)	6.22% (12)	3.11% (6)
Democratic(318)	38.36% (122)	32.08% (102)	18.87% (60)	7.55% (24)	3.14% (10)
Libertarian (55)	32.73% (18)	40% (22)	16.36% (9)	7.27% (4)	3.64% (2)
Other Party(129)	48.06% (62)	24.81% (32)	17.83% (23)	5.43% (7)	3.88% (5)

Q33: *Have you ever spoken with people not involved with registry reform or abolition about reforming or abolishing the registry?*

Q33: Discussed ARM with non-RPs?	YES	NO	UNSURE/DON'T KNOW
Total (695)	67.77% (471)	28.35% (197)	3.88% (27)
RPs (464)	63.79% (296)	32.54% (151)	3.66% (17)
LOs (169)	75.15% (127)	21.3% (36)	3.55% (6)
Others (62)	77.42% (48)	16.13% (10)	6.45% (4)
Males (508)	64.76% (329)	31.3% (159)	3.94% (20)
Females (178)	76.97% (137)	19.1% (34)	3.93% (7)
NARSOL (469)	72.07% (338)	24.73% (116)	3.2% (15)
ACSOL (284)	72.18% (205)	25.7% (73)	2.11% (6)
WAR (232)	77.16% (179)	20.69% (48)	2.16% (5)
TX-Voices (59)	76.27% (45)	18.64% (11)	5.08% (3)
FAC (193)	73.58% (142)	24.35% (47)	2.07% (4)
Once Fallen (138)	73.91% (102)	23.19% (32)	2.9% (4)
Republican (193)	63.73% (123)	32.64% (63)	3.63% (7)
Democratic (318)	71.7% (228)	24.84% (79)	3.46% (11)
Libertarian (55)	67.27% (37)	29.09% (16)	3.64% (2)
Other Party (129)	64.34% (83)	30.23% (39)	5.43% (7)

Differences Between Activist Group Membership/Supporters

Past Participation, by group

Category	Most Active	Least Active
Attended a public rally/vigil	OnceFallen/TX-Voices (19%)	NARSOL (9%)
Attended an ARA-run closed-door conference	TX-Voices (34%)	NARSOL (23%)
Attended Legislature Meeting	TX-Voices (25%)	NARSOL (16%)
Called Legislator or Media	TX-Voices (41%)	NARSOL (22%)
Sent a letter by mail to media or a legislator	TX-Voices (46%)	NARSOL (33%)
Sent an email to the media or a legislator	TX-Voices (61%)	NARSOL (45%)
Run/Participate in/sponsor a state-level group	TX-Voices (26%)	NARSOL (15%)
None of the above	NARSOL (39%)	WAR (29%)

Future Participation, by activist group:

Category	Most Likely	Least Likely
Attend a public rally, protest, or vigil	Once Fallen (49%)	NARSOL/FAC (41%)
Attend an ARA-run closed-door conference	WAR (69%)	FAC (56%)
Attend a Legislative Meeting	TX-Voices (66%)	FAC (49%)
Call a legislator or the media	WAR (52%)	NARSOL (41%)
Send letter by mail to media or legislators	Texas Voices (78%)	FAC (69%)
Run/participate in/sponsor state-level group	TX-Voices/Once Fallen (41%)	NARSOL (30%)
None, for health/financial reasons	Once Fallen (15%)	ACSOL (8%)
None, for any reason	Once Fallen (15%)	ACSOL (8%)

DISCUSSION

“When it comes to fighting for ourselves in public, many will not go because that exposes them to more and more people that will know them as sex offenders. Also, the states with lifetime registries are insane and should be the first to be adjusted. No reason to be on the registry for life for indecent exposure when you got drunk. The IML is also a joke and The United States is pressuring other countries to hassle and deny us entry if we want to travel.” One respondent who cites fear as a reason many will not attend ARA events

It is easier to tell others what to do than to do it yourself. In the previous discussion, there were numerous suggestions for anti-activist groups. Activism is not cheap; it costs both time and money to make our activism successful. Each activist group gave estimates on membership numbers, described in the introduction, where group membership ranged from several hundred to over 2500 members; however, membership does not imply active participation in anti-registry activism. This survey was promoted by all the major activist groups, and it received 695 responses.

It is difficult to determine how many members or supporters of one Anti-Registry Activist group are also members of other ARA groups but many ARAs support or participate in more than one anti-registry group. For example, of the 469 respondents who identified as members/supporters of NARSOL, 206 (43.92%) are members/supporters of ACSOL, 185 (39.45%) for WAR, 146 (30.06%) for FAC, 114 (24.31%) for Once Fallen, and 49 (10.45%) for Texas Voices. If we were to say, conservatively, that about 4000-5000 people are connected to anti-registry activism in some way, then roughly 14% to 17.5% of ARAs participated in this survey. Many survey organizations could only dream of sampling even a tenth of the target audience, but if this estimation is true, then this is still less than 1% of the population of Registered Persons in the US. A 2023 report estimated there are 786,838 Registered Persons in the US.⁷² I estimate, then, that less than one half of one percent (<0.5%) are active members of anti-registry activist groups, and even fewer actively participate in anti-registry activism.

Despite the Anti-Registry Movement’s focus on ameliorating the conditions of Registered Persons, the Registrants themselves are often not in leadership roles within the movement. A 2024 study found that, “Of the seven participants, five (71.43%) reported that they had a family member convicted of a sexual offense and chose to advocate on behalf of their loved one. This is consistent with previous research regarding sexual offense reform advocacy groups, which found that the majority of sex offender advocacy groups are founded or lead by someone with close family ties to a registrant.” The study found the formation of advocacy groups to be largely the work of parents of Registered Persons. However, this study had focused solely on NARSOL state affiliate groups and the branding of a single advocacy group.⁷³

Even within our small movement, there are vast differences in philosophy and approach. A 2015 study, divided anti-registry activist groups into “reactive” and “proactive” organizations. “These two types of organizations have similar tactical repertoires; however, more proactive organizations report the use of networking and coalition building and media stories, and more reactive organizations report the use of

⁷² See Rob Gabriele. “Sex Offender Registry Rates: 2023 Report.” Safe Home. 5 Jun 2023. Accessed 25 Aug 2024 at <https://www.safehome.org/data/registered-sex-offender-stats/>

⁷³ Jennifer L. Wooldridge, Danielle J.S. Bailey, and Stephanie Taullia. “Campaigning for change: How state-level groups advocate for legislative sexual offense reform.” Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology, 2024. Accessed 4 Jan 2025 at <https://assets.pubpub.org/akz4dass/Campaigning%20for%20change-71720199969794.pdf>

legislative testimony and research and policy analysis tactics.”... These two groups of organizations were not created a priori... Proactive organizations presented their most successful policy outcome as being on the offense by working to introduce legislation that reduces the harms of registration for registrants and their family members. This type was made up of eight total organizations, five whose leaders reported policy development as their most successful outcome, one organization reporting a policy adoption, and two reporting a substantial policy amendment. Reactive organizations presented their most successful policy outcome as being on the defense by reacting to the policies introduced by state-level policymakers.”⁷⁴

Most of these outside observers have focused primarily or solely on NARSOL affiliates, however. Historically, few Registered Persons held significant leadership roles either within NARSOL or in any other anti-registry organization. At times, anti-registry activists have even told Registered Persons that they should not be “on the front lines.” This has oftentimes led many on the registry to feel as if they lack a voice within the very movement designed to fight for their rights. But it could be argued that the impact of the registry affects a Registered Person more than a loved one or outside advocate, and that negative impact makes Registered Persons wary to speak out on their own behalf. So Registered Persons often put themselves into a paradoxical situation where they feel disgruntled at their diminished roles in the movement yet often have little desire to place themselves on the front lines.

Those outside our movement who have studied the Anti-Registry Movement have also found great deficiencies within the organizational structure that places limitations on our efforts. As written in the 2015 study:

“The results show that anti-SORN SMOs (Social Movement Organizations) have a moderate level of formalization, few material resources, and varying levels of human capital. What appears to be the most challenging resource for these organizations is obtaining organizational legitimacy perceived by policymakers and the media. It is this relationship with the political and media environments that shapes organizational strategy into either proactive or reactive stances. While these organizations have a range of SORN policy knowledge and have the basic advocacy skill set, some key areas of knowledge and skill are missing. In addition, anti SORN SMOs are unlikely to use tactics used in other movements, such as rallies and marches, because the stigma attached to sex offenders draws public attention to the issue. I find that anti-SORN SMOs rarely change their tactics to adapt to the quick-changing focus of the political environment; however, they use political opportunities to their advantage when available.”⁷⁵

Not every deficiency is the direct result of the decisions of anti-registry organizations. As noted in the Levine and Meiners book, “Early in the evolution of the movement, online hubs—CautionClick, Once Fallen, SOSEN (Sex Offender Solutions and Education Network)—popped up and were soon populated with news, forums, legal archives, and bibliographies. Any direct action they may have hoped to spark was limited, in part because so many people on the registry were forbidden to use the Internet.”⁷⁶ While the book noted that the 2017 *Packingham v. North Carolina* SCOTUS ruling rented registered persons the right to use the Internet, the book failed to note that those who are on probation or parole could still be subject to limitations on Internet usage. Also, those on probation or parole may be prohibited from participating in anti-registry activism or in support meetings conducted by anti-registry activist groups.

⁷⁴ Erin Comartin (2015) Advocacy Tactics and Policy Outcomes of Sex Offender Rights Organizations, *Journal of Policy Practice*, 14:3-4, 231-255, DOI:10.1080/15588742.2015.1004397

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Suprea, Levine & Meiners, p.90

This is not to belittle anti-registry activists and organizations, but simply a review of our movement from the perspective of researchers who were not directly involved in anti-registry activist efforts. We could even argue that despite the lack of organization, resources, volunteers, and respect that other social justice movements have acquired over the years, anti-registry activist and organizations have made great strides in challenging numerous post-conviction sanctions over the lifespan of this movement.

While there are few significant differences between the groups in overall participation, it must be noted that NARSOL scored the lowest in every category of past participation in anti-registry activism, while Texas Voices ranked highest in participation levels. This number would hold up if we limited results to the three biggest or “national-level” groups:

Activist tactic	NARSOL (469)	ACSOL (206)	WAR (185)
Attended a public rally/vigil	9.17% (43)	12.62% (26)	14.05% (26)
Attended an ARA-run closed-door conference	23.45% (110)	29.61% (45)	27.03% (50)
Attended Legislature Meeting	15.78% (74)	21.84% (45)	23.78% (44)
Called Legislator or Media	22.17% (104)	28.16% (58)	33.51% (62)
Sent a letter by mail to media or a legislator	33.26% (156)	42.23% (87)	41.62% (77)
Sent an email to the media or a legislator	45.42% (213)	55.34% (114)	61.62% (114)
Run/Participate in/sponsor a state-level group	15.35% (72)	21.36% (44)	22.16% (41)
None of the above	38.59% (181)	32.04% (66)	28.65% (53)

Differences between the groups regarding future participation seemed more nuanced, but if limited to the three large “national-level” groups, NARSOL still ranks lowest among them in future participation:

Category	NARSOL (469)	ACSOL (206)	WAR (185)
Attending a public rally/vigil	40.72% (191)	44.37% (126)	48.28% (112)
Attending ARA-run closed-door conference	60.34% (283)	66.55% (189)	69.4% (161)
Attending Legislature Meeting	51.59% (241)	57.75% (164)	59.91% (139)
Calling Legislator or Media	41.15% (193)	50% (142)	51.72% (120)
Send a letter by mail to media or a legislator	59.7% (280)	67.96% (193)	67.67% (157)
Send an email to the media or a legislator	69.3% (325)	75% (213)	75% (174)
Run/Participate/sponsor state-level group	29.64% (139)	32.39% (92)	37.5% (87)
None of the above: Health/Financial Reasons	10.66% (50)	8.45% (24)	8.62% (20)
None of the above: Other reasons	5.54% (26)	5.63% (16)	4.31% (10)

Another interesting fact is that the NARSOL members/supporters are consistently less likely to be members/supporters of any other organization, and ACSOL members/supporters consistently ranked second to last in support/membership with other groups. State-level groups and Once Fallen members/supporters are significantly more likely to support other groups than members of the largest groups.

Individually, nearly half of ARAs (42.16%) have not currently participated in any form of anti-registry activism. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the more labor-intensive and/or public the need, the less likely people wish to personally participate in the action. Two out of five ARAs have engaged in email campaigns, one out of three have participated in letter-writing; in-person conferences and contacting lawmakers or the media get moderate support; while few ARAs have participated in, sponsored, or hosted a national or state level activist group, and less than one in ten ARAs participated in a public awareness event such as a protest. Registered Persons were less likely have participated in past events; rather ironically, Registered Persons were significantly lower in what has been seen as the safest form of activism, such as email campaigns or calling legislators/media. Those in the “Others” category ranked the highest on participation

in every category except public awareness events, with Loved Ones often a close second. Those who identify as Republicans are also less likely to have engaged in anti-registry activist activities.

When asked about future participation, about one in five ARAs stated they would not participate in any future event (11.51% stated because they are physically or financially unable to participate and 7.48% simply chose none for any reason). Two out of three ARAs have engaged in email or letter-writing campaigns; on-person conferences and contacting lawmakers or the media get moderate support; while the fewest ARAs have participated in a public awareness event such as a protest, or would host, sponsor, or participate in a national or state level activist group. Registered Persons still ranked lowest in most categories except closed-door conferences & host/sponsor/participate in state-level groups. This is interpreted to suggest Registered Persons are less likely to choose any strategy that involves talking to strangers. Those who identify as Republicans stated they are less likely to engage in anti-registry activist activities overall.

In March 2023, a handful of activists, including members of WAR and Once Fallen, organized a conference and vigil in Washington DC. The vigil at the steps of the SCOTUS building was created to mark twenty years since the infamous SCOTUS ruling in *Smith v. Doe*, 538 US 84 (2003), the ruling that decided the registry was not “punitive” and the US Constitution does not apply to the registry. The conference was created, in part, to help gather activists and introduce them to the nation’s capital and hopefully meet with legislators. Despite a few mishaps and disagreements, there were 75 attendees at the vigil and about a hundred people at the preceding WAR conference.

This survey was conducted before the conference; the number of attendees corresponded closely to the number of respondents to this survey. Only 11.07% of ARAs (77 total) stated they are planning to attend the events in Washington DC in March 2023, 73% stated they would go if they could, and 16% stated they wouldn’t attend even if they could attend.

So what is stopping people from participating in engaging in activist activities like the Washington DC conference and vigil? Overall, costs, job and/or family obligations, and distance were greater obstacles than fear or the desire to not have to register travel. “Other reasons” cited include health issues, being on supervision, too much paperwork to travel, never heard of the event until the survey & no time to plan for it. Very few ARAs cited dislike of conference/vigil organizers or the belief the event was not going to make a difference as their reasons not for attending. Loved Ones were more optimistic than Registered Persons or those in the “Others” category, and less likely to believe these events won’t make a difference.

Registered Persons indeed have significantly more hoops to jump through in order to travel. While staying in Washington DC or Virginia for the events for up to a week would not have required registration in either location, they may have stricter travel registration requirements in their home state. Thus, a third of Registered Persons cited “Don’t want to register my travel” as reasons not to attend the DC events. Registered Persons were significantly more likely to cite fear for their personal safety and fear of arrest than Loved Ones or those in the “Others” category. About 8.4% of Registered Persons stated they could not attend specifically because they were on probation, parole, supervised release, or similar program. However, slightly less than half of those who stated supervision was a barrier to attending the DC event also believe being on supervision would be a barrier to anti-registry activism in the future.

Regarding barriers to future engagement in anti-registry activism, just under half of ARAs cited financial issues and just over two in five cited fear for personal safety as the top barriers to getting personally involved in anti-registry activism. To a lesser extent, work and home life obligations, concerns over accusations of promoting pedophilia, depression from too much bad news related to the registry, ineffectiveness of activist efforts, and dislike for activists are all barriers to participation. Other barriers to

activism cited by respondents include being on supervision, health issues, lack of transportation, fear of police and political climate, and the belief that anti-registry activism does not address personal needs.

A very small minority of ARAs (6.25%) are only concerned with getting themselves or their loved ones off the registry (6.25%). This is more pronounced among Republicans (9% Repub, 4% Dem). Republicans are more likely than Democrats to cite activism is “too depressing” (20% Repub, 13% Dem), fears of being accused of “normalizing pedophilia” (25% Repub, 19% Dem) or financial issues (49% Repub, 45% Dem) as barriers to activism. Democrats are more likely to cite safety concerns (45% Dem, 40% Repub) or “too busy” (27% Dem, 32% Repub) as barriers to activism.

Public awareness campaigns, conferences, legislative meetings, and other in-person events require travel. A national-level call to action, such as the 2023 DC vigil and conference, require individual activists to take a few days out of their lives, travel to places that many of them have never visited before, pay for transportation, food, and materials like signage, all to maintain a visible presence at the event. When the Anti-Registry Movement hosts these events, having as many attendees as possible boosts our visible presence and increases the chance that the event will have media coverage.

Over the years, the Anti-Registry Movement has hosted numerous events, from the first successful public awareness event, the 2007 “Silent No More” rally in Columbus, OH in 2007, to the 2023 DC vigil. It takes a lot of effort to organize these events. Oftentimes, internal strife between organizers and/or activist groups have stymied efforts to bring activists together for public awareness campaigns. For example Once Fallen and members of WAR, Oregon Action Committee, and Ohio RSOL worked together to create a public awareness campaign to be held in Tallahassee, FL in 2015. Organizers first announced the event about six months before the proposed rally; initially there was support for the event, but FAC president Gail Colletta publicly condemned the rally and actively lobbied people to condemn and not support the rally. “While we might agree with Registry Reform, we strongly disagree with the timing of this rally and are concerned that it might create confusion as to the underlying message. For this reason, we disagree with the timing of the rally and will not be participating in this event.” This decision to sabotage the rally was met with a statement of agreement by Valerie Parkhurst, a then-well-known South Florida vigilante. Valerie Parkhurst, in the FAC’s comments section posted on February 21, 2015 at 3:56 am, added, “I find it amazing it took you this long to distance yourself from these people. All it would have taken was a half hour google search on Vicki Henry and Derek Logue and you would have saved yourself the embarrassment and ultimate discrediting of your efforts. You can’t (*sic*) say you were not warned.”⁷⁷ In part because of Gail Colletta’s condemnation of the event, only 12 people attended the 2015 rally.

No public awareness event held by an anti-registry activist group has ever had more than 100 attendees. The 2023 DC rally, arguably the largest public awareness event in the history of the Anti-Registry Movement, had only 75 attendees. Again, miscommunication and petty squabbles between anti-registry groups, including claims the event was canceled and changes to the conference venue, all played roles in preventing the DC vigil from reaching the goal of having over 100 attendees.

But there is another major challenge in getting people involved in anti-registry activism. When asked how far people are willing to travel for the sake of the Anti-Registry Movement, just under one in ten ARAs (9.35%) stating they had no restrictions and are willing to travel anywhere, with about the same amount (9.78%) stating they would go anywhere, but only if there was a guarantee the event hosted at least a

⁷⁷ “FAC is Not Affiliated with ‘Rally in Tally’ Protest..” FAC. 20 Feb 2015. Accessed 28 Aug 2024 at <https://floridaactioncommittee.org/fac-is-not-affiliated-with-rally-in-tally-protest/>
--See also Valerie Parkhurst’s comment posted in the comments section.

hundred attendees. One in five ARAs (19.28%) stated they would never attend any event, while the rest (61.59%, or about three out of five ARAs) are willing to travel only a limited distance, i.e., within their own state or community, or no more than a day's drive away.

This does offer challenges to calls to action in certain areas of the country. Take the 2023 DC event, for example. Out of the 695 ARAs responding to this survey, only 68 of them were in DC or in states within a day's drive (under 200 miles) from DC—Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Out of these 68 ARAs residing in a state close to DC, only 18 of them (26.5%) planned to travel to DC to attend the vigil and/or the corresponding WAR conference. As previously noted, 77 respondents had stated they planned on attending the vigil and/or conference. So only 23.37%, just under one in four, of respondents living theoretically a day's drive from DC were attendees at the vigil.

Fear did play at least a partial role in aversion to public awareness campaigns. The first attempt at a public event, in Miami in 2007) was met with opposition from local law enforcement.⁷⁸ At the first successful public event, the 2007 “Silent No More” rally, a counter-protest was held by a vigilante group.⁷⁹ The target of our 2015 “Rally in Tally” retaliated with false stalking charges against an event organizer.⁸⁰

Some people uttered fear of retaliation as a reason not to attend the DC rally; as previously noted, about 22% of ARAs cited fear as a barrier to attending the DC vigil. One anecdotal rumor was that snipers “from the trees” would shoot us if we were to attend. An online vigilante group even threatened to attend attendees at the vigil.⁸¹ Janice Bellucci even wrote a statement where, in addition to falsely claiming the DC vigil was her idea (it was Once Fallen’s vigil and WAR’s conference from day one), she also cited fear of politically-motivated violence as a reason no one should attend the rally.⁸² The vigilantes did not show up or attend the DC vigil. Janice Bellucci was a last-minute addition to the speaker lineup at the vigil after she decided to attend after her public announcement she would not attend.⁸³

Later that year, the far-right terrorist group known as the “Proud Boys” unsuccessfully attempted to disrupt the NARSOL conference in Houston, TX.⁸⁴ However, the Anti-Registry Movement has engaged in numerous public events since 2007 and no violence has ever taken place at any event. At worst, someone may say some nasty things in passing, but that was uncommon at such an event.

⁷⁸ Supra., Logue, “History of ARM”

⁷⁹ See “Silent No More Rally in Columbus, OH 12-1-2007.” Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5QN30VMMYg>. See also Holly Zachariah. “Sex offenders rally against laws.” Columbus Dispatch. 2 Dec 2007. Accessed 28 Aug 2024 at

https://web.archive.org/web/20150209222108/http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2007/12/02/THERAL LY.ART_ART_12-02-07_B4_FF8L84F.html

⁸⁰ Logue v. Book, 297 So. 3d 605 (Fla. Ct. App. 2020)

⁸¹ See “Vile vigilante group “VoidSec” starts lame fundraiser, gets ZERO donations in 2 months LOL.” Absolute Zero Unites. 9 Jan 2023. Accessed 28 Aug 2024 at <https://absolutezerounites.blogspot.com/2023/01/vile-vigilante-group-voidsec-starts.html> ; See also “VoidSec chose to Puss Out rather than Pull Up.” Absolute Zero Unites. 7 Mar 2023. Accessed 28 Aug 2024 at <https://absolutezerounites.blogspot.com/2023/03/voidsec-chose-to-puss-out-rather-than.html>

⁸² “Janice’s Journal: A Difficult Decision.” ACSOL. 29 July 2022. Accessed 28 Aug 2024 at <https://all4consolaws.org/2022/07/janices-journal-a-difficult-decision/>

⁸³ “Vigil — March 7 2023 — Washington DC at SCOTUS — 20th anniversary of Smith v. Doe decision.” Youtube. 21 Mar 2023. Accessed 28 Aug 2024 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MisKQgTKPKA>

⁸⁴ Sandy Rozek. “Conference 2023 — a success story, inside and outside”. NARSOL. 24 June 2023. Accessed 28 Aug 2024 at <https://www.narsol.org/2023/06/conference-2023-a-success-story-inside-and-outside/>

When discussing “protests”, our minds may turn to acts of civil disobedience, like “sit down strikes” or refusing to vacate an occupied spot during a protest. No public event hosted by the Anti-Registry Movement has ever called for such acts, but if such an event was ever planned, just over 15% of Anti-Registry Activists would consider participating in an act of civil disobedience. Republicans are far more likely to say no to acts of civil disobedience (48% Rep, 39% Dem).

The safer end of the public awareness spectrum is the most basic form of public awareness of all—speaking to others about anti-registry activism. Nearly three out of every four ARAs (72.08%) have stated they have spoken publicly on registry-related issues to those not directly involved in anti-registry efforts, while two out of every three ARAs (67.77%) have spoken specifically about anti-registry efforts. While Loved Ones were the least likely to say they’d be willing to speak openly about anti-registry activism, Registered Persons were the least likely to have actually spoken with others about anti-registry activism (at least -11% compared to the other categories). Republicans were also less likely (-8%) to have spoken to others about the registry.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CISGENDER MALES AND FEMALES

There are significant differences between men and women in the Anti-Registry Movement. Women are more likely than men to have participated on past events, including the DC vigil and conference, as well as future activist events. Men are more likely to fear being attacked or assaulted.

We cannot rule out the possibility that placement on the registry is a significant cause of this gap, since After all, 449 of 508 male ARAs (88.39%) are Registered Persons, while only 11 of 178 female ARAs (6.18%) are female. As previously noted, Registered Persons are less likely to have been personally involved in anti-registry activism or plan to engage in future events, and also cited fear of arrest or attacks and registry-related issues as barriers as future activism.

These results are in some ways contrary to at least one major study on gender differences in protest activity, which found that men and women have similar levels of protest activity, but have gender differences in the forms of protest in which they participate. Specifically, women are more likely than men to engage in non-confrontational activities, while men are more likely to be involved with forms of activism that involve confrontational activities. The results also suggest gender ideology plays a crucial role in creating the conditions that foster gendered forms of activism. In egalitarian contexts, women are more likely than men to participate in a wide array of protest activities.⁸⁵

In other societal issues, there are few differences between the sexes in participation and approach. Among those tied to environmental activism, women’s levels of political participation and leadership around environmentalism are lower than men’s, at least in some areas. In part, however, it is because women’s environmental action is focused on personal environmental practices, such as “green consumerism,” or on local environmental efforts, both of which are less likely to be noticed by the media, the public, and environmental leaders. Women were 50% more likely to volunteer and 38% more likely to donate money to environmental causes. The leadership of large, national environmental organizations is mostly male,

⁸⁵ Dodson, K. (2015). Gendered Activism: A Cross-national View on Gender Differences in Protest Activity. *Social Currents*, 2(4), 377-392. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2329496515603730>

but women dominate both the leadership and the membership of local environmental groups created to combat threats to community health or safety.⁸⁶

Among gender equality activists, women were obviously more likely than men to engage in activist activities. The most common activities shared by gender equality activists were having personal conversations with loved ones followed by social media activism. While only 9% of all respondents to the gender equality survey reached out to public officials and 8% attended a protest/rally, 14% of women who vote Democrat engaged in these activities (compared to 9% of Democrat men, 5% Republican women, and 4% of Republican men). The more educated respondents were, the more likely they were to engage in activism.⁸⁷

The trend of more women working on personal-level activism and being more inclined to engage in activist activities overall are seemingly similar in both anti-registry activism and activism for other issues. But in anti-registry activism, women are significantly more likely to say we should engage in the type of activism that involves communicating with others, like public speaking events, resource gathering, and support groups, where women ranked ten or more percentage points higher than men. Despite this, many anti-registry groups outside of Once Fallen rarely, if ever, engage in resource gathering.

The only category where a higher percentage of men than women felt more action should be taken was litigation (+3%). Filing litigation requires more money than other activities, but has the lowest amount of effort needed on the part of the activist. Litigation requires little personal involvement from the activist unless that activist is the litigant.

Anti-Registry Activists should encourage more engagement and recognize that activism does not always involve large-scale operations. At times, a single event on a small scale can benefit the cause. As one respondent noted, “My son has not had any violence directed toward him, however, a couple of neighbors did try to pass an ordinance that person is required to register, not live in the neighborhood. After talking to the HOA board, they agreed to not even discuss that. They were very sympathetic.” Even the smallest-scale operations can have a beneficial impact on our movement.

IMPACT OF AN AGING DEMOGRAPHIC ON ANTI-REGISTRY ACTIVISM

As previously discussed, about a third of ARAs are over age 65+ and four out of five are age 45+. While this is understandable given every adult under age 65 is of “working age,” this also means many ARAs are aging out of activist efforts. One prominent leader of an anti-registry group shared his concerns with the state of activism in an email, stating that he interacts with “a huge number who show interest and concern, but almost all, for whatever reason, do not continue the ‘chase’ to bring about change.” One community call for activists has reported seeing participants to the monthly calls drop “considerably” from about 50-60 a few years’ prior to less than half in more recent calls. Many of those on the call mentioned being over the age of 70. It is believed that shifting from functioning from a support-oriented community call to a call for activism may have contributed to a drop in numbers, but age and lack of financial resources are also factors at play.

⁸⁶ Amy Caiazza, Ph.D., and Allison Barrett. “Engaging Women in Environmental Activism: Recommendations for Rachel’s Network.” Institute for Women’s Policy Research. Sept 2003. Accessed 1 Sept 2024 at <https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/I913.pdf>

⁸⁷ Juliana Menasce Horowitz. “Activism on gender equality differs widely by education among Democratic women.” Pew Research Center. 9 July 2020. Accessed 1 Sept 2020 at <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/07/09/activism-on-gender-equality-differs-widely-by-education-among-democratic-women/>

As the current wave of anti-registry activists eventually retire from this movement, will there be people willing to take our places? Age puts us at a disadvantage in many ways, especially from a health perspective. But we need to think about how to bring in fresh recruits AND KEEP THEM. As the aforementioned activist put it, "It is advocates who have to carry the torch on these issues - lawsuits help to some extent, certainly in registration requirements and stopping some of the idiotic rules some states come up with... In my opinion, is it is only volunteer advocates who are going to get some movement...lawyers avoid us - get tired of always losing in court."

Various groups within the anti-Registry Movement have at least implied courts are our saviors, yet we see far more defeat than victory in court. Activists have little influence over the courts, but we can influence the media, which in turn, influences the courts.

Comments by ARAS:

- "We need to remember that there are many uninformed folks and the only way for true change leading to abolishing the registry is getting the truth out any way possible."
- "In reference to the question on leaving the USA to live in another country - due to SORNA and other laws where the US "informs" foreign countries of a sex offender's travel plans - most countries will not even allow you to cross their borders. So moving is impossible. Secondly, I have been trying to find a group that might help getting federal lifetime registration abolished, making registered person eligible for being removed from the list after a certain number of years (as is possible in some states). So far no one has been of any help since they are mainly interested in repealing state laws."
- "I think if we all work together SOR laws could be limited and maybe someday done away with all together. Small steps."
- "We need to work together and engage creative and inclusive opportunities for people to participate in registry abolition movements - connected to overall any-oppression movements."
- "With so many registered citizens in the US, it would be a loud voice to law makers if ALL step up to the plate. The registry is a scare tactic to make a community feel it's necessary. The registry mostly serves to target those on it along with their families."
- "I have been with WAR for several years. I correspond with inmates on a regular basis. I want to go to the vigil in Washington, Just don't know how I will get there. Tried to contact people on this but no reply. I get along with law enforcement. I won't let them into my home without a warrant. I used to, not anymore. 'The media is biased and can't be trusted."
- "Until I'm able to live and be with my non-citizen spouse, which we are currently facing an immigration process and hindered by the Adam Walsh Act, most sex offender issues have little interest to me. My main focus is on fighting the Adam Walsh act and international Megan's law as they pertain to restricting loving families from being together. After we're together I would be more willing to focus on other registry reform Acts."
- "TY for all your work. I wish that I could be more involved, but I am actively going to therapy to forgive myself. It's been 12 years, and the trauma of "the system" still has a hold on me!"
- "Truly I want to help my loved one by abolishing registries but I am the only breadwinner and can't risk my job to do it. His crime has punished me equally in that I am the one with PTSD and anxiety, the one to pay for fines and polygraphs and every penalty for the rest of his life. Our entire family will never be the same again despite his having served the full sentence and successfully completing court sentence. A brutal and unnecessary punishment of the whole family that leaves multiple generations scarred for no reason should be changed."
- "Current litigation and other reform efforts almost always result in a backlash and wins often are ignored or followed by equally restrictive laws. States have bottomless coffers and seem to be adopting an approach of winning by attrition (by exhausting plaintiffs financially through endless

legal action). They also react to wins by passing laws granting them the ability to hand out harsher sentences such as life sentences for sex offenses or, more often, lifetime probation, which offers those affected little or no civil rights to contest. It also incapacitates their political influence by stripping permanently any voting rights. Other states give the appearance of reform, but behind the scenes, give themselves an out to reject all attempts at registry termination. This is the situation in my state, which I heard from the Sheriff's own mouth. The ability to get off the registry is merely an illusion in those cases. Realistically, I've come to the conclusion that registered persons should see themselves like the original founders of this country, who left their home countries and sought better opportunities elsewhere. Our forefathers risked death on the high seas and in a wild and untamed country for the chance at liberty from oppression. We may face the same choice. There is too much irrational bias and hatred in the public conscience to overcome in my opinion. To make real change here, it would likely have to follow a bloody path such as was taken by blacks to finally overcome slavery, segregation, and the other injustices they faced. Read up on all of the lives lost during the race riots of the last century to get a better understanding of the cost. In the end, even that I don't believe would succeed today, because we would be branded as criminals and traitors and likely rounded up for incarceration or mass execution if an uprising were to occur. For those that choose to live here, we need our own private "Green Book". For those who are looking for freedom, we may need our own legal version of the Underground Railroad to help registrants move overseas."

- “I have been on the registry for 7 years. I lost my career and legal fees cost me a great deal of my savings. We had to move to escape the public shame. One day I will write a book, but for now I am trying to establish a new career treating fellow sex addicts (I was deeply addicted to porn, which caused my arrest). I am getting my MSW in 2023. I need to lay low until I get my certification in order to establish my career. Then I will be a vocal advocate for reform.”
- “I hope the efforts against the sex registry continue and are successful. Stigmatizing individuals, painting them all with the same brush, and publishing their names are a disgrace that should not happen in the USA.”
- “My family/home is not on the registry yet. We will be in a few short months, when my loved one comes home. I do not have an issue speaking out and do and put my name to it, but I also have to be careful as I have a disabled adult I care for and grandchildren. Thanks for all you do.”
- “I have kept up with registry information in my state since it's the first iteration. I saw the harshness of punishments for violations, even though it was brand new. I've been privy to verified stories of really good/compassionate/reasonable registry officers and others who are so bad they ought to be jailed for libel and harassment. I work closely with the state sex offender registry and discuss options and goals for registered people in order for them to have the most hope for the future. I am furious at how some of the rural counties are so frigging rigid, small-minded and uninformed about the realities of the registry and recidivism. I attempted to convince a county sheriff that the Halloween SO warning signs are the stupidest way to protect children. Whenever I have an opportunity to provide education on the problems with the registry and erroneous beliefs about people who commit sexual offenses, I take it. I could go on, but my workday is done.”
- “My spouse believes we need to not worry about the Registry and get on with our lives. It causes conflict for me to join in reform movements. Hoping he will soon see that we need to fight these laws.”
- “I am an abolitionist, a revolutionary communist, and poet, and am not the person that I am labeled as.”
- “I pray that someday the captives will be set free.”
- “It's my strongest belief that our community is uneducated and unwilling to be reasonable. Therefore, having a sex offender registry, add jet fuel to the fire and allows the unregistered to run wild with the information made available to them. I believe the majority of registered offenders have served their time and are living relatively normal lives with frequent repercussions of a past long forgotten.”

PART 3: IMPACT OF THE REGISTRY ON PERSONAL HEALTH

Questions 35, 41-54, 59-61, and 86 concern the impact of the registry and related issues to their personal thoughts, feelings, and health, including questions about crimes committed against them.

This section covers three topics:

1. Personal Health and Experiences: Problems experienced on a personal level, such as harassment and discrimination, and the toll it takes on personal health and safety.
2. Bitterness and Resentment: Do negative experiences based on the registry or anti-registry activism make Registered Persons and Anti-Registry Activists less likely to help others?
3. Support for a Registrant-Run Self-Sustaining Community: Would Registered Persons benefit from creating and living in a community of their own creation?

PERSONAL HEALTH & EXPERIENCES

Q35: When you read news of a new sex offense legal restriction pass in another state or does not impact your personal life in any way, does the news still upset or anger you?

Q35: Seeing new laws pass really bothers me	YES	NO	UNSURE
Total (695)	94.39% (656)	2.3% (16)	3.31% (23)
RPs (464)	95.04% (441)	2.59% (12)	2.37% (11)
LOs (169)	93.49% (158)	1.78% (3)	4.73% (8)
Others (62)	91.94% (57)	1.61% (1)	6.45% (4)
Males (508)	93.7% (476)	2.76% (14)	3.54% (18)
Females (178)	96.63% (172)	1.12% (2)	2.25% (4)
NARSOL (469)	94.88% (445)	2.13% (10)	2.99% (14)
ACSOL (284)	94.01% (267)	2.46% (7)	3.52% (10)
WAR (232)	96.55% (224)	2.16% (5)	1.29% (3)
TX-Voices (59)	96.61% (57)	1.69% (1)	1.69% (1)
FAC (193)	97.93% (189)	1.55% (3)	0.52% (1)
Once Fallen (138)	96.38% (133)	2.9% (4)	0.72% (1)
Republican (193)	94.3% (182)	1.55% (3)	4.15% (8)
Democratic (318)	96.23% (306)	1.57% (5)	2.2% (7)
Libertarian (55)	96.23% (306)	1.57% (5)	2.2% (7)
Other Party (129)	91.47% (118)	3.1% (4)	5.43% (7)

Q41: How much has the registry impacted your social life?

Q41: How has SOR impacted social life?	Life is “completely ruined”	Only have friends in the ARM	Have some friends away from ARM	Only Impact	Slight Impact	No Impact
Total (695)	27.05% (188)	20.43% (142)	30.22% (210)	15.54% (108)	6.76% (47)	
RPs (464)	32.11% (149)	21.12% (98)	30.6% (142)	15.09% (70)	1.08% (5)	
LOs (169)	20.71% (35)	21.89% (37)	34.32% (58)	15.38% (26)	7.69% (13)	
Others (62)	6.45% (4)	11.29% (7)	16.13% (10)	19.35% (12)	46.77% (29)	
Males (508)	30.12% (153)	20.47% (104)	28.94% (147)	15.94% (81)	4.53% (23)	
Females (178)	19.1% (34)	20.79% (37)	34.27% (61)	14.04% (25)	11.8% (21)	
NARSOL (469)	26.23% (123)	20.04% (94)	32.62% (153)	15.99% (75)	5.12% (24)	
ACSOL (284)	27.46% (78)	21.48% (61)	30.63% (87)	16.9% (48)	3.52% (10)	
WAR (232)	25.43% (59)	21.98% (51)	34.91% (81)	12.5% (29)	5.17% (12)	
TX-Voices (59)	28.81% (17)	16.95% (10)	30.51% (18)	13.56% (8)	10.17% (6)	
FAC (193)	26.42% (51)	25.39% (49)	32.12% (62)	11.4% (22)	4.66% (9)	
OnceFallen(138)	30.43% (42)	21.01% (29)	35.51% (49)	10.14% (14)	2.9% (4)	
Republican(193)	28.5% (55)	19.69% (38)	31.09% (60)	13.47% (26)	7.25% (14)	
Democratic(318)	21.38% (68)	19.5% (62)	32.08% (102)	20.13% (64)	6.92% (22)	
Libertarian (55)	25.45% (14)	18.18% (10)	32.73% (18)	18.18% (10)	5.45% (3)	
Other Party(129)	39.53% (51)	24.8% (32)	23.26% (30)	6.2% (8)	6.2% (8)	

Q42: How often do you feel bitter, angry, depressed, or other negative feelings about the sex offense registry and the negative effects it causes?

Q42: Feel angry, bitter, depressed?	Frequently	Regularly	Rarely	Never
Total (695)	54.53% (379)	34.1% (237)	10.22% (71)	1.15% (8)
RPs (464)	56.68% (263)	32.11% (149)	10.78% (50)	0.43% (2)
LOs (169)	59.17% (100)	32.54% (55)	7.1% (12)	1.18% (2)
Others (62)	25.81% (16)	53.23% (33)	14.52% (9)	6.45% (4)
Males (508)	52.95% (269)	34.65% (176)	11.22% (57)	1.18% (6)
Females (178)	60.11% (107)	30.9% (55)	7.87% (14)	1.12% (2)
NARSOL(469)	56.08% (263)	33.26% (156)	10.45% (49)	0.21% (1)
ACSOL (284)	60.21% (171)	30.99% (88)	8.45% (24)	0.35% (1)
WAR (232)	65.52% (152)	25.86% (60)	8.19% (19)	0.43% (1)
TX-Voices (59)	62.71% (37)	20.34% (12)	16.95% (10)	0% (0)
FAC (193)	64.25% (124)	29.53% (57)	6.22% (12)	0% (0)
Once Fallen (138)	63.77% (88)	28.99% (40)	7.25% (10)	0% (0)
Republican (193)	56.99% (110)	32.64% (63)	10.36% (20)	0% (0)
Democratic (318)	52.2% (166)	36.16% (115)	10.69% (34)	0.94% (3)
Libertarian (55)	61.82% (34)	25.45% (14)	10.91% (6)	1.82% (1)
Other Party (129)	53.49% (69)	34.88% (45)	8.53% (11)	3.1% (4)

Q43: How often have thought of suicide because of the sex offense registry?

Q43: Suicidal thoughts?	Frequently	Regularly	Rarely	Never
Total (695)	9.93% (69)	14.1% (98)	28.2% (196)	47.77% (332)
RPs (464)	13.36% (62)	17.24% (80)	33.41% (155)	35.99% (167)
LOs (169)	3.55% (6)	7.69% (13)	20.12% (34)	68.64% (116)
Others (62)	1.61% (1)	8.06% (5)	11.29% (7)	79.03% (49)
Males (508)	12.2% (62)	16.54% (84)	30.12% (153)	41.14% (209)
Females (178)	2.81% (5)	7.87% (14)	23.03% (41)	66.29% (118)
NARSOL (469)	10.87% (51)	14.29% (67)	27.72% (130)	47.12% (221)
ACSOL (284)	10.92% (31)	13.73% (39)	32.39% (92)	42.96% (122)
WAR (232)	11.64% (27)	13.79% (32)	31.03% (72)	43.53% (101)
TX-Voices (59)	8.47% (5)	16.95% (10)	22.03% (13)	52.54% (31)
FAC (193)	13.47% (26)	15.03% (29)	32.12% (62)	39.38% (76)
Once Fallen (138)	17.39% (24)	12.32% (17)	31.88% (44)	38.41% (53)
Republican (193)	7.25% (14)	17.62% (34)	28.5% (55)	46.63% (90)
Democratic (318)	7.86% (25)	13.84% (44)	28.93% (92)	49.37% (157)
Libertarian (55)	12.73% (7)	12.73% (7)	23.64% (13)	50.91% (28)
Other Party (129)	17.83% (23)	10.08% (13)	27.91% (36)	44.19% (57)

Q44: *How often have you felt anxiety about going to a new place or event out of concerns you or your registered loved one will face harassment or other negative effects?* Of 695 ARAs, 186 (26.76%) stated they always feel anxiety about going to a new place or event out of fear of harassment or other negative effects from the registry, 139 (20%) chose usually, 181 (26.04%) chose sometimes, 70 (10.07%) chose rarely, and 47 (6.76%) chose never. (72 or 10.36% chose “does not apply”). Numbers below reflect those who did not chose “Does Not Apply”:

Q44: Social Anxiety?	Always	Often/Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Total (623)	29.86% (186)	22.31% (139)	29.05% (181)	11.24% (70)	7.54% (47)
RPs (449)	30.29% (136)	22.72% (102)	28.73% (129)	10.91% (49)	7.35% (33)
LOs (149)	30.87% (46)	19.46% (29)	28.86% (43)	13.42% (20)	7.38% (11)
Others (25)	16% (4)	32% (8)	36% (9)	4% (1)	12% (3)
Males (472)	29.87% (141)	22.03% (104)	28.18% (133)	11.23% (53)	8.69% (41)
Females (147)	30.61% (45)	23.13% (34)	30.61% (45)	11.56% (17)	4.08% (6)
NARSOL(429)	29.84% (128)	23.08% (99)	27.74% (119)	11.66% (50)	7.69% (33)
ACSOL (265)	31.32% (83)	22.64% (60)	26.04% (69)	11.32% (30)	8.68% (23)
WAR (214)	28.04% (60)	22.43% (48)	32.24% (69)	10.75% (23)	6.54% (14)
TX-Voices(56)	25% (14)	25% (14)	30.36% (17)	16.07% (9)	3.57% (2)
FAC (178)	33.71% (60)	26.97% (48)	24.16% (43)	10.67% (19)	4.49% (8)
OnceFallen(130)	33.08% (43)	27.69% (36)	23.85% (31)	10.77% (14)	4.62% (6)
Republican(177)	33.33% (59)	18.64% (33)	29.94% (53)	12.43% (22)	5.65% (10)
Democratic(282)	23.76% (67)	24.82% (70)	29.08% (82)	13.48% (38)	8.87% (25)
Libertarian (51)	25.49% (13)	21.57% (11)	33.33% (17)	1.96% (1)	17.65% (9)
Other Party(113)	41.59% (47)	22.12% (25)	25.66% (29)	7.96% (9)	2.65% (3)

Q45: *How often do you worry that you or a loved one will be physically assaulted or murdered because of the sex offense registry?*

Q45: Fear of assault/murder	Frequently/Often	Regularly	Seldom/Rarely	Never
Total (695)	21.44% (149)	27.48% (191)	37.37% (259)	13.81% (96)
RPs (464)	20.91% (97)	26.72% (124)	40.09% (186)	12.28% (57)
LOs (169)	27.22% (46)	33.14% (56)	31.95% (54)	7.69% (13)
Others (62)	9.68% (6)	17.74% (11)	30.65% (19)	41.94% (26)
Males (508)	19.88% (101)	26.18% (133)	39.57% (201)	14.37% (73)
Females (178)	26.97% (48)	30.34% (54)	32.58% (58)	10.11% (18)
NARSOL (469)	21.96% (103)	27.93% (131)	36.25% (170)	13.86% (65)
ACSOL (284)	23.59% (67)	27.11% (77)	35.56% (101)	13.73% (39)
WAR (232)	21.98% (51)	28.02% (65)	36.21% (84)	13.79% (32)
TX-Voices (59)	20.34% (12)	42.37% (25)	23.73% (14)	13.56% (8)
FAC (193)	25.39% (49)	31.61% (61)	32.64% (63)	10.36% (20)
Once Fallen (138)	28.99% (40)	29.71% (41)	34.78% (48)	6.52% (9)
Republican (193)	21.76% (42)	24.87% (48)	38.34% (74)	15.03% (29)
Democratic (318)	19.5% (62)	26.1% (83)	40.57% (129)	13.84% (44)
Libertarian (55)	20% (11)	29.09% (16)	36.36% (20)	14.55% (8)
Other Party (129)	26.36% (34)	34.11% (44)	27.91% (36)	11.63% (15)

Q46: *What forms of vigilante violence have you/your loved one experience due to registry status or involvements in efforts to reform or abolish registry laws?*

“Other” answers included ousted from or not allowed entry to public places or social clubs, false accusations of wrongdoing, interference with employment, SLAPP suits, bumper stickers and T-shirts promoting violence against registrants, and denial of various services.

Q46: Experienced Harassment	Online Harassed	Real- world Harassed	Property Damage	Physical Assault	Extortion /scams	NONE	Other
Total (695)	27.19% (189)	31.65% (220)	17.55% (122)	7.63% (53)	18.56% (129)	39.71% (276)	15.68% (109)
RPs (464)	29.53% (137)	36.21% (168)	21.98% (102)	8.84% (41)	23.92% (111)	35.34% (164)	15.09% (70)
LOs (169)	24.85% (42)	25.44% (43)	9.47% (16)	6.51% (11)	7.69% (13)	46.75% (79)	16.57% (28)
Others (62)	16.13% (10)	14.52% (9)	6.45% (4)	1.61% (1)	8.06% (5)	53.23% (33)	17.74% (11)
Males (508)	28.15% (143)	33.27% (169)	20.28% (103)	8.07% (41)	22.05% (112)	38.39% (195)	15.16% (77)
Females (178)	24.16% (43)	27.53% (49)	10.67% (19)	6.74% (12)	8.99% (16)	43.26% (77)	17.42% (31)
NARSOL (469)	26.87% (126)	32.2% (151)	18.34% (86)	7.46% (35)	19.19% (90)	38.81% (182)	16.63% (78)
ACSOL (284)	30.28% (86)	36.27% (103)	21.13% (60)	10.21% (29)	21.13% (60)	36.27% (103)	15.14% (43)
WAR (232)	29.74% (69)	34.91% (81)	15.52% (36)	8.62% (20)	17.67% (41)	36.21% (84)	18.97% (44)
TX-Voices (59)	30.51% (18)	33.9% (20)	22.03% (13)	11.86% (7)	23.73% (14)	38.98% (23)	18.64% (11)
FAC (193)	33.16% (64)	33.68% (65)	21.76% (42)	7.77% (15)	23.32% (45)	37.31% (72)	15.54% (30)
OnceFallen (138)	33.33% (46)	34.06% (47)	18.84% (26)	8.7% (12)	22.46% (31)	34.78% (48)	22.46% (31)
Republican (193)	26.42% (51)	33.16% (64)	17.62% (34)	7.77% (15)	20.73% (40)	41.45% (80)	15.03% (29)
Democratic (318)	23.58% (75)	30.5% (97)	17.3% (55)	7.23% (23)	18.55% (59)	40.57% (129)	13.52% (43)
Libertarian (55)	30.91% (17)	38.18% (21)	18.18% (10)	7.27% (4)	16.36% (9)	40% (22)	20% (11)
Other Party (129)	35.66% (46)	29.46% (38)	17.83% (23)	8.53% (11)	16.28% (21)	34.88% (45)	20.16% (26)

Q47: *If you or a loved one experienced harassment due to registry status, how would you react? (Check all that apply):* Other proposed answers included educating the harasser, wear body cameras, ask friends/family to help, and many just stated it depended on the circumstances.

Q47: Reacting to harassment	Get a new job or move	Sue them or press charges	Make peace w/ harasser	Fight the harasser	Do Nothing	Other
Total (543) (81)	14.92% (81)	42.91% (233)	36.28% (197)	14.36% (78)	36.83% (197)	13.26% (78)
RPs (361) (54)	14.96% (54)	46.81% (169)	35.73% (129)	18.56% (67)	39.89% (144)	14.13% (51)
LOs (120) (23)	19.17% (23)	36.67% (44)	45.83% (55)	5.83% (7)	39.17% (47)	32.64% (18)
Others (32) (4)	12.5% (4)	62.5% (20)	40.63% (13)	12.5% (4)	28.13% (9)	9.38% (3)
Males (386) (61)	15.8% (61)	47.93% (185)	36.53% (141)	18.65% (72)	38.34% (148)	13.73% (53)
Females (121) (20)	16.53% (20)	35.54% (43)	44.63% (54)	4.13% (5)	38.84% (47)	14.88% (18)
NARSOL (339) (56)	16.51% (56)	42.18% (149)	41.52% (141)	16.22% (55)	37.46% (127)	15.34% (52)
AC SOL (210) (38)	18.1% (38)	47.62% (100)	41.9% (88)	17.62% (37)	41.9% (88)	12.38% (26)
WAR (169) (27)	15.98% (27)	40.83% (69)	41.42% (70)	15.98% (27)	38.46% (65)	13.61% (23)
TX-Voices (40) (9)	22.5% (9)	57.5% (23)	55% (22)	15% (6)	40% (16)	15% (6)
FAC (139) (23)	16.55% (23)	48.92% (68)	45.32% (63)	17.99% (25)	33.09% (46)	9.35% (13)
Once Fallen (103) (18)	17.48% (18)	48.54% (50)	43.69% (45)	25.24% (26)	33.98% (35)	19.42% (20)
Republican (137) (14)	10.22% (14)	40.88% (56)	40.15% (55)	20.44% (28)	40.15% (55)	13.87% (19)
Democratic (231) (41)	17.75% (41)	48.05% (111)	36.8% (85)	12.12% (28)	39.83% (92)	12.55% (29)
Libertarian (41) (5)	12.2% (5)	53.66% (22)	48.78% (20)	21.95% (9)	31.71% (13)	26.83% (11)
Other Party (99) (21)	21.21% (21)	44.44% (44)	37.37% (37)	13.13% (13)	40.4% (40)	13.13% (13)

Q48: *Have you been fired from a job due to you/your loved one's registry status or because someone complained to the employer for hiring a Registrant?* Of the 551 ARAs who did not choose "does not apply" when asked if they or their loved ones experienced job loss as the result of the registry:

Q48: Job Loss	YES	NO
Total (551)	44.83% (247)	55.17% (304)
RPs (415)	53.25% (221)	46.75% (194)
LOs (112)	16.07% (18)	83.93% (94)
Others (24)	33.33% (8)	66.67% (16)
Males (433)	51.96% (225)	48.04% (208)
Females (114)	18.42% (21)	81.58% (93)
NARSOL (379)	44.59% (169)	55.41% (210)
ACSOL (233)	52.36% (122)	47.64% (111)
WAR (181)	40.88% (74)	59.12% (107)
TX-Voices (48)	31.25% (15)	68.75% (33)
FAC (160)	45.63% (73)	54.37% (87)
Once Fallen (115)	45.22% (52)	54.78% (63)
Republican (156)	44.23% (69)	55.77% (87)
Democratic (245)	45.31% (111)	54.69% (134)
Libertarian (44)	38.64% (17)	61.36% (27)
Other Party (106)	47.17% (50)	52.83% (56)

Q51: *Have you been evicted for forced from your home due to you/your loved one's registry status?* Of the 564 who did not choose "does not apply" when asked if they or a loved one lost a residence due to the registry:

Q51: Forced from residence?	YES	NO
Total (564)	29.43% (166)	70.57% (398)
RPs (427)	33.96% (145)	66.04% (282)
LOs (120)	13.33% (16)	86.67% (104)
Others (17)	29.41% (5)	70.59% (12)
Males (446)	33.63% (150)	66.37% (296)
Females (114)	12.28% (14)	87.72% (100)
NARSOL (382)	30.37% (116)	69.63% (266)
ACSOL (238)	28.99% (69)	71.01% (169)
WAR (185)	30.27% (56)	69.73% (129)
TX-Voices (44)	25% (11)	75% (33)
FAC (161)	34.78% (56)	65.22% (105)
Once Fallen (114)	35.96% (41)	64.04% (73)
Republican (164)	29.88% (49)	70.12% (115)
Democratic (255)	28.24% (72)	71.76% (183)
Libertarian (45)	15.56% (7)	84.44% (38)
Other Party (100)	38% (38)	62% (62)

Q52: *Have you or a loved one been forced to leave a public event, church, or business due to registry status?*

Q52: Forced to leave a public event/business	YES	NO	UNSURE
Total (695)	33.09% (230)	58.71% (408)	8.2% (57)
RPs (464)	37.28% (173)	59.05% (274)	3.66% (17)
LOs (169)	28.4% (48)	56.21% (95)	15.38% (26)
Others (62)	14.52% (9)	62.9% (39)	22.58% (14)
Males (508)	36.42% (185)	58.07% (295)	5.51% (28)
Females (178)	25.28% (45)	58.99% (105)	15.73% (28)
NARSOL (469)	34.97% (164)	57.36% (269)	7.68% (36)
ACSOL (284)	37.32% (106)	53.17% (151)	9.51% (27)
WAR (232)	34.91% (81)	56.47% (131)	8.62% (20)
TX-Voices (59)	45.76% (27)	47.46% (28)	6.78% (4)
FAC (193)	36.27% (70)	56.48% (109)	7.25% (14)
Once Fallen (138)	44.2% (61)	49.28% (68)	6.52% (9)
Republican (193)	39.38% (76)	55.96% (108)	4.66% (9)
Democratic (318)	30.5% (97)	62.58% (199)	6.92% (22)
Libertarian (55)	20% (11)	67.27% (37)	12.73% (7)
Other Party (129)	35.66% (46)	49.61% (64)	14.73% (19)

DISCUSSION

“The registry has protected no one but made the life of offenders a misery. My friend can’t get a job, live in certain areas, travel to certain countries, and is harassed by neighbors. It should be abolished because it is useless in protecting anyone.” – One respondent to this survey who feels the registry is useless

As previously stated in our Demographics section, Registered Persons were the least likely to claim they have no mental health issues at all (52.8%) compared to Loved Ones (60.36%) and those in the “Others” (82.26%); about one in four Registered Persons and about one in five Loved Ones attribute mental health issues to registry-related issues.

Even sites that purport to merely offer “support” or “advice” are attacked online. As one example, a post was created in 2023 entitled, “The r/sexoffendersupport Subreddit Should Be Banned.” The writer claims that this Subreddit should be banned under the claims that, “They literally talk to each other about how to come across as not guilty and things like that.” Amazingly, there were some people with nuanced answers, stating they were glad some people have an avenue to get help to not offend. One response added that “a quick look at the sub it seems it’s literally just a support group like people saying they will be going to jail soon, asking for legal advice, and even where to get jobs or housing.” “There doesn’t seem to be any discussion of committing and or getting away with sex crimes so OP is just hatin (*sic*).” In response, the author responded by adding to his post, “I feel like we should really check the hard drives of

a lot of people in this comment section. I don't know, seems kinda fishy to defend sex offenders with your life. Got quite a lot of pedos and groomers it seems.”⁸⁸

It is a bit ironic this particular subreddit was attacked, since it allows victim advocates and even law enforcement to comment on the site, offer harmful advice and have even posted websites advocating for the SOR, like RAINN and the SMART Office, while routinely banning information from some anti-registry websites and has been at times openly hostile to anti-registry advocates or recently released persons.⁸⁹

Even those without any ties to anti-registry activism can be attacked for simply discussing topics related to sex crime prevention through nuanced discussion and dialogue. Even the media is not immune; On August 30, 2024, KARE 11 covered a protest against the Minnesota Sex Offender Program by the group End MSOP, which fights civil commitment in the state. (That day marked the 30 year anniversary of the MSOP.) The report was also posted to YouTube; the comment section contained comments like:

- “Why would you even cover this?”
- “What's the problem? MN allows males in girls restrooms in middle school so why is this an issue now?”
- “But screw the victims right?”
- “Mushroom head doesn't have to worry, nobody trying to get into that.” (Comment about reporter's looks, a female with short, curly hair)
- “SERIOUSLY THIS REPORTER IS DISGUSTING!!!!!!”
- “How can someone say they paid their Debt and served their time? To help with these people, give them a lead pill”⁹⁰

It is possible the comments are from a small but vocal minority of individuals who live in echo chambers, watch true crime shows, Law and Order: SVU reruns, or spend time on YouTube and/or TikTok watching vigilante entrapment operations. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of merchandise, sold mostly by far-right extremist groups like the Proud Boys, with slogans like “Shoot/Kill Your Local Pedophile”.⁹¹ The Proud Boys had also attempted (and failed) to disrupt a NARSOL conference in Houston in 2023⁹² and harassed a woman they falsely accused as a “child predator” and a “pedophile”.⁹³

⁸⁸ “The r/sexoffendersupport Subreddit Should Be Banned.” Reddit. Accessed 7 Sept 2024 at https://www.reddit.com/r/popularopinion/comments/199vn33/the_rsexoffendersupport_subreddit_should_be_banned/

⁸⁹ “WARNING! Subreddit “r/SexOffenderSupport” is infiltrated by online vigilantes and LEOs.” Absolute Zero Unites. 9 May 2025. Accessed 10 May 2025 at <https://absolutezerounites.blogspot.com/2025/05/warning-subreddit-rsexoffendersupport.html>

⁹⁰ “Debate over MN sex offender program.” KARE 11 on YouTube. 30 Aug 2024. Accessed 5 Sept 2024 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y1N6pAv4MM>

⁹¹ See “‘Shoot Your Local Pedophile’ merchandise is connected to far-right extremist group ‘Proud Boys’.” Absolute Zero Unites. 28 Mar 2022. Accessed 5 Sept. 2024 at <https://absolutezerounites.blogspot.com/2022/03/shoot-your-local-pedophile-merchandise.html>

⁹² Supra., Rozek “Conference” 2023

⁹³ “Self-Described Proud Boy Kyle Boell Arrested For Sending Dozens Of Threatening Messages To Woman: Philly DA's Office.” CBS News. 4 Mar 2021. Accessed 5 Sept 2024 at <https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/self-described-proud-boy-kyle-boell-arrested-for-sending-dozens-of-threatening-messages-to-woman-philly-das-office/>

As Anti-Registry Activists, harassment from the “haters” has been with us from the early days of our activist efforts. As previously started, the first successful public awareness event in Columbus, Ohio in December 2007 was met with protesters representing an online vigilante group and the Bikers Against Child Abuse vigilante group. Over the years, ARA groups have been targeted by numerous individual online vigilantes like the late Valerie “Valigator” Parkhurst to organized groups like Anonymous, which had previously doxed members of NARSOL and made DDOS attacks on the NARSOL website.

There have been a handful of studies showing the negative impact of the sex offense registry on Registered Persons and their loved ones. In 2006, forensic psychologist Hollida Wakefield wrote, “As former offenders are denied opportunities to reintegrate into society and stigmatized, they lose hope. Stigmatized offenders are more likely to recidivate than reintegrated offenders, as the resistance to recidivate diminishes among offenders who are ostracized. On the other hand, a ‘pro-social identity,’ including concrete recognition of their reform, is integral to reducing recidivism.”⁹⁴

A 2009 Study by Jill Levenson and Richard Tewksbury conducted a survey of 584 family members of Registered Persons. The respondents reported the following types of negative consequences of having a Registered Person living in the household (Ranked here from most to least often):

Financial difficulties due to RP struggles to find employment	82%
Job Loss due to appearance on registry	53%
Threats and Harassment against RP or LO	44%
Non-RP living in household experienced threats, harassment, assault, or property damage	30%
Property Damage	27%
Forced to move out of rental property because landlord kicked them out	22%
Moved out of rental property because of harassment by neighbors	17%
Moved out of owned property because of harassment by neighbors	12%
Physically assaulted and/or injured	7%

Levenson and Tewksbury concluded, “Employment problems experienced by the RSO, and subsequent financial hardships, emerged as the most pressing issue identified by family members. The likelihood of housing disruption was correlated with residential restriction laws; larger buffer distances led to increased frequencies of housing crisis. Family members living with an RSO were more likely to experience threats and harassment by neighbors. Children of RSOs reportedly experienced adverse consequences including stigmatization and differential treatment by teachers and classmates. More than half had experienced ridicule, teasing, depression, anxiety, fear, or anger. Unintended consequences can impact family members’ ability to support RSOs in their efforts to avoid recidivism and successfully reintegrate.”⁹⁵

The 2016 Jobs and Welfare survey conducted by Once Fallen found Registered Persons found on-the-job harassment at twice the level of the general population (50.49% RPs vs 27% non-RPs).⁹⁶

A 2018 study that surveyed 109 Registered Persons and 116 Loved Ones (through Texas Voices) had found that Registered Persons reported “a significantly higher level” of both isolation and shame than Loved Ones, which has been linked to disintegrative shaming, a “more permanent and reoccurring shame,

⁹⁴ Hollida Wakefield, “The Vilification of Sex Offenders: Do Laws Targeting Sex Offenders Increase Recidivism and Sexual Violence?” *Journal of Sex Offender Civil Commitment: Science and the Law*, 2006, p. 141-149

⁹⁵ Levenson, Jill & Tewksbury, Richard. (2009). *Collateral Damage: Family Members of Registered Sex Offenders*. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*. 34. 54-68. 10.1007/s12103-008-9055-x.

⁹⁶ Supra., Logue, “Jobs & Welfare Survey” 2016

resulting in a master status that encourages stigmatization and ultimately breaks the bond between the offender and the community.” “Direct association with the sex offense conviction and SORN laws creates a stronger experience than indirect association through a loved one.” This isolation was more pronounced among those forced to register for life.⁹⁷

In 2022, Once Fallen also conducted a survey of 403 Anti-Registry Activists on issues faced through social media. The study found that ARAs (at 62.8%) are about 42% more likely than the general population (at 41%) to experience online harassment. The study found the following levels of harassment:

Experienced some form of harassment on social media platforms	62.8%
Experienced harassment even away from social media	28.7%
Had a social media account suspended/deactivated as a result of registry status or activism	27.1%
Targeted by law enforcement agencies through social media posts	20.6%
Targeted by organized online vigilante and/or “anti-pedo” hate groups	17.5%
Respondents who were aware law enforcement made posts about them	13.2%
--Among those targeted by LE post, percentage who faced harassment due to that post	69.9%

The results of this survey are comparable to other studies finding elevated levels of harassment for Registered Persons and for anyone involved in anti-registry activism. Roughly three out of every five Anti-Registry Activists in this survey have experienced at least one instance of harassment or ostracism as the result of either registry status or involvement in anti-registry activism. While Registered Persons reported the most harassment or ostracism, all ARAs had reported negative experiences in this survey due to registry status and/or anti-registry activist efforts (listed below in order of frequency based from experiences of RPs, rounded to nearest whole number):

Negative Experience	RPs	LOs	Others
Job loss due to registry or ARA activism	48%	11%	13%
Forced to leave public event	37%	28%	15%
Offline threats/ “real world” harassment	36%	25%	15%
Loss of Residence	31%	9%	8%
Online threats/harassment	30%	25%	16%
Targeted for extortion and/or scams	24%	8%	8%
Property Damage	22%	9%	6%
Other types of crimes	15%	17%	18%
Physically Assaulted	9%	7%	2%
None of the above	35%	47%	53%

Registered Persons, unsurprisingly, also reported suffering negative effects more than Loved Ones, which in turn reported a higher rate of negative feelings than those in the Others category. For example, only 1% of Registered Persons and 8% of Loved Ones reported that the registry has no impact on their lives, while just under half of those in the ‘Others’ category (47%) stated the registry does not impact their personal lives. Three out of five RPs and LOs reported “often” or “frequently” feeling bitter, angry, depressed, or other negative feelings about the sex offense registry and the negative effects it causes; only 26% of

⁹⁷ Bailey, Danielle & Klein, Jennifer. (2018). Ashamed and Alone: Comparing Offender and Family Member Experiences With the Sex Offender Registry. *Criminal Justice Review*. 43. 073401681875648. 10.1177/0734016818756486.

Others said the same, but 53% of Others chose “regularly”, the option just below “frequent” or “Often.” Thus, even those in the “Others” category reported high levels of negative feelings towards the registry.

Only about a third of Registered Persons (36%) stated they never thought of suicide due to the registry, while just over two out of three Loved ones (69%) and four out of five in the “Others” category (79%) have stated they have never thought of suicide. Furthermore, just under a third of Registered Persons (30%) have thought of suicide regularly or frequently/often, compared to just 12% of Loved Ones and 10% of Others.

Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, Loved Ones were more likely than Registered Persons to report frequently/often or regularly fearful of being a victim of assault, and virtually equal with Registered Persons reporting “always” having a level of fear of going out in public. Only about 3% of Registered Persons and 12% of Loved Ones have no fear of going out in public, compared to 60% in the “Others” category; only about 8% of Loved Ones and 12% of Registered Persons reported having no fear of assault, compared to 42% of “Others.” This result can possibly be explained because of the general consensus that, in general, women fear being the victims of crime more than men. “However, while women are more fearful than men, their risk of victimization is statistically low compared to men’s: the so-called ‘fear of crime paradox.’”⁹⁸

A 2022 study on overall fear of crime between men and women found that men were found to be less fearful of crime overall, but the number of fearful men increased greatly with age. Furthermore, this study found “Our analysis showed partial evidence for theories emphasizing vulnerability, but suggests that the relationship between being vulnerable, whether measured by socioeconomic status, age or feeling generally worried, is not that straightforward, in line with previous research.”⁹⁹

Four out of every five ARAs are over age 35, and one out of three ARAs are over age 65. Most of the men were Registered Persons, while most of the women are Loved Ones. But there is also an unofficial mantra that has been stated among those ARAs on the registry or living with a Registered Person—if one person in the household registers, the entire household registers. As previously noted in the 2009 Levenson study, people living in the same household as a Registered Person have experienced harassment and threats. Furthermore, the Internet has made harassment easier than ever. Anti-Registry Activists have experienced doxing (including republishing of registry information), threats, and both online and offline harassment. Those without “a dog in the fight” who chooses to engage in anti-registry activism and even those who merely cover anti-registry activism are subject to harassment. This presents a significant barrier to current anti-registry activist efforts.

Negative feelings should not come as a surprise to those who engage in Anti-Registry Activism. In a sense, ARAs are also in an echo chamber of sorts. Part of our work as ARAs involves reading legislation and media reports that are more likely to be bad news for Registered Persons than good news. Thus, about 19 out of every 20 ARAs feel anger and frustration even when seeing or reading news that does not affect them personally.

This survey is not intended to be a treatise on the plight of those impacted by the registry, and there are numerous studies, articles, and entire books that have chronicled the plight of Registered Persons, their

⁹⁸ Johansson, Sofi, and Karen Haandrikman. 2021. “Gendered Fear of Crime in the Urban Context: A Comparative Multilevel Study of Women’s and Men’s Fear of Crime.” *Journal of Urban Affairs* 45 (7): 1238–64.
doi:10.1080/07352166.2021.1923372.

⁹⁹ Ibid., page 1253

loved ones, and those who support them.¹⁰⁰ However, there were still many additional comments from ARAs that are added here for the sake of supplementing the impact of the survey results in this segment. (Information that identified specific individuals were edited out, otherwise, all comments were copied verbatim.)

- “When I was released from prison, I was unable to find a place to live. Most apartment renters do not rent to those who must register and there is a housing shortage which allows the owners to be more selective and deny those who must register.”
- “Registries give the public a false sense of security. Those who commit a "sex crime" are very rarely on the registry. Moreover the effect of being listed on an open sex offender registry leaves a person vulnerable to discrimination, harassment, prejudice, and even open attack. (I have a friend who was attacked and almost murdered by a man who found his name on the registry. Public registries create only harm, never good. The IML, passport identifiers, travel restrictions (both domestically and internationally), and notifications to other countries that a registered sex offender is traveling to their country all need to be abolished.”
- “I have been on the registry for 17 years. I'm married to a woman from the Philippines and we are separated due to international Megan's law. We have been married for 9 years and struggle constantly because of my past offense. I was not hired when my company sold to another company because I was on the registry. I had 3 job offers that all were rescinded after required notification. They all were in the oilfield with no children around. I have constantly been held back from trying to make a life for me and my wife.”
- “As someone who was charged with a third degree misdemeanor in California because of someone else material in my home, I am frustrated that now living in Florida there is no avenue to be removed from the registry, when IF I had the money or the ability to move back to California where there is a Law where I could petition to be removed, Florida makes living on the registry very difficult for my whole family.”
- “Having trouble finding a good job due to being a 290.”
- “As a registrant I chose to be open about my status with people I would likely form bonds or be in a relationship with which worked well for decades which allowed me to lead a fairly normal life where I maintained existing friendships and relationships as well as forming new ones. That all changed in 2011 when I became sole heir of my family's fairly large estate. On 10 acres in a rural part of the county I began to encounter low level harassment from only one family with whom I shared a boundary, where I responded by installing security cameras as well as documenting everything else the cameras missed. After 3 years they realized the cameras were real when their claim of a dog bite was thwarted by my video. Four months later I was served (upon returning from completing my annual registration) with a TRO and an Unlimited, Verified Complaint. Everything alleged straddled both cases and was largely true, only it was they who perpetrated these acts against me, my property, and estate clearly established by my security footage. Though the plaintiff committed perjury, on the stand and under oath, his entire testimony given in the TRO, the property case continued on and has cost me a loving stable relationship with a wonderful women, who was/is my Successor Trustee, and my decades long friendships, my stability, mental, and financial health. I'm being systematically cleaned out of every challenge successfully overcome, every friendship/relationship, every last dollar and my home, as a team of corrupt zealot religious lawyers eliminate me from the face of the earth. No one hears me! The only and final option is for me to do something terrible to the people have

¹⁰⁰ For further reading, books that focus extensively on our plight include “Protecting Our Kids?: How Sex Offender Laws are Failing Us” (2015) by Emily Horowitz, “Impacts of Sex Crime Laws on the Female Partners of Convicted Offenders” (2021) by Lisa Anne Zilney, and “From Rage to Reason: Why We Need Sex Crime Laws Based on Facts, Not Fear” (2023) by Emily Horowitz

targeted me before I go. But I do not want to do anything like that. In the alternative, pass legislation to allow the women (lawyer) who brought frivolous action against me, to write herself a release of liability; I sign, for to finish the murder of me she started 6 years earlier, in exchange her truthful testimony that the whole is simply fraud to rob me of everything because she can. Thank you for all you do.”

- “My husband’s life has been hard do to the registry. For an offense over 30 years ago. Something that didn’t happen but we couldn’t afford an attorney. We were young and scared. He has finally been taken off but damage has been done. We are self-employed and have had competitors tell everyone he was registered. Nobody could would help us unless we paid a lot of money, which we don’t have, with no guarantees. Finally removed from registry after 7 months of going to court. Finally got a new judge and was granted instantly.”
- “I’ve been told that my tier designation letter will be one of the last to be determined because I moved out of state even though my oral copulation charge is 30 years old, doesn’t make sense. Also since I moved to UT I have been harassed by agents and followed into various establishments and they informed proprietors that I am a registrant.”
- “The registry ruins many lives, not just of those on it but also the lives of their families and loved ones. You’re constantly stigmatized and looked down on. It’s hard to find employment and even places to live. You try to live your live but it holds you back from being the reformed person they want you to be. It affects my family and my wife is constantly worried and scared. Were worried about how it will affect my daughter when she gets in school and if she will be bullied or if she will be able to make friends because of it. It’s cruel and unusual punishment not just for people on the registry but for their families as well and it needs to be stopped. My family shouldn’t be punished for just trying to live their lives.”
- “Being placed on the registry resulted in losing my medical career or getting a job in a professional environment. I have been out of prison since 2017 and have not been able to get a job.”
- “The registry has ruined my son’s life just as he was preparing for a career. Additionally, the strain of prison and the registry has caused serious mental health issues. It’s really our society’s loss for him not to be able to work.”
- “My conviction was as a result of a bad break-up thus false accusation of a sole count 32 years ago and ended my naval career. San Diego DA is denying my Tier 2 status because I now reside in Florida. Where does it state in the Law that I have to be a current resident? It doesn’t but because of limited funds, I have San Diego Public Defenders office assisting me. When we succeed, I can then be removed from Florida’s registry.”
- “Due to being on the Registry, I lost my benefits of being able to access Military bases to be able to shop at the commissary and exchange or use the recreational facilities.”
- “I have been on the “registry” for 32 years and soon to be 33 years in January. I was told, last year, that I don’t qualify for the tiered system here in California. I am retired and very low risk and I don’t understand why.”
- “I think that laws need to be changed. They are too strict. Not everyone can be pigeon holed into 3 tiers. I’m terribly ashamed I ever got into this mess 40 years ago and this registry requirement has impacted my life daily from relationships, marriage, employment to education.”
- “I’m 15 and my life is harder because of what my grandma has to do with this registry. We are punished for her past. Not fair!”
- “I have been kicked out of 5 churches since release from prison on April 22, 2022. I fear daily I will be shot when I walk out my door.”
- “My case is unique in the sense that my crime did not involve any minors or physical contact but I was designated an SVP for one charge of invasion of privacy. I am still treated as if the crime was child molestation. The registry reinforces societal tribalism and those who hate together.....stay together.”
- “Every day I wake up and face this issue. I live in Illinois where unconstitutional laws strip me of my personal freedoms.”

- “My answers are based on my opinion. My son is in prison and we have not dealt with many of these issues but I’m horrified of what he will face. He went in as a child and is now in his 30s, never had any experience at living. I hope I live long enough to help him when he gets, I’m 68 now. His do all time is 2048. His parole eligibility is 2028 and with current laws he would not have a route to get to my house or anywhere else because of schools and day cares built on major thoroughfares and this is happening in all communities nationwide. It’s heartbreakingly to know how they are set up to fail without reoffending.”
- “I’ve been registered since 1995. I’ve experienced the evolution of these laws first hand. Still registered beyond my original 25 year sentence. I’m also a single dad; I’ve raised my daughter by myself. She is almost 18 now. Also, she is one of my strongest advocates. Separating my feelings on the registry as a registrant and a father is difficult. On the one hand, I feel jaded and distain for how the registry has impacted my life. On the other, I want notice if there is a dangerous sex offender living nearby. Being a single dad, I’ve had to leave my daughter home alone often. Her safety is more important to me than my convenience. So my feelings in the registry are conflicted.”
- “I expect to die before the registry is abolished, but it would be nice to be able to live my life without being afraid of registry law trying to put me back in prison or keeping me from going to an amusement park or to the YMCA or just being able to be part of Facebook or attempting to join a dating site so I don’t have to die alone.”
- “I’m tired of being pushed to homelessness only to then be punished for not having a safe home.”
- “I released from prison in 2011. I was totally unemployable from day one, even though I had an excellent work history prior to prison. I served ten years. Now, with 1st Degree Rape of a Child, no employer will touch me. Before prison, I was a Federal employee, having worked decades for the Post Office. I was 55 when I released, and due to a severe back condition, I went on SSI. That benefit was the only thing that kept a roof over my head. Today I am doing much better with full social security and a Federal civil service pension. For those of us off supervision, Washington State has NO residency restrictions. What they need to do is abolish lifetime supervision for sex offenders. I am pre-Board & not subject to that horror. I am free to travel where and when I want. I report to no one.”
- “Our 16 year old son was a child himself when he was put on the SOR. Now he is 36 years old and still lives at home because of this horrible SOR. We have two other sons that both got their master’s degree at LU, then after graduation joined the military to fight for our country. One of them was top of his class for EOD. Its nuts, how different the two sons have been treated.”
- “I have been through the wringer with this whole 'registry' experience-- my offense occurred 12 years ago, and since that time, I have been moved around and not really permitted to have a 'clean' shot at really moving forward in a productive manner, with my life; something which may be more directly relevant to your interests, is that the whole idea of being barred from attending services, etc. at some churches, turns my stomach-- I was of the understanding that churches (Christian has been my experience) were supposed to accept ANYONE (again the Christian belief is that Jesus dined with murderers and criminals, etc.)... Also, there is the whole issue I have encountered with housing, etc. I am currently concerned with where I will live, once my housing contract here at the University (on-campus housing) is up in June; I have come to understand that many (most?) "regular" apartment complexes/landlords will not rent to registrants, mainly due to concerns about losing other tenants/potential tenants.”
- “My husband (registrant) suffered a stroke this year which I feel was brought on from the stress of the registry. He was told he couldn’t use the bathroom at church without an escort. Baloney! These idiots call themselves Christians? There not God they’re the true sinners! I’m sick of these so called protectors! The government has not created a register they created an open season hunting license for hatred, violence and death against registrants and their families.”
- “Before we can find external peace, we must first find internal peace. Through Christ I have found both.”

- I admitted to an Alcoholic Anonymous Board I am a SO registrant & that's probably why I got kicked out. Also online Sex Addicts Anonymous is impossible to get in. Not enough emphasis is providing jobs for Sex Offenders should be top priority. At 58 I cannot work: emphasis should be out on that."
- "We live with the underlying fear that my husband being on the registry will be found out by employers. All we want is to live peacefully and not have this underlying fear of something bad happening, such as job loss."
- "I am hoping for reform. My son has been falsely accused by a 15 year old that was assaulted by her ex-boyfriend. He is taking a plea to avoid jail. She has no case his attorney says. What is messing him up is the police and his first attorney who waived his prelim hearing. How many innocent people are in this list, I wonder?"
- "The registry has caused extreme financial hardships for my family. My son, who is the registrant, suffers from extreme depression and I fear one day he will take his life."
- "I have been within the last six months released from a ten year sentence for a sex offense. I am in a transitional facility. I am having difficulty finding work and housing. I have a place to stay once of parole but cannot stay there now due to parole restrictions."
- "It has been 34 years since my offense. Despite that I often get turned down for jobs even when I am the best qualified to do the job. For that reason, I have become an IT contractor - the contract house is just as interested in me obtaining employment as I am, and will often under-stress or dismiss any offense they might find. Outside of close friends and family people still react with horror and disdain at any mention of removing the registry. We have a long way to go."
- "Some states are more horrible than others, my D.D. son did nothing, but is a level 3 here in Ms. in other states would only be a 1 but can't afford to move away."
- "Visiting another state for work or leisure is always stressful and anxiety causing due to difficulty I'm figuring out requirements for registering or what's allowed in the other state. Traveling to other countries is almost unavailable due to IML, so even for those that are trying to lead a good healthy life with loved ones, they still face undue shackles and punishment of IML and interstate challenges."
- "Arkansas laws are really bad they make it impossible to get out once paroled laws definitely need to be changed my brother was threatened moments before court by DA to take her offer of 25 years or she will make sure he gets 100 years just for pornography on a flash drive his friend turned in after having it for over a year we were never told what was on it fishy!"
- "I'm very fortunate that in my state I'm not listed publically but fear of running afoul of other state's laws inhibits my desire to travel. The entire concept of a registry is unconstitutional Bullshit!"
- "Would be nice if it all went away. Would have a less stressful life if I was a drunk driver, bank robber or a murderer. Do your time and done."
- "I live in a state (West Virginia) that has no pathway off the registry aside from death. Having a date, even 100 years, would give me a goal to look forward to and some much needed hope."
- "Life not worth living while drug dealers and murderers get a pass."
- Life was/is bad enough with the registry but, when they started getting other Countries to kick out the offender that was hitting the bottom of the barrel. There are many that have loved one's in different Countries and now this B.S. law keeps them separated. This law should be abolished."
- "I'm in strong belief that employment and housing must allow felons and registrants to work and live in their facilities. Humans should never be denied housing and employment."
- "Almost all first world countries have some type of registry at this point. Getting away is not an option."
- "It's ridiculous how the state I live in relinquished my duty to register but Florida keeps me on the registry even though I haven't been there since I left Florida."
- "The "registry" is a way of dehumanizing a person, and gives any person no chance of returning to society where they can attain their freedom to exist without reporting in at a place where they are treated worse than murderers."

- “Family members of registered persons are damaged, we are punished without having committed a crime, UNCONSTITUTIONAL! I truly believe the system has created a way of feeling validated and making lots of money from the slave labor they have created and the income from lawsuits. If the government could figure out a way to criminalize eating and breathing...One day all families of moderate means (the millionaires can pay the legal fees to maintain their freedom) will have a member who is on the registry the way the laws are going, maybe then there will be positive change. I cry every day for all registered persons.”
- “I am not a registrant, but I do have a loved-one who will soon be required to register. My overall opinion is that the registry does not do what it was originally expected to do. Now that I know more about the topic, I realize that it not only does not protect those it was designed to protect, but also further punishes individuals beyond their completed sentence and does not allow them to ever feel like they paid their debt to society. It also makes it difficult to feel safe when they are released back into the community.”

BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT

Q49: Do you believe that all Registered Persons should be automatically declared eligible for welfare assistance (food stamps, SSI, Medicaid/Medicare, etc.)?

Q49: RP automatic welfare	YES	NO	UNSURE
Total (695)	58.85% (409)	18.99% (132)	22.16% (154)
RPs (464)	59.7% (277)	19.4% (90)	20.91% (97)
LOs (169)	57.99% (98)	16.57% (28)	25.44% (43)
Others (62)	54.84% (34)	22.58% (14)	22.58% (14)
Males (508)	60.24% (306)	19.09% (97)	20.67% (105)
Females (178)	55.62% (99)	17.42% (31)	26.97% (48)
NARSOL (469)	58.42% (274)	19.40% (91)	22.17% (104)
ACSOL (284)	61.27% (174)	18.66% (53)	20.07% (57)
WAR (232)	64.22% (149)	18.10% (42)	17.67% (41)
TX-Voices (59)	57.63% (34)	25.42% (15)	16.95% (10)
FAC (193)	67.36% (130)	13.99% (27)	18.65% (36)
Once Fallen (138)	72.46% (100)	13.04% (18)	14.49% (20)
Republican (193)	58.03% (112)	18.65% (36)	23.32% (45)
Democratic (318)	57.23% (182)	19.18% (61)	23.58% (75)
Libertarian (55)	50.91% (28)	20% (11)	29.09% (16)
Other Party (129)	62.79% (81)	18.6% (24)	13.95% (18)

Q50: True or false: I would still donate to a charity even if it was known to refuse services to Registered Persons.

Q50: Donate to charity that refuses RP?	TRUE	FALSE
Total (695)	12.95% (90)	87.05% (605)
RPs (464)	13.79% (64)	86.21% (400)
LOs (169)	9.47% (16)	90.53% (153)
Others (62)	16.13% (10)	83.87% (52)
Males (508)	14.17% (72)	85.83% (436)
Females (178)	9.55% (17)	90.45% (161)
NARSOL (469)	12.79% (60)	87.21% (409)
ACSOL (284)	11.62% (33)	88.38% (251)
WAR (232)	9.48% (22)	90.52% (210)
TX-Voices (59)	20.34% (12)	79.66% (47)
FAC (193)	11.92% (23)	88.08% (170)
Once Fallen (138)	8.7% (12)	91.3% (126)
Republican (193)	16.06% (31)	83.94% (162)
Democratic (318)	10.38% (33)	89.62% (285)
Libertarian (55)	9.09% (5)	90.91% (50)
Other Party (129)	16.28% (21)	83.72% (108)

Q53: If you saw a neighbor that has been nasty towards you/your loved one due to registry status and saw that person's residence was being burglarized, what would you do?

Q53: Bad neighbor needs help?	Personally Intervene	Call the Cops	Pretend you saw Nothing	Unsure
Total (695)	3.74% (26)	496 (71.37%)	12.23% (85)	12.66% (88)
RPs (464)	4.74% (22)	68.1% (316)	14.66% (68)	12.5% (58)
LOs (169)	1.78% (3)	78.7% (133)	6.51% (11)	13.02% (22)
Others (62)	1.61% (1)	75.81% (47)	9.68% (6)	12.9% (8)
Males (508)	4.53% (23)	68.31% (347)	13.98% (71)	13.19% (67)
Females (178)	1.69% (3)	79.78% (142)	6.74% (12)	11.8% (21)
NARSOL (469)	3.84% (18)	73.13% (343)	11.3% (53)	11.73% (55)
ACSOL (284)	4.23% (12)	70.77% (201)	13.03% (37)	11.97% (34)
WAR (232)	3.02% (7)	71.12% (165)	15.09% (35)	10.78% (25)
TX-Voices (59)	0% (0)	83.05% (49)	10.17% (6)	6.78% (4)
FAC (193)	3.63% (7)	65.28% (126)	16.06% (31)	15.03% (29)
Once Fallen (138)	4.35% (6)	65.22% (90)	19.57% (27)	10.87% (15)
Republican (193)	4.66% (9)	72.54% (140)	9.84% (19)	12.95% (25)
Democratic (318)	3.14% (10)	71.38% (227)	12.58% (40)	12.89% (41)
Libertarian (55)	5.45% (3)	69.09% (38)	10.91% (6)	14.55% (8)
Other Party (129)	3.1% (4)	70.54% (91)	15.5% (20)	10.85% (14)

Q54: If you were approached by a child claiming they are lost and need help, what would you do? Other responses included explanations as to why they wouldn't help or they have fears or suspicions that it is a trap.

Q54: Help lost child?	Offer Assistance	Keep distance & call 911	Refuse help/run away	Unsure	Other
Total (695)	35.4% (246)	40.43% (281)	10.07% (70)	9.64% (67)	4.46% (31)
RPs (464)	26.94% (125)	45.91% (213)	13.58% (63)	9.48% (44)	4.09% (19)
LOs (169)	51.48% (87)	30.77% (52)	2.37% (4)	11.83% (20)	3.55% (6)
Others (62)	54.84% (34)	25.81% (16)	4.84% (3)	4.84% (3)	9.68% (6)
Males (508)	30.31% (154)	44.69% (227)	11.81% (60)	9.25% (47)	3.94% (20)
Females (178)	49.44% (88)	29.78% (53)	4.49% (8)	10.67% (19)	5.62% (10)
NARSOL(469)	34.54% (162)	40.94% (192)	10.87% (51)	8.96% (42)	4.69% (22)
ACSOL (284)	34.51% (98)	41.55% (118)	9.15% (26)	10.56% (30)	4.23% (12)
WAR (232)	38.36% (89)	41.38% (96)	9.05% (21)	8.19% (19)	3.02% (7)
TX-Voices (59)	28.81% (17)	50.85% (30)	6.78% (4)	10.17% (6)	3.39% (2)
FAC (193)	31.09% (60)	45.6% (88)	10.36% (20)	10.36% (20)	2.59% (5)
OnceFallen(138)	26.81% (37)	42.75% (59)	12.32% (17)	12.32% (17)	5.8% (8)
Republican(193)	34.2% (66)	38.86% (75)	11.92% (23)	12.44% (24)	2.59% (5)
Democratic(318)	38.68% (123)	38.05% (121)	9.75% (31)	8.81% (28)	4.72% (15)
Libertarian (55)	40% (22)	41.82% (23)	7.27% (4)	7.27% (4)	3.64% (2)
Other Party(129)	27.13% (35)	48.06% (62)	9.3% (12)	8.53% (11)	6.98% (9)

Q86: *Do you find pleasure in seeing a pro-registry advocate, politician, or law enforcement agent getting arrested for a sex crime?*

Q86: Love seeing a Pro-registry person arrested for a sex crime?	YES	NO	UNSURE
Total (695)	52.95% (368)	35.68% (248)	11.37% (79)
RPs (464)	55.82% (259)	34.27% (159)	9.91% (46)
LOs (169)	44.97% (76)	41.42% (70)	13.61% (23)
Others (62)	53.23% (33)	30.65% (19)	16.13% (10)
Males (508)	54.92% (279)	34.06% (173)	11.02% (56)
Females (178)	47.19% (84)	39.89% (71)	12.92% (23)
NARSOL(469)	56.93% (267)	32.62% (153)	10.45% (49)
ACSOL (284)	56.69% (161)	34.86% (99)	8.45% (24)
WAR (232)	58.19% (135)	28.45% (66)	13.36% (31)
TX-Voices (59)	61.02% (36)	33.90% (20)	5.08% (3)
FAC (193)	61.66% (119)	27.98% (54)	10.36% (20)
Once Fallen (138)	56.52% (78)	29.71% (41)	13.77% (19)
Republican (193)	46.63% (90)	40.41% (78)	12.95% (25)
Democratic (318)	57.86% (184)	34.28% (109)	7.86% (25)
Libertarian (55)	52.73% (29)	41.82% (23)	5.45% (3)
Other Party (129)	50.39% (65)	29.46% (38)	20.16% (26)

DISCUSSION

“I hate the registry!! It needs to go. It wasn’t too bad when it was 10 years but then they change the rules and nothing you could say but do what they tell you to do and know it’s for life and my life is ruined by it and my kids’ lives by bullying at their schools and loss of jobs has made it a struggle and I’ve not even had a speeding ticket and it’s been 20 years and I don’t see any hope and have attempted suicide 3 times and spent time in hospital because there is just no way out or off the list!” – A survey respondent

These questions attempt to gauge the impact of the constant fear and frustration with the registry on the willingness to participate in certain kinds of altruism or participation in society.

A major study on the “prevalence of anger” among over 34,000 US adults found that 7.8% of Americans experience high levels of anger.¹⁰¹ However, Registered Persons and anti-registry activists seemingly rarely publicly express their anger, and within the Anti-Registry Movement, those who express frustration and anger are often corrected or even shunned by other activists. In part, some of the past shaming of activists who express anger or negativity at the registry stem from fears of seeing as “unrepentant pedophile” or an “angry rapist”, two terms that have often been used to denigrate Registered Persons who dare speak out against the registry.

¹⁰¹ Okuda M, Picazo J, Olfson M, Hasin DS, Liu SM, Bernardi S, Blanco C. Prevalence and correlates of anger in the community: results from a national survey. CNS Spectr. 2015 Apr;20(2):130-9. doi: 10.1017/S1092852914000182. PMID: 25831968; PMCID: PMC4384185.

DONATIONS TO CHARITY

Considering the heightened incidence of harassment and social ostracism experienced by ARAs, especially by Registered Persons, and so it should come as no surprise that ARAs may decide the general public is not worth supporting or may be reluctant to help those who shun them due to a label. It is difficult to make comparisons to the general public but some comparisons could be made with a 2022 YouGov study on charities. This study found, out of 1000 respondents:¹⁰²

People who have donated to charity at least once in their lifetimes	69%
Those who donated within the past 12 months	54%
Those who donated less than \$1000	62%
Those who have not donated in the past 12 months	21%
Donated to civil rights agencies (such as legal funds, civil rights advocacy orgs) in past 12 mos.	10%
Those who donated because they “believe in the cause”	48%
Those who donated to a charity that they directly benefitted from	11%
Belief that knowing where the money is going is “somewhat” or very important”	90%
Amount who gave more time than money to the cause	9%
Those who gave mostly money to the cause	51%
Those who gave both time and money	17%
Those who feel the government has the greatest responsibility to help those who are struggling	38%
Those who feel private charities have the greatest responsibility to help those who are struggling	33%

The Anti-Registry Movement is a civil rights movement. The mission of ARM and the various groups that strive to reform or abolish sex offense registries do so out of the harm they cause and the belief that draconian measures are unconstitutional. Anti-Registry Activists donate time and money to the cause.

Nearly three out of ten ARAs (29.78%) of ARAs believe that Registered Persons should automatically qualify for some form of government welfare assistance, including food stamps, Medicaid, Medicare, TANF, and SSI/Social Security. This is roughly eight percentage points below the number of those in the YouGov survey who felt the government should have the primary responsibility of assisting the needy.

The older the respondent in the YouGov survey, the higher the numbers in the survey results, except when it comes to donating time to the cause (and were equal in their support of civil rights causes)¹⁰³:

CATEGORY	Age <30	Age 65+
Have ever donated to charity	54%	85%
Donated \$1000+	5%	22%
Donated because they believe in the cause	29%	64%
Donates mostly money	36%	69%
Donates Mostly Time	16%	4%
Donates time and money equally	22%	14%

¹⁰² Oana Dumitru. “Half of Americans say they have donated money to charity in the past year.” YouGov. 15 Aug 2022. Accessed 7 Sept 2024 at <https://today.yougov.com/society/articles/43435-half-americans-donate-money-charity-past-year-poll>

¹⁰³ Ibid.

There are key differences between this survey and the YouGov survey. The two surveys did not divide equally by the ages. There were over five times as many ARAs over age 65 in this survey, compared to only 42 ARAs ages 35 or less. But the comparisons between the two ages in this survey are largely similar in regards to those who feel Registered Persons should automatically qualify for government welfare and those who would choose to assist a charity that does not offer services to Registered Persons. But there are some key differences between ARAs under age 35 and those over age 65:

Category	Age <35	Age 65+
Not members of an established anti-registry group	26%	5%
Not willing to participate in a public event	28.5%	20%
Regularly or frequently/often worry about being physically assaulted	54.8%	41%
Refuse to help a lost child/run away	19%	6%

Those who vote Republican (16%) are more likely than those who vote Democrat (10%) to refuse to give to charities that refuse services to Registered Persons.

Many charities have been known to discriminate against Registered Persons. It is a well-established fact among ARAs that most, if not all, Salvation Army branches routinely deny shelter to Registered Persons.¹⁰⁴ In some cases, Registered Persons are barred from participation in or direct support of other charities.

In 2010, a benefit involving an attempt to break a Guinness world record to benefit a teenager with cystic fibrosis was canceled after it was revealed the man attempting to break the record was a Registered Person. The mother of the teen and a Tampa Bay radio station pulled support and condemned the Registered Person for wanting to help them with this fundraiser. One person even told reporters, “We will not be supporting any sexual offenders.”¹⁰⁵

Registered Persons and Anti-Registry Activists should support anti-registry efforts first and foremost with their meager donations.

THE “BYSTANDER” EFFECT: HELPING A LOST CHILD

The “bystander effect” is sometimes known as the Kitty Genovese effect, is the concept that people are unlikely to help others, particularly when there are more people willing to intervene. Ironically, the theory was first derived from an erroneous story published in the NY Times which falsely claimed that 38 people witnessed the 1964 murder of Kitty Genovese and no one intervened.¹⁰⁶

The general public has struggled for decades with how strangers deal with lost children. In one of the earliest known studies of willingness to help lost children, the children helping with researchers asked 184 people for help, 127 in the cities and 57 in the towns. In the cities, 46% offered help; in the towns, 72%

¹⁰⁴ Sandy Rozek. “Salvation Army, practice what you preach.” NARSOL. 8 Dec. 2018. Accessed 9 Sept 2024 at <https://www.narsol.org/2018/12/salvation-army-practice-what-you-preach/>

¹⁰⁵ Rodney Thrash. “Safety Harbor cancels sex offender’s Guinness World Record event.” Tampa Bay Times. 14 Aug 2010. Accessed 9 Sept 2014 at

<https://web.archive.org/web/20100818071704/https://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/article1115043.ece>

¹⁰⁶ Beryl Lieff Benderly. “Psychology’s tall tales.” APA. Sept 2012. Accessed 8 Sept 2024 at <https://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2012/09/tall-tales>

offered help. "In the cities, 52 of the 69 who refused did so abruptly. They ignored the child by walking past, swerving, sidestepping, shaking their head "no," and on two occasions, pulling themselves out of the child's grasp. Others, almost without breaking stride, put money into the child's hand - a dime, a quarter, even a dollar bill - and sped on their way."¹⁰⁷ This study was replicated only in NYC in 2008; the rate of New Yorkers who helped a lost child rose significantly, from 46% in 1977 to 61.6% in 2008; 22.6% showed a mixed response or ignored the child and 15.8% refused to help. The researchers opined that the higher results might've been the result of cell phone access and/or the increase of helpful information to teach the public how to deal with a lost child.¹⁰⁸ Yet another 2008 study by ABC news found that almost 2,000 people walked by their decoy "lost children" over a two-day period, and only 47 stopped to help.¹⁰⁹

A 2014 UK survey conducted by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) found that 64%, or about two out of three British adults, would hesitate to help a lost child out of fear of false allegations. Nearly half of the 2,899 respondents (45%) said they would stay close by and observe - almost as many as those who said they would approach the child (47%); 3% of men admitted they would simply keep walking, compared to 1% of women.¹¹⁰ But the NSPCC conducted a field study with two young girls pretending to be lost, and over the whole hour only one person, a grandmother, took a moment to find out if there was a problem. All of the 616 other passers-by completely ignored the girls.¹¹¹ (It must be noted that while the two NYC studies involved a lost child actively approaching people for assistance, the ABC and NSPCC studies seemingly took a less direct approach, mostly with a child simply "acting lost." This may explain discrepancies in the findings of each study.)

Perhaps the scariest prospect for a Registered Person is what you would do if confronted with a lost child. But this has not always overpowered the desire to help someone in need. In 2007, a person classified as a Level 3 Registrant in Omaha, NE found a toddler walking unattended as he returned home from work; after flagging down a passing car, he took the child to a nearby gas station and called the police, who reunited the child with his parents. The police, thankfully, did not identify the name of the Registered Person to the media.¹¹² Online message boards were skeptical of the act of altruism; one poster added, "that is the pedophile jackpot: lost, alone, helpless. Just right to pick up and train to do whatever sick thing you want them to do." Other comments suggested the Registered Person missed his chance for an easy score since another car stopped after his did.¹¹³

¹⁰⁷ Takooshian, Harold & Haber, S. & Lucido, David. (1977). Who wouldn't help a lost child? You maybe. *Psychology Today*. 88. 67-68.

¹⁰⁸ Verdi, Amanda (2009) "Would New Yorkers help a lost child? 1976 v 2008?," *Modern Psychological Studies*: Vol. 15 : No. 1 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholar.utc.edu/mps/vol15/iss1/5>

¹⁰⁹ "If You Saw a Lost Child, What Would You Do?" ABC News. 23 Dec. 2028. Accessed 8 Sept 2024 at <https://abcnews.go.com/WhatWouldYouDo/lost-child/story?id=4709538>

¹¹⁰ Corey Charlton. "Two in three people admit they would hesitate to help a lost child for fears of being falsely accused." Daily Mail. 27 Aug 2014. Accessed 8 Sept 2014 at <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2735350/Two-three-people-admit-hesitate-help-lost-child-fears-falsely-accused.html>

¹¹¹ Sam Greenhill. "Walk on by Britain: Two little girls pretend to be lost in a busy shopping centre. So how many people stop to help? One. How many ignore their plight? More than SIX HUNDRED" Daily Mail. 23 Mar 2014. Accessed 8 Sept 2024 at <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2587547/Walk-Britain-Two-little-girls-pretend-lost-busy-shopping-centre-So-people-stop-help-One-How-ignore-plight-616.html>

¹¹² Erika Summers. "Toddler Saved By Level 3 Sex Offender." Nebraska Now. 23 Oct 2007. Accessed 8 Sept 2024 at <https://www.klkntv.com/toddler-saved-by-level-3-sex-offender/>, see also "Sex Offender Rescues Wandering 3-Year-Old." KETV Omaha. 24 Oct. 2007. Accessed 20 Feb 2008 at <http://www.ketv.com/news/14407542/detail.html>

¹¹³ "Sex offender rescues little boy who wandered from home." Obscure Store and Reading Room. 24 Oct 2007. Accessed 8 Sept 2024 at https://obscurestore.typepad.com/obscure_store_and_reading/2007/10/sex-offender--1.html

Overall, two out of five Anti-Registry Activists said they would call 911 but keep the child at a distance, about one out of three ARAs would assist in finding parents or a helper, and one out of ten stated they would refuse to help. Some respondents did express concern that it would be a set-up or a trap. Unsurprisingly, 63 out of 464 Registered Persons (13.58%) were significantly more likely to say they would refuse to help compared to just 4 out of 169 Loved Ones (2.37%) and 3 out of 62 “Others” (4.84%). Registered Persons (125 of 464, 26.94%) were only about half as likely to be directly involved with offering assistance to a lost child as Loved Ones (87 of 169, 51.48%) and “Others” (34 of 64, 54.84%), and most likely to call the cops while keeping a safe distance from the child (RPs 213 of 464, 45.91% vs 52 of 169, 30.77% LOs and 16 of 62, 25.81% Others).

The NSPCC study is the only comparable study. In that study, 3% of men and 1% of women stated they would refuse to help. Registered Persons are over four times more likely than British Men to proclaim they would refuse to help, while Loved Ones and “Others” were more comparable to the NSPCC results. As previously noted, ARAs under age 35 are about three times more likely than ARAs over age 65 to intervene. While this survey does not ask what motivates a Registered Person or any Anti-Registry Activist to intervene, the numbers do suggest an increased chance that ARAs, especially Registered Persons, are willing to admit they would not assist a child claiming to be lost.

HELPING A BAD NEIGHBOR

A 2022 study of 704 residents in Baltimore, MD found that on average, 98% of respondents would call the police, 61% would seek help from a neighbor, and 54% would directly intervene if they witnessed a crime. The study’s authors admit their findings were inconsistent with similar research and that there is not a consistent link between social ties and the willingness to intervene when witnessing a crime.¹¹⁴

Because this study’s structure is different than the results of our survey, it is somewhat unfair to make comparisons, since this study only allowed a single option rather than allowing multiple options to be chosen. However, it is important to note that of the 633 who are Registered Persons or Loved Ones, roughly an equal amount (around 12.5%) stated they would either pretend they saw nothing, or that they were unsure. Furthermore, Registered Persons were just over twice as likely as Loved Ones and 50% more likely than “Others” to not intervene. Overall, about seven out of ten ARAs would at least call the cops.

So overall, ARAs are seemingly less likely to intervene at all if they were to witness a crime. Since no studies ask average citizens if they would help a bad neighbor if they witnessed a crime, a comparison between the two studies can be seen as unfair. It is possible other reasons exist for why an ARA fails to intervene (such as fear of police or retaliation), so this result may not be simply the satisfaction of seeing a bad neighbor experience hardship.

SCHADENFREUDE

Schadenfreude is the pleasure people feel when others experience misfortune. This is so commonplace that scientists just state virtually everybody does it. Whether it is a hated sports rival, a lousy neighbor, or even the villain in a movie, we enjoy watching those we dislike get humbled, if only for a time.

¹¹⁴ Jaclyn M. Cwick. “Neighborhood Social Ties and Informal Social Control: When do Neighbors Call the Police or Directly Intervene? “Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society. VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2, PAGES 1–19 (2022)

Some who stood accused of sexual assault, like Donald Trump or Matt Gaetz, have faced little to no real consequences after credible allegations were levied against them. We have seen numerous pro-registry persons in power investigated for a sex offense. For example, staunch Trump supporter and Aberdeen, WA city councilman Riley Carter gained local notoriety for targeting both homeless persons and Registered Persons. He posted on his social media page of a Trump-style hat with the slogan, “Make Pedophiles Afraid Again,” and was even fundraising to start an vigilante group called Harbor Watchdogs LLC.” In August 2024, Carter was arrested for allegedly sexually abusing a child he knew. Carter has since resigned from the Aberdeen city council.¹¹⁵ It is indeed rather satisfying to see a staunch supporter of the public registry land on the very registry they support or to suffer some form of public humiliation.

Those in the Anti-Registry Movement may feel a degree of satisfaction when a politician, a law enforcement agent, or a victim industry advocate experiences misfortune, especially someone with as much vitriol as Riley Carter. This survey asked one very specific question related to Schadenfreude, one directly tied to the Shiitake Awards. The annual Shiitake Awards, a project created by Once Fallen to highlight the worst news stories and bad actors that exploit sex offense panic and legislation for personal gain in a given year, is in itself an exercise in Schadenfreude. Just over half of Anti-Registry Activists (52.95%) admit to finding pleasure in seeing a pro-registry advocate, politician, or law enforcement agent getting arrested for a sex crime, while just over a third (35.68%) said No, and 79 (11.37%) were unsure; Loved Ones were less likely than Registered Persons (56%) and Others (53%) to enjoy seeing a politician or other pro-registry advocate busted for a sex offense.

These results merely suggest but do not necessarily conclude that frustration, bitterness, and anger over the laws could be correlated with a decrease in altruism or willingness to help. However, fear of being outed and/or having their intentions motivated can also be causes for reluctance to help. Registered Persons are well aware that being outed comes with risks even when being covered for an act of altruism.

During the Occupy Movement of 2011-2012, some Registered Persons joined participated in the protests. The Boston Globe had written a feel-good story about a young couple who found love during the protests, but rival news outlet, the Boston Herald, discovered the man in the story was listed on the public registry. “Looks like somebody forgot to Google,” is the opening line of the Herald’s story. Boston Globe deputy managing editor for local news Jennifer Peter told the Herald, “We were unaware of his status and would have opted not to do the story had we known.” Later, Peter told Poynter, “If we had learned he was a sex offender, that would have changed the nature of the story.” Craig Silverman, a reporter at the Poynter Institute, added, “So it seems that what the Globe is saying is that, given (the Registrant’s) history, it wouldn’t have written a love story about this couple. Knowing the criminal history ahead of time would have killed the romantic story, but could have led to another narrative.”¹¹⁶

It does not help our cause that our attempts to help society can be met with skepticism. One HuffPost report even strongly suggested our primary motivation is not altruism but “grooming the environment” to

¹¹⁵ “Aberdeen WA city councilman Riley Carter committed sex offenses while trying to set up an online vigilante group.” The shiitake-Worthy Blog. 13 Aug 2024. Accessed 20 Sept. 2024 at <https://shiitakeweekly.blogspot.com/2024/08/aberdeen-wa-city-councilman-riley.html>

¹¹⁶ Craig Silverman. “Boston Globe mistake raises questions about how media cover sex offenders.” Poynter. 18 Jan 2012. Accessed 9 Sept 2024 at <https://www.poynter.org/reporting-editing/2012/boston-globe-mistake-raises-questions-about-how-media-covers-sex-offenders/>

“get close to a pool of vulnerable victims.”¹¹⁷ To repeat an previous statement, Registered Persons and Anti-Registry Activists should support anti-registry efforts first and foremost with their time and efforts. Since few resources are open to Registered Persons, our focus should be on Registered Persons.

Comments by ARAs:

- “The sex offender registry took millions of dollars income from me by taking my plumbing license and company from me. I had a very consensual relationship with a person 10 years younger than me when I was 25. This was more than 30 years ago, before the registry was a target for us. This registry has turned me from a very caring and loving, trustful American. Into a VERY angry and defiant person that would be at the point of helpful to anything that would cause the demise of the American people and the USA as well. This country tells all other countries how to not abuse their citizens. While the USA abuses its citizens by putting their citizens and their children on an internet format, being a displayed form of abuse to us, for all to see and persecute us at will. I learned how to protect myself. Now I live in a compound, My Home that the city of Englewood Colorado tried to take from me. Lucky for them that they failed. Now I'm like a scorpion under a rock waiting for someone to try to assault me or my home. They will lose.”
- ““I am not a registrant but my son is and he lives with me. We have been denied housing because he is on Megan's List. He has applied for jobs and never even receives a response. If I was not able to help him, he would be homeless. He is well educated and his offense was seeing some pictures online when doing research for a different reason that had nothing to do with pornography. We hired a lawyer that charged us \$10,000 and did absolutely nothing for my son in or out of the court room. He never once stated an objection to the prosecutor's statements or any other thing. My son was threatened that if he didn't take a plea deal he would end up with a 20 year sentence. As it was, he still was locked up for 8 1/2 years and is on the registry for life and on probation for 15 years. He had never even had a traffic ticket before this and is an honorable discharged Marine with a service-connected disability. The prosecutor was up for a promotion and wanted to get back to D.C. We don't know but feel there was some kind of bargaining with our attorney. Whatever it was my son is paying a lifetime for something that lawyers and politicians don't even get a slap on the wrist for. So yes, there is a lot of resentment and distrust of lawmakers that has actually cost my son any type of life.”

¹¹⁷ See Dr Raj Persaud. “Why Would a Sex Offender Do a Lot of Charity Work?” HuffPost. 23 Oct 2012. Accessed 9 Sept 2024 at https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/dr-raj-persaud/jimmy-savile-charity-work_b_2005383.html

SELF-SUSTAINING REGISTRANT COMMUNITIES

Q59: Do you agree or disagree that the idea of Registered Persons running their own communities (i.e., running their own towns but remain within the USA) to help other Registered Persons is a good idea?

Q59: Our own Community?	Strongly Agree	Slightly Agree	Neutral	Slightly Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Total (695)	23.02% (160)	22.01% (153)	32.66% (227)	7.48% (52)	14.82% (103)
RPs (464)	24.14% (112)	24.57% (114)	28.66% (133)	7.54% (35)	15.09% (70)
LOs (169)	19.53% (33)	20.71% (35)	38.46% (65)	7.69% (13)	13.61% (23)
Others (62)	24.19% (15)	6.45% (4)	46.77% (29)	6.45% (4)	16.13% (10)
Males (508)	25.59% (130)	23.82% (121)	28.94% (147)	7.09% (36)	14.57% (74)
Females (178)	16.85% (30)	15.73% (28)	42.13% (75)	8.99% (16)	16.29% (29)
NARSOL (469)	24.09% (113)	21.96% (103)	31.13% (146)	8.1% (38)	14.71% (69)
ACSOL (284)	23.59% (67)	23.59% (67)	29.58% (84)	8.45% (24)	14.79% (42)
WAR (232)	24.57% (57)	23.71% (55)	27.16% (63)	9.05% (21)	15.52% (36)
TX-Voices (59)	22.03% (13)	25.42% (15)	25.42% (15)	10.17% (6)	16.95% (10)
FAC (193)	32.64% (63)	24.87% (48)	21.76% (42)	8.81% (17)	11.92% (23)
OnceFallen(138)	31.88% (44)	23.91% (33)	26.81% (37)	9.42% (13)	7.97% (11)
Republican(193)	28.5% (55)	23.83% (46)	27.46% (53)	7.25% (14)	12.95% (25)
Democratic(318)	17.61% (56)	20.75% (66)	33.65% (107)	7.86% (25)	20.13% (64)
Libertarian (55)	20% (11)	29.09% (16)	32.73% (18)	10.91% (6)	7.27% (4)
Other Party(129)	29.46% (38)	19.38% (25)	37.98% (49)	5.43% (7)	7.75% (10)

Q60: Do you agree or disagree that the idea of Registered Persons running their own “sovereign nation” (a territory within the USA but declares to be free from US laws) to help other Registered Persons is a good idea?

Q60: Sovereign Nation?	Strongly Agree	Slightly Agree	Neutral	Slightly Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Total (695)	13.09% (91)	10.65% (74)	28.78% (200)	12.81% (89)	34.68% (241)
RPs (464)	15.3% (71)	11.64% (54)	26.08% (121)	12.72% (59)	34.27% (159)
LOs (169)	6.51% (11)	9.47% (16)	35.5% (60)	14.2% (24)	34.32% (58)
Others (62)	14.52% (9)	6.45% (4)	30.65% (19)	9.68% (6)	38.71% (24)
Males (508)	15.94% (81)	11.42% (58)	25.79% (131)	11.42% (58)	35.43% (180)
Females (178)	5.06% (9)	8.43% (15)	37.08% (66)	15.17% (27)	34.27% (61)
NARSOL(469)	13.43% (63)	10.66% (50)	27.29% (128)	13.86% (65)	34.75% (163)
ACSOL (284)	15.49% (44)	7.04% (20)	31.34% (89)	14.08% (40)	32.04% (91)
WAR (232)	14.66% (34)	9.91% (23)	29.31% (68)	13.36% (31)	32.76% (76)
TX-Voices(59)	10.17% (6)	11.86% (7)	32.2% (19)	16.95% (10)	28.81% (17)
FAC (193)	18.65% (36)	13.47% (26)	31.09% (60)	10.88% (21)	25.91% (50)
OnceFallen(138)	21.01% (29)	11.59% (16)	29.71% (41)	15.22% (21)	22.46% (31)
Republican(193)	15.54% (30)	12.95% (25)	22.28% (43)	18.13% (35)	31.09% (60)
Democratic(318)	7.55% (24)	6.92% (22)	28.30% (90)	11.32% (36)	45.91% (146)
Libertarian (55)	18.18% (10)	18.18% (10)	27.27% (15)	16.36% (9)	20% (11)
Other Party(129)	20.93% (27)	13.18% (17)	40.31% (52)	6.98% (9)	18.6% (24)

Q61: *If Registered Persons started their own self-governed community or a “sovereign nation” in an isolated region, would you consider moving there?*

Q61: Would move to RP town?	Would, no exceptions	Yes if not sovereign nation	No, town would be a target	I'm comfy at current residence	I refuse to be chased from my home	Unsure
Total (695)	8.06% (56)	7.77% (54)	16.98% (118)	24.89% (173)	26.62% (185)	15.68% (109)
RPs (464)	9.91% (46)	9.48% 44	18.32% (85)	24.14% (112)	24.57% (114)	13.58% (63)
LOs (169)	2.96% (5)	5.33% (9)	16.57% (28)	22.49% (38)	34.32% (58)	18.34% (31)
Others (62)	8.06% (5)	1.61% (1)	8.06% (5)	37.1% (23)	20.97% (13)	24.19% (15)
Males (508)	9.45% (48)	9.06% (46)	18.11% (92)	25.79% (131)	23.03% (117)	14.57% (74)
Females (178)	3.37% (6)	4.49% (8)	14.04% (25)	23.60% (42)	37.08% (66)	17.42% (3)
NARSOL (469)	8.74% (41)	7.46% (35)	17.91% (84)	24.52% (115)	25.37% (119)	15.99% (75)
ACSOL (284)	9.15% (26)	7.75% (22)	17.96% (51)	21.13% (60)	27.11% (77)	16.9% (48)
WAR (232)	8.19% (19)	7.76% (18)	16.81% (39)	21.98% (51)	27.16% (63)	18.1% (42)
TX-Voices (59)	5.08% (3)	8.47% (5)	22.03% (13)	28.81% (17)	27.12% (16)	8.47% (5)
FAC (193)	12.44% (24)	5.18% (10)	21.24% (41)	17.62% (34)	23.83% (46)	19.69% (38)
Once Fallen (138)	15.22% (21)	7.97% (11)	18.12% (25)	16.67% (23)	23.19% (32)	18.84% (26)
Republican (193)	5.18% (10)	10.36% (20)	12.95% (25)	27.46% (53)	29.02% (56)	15.03% (29)
Democratic (318)	5.66% (18)	6.29% (20)	19.18% (61)	26.42% (84)	27.67% (88)	14.78% (47)
Libertarian (55)	14.55% (8)	7.27% (4)	18.18% (10)	18.18% (10)	30.91% (17)	10.91% (6)
Other Party (129)	15.5% (20)	7.75% (10)	17.05% (22)	20.16% (26)	18.6% (24)	20.93% (27)

DISCUSSION

Residency restrictions exist in some form or fashion in 32 states (not counting US Territories). Many of these laws were passed in the early-to-mid 2000s. As of 2024:

- Residence Restrictions (Living Restrictions):
 - Applies to all RPs (15): AL, DE, FL*, GA*, ID, KY*, MP, MS, NC, OH*, OK, RI, SD, TN, WY (“*” denotes states where law cannot be applied to convictions preceding the passage of the law)
 - Applies only to “high risk”, higher Tier/Level placement, or offenses against minors (11): AZ, AR, IL, IN, LA, MO, MT, ND, SC, VA, WA
 - Can be added as a rule to those “on paper” (6): CA, CT, HI, NY, OR, WV
 - Municipal ordinances can create living restrictions exceeding those codified into state law (9): CO, FL, IN, ME, MN, NE, TX, WA, WI

Many states also have “Presence Restrictions”, also called “anti-loitering” or “proximity restrictions”; Defined as various restrictions on where Registered Persons can go, such as schools, parks, libraries, malls, recreation areas, or other places one might expect to find children; the laws are too varied to discuss here, but each state listed has some kind of restriction which may apply to some or all RPs; (31): AL, AR (only for those classified as Level 3 or 4), CA, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA (for offenses against minors), MD, ME, MN*, MO, MS, MT (Lv3), NC, ND, N. Mariana Is., OK, OR (Lv.3), SC (on paper), SD, TN, TX*, UT, VA, WI, WY (“*” denotes no state law but allows local ordinances).

A few states even extend these restrictions to employment, i.e., Laws that prevent Registered Persons from working within a set distance from prohibited areas: AL, DE (if lclassified as a Level II/LIII), GA, MI, MT (If considered high risk), RI, SC (only if On Paper), TN, WV (only if on paper for 10+ years).¹¹⁸

In states without a uniform restriction in place, municipalities can have rules that are only made known once a person moves into the community. For example, under Neb. Rev. Stat. §29-4017, municipalities in the state of Nebraska can pass residency restriction ordinances of up to 500 feet from schools and/or day care establishments. In 2021, the media reported that a Registered Person moved into the small town of Genoa, population 1000; nearby schools went into “lockout” status while the state patrol came out to measure distance. After determining the Registered Person was too close, he was escorted out of the city by the state patrol.¹¹⁹

Once Fallen conducted a survey of municipal ordinances available online in March 2021 and again in August 2023; 108 municipalities had their municipal codes published online, and only 26 municipalities lacked a 500 foot ordinance, 4 municipalities (La Vista, Lincoln, Norfolk, and Omaha) limit restrictions to schools only, while 78 municipalities have 500 foot restrictions from both schools and daycares.

Florida’s Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) reported that, “Florida statute prohibits certain offenders convicted of a crime against a victim less than 16 years of age from living within 1,000 feet of any school, childcare facility, park, or playground. However, local government can impose municipal or county residence restrictions that further prohibit where some or all

¹¹⁸ See Derek Logue. “Your Life on The List: Edition 3.” Once Fallen.

¹¹⁹ KHGI. “School placed in ‘lock out’ during sex offender investigation.” NTV. 10 Mar. 2021. <https://nebraska.tv/news/local/school-placed-in-lock-out-during-sex-offender-investigation>

sexual offenders can live. For example, in some communities, certain offenders who committed a crime against a minor less than 16 years of age cannot live within 2,000 feet of any school, designated public school bus stop, day care center, park, playground, or other place where children regularly congregate. Some ordinances include additional locations such as public libraries, churches, zoos, and public beaches. Furthermore, some counties have multiple ordinances in different municipalities and each may have different residency restrictions. For example, a sheriff's office in one county may monitor sex offenders who have a 1,500 feet restriction in one city and a 2,500 feet restriction in another city.⁴² Several counties have four or more ordinances. As of November 2018, there were 166 local residence restrictions in 48 Florida counties, including 29 county and 137 municipal ordinances.”¹²⁰

The OPPAGA recognizes the challenges Registered Persons face when seeking residency in a state without a uniform restriction, adding, “Sex offenders in Florida may face barriers to housing including residence restrictions, unwelcoming property managers, lack of affordable housing, and issues with employment and income. Transient offenders continue to present monitoring challenges. While the overall percentage of registered sex offenders living in Florida communities with a transient address is small (6%), some counties have higher than average rates.”¹²¹

It is rather frustrating to see a government agency feels the average of homeless Registered Persons is small; in this survey, 16 out of 464 (3.45%) Registered Persons reported being “currently homeless,” while 28 (6.03%) had reported being homeless at one point within the past year prior to taking the survey. Certain circumstances can increase the likelihood of homelessness among the Registrant population. The OPPAGA reported in 2021 that “Statewide, approximately 6% of sex offenders and 10% of sexual predators report being homeless, but rates of homelessness vary by county...For example, Miami-Dade County had 28.2% of registered sex offenders in the community reporting a transient address, and Broward County had 27.6% reporting a transient address.”¹²²

The crisis in Florida has only gotten worse. The 2024 version of the OPPAGA triennial review found the following:

- Approximately 7% of registered “sexual offenders” and 12% of “sexual predators” living in Florida communities are homeless or transient.
- Homeless/transient rates varied by county and ranging from 0% to 34%; by far, highest percentage of homeless/transient registrants reside in Broward (34%) & Miami-Dade (31%) counties.
- Statewide, 129 cities (31%) had at least one ordinance. The number of city ordinances varied widely by the county in which the city is located. Counties most commonly had one to two city ordinances. However, three counties had significantly more city ordinances—Broward (29), Palm Beach (16), & Volusia (13). Statewide, 32 counties (48%) had city ordinances. Forty-three counties (64%) had ordinances that were countywide or covered all unincorporated areas. Overall, 52 counties (78%) had at least one city or county ordinance within their jurisdiction.
- Between 2018 & 2024, 19 new ordinances were created (including increasing existing restrictions); five cities—Chipley, Crestview, Esto, New Smyrna Beach, and Vernon—did not have city ordinances

¹²⁰ “Sex Offender Registration and Monitoring Triennial Review – 2018.” Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA). Oct 2018. p.21. Accessed 11 Sept 2024 at <https://oppaga.fl.gov/Documents/Reports/18-08.pdf>

¹²¹ Ibid., p.2

¹²² “Sex Offender Registration and Monitoring Triennial Review – 2021.” Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA). Dec 2021. p.6. Accessed 11 Sept 2024 at <https://oppaga.fl.gov/Documents/Reports/21-10.pdf>

in November 2018 but had passed one by September 2024. Eleven counties—Clay, Columbia, Hernando, Holmes, Jackson, Lake, Marion, Martin, Pasco, Volusia, and Washington—did not have countywide ordinances in November 2018 but had passed one by September 2024.¹²³

South Florida has been well-known among Registered Persons as a “ground zero” for the battle over residency restrictions for years; it was even the focus of the first attempt at a public rally back in 2007 and a later rally in 2015. Miami-Dade and Broward Counties have passed local ordinances that far exceeded the state’s 1000 foot restrictions. Unsurprisingly, these two counties have by far the most unhoused Registered Persons in Florida, and possibly in the entire US.

One possible solution bandied about in both private forums and publicly on ARM websites, is the possibility of Registered Persons creating their own self-sustaining community. While no one has actually tried this, inspiration could be drawn from “Restoration Destination” (formerly “Miracle Village”, aka, “City of Refuge”) a community on Muck City Road just east of Pahokee, FL. Restoration Destination consists of 54 duplexes and six family homes was operated by an organization with the stated goal of providing prison aftercare.

The community that had been known for years as Miracle Village was founded in 2009 by an “activist preacher” named Richard Witherow. He established the village in 2009 after believing he was called to establish a colony for “modern day lepers”. (Incidentally, we wrote a book on the homeless registrant crisis called “The Modern Day Leper”.) Witherow arrived at a property then called Pelican Lake, which had been built in 1965 as housing for farm laborers. “No, God, this can’t be it,” he said. “It’s just such a dump.” One of the founders told The Independent in 2013 that trying to establish the community was not without challenges, adding, “We were the plague. They wanted to hang us. They wanted to knock the crap out of us and they had to give us a police escort to leave.” But in the end, the village of Pahokee approved the establishment of Miracle Village.¹²⁴

But the concept of moving beyond a gated privately-run community to an incorporated community would come with certain advantages. For one, Registered Persons would govern the rules of the community. For example, the community decides which areas of town are zones for specific needs and can require a school to be outside an area where Registered Persons would reside. But there are two ways to acquire an existing incorporated community—we either buy an existing incorporated community or move into an existing community with enough people to override the votes. (I would not suggest the latter.)

Alternately, a town can simply be created. Each state has their own rules, but in Nebraska, “The law provides that if an area has at least 100 population, they can petition the county to become incorporated,’ said Gary Krumland, assistant director and legal counsel for the Nebraska League of Municipalities. ‘Now, there are certain processes, but basically, you need 100 population to do so.’ Benefits of incorporation include self-government. ‘You can have your own government, you have your own law enforcement. You provide your own services, water, sewer, police, fire,’ he said. ‘An incorporated

¹²³ “Sex Offender Registration and Monitoring Triennial Review – 2024.” Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA). Dec 2024. p.1, 15, 23-24. Accessed 19 Jan 2025 at <https://oppaga.fl.gov/Documents/Reports/24-11.pdf>

¹²⁴ David Usborne. “Miracle Village: Sex offenders are welcome.” The Independent. 16 Aug 2013. Accessed 11 Sept 2024 at <https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/miracle-village-sex-offenders-are-welcome-8771458.html>

municipality does have the authority to impose taxes.’ There’s also a good deal of paperwork that goes along with being incorporated - so incorporation can add a lot of responsibilities.”¹²⁵

New York’s rules for incorporation are tougher—a territory seeking incorporation must consist of at least 500 residents of a territory of under 5 square miles; at least 20% of the residents and/or by owners of 50%+ of the territory will be; if approved for a ballot there must be meeting to give voice to opponents of the incorporation attempt. If approved, the new village must create an office of mayor, four trustees, and treasurer.¹²⁶

Some ARAs had discussed taking the concept of a self-governing community beyond mere incorporation—the concept of forming a sovereign nation, separately governed from the US government. This is not to be confused with the “sovereign citizen’s movement,” a loose group of anti-government activists, litigants, tax protesters, financial scammers, and conspiracy theorists that hold their own pseudo-legal belief system based on misinterpretations of common law and claim to not be subject to any government statutes unless they consent to them. Sovereignty is a legal word for an ordinary concept—the authority to self-govern. While some people have created “sovereign nations” within the borders of the US (mostly tongue-in-cheek as tourist attractions), only Indigenous tribes are considered “sovereign nations” within the borders of the US, and Indigenous tribes are still bound by certain US laws. For example, “Under the Adam Walsh Act, all federally recognized Indian tribes are entitled to elect whether to carry out the sex offender registration and notification requirements of the Act or delegate the functions to the state(s) in which the tribal land is located, unless the tribe is subject to the criminal jurisdiction of a state under 18 USC §1162 (34 USC §20929).”¹²⁷

When people are thinking of a “sovereign nation,” they are instead thinking of a “micronation.” A “micronation” is defined as a political entity whose representatives claim that they belong to an independent nation or sovereign state, but which lacks legal recognition by any sovereign state. Micronations are classified separately from de facto states and quasi-states; they are also not considered to be autonomous or self-governing as they lack the legal basis in international law for their existence.

In some ways, creating a sovereign nation is like creating an incorporated community but in some key ways, it is not. A sovereign nation must have a defined territory with a permanent population, have a government in place, and be capable of interacting with other states. The sovereign nation must declare independence; this can grant certain benefits like protection of territory under UN charter (in theory, this would prevent the US from attacking the territory to reclaim the land, though the US has a history of ignoring UN policy.) The challenge is getting international recognition (think Palestine and Taiwan). But recognition by the UN takes a “Yes” vote from 2/3 of the governing body.¹²⁸

While it is a pipe dream, if every Registered Person (currently estimated at between 800k-1 million) emigrated to a new location and brought their families with them, then created an independent city-state, this nation would likely be more populated than nations like Belize, The Bahamas, Bhutan, or

¹²⁵ Hilary Stohs-Krause. “What makes a town?” Nebraska Public Media. 22 Dec 2011. Accessed 11 Sept 2024 at <https://nebraskapublicmedia.org/en/news/news-articles/what-makes-a-town/>

¹²⁶ “Village Government.” NY State Government. Accessed 11 Sept 2024 at https://video.dos.ny.gov/lg/handbook/html/village_government.html

¹²⁷ See “Indian Tribes, Nations and Pueblos Implementing SORNA.” Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Accessed 12 Sept 2024 at <https://smart.ojp.gov/sorna/indian-country>

¹²⁸ Joshua Keating. “How to Start Your Own Country in 4 Easy Steps.” Foreign Policy. 26 Feb 2008. Accessed 11 Sept 2024 at <https://foreignpolicy.com/2008/02/26/how-to-start-your-own-country-in-four-easy-steps/>

Luxembourg. If the Registrant population is compared to the population of US cities, this fictional city-state would be possible larger than Jacksonville, FL or Austin, TX; comparing to US states, the Registrant population is larger than Wyoming, Vermont, Alaska, or either of the Dakotas.

While this discussion may seem silly to some Anti-Registry Activists, especially those high in patriotism and loyalty, this discussion has been especially popular among prisoners who will be forced to register upon release. Prisoners and ARAs are sensitive to residency, proximity, and employment restrictions. While this is purely anecdotal, Once Fallen's prison outreach takes numerous questions from prisoner asking questions on housing, which states have the least restrictions, and even traveling to and/or emigration. Many of those who will be forced to register upon release have legitimate fears about life on the registry, and a self-sustaining community could at least provide a pathway for those without family or friends waiting on them.

The only good news to come out of the 2020 COVID pandemic is that we discovered many jobs could be done remotely. Jobs such as data entry, medical coding, transcriptionist, tax preparation, virtual assistance (administrative clerk duties performed through the Internet), book keeping, grant writing, graphics/web design, editing, and many other jobs involving the Internet are open to those who allowed Internet access. Registered Persons can start their own businesses, growing crops or making items to sell at local flea/farmer's markets and/or sell online through eBay, Etsy, or marketplaces run through social media. Such opportunities may benefit a Registrant-run community that may otherwise suffer from being in an isolated location.

But while the *Packingham v NC* decision gave Registered Persons the right to Internet and social media access, this ruling still allows those under probation, parole, or supervised release to endure social media or complete Internet restrictions, so some of these ideas may be not be available to those "on paper," but they could work for others who could perform these tasks.

At least two out of five Anti-Registry Activists at least slightly agree that a self-governing community of Registered Persons is a good idea, while just less than one in four ARAs think a "sovereign nation" would be a good idea. While only about one in five ARAs at least slightly disagree that a self-governing community is a good idea, nearly half of ARAs disagree that a sovereign nation would be a good idea. Florida Action Committee (33%) and Once Fallen members/supporters (32%) were at least ten percentage points more likely than any other group to "strongly support" a self-governed community, and Once Fallen supporters (21%) were most likely to support the sovereign nation concept. Considering the reputation of Florida as the "worst state in America" for Registered Persons to live, seeing FAC supporters as most receptive to the concept of self-governing communities. Those who vote Republican were around twice as likely as those who vote Democratic to support both a self-governing nation and a sovereign nation. Registered Persons were more likely to at least slightly agree a self-governed community is a good idea (49%) than Loved ones (40.5%) and "Others" (30.5%), and significantly more likely (26%) to at least slightly agree a sovereign nation is a good idea than Loved Ones (16%) and "Others" (21%).

When asked if they would actually move to a self-governed community if one existed, only 8% would move there without exception, while 7.8% stated they would if it was not a "sovereign nation. Once Fallen and FAC supporters are also more likely to consider moving to a self-governing community. Interestingly, only about 5% each of Democratic and Republican voters would move to a self-governing community without exception, and Republican voters (at 10.4%) were most likely to say they would only move to a self-governed Registrant community that is not considered a sovereign nation. Those who vote Green, Libertarian, or "other" political affiliation were most likely to state they would move to a self-governed Registrant community without exception (between 11%-14.5%), while 6%-8% of them would only move to a community not deemed a sovereign nation. Registered Persons (10%) chose they would

be willing to move to a self-governing Registrant community without exception than Loved Ones (3%) and “Others” (8%); Registered Persons (9.5%) also chose they would be more willing to move to a self-governing Registrant community if it is not a sovereign nation than Loved Ones (5.3%) and “Others” (1.6%).

Among those who stated they would not move to a self-governed Registrant community, about one in four ARAs say they are comfortable where they currently reside, slightly more than one in four ARAs stated they refuse to be chased out of their current community, and 17% stated they have fears or concerns the community would be targeted in some way. Registered Persons and Loved ones were equally concerned the community would be targeted and ten percentage points about “Others”, but Loved ones were ten percentage points than Registered Persons (and 14 points higher than “Others”) to respond that they refused to be chased out of the community. “Others” (37.1%) were at 13-15 percentage points more likely to state they would not move to a self-governed Registrant community because they were comfortable where they currently reside.

The fears are understandable. In 2009, a Registered Person and his wife were featured in a positive news report in Sheffield, AL. The local news covered a program created by the Registered Person and run in an acquired hotel. But the citizens did not respond positively. Immediately after the report was published, the couple received death threats. Someone even drove around the hotel in the dead of night, noting the layout of the place while discussing bombs, and subsequently posted the “findings” on YouTube. The city even threatened to shut the program down. Even local churches refused service to clients of the program. The couple eventually shuttered the program and moved away.¹²⁹

In 2014, (former) Alabama State Senator Kurt Wallace tried for two years to pass a statewide anti-clustering law, but failed in large part due to the efforts of anti-registry activists.¹³⁰ After facing multiple defeats, Wallace slipped a non-publicized local-level bill through legislature to pass an anti-clustering law (Ala. Code §45-11-82) only for Chilton Co., AL. Wallace’s intent all along was to shutter Triumph Church, a program in his county.¹³¹ Triumph Church sued the state, and after the Courts determined the lawsuit could proceed, the state legislature passed a bill repealing Ala. Code § 45-11-82.¹³²

Restoration Destination (formerly Miracle Village) continues to operate despite constant negativity in the press.¹³³ In 2013, a controversial Youtuber arrived at Restoration Destination under the guise of being a reporter and interviewed (and trolled) residents of the community. It earned him an interview segment with Jessie Waters of Fox News; the interview begins with a graphic with the phrase “Stranger Danger”

¹²⁹ Derek Logue. “Empty Building Reflects Empty Hearts: NIMBYism and the closing of Shady Court.” ReFORM-AL. 25 Dec 2010. Accessed 12 Sept 2010 at <https://reformalabama.blogspot.com/2010/12/empty-building-reflects-empty-hearts.html>

¹³⁰ Mike Cason. “Sex offender speaks out against Alabama bill that would regulate sex offender clusters.” AL.com. 28 Oct 2013. Accessed 12 Sept 2024 at https://www.al.com/wire/2013/10/advocate-speaks_out_against_al.html, see also Derek Logue. “ReFORM-AL at the HB 85 public Hearing Part 1.” YouTube. 6 Mar 2013. Accessed 12 Sept 2023 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hguRotx8KOc>

¹³¹ Mike Cason. “New law could force sex offenders to move from Chilton County church facility.” AL.com. 22 Apr 2014. Accessed 12 Sept 2014 at https://www.al.com/wire/2014/04/new_law_likely_means_end_for_s.html

¹³² Mike Cason. “Law that stopped Alabama ministry for sex offenders could be repealed.” AL.com. 23 Aug 2016. Accessed 12 Sept 2024.

¹³³ Germania Rodriguez Poleo. “Florida’s booming pedophile community Miracle Village leaves residents of neighboring Pahokee too terrified to let their kids walk alone.” Daily Mail UK. 28 July 2023. Accessed 12 Sept 2024 at <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12349179/Floridas-booming-pedophile-community-Miracle-Village-leaves-residents-neighboring-Pahokee-terrified-let-kids-walk-alone.html>

with an adult hand holding candy with a child hand reaching for the candy, along with a tagline “Sex Offenders Are Among Us”.¹³⁴

As of the publication of this report, there are over 400 potential housing leads on the Once Fallen housing list. Many of these housing programs are singular homes but a few are entire trailer parks, apartment complexes, or a series of houses. But none have gone as far as successfully create a self-governed community of Registered Persons and their loved ones. Restoration Destination is probably as close to this dream as we have gotten.

Even if we have the resources, Registered Persons may experience difficulties in acquiring an existing incorporated community. In 2024, a federal prisoner had reached out to the mayor of Monowi, Nebraska, an incorporated community with a population of one elderly woman. Daniel Talburt’s intent was to inquire about the potential acquisition of the community in hopes of saving the community and turning it into a potential registrant-run community. But Monowi’s mayor not only refused to reply to his inquiry, she went so far as to file a restraining order against him for merely asking questions.¹³⁵

Another wrench to Mr. Talburt’s potential plans include Nebraska Revised Statute §29-112, which stats that, “Any person sentenced to be punished for any felony, when the sentence is not reversed or annulled, is incompetent … to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit within this state, unless such person receives from the Board of Pardons of this state a warrant of discharge, in which case such person shall be restored to such civil rights and privileges as enumerated or limited by the Board of Pardons.” In short, a registrant-run community could not be legally run by Registered Persons in an elected capacity.

Registered Persons and their loved ones often struggle to find suitable housing and a sense of community, so a self-governed community of Registered Persons should at least be given serious thought by anti-registry activists. Should they remain privately-run endeavors like Restoration Destination, or would our own town or even a sovereign nation work better? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each type of Registrant-run community? How could we fund a Registrant-run community? How can we assure it will be safe?

At the least, discussions about the viability of having Registrant sanctuaries across America should be discussed.

¹³⁴ “YouTuber Tyler Oliveira goes inside Florida’s ‘pedophile village’.” Fox News. 28 July 2023. Accessed 12 Sept 2024 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-cUvA66O2g>

¹³⁵ Daniel K. Talburt. “MAYOR MAY NOT: ANOTHER RE-ENTRY TALE OF WOE.” Life on The List (LOTL) Newsletter, Vol. 2025A. Accessed at <https://oncefallen.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/LOTL-Newsletter-2025A-Jan-Feb-Mar.pdf>

PART 4: CULTURE AND SOCIETY

The Final part of this survey, covering Questions 34, 55-58, 62-85, & 87-98, covers the Anti-Registry Activist's views on American culture and the institutions of our society that influence the creation and proliferation of the public registry.

1. Current Cultural Norms on Sexual Offending (Q55-Q58): Do ARAs share belief in certain societal attitudes about the root causes of sexual offenses as the general public?
2. Attitudes on Law Enforcement (Q62-Q70): Do ARAs trust law enforcement officials? Do ARAs support police reform efforts?
3. Politics and Voting (Q71-Q72, Q74-Q80, & Q89-Q90) Does party affiliation impact how ARAs participate in anti-registry activism?
4. Trust in Government (Q73, Q81-Q85, & Q87-Q88): Do ARAs trust the government to reform the registry? Do ARAs believe they can influence the government to make changes to the registry?
5. Trust in News and the Media (Q34, Q91-Q98): How much trust do ARAs have in both traditional/legacy/mainstream media and social media? Do the political leanings play a role in promoting the registry, and can any form of the media be trusted to give fair and accurate reporting on sex offense issues?

CURRENT CULTURAL NORMS AND VIEWS ON SEXUAL OFFENDING

Questions 55-58 cover a few topics related to current cultural norms on sexual behavior and morality, including norms seemingly tied to political ideology.

Q55: Do you think society is too strict or too prudish when it comes to human sexuality?

Q55: Cultural Norms	Far Too Strict/ prudish	A little too Strict/ Prudish	About Right	Needs to be a little more strict	Needs to be way more strict	Unsure
Total (695)	54.82% (381)	21.29% (148)	3.88% (27)	3.45% (24)	2.59% (18)	13.96% (97)
RPs (464)	57.76% (268)	22.63% (105)	2.80% (13)	3.66% (17)	1.94% (9)	11.21% (52)
LOs (169)	46.75% (79)	17.75% (30)	6.51% (11)	2.96% (5)	4.73% (8)	21.30% (36)
Others (62)	54.84% (34)	20.97% (13)	4.84% (3)	3.23% (2)	1.61% (1)	14.52% (9)
Males (508)	56.89% (289)	22.64% (115)	2.95% (15)	3.35% (17)	1.97% (10)	12.2% (62)
Females (178)	48.31% (86)	17.98% (32)	6.18% (11)	3.37% (6)	4.49% (8)	19.66% (35)
NARSOL (469)	58.64% (275)	19.62% (92)	3.2% (15)	3.2% (15)	2.77% (13)	12.58% (59)
ACSOL (284)	63.38% (180)	18.31% (52)	2.11% (6)	3.52% (10)	2.11% (6)	10.56% (30)
WAR (232)	59.48% (138)	17.24% (40)	3.88% (9)	2.16% (5)	3.45% (8)	13.79% (32)
TX-Voices (59)	49.15% (29)	25.42% (15)	3.39% (2)	3.39% (2)	5.08% (3)	13.56% (8)
FAC (193)	61.66% (119)	21.24% (41)	1.55% (3)	2.59% (5)	2.07% (4)	10.88% (21)
Once Fallen (138)	64.49% (89)	16.67% (23)	0.72% (1)	2.17% (3)	2.9% (4)	13.04% (18)
Republican (193)	38.86% (75)	20.73% (40)	5.18% (10)	8.29% (16)	6.22% (12)	20.73% (40)
Democratic (318)	63.21% (201)	22.64% (72)	2.52% (8)	2.20% (7)	0.63% (2)	8.81% (28)
Libertarian (55)	50.91% (28)	20% (11)	9.09% (5)	0% (0)	3.64% (2)	16.36% (9)
Other Party (129)	59.69% (77)	19.38% (25)	3.1% (4)	0.78% (1)	1.55% (2)	15.5% (20)

Q56: Do you agree the relatively easy access to porn is making people more likely to engage in sex offenses?

Q56: Porn increases SOs?	Strongly Agree	Partly Agree	Neutral	Partly Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Total (695)	29.5% (205)	16.26% (113)	24.89% (173)	7.19% (50)	22.16% (154)
RPs (464)	26.29% (122)	16.81% (78)	25.65% (119)	8.84% (41)	22.41% (104)
LOs (169)	41.42% (70)	14.2% (24)	26.04% (44)	4.14% (7)	14.2% (24)
Others (62)	20.97% (13)	17.74% (11)	16.13% (10)	3.23% (2)	41.94% (26)
Males (508)	25.39% (129)	16.54% (84)	24.8% (126)	8.27% (42)	25% (127)
Females (178)	42.13% (75)	15.17% (27)	25.84% (46)	3.93% (7)	12.92% (23)
NARSOL (469)	32.2% (151)	15.14% (71)	24.09% (113)	6.82% (32)	21.75% (102)
ACSOL (284)	28.52% (81)	17.96% (51)	22.18% (63)	8.1% (23)	23.24% (66)
WAR (232)	34.05% (79)	17.24% (40)	22.84% (53)	5.17% (12)	20.69% (48)
TX Voices (59)	32.2% (19)	16.95% (10)	22.03% (13)	5.08% (3)	23.73% (14)
FAC (193)	30.57% (59)	18.65% (36)	22.8% (44)	5.18% (10)	22.8% (44)
Once Fallen (138)	34.78% (48)	12.32% (17)	22.46% (31)	5.80% (8)	24.64% (34)
Republican (193)	37.82% (73)	20.73% (40)	22.8% (44)	4.15% (8)	14.51% (28)
Democratic (318)	25.79% (82)	15.09% (48)	23.27% (74)	10.06% (32)	25.79% (82)
Libertarian (55)	30.91% (17)	20% (11)	18.18% (10)	1.82% (1)	29.09% (16)
Other Party (129)	25.58% (33)	10.85% (14)	34.88% (45)	6.98% (9)	21.71% (28)

Q57: Do you believe those with great influence in society (media, pop culture, etc.) "groom" children into acceptance and participation of "sexualized" lifestyles?

Q57: Pop culture "grooming" kids?	YES	NO	UNSURE
Total (695)	52.81% (367)	21.44% (149)	25.76% (179)
RPs (464)	50.65% (235)	24.35% (113)	25% (116)
LOs (169)	63.31% (107)	8.88% (15)	27.81% (47)
Others (62)	40.32% (25)	33.87% (21)	25.81% (16)
Males (508)	50.79% (258)	25.2% (128)	24.02% (122)
Females (178)	60.11% (107)	10.11% (18)	29.78% (53)
NARSOL (469)	51.81% (243)	24.52% (115)	23.67% (111)
ACSOL (284)	52.11% (148)	21.83% (62)	26.06% (74)
WAR (232)	60.34% (140)	15.52% (36)	24.14% (56)
TX Voices (59)	54.24% (32)	23.73% (14)	22.03% (13)
FAC (193)	51.81% (100)	22.28% (43)	25.91% (50)
Once Fallen (138)	55.07% (76)	18.12% (25)	26.81% (37)
Republican (193)	76.68% (148)	5.18% (10)	18.13% (35)
Democratic (318)	38.36% (122)	32.08% (102)	29.56% (94)
Libertarian (55)	56.36% (31)	21.82% (12)	21.82% (12)
Other Party (129)	51.16% (66)	19.38% (25)	19.46% (38)

Q58: Do you believe in the concept of "Satanic" or "ritualistic" sexual abuse?

Q58: Believe in Satanic/Ritual Abuse?	YES	NO	UNSURE
Total Resp. (695)	18.27% (127)	51.22% (356)	30.5% (212)
RPs (464)	17.46% (81)	54.53% (253)	28.02% (130)
LOs (169)	20.71% (35)	43.79% (74)	35.5% (60)
Others (62)	17.74% (11)	46.77% (29)	35.48% (22)
Males (508)	16.73% (85)	54.13% (275)	29.13% (148)
Females (178)	23.03% (41)	41.57% (74)	35.39% (63)
NARSOL (469)	17.91% (84)	52.24% (245)	29.85% (140)
ACSOL (284)	17.96% (51)	52.46% (149)	29.58% (84)
WAR (232)	18.53% (43)	49.14% (114)	32.33% (75)
TX Voices (59)	11.86% (7)	64.41% (38)	23.73% (14)
FAC (193)	16.06% (31)	52.85% (102)	31.09% (60)
Once Fallen (138)	18.84% (26)	57.97% (80)	23.19% (32)
Republican (193)	33.16% (64)	36.79% (71)	30.05% (58)
Democratic (318)	10.38% (33)	61.64% (196)	27.99% (89)
Libertarian (55)	18.18% (10)	54.55% (30)	27.27% (15)
Other Party (129)	7.75% (10)	45.74% (59)	38.76% (50)

DISCUSSION

“The war on sex is a long uphill battle. We as a country have not opened up and talked about sex in a healthy light. We have our work cut out for us. We need to educate and address our mental health and sexual needs.” – A survey respondent

“The terms ‘paedophile’ and ‘child sex offender’ are often used interchangeably. It is important to understand, however, that the two terms have different meanings; not all child sex offenders are paedophiles and conversely, not all paedophiles are child sex offenders.”¹³⁶ Anti-Registry Activists have fought this misconception for as long as we have been fighting the registry. As previously discussed, ARAs have been attacked with slanderous accusations that we are attempting to “normalize pedophilia” or making it legal to abuse children.

The Anti-Registry Movement coalesced into the current structure that exists today back in the year 2008, though anti-registry activism existed since the federal registry was established in 1994.¹³⁷ But looking back just to 2008, Anti-Registry Activists have faced numerous challenges to having their voices heard. Numerous news stories and movements have influenced how people react to people accused or convicted of sex offenses. Since 2008, we have survived people who attacked us who were motivated by the campus rape panic, the #MeToo movement, PizzaGate, and QAnon. High-profile cases like Chelsea King in California and Cherish Perrywinkle influenced new “named laws” and new restrictions for Registered Persons. People at the highest levels of government, all the way up to former US President Donald Trump have faced allegations of rape or sexual assault. Currently, people on both sides of the political aisle routinely lobby accusations of grooming and pedophilia. We have also seen the weaponization of the

¹³⁶ Richards K 2011. Misperceptions about child sex offenders. Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice no. 429. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <https://doi.org/10.52922/ti258908>

¹³⁷ See Derek Logue. “A Concise History of the Anti-Registry Movement.” Once Fallen. 13 Mar 2015. <https://oncefallen.com/history-of-anti-registry-movement/>

registry, from attacking people on the registry in attempts to silence them, to falsely accusing others of being listed on the public registry to damage their reputations.¹³⁸

This subject is worthy of an entire book. Most of us within the Anti-Registry Movement know this and have experienced it firsthand. This report previously covered how these views may influence how we treat some people on the registry, particularly those whom society deemed a “high risk” to reoffend or those who are admitted or diagnosed as “pedophiles.” Anti-Registry groups do not typically debate or even discuss topics like age of consent laws or societal norms on sexuality since our focus is on post-conviction sanctions like the public registry and residency restrictions.

Outsiders joining anti-registry groups may be surprised to learn there are many cultural opinions within the confines of anti-registry groups, and many are still heavily influenced by the cultural norms of the society in which they reside. While ARAs generally do not offer public opinions on cultural norms, their personal opinions may influence how they treat others within the movement. As previously noted, the Anti-Registry Movement is almost equally divided, with just over half of ARAs believing the sex offense registry should not exist at all, while the rest believe the registry should exist, which then led to questions about who should remain on the registry. So far, this study suggests that a sizable minority of ARAs are reluctant to advocate for certain groups, particularly those classified Tier 3/“high-risk” or those who are admitted or diagnosed as having pedophilia.

Anti-Registry Activists are not a homogeneous group, and so we have diverse opinions even on matters involving how we approach the topic of sexual mores in society. But as activists for the rights of reintegration of people who have been convicted of an offense that is sexual in nature, our opinions will be heavily scrutinized and viewed by those who can misinterpret our motivations. Perhaps that is why many ARAs do not discuss these topics altogether. These is also pressure for us to openly denounce sexual offenses and so disclaimers on ARM websites generally include disclaimers and statements that state that sexual offense are unequivocally wrong. Despite these disclaimers, we’re still met with derision and vitriol by many outside the confines of our movement.

“Americans have always displayed a special talent for prudery, sanctimony and moral panic. Any whiff of enjoyment or nonconformity that has ever materialized in the land of the strait-laced and the home of the stifled has attracted a scold, eager to wag a disapproving finger.”¹³⁹ Americans are not homogenous in their opinions on sexuality, though religious views directly impact a person’s impact on sexuality. A 2020 Pew Research survey found the following differences in what respondents considered acceptable sexual behavior even if they do not engage in the activity themselves:

Act (by % who say “never acceptable”)	Christians	Unaffiliated
Sex between unmarried adults in committed relationship	32%	14%
Casual sex between consenting adults not in a committed relationship	33%	8%
“Open Relationships” (in a relationship but allowed to have sex w/ others)	62%	54%
Having sex on a first date	54%	22%

¹³⁸ See Derek Logue. ““Sex Offenders”: The New Second Class Citizens.” Once Fallen. 28 March 2012. <https://oncefallen.com/the-new-second-class/>

¹³⁹ Becca Rothfeld. “Let’s talk about sex — and repression — in America.” Washington Post. 6 Sept 2024. Accessed 14 Sept 2024 at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/books/2024/09/06/fierce-desires-history-sex-america-rebecca-davis-review/>

Furthermore, these attitudes vary by religious type; 47% of Evangelical Protestants believe sex between non-married persons who are not in a committed relationship is unacceptable under any circumstances, compared to only 22% of Catholics, 11% unaffiliated, and 2% of Agnostics. Conversely, 12% of Evangelical Protestants believe sex between non-married persons who are not in a committed relationship is acceptable under all circumstances, compared to 26% of Catholics, 41% unaffiliated, and 71% of Agnostics. Furthermore, those who attend religious services at least once a month (54%) are more than twice as likely as those who attend religious services less than once per month (35%) to say that sex outside marriage should not be done even if the couple is in a committed relationship.¹⁴⁰

Americans are having less sexual encounters than in the past. In 2022, CNN reported that 26% of Americans had not engaged in sexual intercourse even once in the past year, a 30-year high; it was also the first time the survey found that those who had sex once or less in the past month topped 50%. About 62% of Americans ages 25 to 54 lived with a partner or were married, including 53% who were married and 9% who were cohabitating. That's well below the 71% of couples who lived together in 1990, with 67% married and 4% cohabitating. There's also been a higher increase in unmarried men living alone (10 points) than women (7 points) compared to 1990. Additionally, those with less education and lower wages are less likely to be in a relationship.¹⁴¹

Out of the 464 Registered Persons in this survey, 170 (36.64%) are married or in a civil partnership, 52 (11.21%) are in a relationship, and (0.86%) are in a “non-monogamous” or in a polyamorous relationship. (48.71% total). Registered Persons are less likely than the general population to be married or even in a relationship.

There is a legitimate concern since studies have suggested a link between extreme loneliness and attraction to radical and extremist views. Another recent study noted that “...(Y)oung individuals who feel lonely, isolated, excluded from an ingroup, detached and estranged from society can be particularly susceptible to RVE (radicalization and violent extremism). They are prone to seek solace in various radical ideologies and groups which promise to restore purpose to their followers and those who comply with their ideological imperatives. On the other side, more social connections and identification with peers proved to be protective for radicalization and violent acts.”¹⁴²

A Time Magazine article citing multiple research papers noted that social exclusion and loneliness have been significant factors for adopting extremist beliefs or why some people join extremist groups.¹⁴³ Another study noted that, “Some Americans have somehow sublimated, submerged, or substituted their innately human desire for sex in lives increasingly lived online, in social media, and in video games. This

¹⁴⁰ Jeff Diamant. “Half of U.S. Christians say casual sex between consenting adults is sometimes or always acceptable.” Pew Research Center. 31 Aug 2020. Accessed 13 Sept 2024 at <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/08/31/half-of-u-s-christians-say-casual-sex-between-consenting-adults-is-sometimes-or-always-acceptable/>

¹⁴¹ Henry Enten. “Americans less likely to have sex, partner up and get married than ever.” CNN. 12 Feb 2022. Accessed 13 Sept 2024 at <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2022/02/14/health/valentines-day-love-marriage-relationships-wellness/index.html>

¹⁴² Vukčević Marković M, Nicović A, Živanović M. Contextual and Psychological Predictors of Militant Extremist Mindset in Youth. *Front Psychol.* 2021 Feb 10;12:622571. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2021.622571. PMID: 33643150; PMCID: PMC7902909.

¹⁴³ Brad Stulberg. “Extended Loneliness Can Make You More Vulnerable to Extremist Views.” Time Magazine. 3 Nov 2022. Accessed 13 Sept 2024 at <https://time.com/6223229/loneliness-vulnerable-extremist-views/>

trend has only gathered speed in the isolation imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic.”¹⁴⁴ This is concerning because, as noted by Time Magazine, “Today’s political discourse plays right into the algorithms’ penchant for outrage and hostility; research shows that divisive and angry posts perform much better on social media platforms than cool-headed ones. In other words, millions of Americans spend hours staring into screens with programming that erodes our ability to concentrate and think deeply—all the while incentivizing fear and division. All of this unfolds under the guise of “connection” which, in reality, looks a lot more like disconnection. Is it any surprise, then, that we are seeing an extremely polarized society, with the rise of totalitarian tendencies on the right, and in-group versus out-group struggles on the left? (To be clear, the former is far more dangerous, but the latter is real, too.)¹⁴⁵

But does this influence how Anti-Registry Activists view key issues including how Americans view sexuality? It is hard to find comparable studies because American views on sexual norms vary. In recent years, certain movements are tied to political ideologies and so support for certain viewpoints will be discussed in greater detail in the politics section of this survey. However, four questions were asked specifically on four key issues prevalent in discussions of sexuality and culture of the past decade.

STRICTNESS OF CULTURAL SEXUAL MORES

Of the 695 ARAs in this survey, three out of every four Anti-Registry Activists found current social norms on human sexuality as “too prudish” while only about one out of 20 ARAs feel society is not harsh enough on tightening social sexual mores. Among anti-registry groups, Texas Voices supporters (49%) were at least 10 points less likely than other groups to believe society is too strict than the other groups. Loved Ones were less likely to say society is “too prudish” than Registered Persons or “Others”, but that percentage is virtually offset by being the most likely to simply choose “unsure.” The differences between Democratic and Republican voters are far more significant. Democratic voters (63%) were significantly more likely to say America is “way too strict” on sexual behavior than Republican voters (39%); Republican voters (15%) are five times as likely as Democratic voters (3%) feel society should be stricter. While there were only 55 Libertarians, 9 Green Party voters, and 120 who choose other party affiliations, no other category chose “way too strict” below 51% (Libertarians).

ANTI-REGISTRY ACTIVISTS’ VIEWS ON THE EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY ON SEXUAL OFFENDING

Researchers have yet to come to a consensus view that viewing legal, adult-created pornography is correlated with sexual aggression. A meta-analysis of studies dating as far ago as the 1970s concluded, “Methodological weaknesses were very common in this field of research. Nonetheless, evidence did not suggest that nonviolent pornography was associated with sexual aggression. Evidence was particularly weak for longitudinal studies, suggesting an absence of long-term effects. Violent pornography was weakly correlated with sexual aggression, although the current evidence was unable to distinguish between a selection effect as compared to a socialization effect. Studies that employed more best practices tended to provide less evidence for relationships whereas studies with citation bias, an indication of researcher expectancy effects, tended to have higher effect sizes. Population studies suggested that

¹⁴⁴ Nicholas H. Wolfinger. “Is the Sex Recession Turning into a Great Sex Depression?” Institute for Family Studies. 24 Mar 2021. Accessed 13 Sept 2024 at <https://ifstudies.org/blog/is-the-sex-recession-turning-into-a-great-sex-depression>

¹⁴⁵ Supra., Brad Stulberg, “Extreme Loneliness”

increased availability of pornography is associated with reduced sexual aggression at the population level.”¹⁴⁶

Despite the lack of quality research proving a link between viewership of pornography and sexual aggression, many people still try to link pornography consumption and sex offenses. In popular culture, especially in religious circles, pornography is seen as a force that unequivocally dooms viewers to sexual deviancy. Researchers rely on the “confluence model” as part of their assumptions of the link between pornography and sexual offenses. As described by an article in Psychology Today, “According to the confluence model, no single factor can predict whether a man will be sexually violent. Instead, it takes a confluence of factors to reach a critical mass that will set off a chain reaction of sexual aggression... the confluence model doesn’t predict that watching porn—even of the violent variety—will necessarily lead to sexually aggressive behaviors. However, the theory does posit that viewing porn can push men who are already prone to violence to commit sexual aggression.”¹⁴⁷

It is accepted as fact that pornography in general is easier to obtain online than it was in the days of driving long distances to “adult” stores and wearing coats and hats to mask their identity, or nervously asking for the playboy behind the register at convenience store at the edge of town. A 2021 study by Bespoke Surgical found that 69% of Americans say they’ve experienced feelings of guilt or shame after watching porn; yet, 62% also say that watching porn is a huge stress relief. Over 78% of Americans say they’re not worried that their porn usage might constitute an addiction. Perhaps most intriguingly, 84% of respondents agree that American culture has become more sexually adventurous recently, which is odd, since previously noted studies found that Americans are having less sex than any point in the past 30 years. This survey led the researchers to conclude that Americans are more open to pornography in the past, though there is still some guilt about consuming it.¹⁴⁸

This survey is not to debate pornography, however, but to gauge how Anti-Registry Activists view the debatable link between pornography and sexual offenses. In this survey, nearly half of ARAs (45.8%) believes the relatively easy access to porn is making people more likely to engage in sex offenses, while only about three in ten ARAs (29.8%) at least slightly disagree. Loved Ones (41%) are also far more likely strongly agree to the claim easy access to porn makes people more likely to commit sex crimes than Registered Persons (26%) and “Others” (21%). Republican voters (38%) are more likely than Democratic voters (26%) to strongly believe easy access to porn increases sex crime rates and less likely to strongly disagree (15% Repub. vs 26% Dem.).

Those that have taken sex offense treatment may be more sensitive about this topic. Most treatment treats porn (or sex in general) in a negative fashion, so the belief that porn heavily influences sexual offending may be the result of sex offense treatment. It appears that ARAs do indeed have a more negative view on pornography than the general public.

¹⁴⁶ Ferguson, C. J., & Hartley, R. D. (2022). Pornography and Sexual Aggression: Can Meta-Analysis Find a Link? *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 23(1), 278-287. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838020942754>

¹⁴⁷ David Ludden, Ph.D. “Does Porn Use Lead to Sexual Violence?” *Psychology Today*.

¹⁴⁸ “Porn Usage in America & Changing Attitudes Toward Porn.” Bespoke Surgical. 13 Oct 2021. Accessed 13 Sept 2024 at <https://bespokesurgical.com/2021/10/13/watching-porn-survey/>

“GROOMING”

Merriam-Webster defined “Grooming” as a method “to build a trusting relationship with (a minor) in order to exploit them especially for nonconsensual sexual activity.”¹⁴⁹ Until recently, this term has been largely limited to treatment, but the term has been hijacked by popular culture. These days, the term “grooming” has been redefined to be synonymous with accusations of exposure and/or indoctrination to certain beliefs. Frequently, this term is used to attack those who are members of the LGBTQ+ community.

In 2022, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB 1557, which was intended to “prohibit classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in certain grade levels or in a specified manner.” This bill was derided as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill. (In 2023, Florida took the ban to the next level by passing HB 1069, the “Don’t Say They” bill, banning teachers from referring to their students by pronouns inconsistent with their birth gender.)¹⁵⁰

When the “Don’t Say Gay” bill was being debated in the legislature, Desantis’s campaign manager Christina Pushaw attacked opponents of the bill as supporting the “grooming” of children. She doubled down on her hatemongering after she was confronted by the media, stating, “Talking about adult topics with young children is a tactic of groomers, and as I said, not everyone who opposes the bill is a groomer — but they apparently don’t see a problem with adults instructing very young children about sexual topics. And sadly, that creates an environment where grooming can happen. The governor has never referred to the bill as an anti-grooming bill or used that term. It was my personal account and I was tweeting off work hours.”¹⁵¹

The intent of misusing the term “groomer” is to attack any sexual attitude or act that they feel is outside traditional norms rooted in fundamentalist religious dogma. “As other states have debated similar bills, and legislation and policies restricting transgender student’s participation in school sports, the word “groomer” has turned up on protest signs, on cable news debates, and in negative campaign ads... Some educators and advocacy groups have also warned that using such language could put educators in physical danger, noting that words like “groomer” can be signals to extremist groups and adherents of the QAnon conspiracy theory.”¹⁵²

While the controversial “Mandate for Leadership 2025: The Conservative Promise”, better known as “Project 2025”, does not use the term “groomer” or “grooming,” it seeks to outlaw all pornography and even place educators and librarians on the sex offense registry for not doing enough to screen out material they deem offensive. As written by Kevin D. Roberts, PhD, President of the Heritage Foundation:

“Pornography, manifested today in the omnipresent propagation of transgender ideology and sexualization of children, for instance, is not a political Gordian knot inextricably binding up disparate

¹⁴⁹ “Groom”. Merriam-Webster. Accessed 13 Sept. 2024 at <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/groom#h2>

¹⁵⁰ What You Need to Know about Florida’s “Don’t Say Gay” and “Don’t Say They” Laws, Book Bans, and Other Curricula Restrictions. NEA. June 2023. Accessed 14 Sept 2024 at https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/30424-know-your-rights_web_v4.pdf

¹⁵¹ Danielle J. Brown. “Gov’s Press Secretary: ‘It was my personal account and I was tweeting off work hours’”. Florida Phoenix. 7 Mar 2022. Accessed 14 Sept 2024 at <https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/03/07/govs-press-secretary-it-was-my-personal-account-and-i-was-tweeting-off-work-hours/>

¹⁵² Evie Blad. “Why Misusing ‘Groomer’ as a Political Smear Is Especially Dangerous.” Ed Week. 26 Apr 2022. Accessed 14 Sept 2024 at <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/why-misusing-groomer-as-a-political-smear-is-especially-dangerous/2022/04>

claims about free speech, property rights, sexual liberation, and child welfare. It has no claim to First Amendment protection. Its purveyors are child predators and misogynistic exploiters of women. Their product is as addictive as any illicit drug and as psychologically destructive as any crime. Pornography should be outlawed. The people who produce and distribute it should be imprisoned. Educators and public librarians who purvey it should be classed as registered sex offenders. And telecommunications and technology firms that facilitate its spread should be shuttered.”¹⁵³

Anti-Registry Activists should be extremely sensitive to the use of labels. As previously discussed, we have struggled over the years to come up with a label that gives us a sense of community from using terms like “Former RSO (FRSO)” to “Registered Citizen” to the more common used terms “Registered Person” or even “Person Forced to Register.” Groups like NARSOL and ACSOL changed the word “offender” in their moniker to “offense” because it reflects our belief that Registered Persons are not doomed to reoffend and most are not a danger to society. The term “Anti-Registry Movement” drew inspiration from other recent movements where a name helps form an identity and sense of unity, though not every activist group is on-board with using the term.¹⁵⁴

The term “groomer”, on the other hand, should offend us because it is weaponized to attack other marginalized groups as sexually deviant. It is in part “a dog whistle to the (Republican) party’s most extreme, conspiracy-minded base... But this rhetoric also harkens back to age-old attacks on the LGBTQ community... “Grooming” is a term that neatly draws together both modern conspiracy theories and old homophobic stereotypes, while comfortably shielding itself under the guise of protecting children. Who, after all, can argue against the safety of kids?¹⁵⁵

This survey asked Anti-Registry Activists if they believe those with great influence in society (media, pop culture, etc.) “groom” children into acceptance and participation of “sexualized” lifestyles. Of the 695 ARAs who took this survey, just over half of them(52.8%) said YES; only about one out of five (21.4%) said NO and one in four (25.76%) were UNSURE. WAR supporters (60%) are at least five percentage points more likely than other groups, and Love Ones (63%) more likely than Registered Persons (51%) and “Others” (40%) to believe society is grooming the youth into accepting sexualized lifestyles. Republicans are significantly more likely to believe pop culture is “grooming” children into sexualized lifestyles (77% Rep, 38% Dems) and less likely to say no (5% Rep, 32% Dems). Only 9% of LOs, 24% of RPs, and 34% of others believe pop culture is not grooming kids.

In short, Anti-Registry Activists, particularly those in the Loved Ones category and especially Republican voters, are prone to agreeing with the narrative that there is a sense of cultural permissiveness that increases the likelihood that children are experiencing sexual “grooming.”

Ironically, this concerns stem from Christian Nationalism, and Christian churches have experienced numerous allegations of abuse, including the Catholic and Southern Baptist churches. There is a lack of reputable studies linking religious attitudes and sexual abuse, and so there is plenty of misinformation on the purported link between religion and sexual abuse. One statistic commonly quoted by church critics is “93% of sex offenders describe themselves as “religious” and that this category of offender may be the

¹⁵³ “Mandate for Leadership 2025: The Conservative Promise.” The Heritage Foundation. 2023. Accessed 14 Apr 2024 at https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf, p.5.

¹⁵⁴ Supra., Logue, “Anti-Registry Movement”

¹⁵⁵ Kaleigh Rogers. “Why So Many Conservatives Are Talking About ‘Grooming’ All Of A Sudden.” FiveThirtyEight. 13 Apr 2022. Accessed 14 Sept 2024 at <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/why-so-many-conservatives-are-talking-about-grooming-all-of-a-sudden/>

most dangerous.” But this statistic is attributed to Anna Salter, who is in turn attributed to a non-peer reviewed study by Gene Abel.¹⁵⁶

A writer for Psychology Today also suggests religion may contribute to sexual offenses:

“It appears to be the case that being religious, along with being male, white, and educated, adds to rather than subtracts from the risk of sexual criminality. To try to understand this better I took surveys of hundreds of sex offenders in treatment following their adjudication and, nearly as often, their incarceration. Here's what I found: Among those men convicted of sex crimes, only 15% had never attended church in their youth. The majority (56%) attended church services weekly or even more often when they were children. What might this mean? We probably don't want to say that mere attendance of church as a youth causes sexual criminality. But it seems to be the case that taking our children to church offers them no protection against a future of potential sexual criminality. How can this be?”¹⁵⁷

Both those on the left and the right and those who are both religious and non-religious lob accusations at the opposing side and weaponize Registered Persons and/or allegations of abuse routinely on social media. As Anti-Registry Activists, we should be mindful of promoting the same attitudes that have been used to promote tougher post-conviction sanctions against Registered Persons.

SATANIC PANIC AND “RITUAL ABUSE”

The 1980s was the era of Satanic Panic. Everything from Dungeons & Dragons to rock music to Saturday Morning Cartoons were accused of promoting Satanism. The worst part of the era was the false allegations that certain establishments, particularly day care centers, were fronts for an underground network of satanic cannibalistic pedophiles. Numerous people were falsely confused, and some were even convicted, of outlandish acts referred to as “Satanic Ritual Abuse” (SRA). Coinciding with this myth was the belief in “repressed memory” where people would conveniently compartmentalize and forget they were abused in the first place; these people would “remember” under intense therapy which included hypnosis. The concepts of the Satanic Panic were debunked, but the era nevertheless contributed to the establishment to the creation and proliferation of the modern sex offense registry.

Unfortunately, many of the concepts of Satanic Panic and the concepts of “Satanic Ritual Abuse” have been recycled in the more recent online conspiracies like PizzaGate and QAnon. The primary difference between the Satanic Panic of the 1980s-1990s and the modern panic that conveniently began around the time Donald Trump began running for office is the focus of the claims has moved away from average citizens running daycare centers to members of the Democratic Party.¹⁵⁸

PizzaGate was the first modern Satanic Panic conspiracy. The centerpiece of the conspiracy hypothesis was the false claim that Hillary Clinton’s campaign manager, John Podesta, was running an underground pedophile ring out of his Washington, DC pizza shop. Proponents of the PizzaGate conspiracy even wrote

¹⁵⁶ See Boz Tchividjian. “Startling Statistics: Child sexual abuse and what the church can begin doing about it.” Religion News Service. 9 Jan 2014. Accessed 14 Sept 2024 at <https://religionnews.com/2014/01/09/startling-statistics/>, see also “Abel Assessment: Questions of Validity”. Wikipedia. Accessed 14 Sept 2024 at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abel_Assessment

¹⁵⁷ Steven Ing MFT. “Sex Offenders and Church.” Psychology Today. 11 Nov 2020. Accessed 14 Sept 2024 at <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/sexual-futurist/202011/sex-offenders-and-church>

¹⁵⁸ Noah Caldwell, Ari Shapiro, Patrick Jarenwattananon, & Mia Venkat. “America’s Satanic Panic Returns — This Time Through QAnon.” NPR. 18 May 2021. Accessed 15 Sept 2024 at <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/18/997559036/americas-satanic-panic-returns-this-time-through-qanon>

a manifesto, “PizzaGate for Dummies,”¹⁵⁹ outlining why they believed the conspiracy claims were true, including:

- “The first obvious clue to a huge organized pedophilia network surfaced in 1982 with the disappearance of 12 year old Johnny Gosch in Des Moines Iowa.”
- Ted Gunderson, retired head of the Los Angeles FBI office (-turned conspiracy theorist), claims that there are 4-5 million practicing Satanists in the US, 83 children are abducted every hour (a misrepresentation of the NISMART studies on missing children reports, where most were either runaways or lost for benign reasons), and claims 150 children a day are sacrificed annually in satanic rituals.
- “In 1989 came the “Franklin Cover Up” scandal, former US Congressman John DeCamp exposed a network of pedophilia in Nebraska that went all the way to the White House.” (It was later determined it was a hoax created by a disgruntled ex-employee of Boys Town). The treatise then brings up other events like the Catholic Church abuse claims and the arrest of British media personality Jimmy Savile as evidence of a global ring.
- The writer(s) claim the leaked “Podesta” emails contained pizza terminology “often appear in very, very bizarre contexts that have nothing to do with food,” therefore it must be a criminal code like in mafia movies. They claim the code they settled upon was through Urban Dictionary, but none of the definitions used in this treatise matches any definitions in the Urban Dictionary.

The PizzaGate conspiracy culminated in a lone gunman entering the pizza shop with an assault rifle in search of non-existent kidnapped children in a non-existent basement, but the conspiracies have merely evolved into the Q-Anon conspiracy. In 2017, someone calling himself “Q” and claiming to be a high-ranking intelligence officer began posting on the controversial website 4chan, claiming satanic pedophiles controlled not only Comet but the world, drinking children’s blood (“extracting adrenochrome”) to stay young. Q promised that Trump and other government insiders would bring them to justice. This has only intensified the hatred towards the Podestas and towards the targeted groups of the Q-Anon adherents. The big difference between 2016 and Pizzagate and QAnon [now] isn’t the themes … it’s the scale,” said Joan Donovan, research director of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.¹⁶⁰

A 2020 survey of 4,057 adults living in the US found the following:¹⁶¹

Category	Definitely True	Probably True
Mueller was actually investigating a child sex-tracking network	4.1%	10.9%
Celebrities harvest adrenochrome from children’s bodies	4.5%	7.9%
Global network tortures/sexually abuses children in Satanic rituals	6.5%	15.7%

As previously discussed, members and organizations in the Anti-Registry Movement have been falsely accused of being part of a global pedophile ring, and some attempts to engage in anti-registry activity are

¹⁵⁹ A copy was accessed 15 Sept 2024 at

https://ia801403.us.archive.org/9/items/Pizzagate4Dummies/Pizzagate_4_Dummies.pdf

¹⁶⁰ Michael E. Miller. “The Pizzagate gunman is out of prison. Conspiracy theories are out of control.” The Seattle Times. 16 Feb 2021 at <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/the-pizzagate-gunner-is-out-of-prison-conspiracy-theories-are-out-of-control/>

¹⁶¹ Brian Schaffner “Survey on QAnon and Conspiracy Beliefs.” Institute for Strategic Dialogue. Oct 2020. Accessed 15 Sept 2024 at https://www.isdglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/qanon-and-conspiracy-beliefs-full_toplines.pdf

met with wild accusations followed by threats. Many online vigilante groups and those who engage in citizen entrapment operations adhere to far-right conspiracies.

Anti-Registry Activists should be wary of a preposterous conspiracy that influenced the creation of modern sex offense laws, yet this survey found that nearly one out of five ARAs believe in the concept of "Satanic" or "ritualistic" sexual abuse, a higher number than the average for believing similar tenets of QAnon conspiracies; half of ARAs do not believe in satanic ritual abuse, and three out of ten were unsure. Republican voters (33%) are also far more likely to believe in "satanic" or 'ritual' abuse than Democratic voters.

SUMMARY

"The Registry is an irrational social response to real issues which relate to human sexuality and the necessity of consent in all cases. It solves nothing, and makes existing problems worse. We can and must do better." – A survey respondent

"Beyond the above the greatest issue is that ALL sex laws including Age of Consent laws, public nudity, prostitution, child porn, incest, adultery, bigamy and all the other hundreds --if not thousands of anti-sex laws (with the exception of forced stranger rape) are due to RELIGIOUS indoctrination that labels sex as being shameful and sinful and less than wholesome and natural. The problems that no one wants to face that issue head on because the vast majority of people --even those working to end sex reg laws are themselves VICTIMS of religious indoctrination. Religion has intertwined itself so much cultural taboo that most people lack the critical thinking skills or honestly to see the connection as one in the same. Mass moral taboos alone cause people to suspend judgement because they think majority beliefs are somehow automatically right. This is why 90 % of all people end up believing in whatever the predominated religious belief is of their country. Fighting registration laws without fighting religious anti sex mentality is like chopping the tops of weeds off—that will ALWAYS GROW BACK—until the religious underlying ROOTS are destroyed. Fighting sex reg laws without fighting religious anti-sex beliefs is like being Pro Life but still wanting legal abortion for yourself if you got pregnant. It is mutually exclusive and inconsistent positioning." – A survey respondent

Anti-Registry Activists should be more wary of the USA's prudish sexual mores and be far more skeptical than the average American on the influence of pornography on sexual offending, the amount of indoctrination or "grooming" in our culture, and beliefs about Satanic Ritual Abuse. After all, one of the primary functions of anti-registry groups is debunking numerous myths about sexual offenses and those placed on sex offense registries. As ARAs, we should be more sensitive to the perils of the quick spread of lies and myths, or "misinformation and disinformation" to use current terminology.

This survey suggests that a large subset of activists believe in these conspiracies, predominantly among Republican voters. But even among other categories, Anti-Registry Activists that believe in these conspiracies was comparable to questions asked by the general population. This suggests that our own movement is doing an inadequate job of teaching ARAs how to spot and how to tackle the lies spread by society, especially politically-charged conspiracies.

The truth, the facts, and the figures have always been on our side, but it seems like people are less willing to accept the facts than in previous years. As noted by Pew Research, "In late 2016, Oxford Dictionaries selected 'post-truth' as the word of the year, defining it as 'relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief...'

A Pew Research Center study conducted just after the 2016 election found 64% of adults believe fake news stories cause a great deal of confusion and 23% said they had shared fabricated political stories themselves – sometimes by mistake and sometimes intentionally.”¹⁶²

Anti-Registry Activists have dealt with “misinformation” and lies since the early days of anti-registry activism, yet we seem to be behind the curve when combatting it even when it is within our own movement. We can certainly do better than this.

¹⁶² Janna Anderson and Lee Rainie. “The Future of Truth and Misinformation Online.” Pew Research. 19 Oct 2017. Accessed 16 Sept 2024 at <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2017/10/19/the-future-of-truth-and-misinformation-online/>

ATTITUDES ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Questions 62-70 address Anti-Registry Activists' attitudes towards law enforcement efforts and interactions while dealing with registry issues.

Q62: *Is the act of physically going to a registry office is a stressful and/or painful experience?* (Note: the responses reflect only those who DID NOT choose "Does Not Apply")

Q62	Yes	Yes in Principle	No	Don't Know
Total (595)	74.45% (443)	20.34% (121)	3.03% (18)	2.18% (13)
RPs (457)	72.21% (330)	23.19% (106)	3.5% (16)	1.09% (5)
LOs (110)	81.82% (90)	10.91% (12)	1.82% (2)	5.45% (6)
Others (28)	82.14% (23)	10.71% (3)	0% (0)	7.14% (2)
Males (472)	72.67% (343)	22.67% (107)	3.6% (17)	1.06% (5)
Females (119)	81.51% (97)	11.76% (14)	0.84% (1)	5.88% (7)
NARSOL (402)	72.64% (292)	22.39% (90)	3.23% (13)	1.74% (7)
ACSOL (249)	77.11% (192)	18.07% (45)	2.81% (7)	2.01% (5)
WAR (190)	78.42% (149)	16.84% (32)	3.16% (6)	1.58% (3)
TX Voices (46)	63.04% (29)	28.26% (13)	6.52% (3)	2.17% (1)
FAC (167)	76.05% (127)	20.36% (34)	1.2% (2)	2.4% (4)
Once Fallen (119)	79.83% (95)	15.97% (19)	4.2% (5)	0% (0)
Republican (171)	73.1% (125)	22.22% (38)	2.34% (4)	2.34% (4)
Democratic (260)	69.62% (181)	24.23% (63)	3.85% (10)	2.31% (6)
Libertarian (46)	78.26% (36)	17.39% (8)	2.17% (1)	2.17% (1)
Other Parties (118)	85.59% (101)	10.17% (12)	2.54% (3)	1.69% (2)

Q63: *How are you or your loved one treated at the local registration office?* (Note: the responses reflect only those who DID NOT choose "Does Not Apply")

Q63	Poorly	Not Nice or Poor	Nicely	Don't Know
Total (593)	20.07% (119)	37.27% (221)	37.44% (222)	5.23% (31)
RPs (451)	20.84% (94)	37.03% (167)	40.8% (184)	1.33% (6)
LOs (126)	15.87% (20)	40.48% (51)	25.4% (32)	18.25% (23)
Others (16)	31.25% (5)	18.75% (3)	37.5% (6)	12.5% (2)
Males (468)	21.79% (102)	35.9% (168)	40.17% (188)	2.14% (10)
Females (121)	13.22% (16)	42.15% (51)	27.27% (33)	17.36% (21)
NARSOL (405)	19.26% (78)	38.77% (157)	37.78% (153)	4.2% (17)
ACSOL (250)	21.2% (53)	38.4% (96)	38.4% (96)	2% (5)
WAR (195)	20.51% (40)	27.44% (73)	35.38% (69)	6.67% (13)
TX Voices (52)	23.08% (12)	26.92% (14)	48.08% (25)	1.92% (1)
FAC (170)	20% (34)	40% (68)	38.24% (65)	1.76% (3)
Once Fallen (119)	23.77% (29)	43.44% (53)	31.15% (38)	1.64% (2)
Republican (172)	20.35% (35)	33.72% (58)	41.28% (71)	4.65% (8)
Democratic (262)	17.56% (46)	38.55% (101)	39.69% (104)	4.2% (11)
Libertarian (47)	19.15% (9)	31.91% (15)	42.55% (20)	6.38% (3)
Other Parties (112)	25.89% (29)	41.96% (47)	24.11% (27)	8.04% (9)

Q64: Do you trust Law Enforcement (LE)?

Q64: Trust LE?	Fully Trust	Partly Trust	Neutral	Partly Distrust	Fully Distrust
Total Resp. (695)	1.44% (10)	21.29% (148)	11.51% (80)	30.65% (213)	35.11% (244)
RPs (464)	2.16% (10)	20.91% (97)	11.64% (54)	30.17% (140)	35.13% (163)
LOs (169)	0% (0)	19.53% (33)	9.47% (16)	35.5% (60)	35.5% (60)
Others (62)	0% (0)	29.03% (18)	16.13% (10)	20.97% (13)	33.87% (21)
Males (508)	1.97% (10)	22.44% (114)	12.01% (61)	29.33% (149)	34.25% (174)
Females (178)	0% (0)	18.54% (33)	9.55% (17)	34.83% (62)	37.08% (66)
NARSOL (469)	1.28% (6)	22.17% (104)	12.15% (57)	30.92% (145)	33.48% (157)
ACSOL (284)	1.76% (5)	20.42% (58)	10.56% (30)	31.69% (90)	35.56% (101)
WAR (232)	0.43% (1)	20.26% (47)	11.21% (26)	30.6% (71)	37.5% (87)
TX Voices (59)	3.39% (2)	27.12% (16)	20.34% (12)	23.73% (14)	25.42% (15)
FAC (193)	1.04% (2)	23.83% (46)	10.88% (21)	26.42% (51)	37.82% (73)
Once Fallen (138)	1.45% (2)	16.67% (23)	7.25% (10)	33.33% (46)	41.3% (57)
Republican (193)	1.04% (2)	24.87% (48)	13.99% (27)	30.05% (58)	30.05% (58)
Democratic (318)	1.89% (6)	18.87% (60)	11.32% (36)	33.96% (108)	33.96% (108)
Libertarian (55)	0% (0)	29.09% (16)	12.73% (7)	25.45% (14)	32.73% (18)
Other Parties (129)	1.55% (2)	18.6% (24)	7.75% (10)	25.58% (33)	46.51% (60)

Q65: If a cop came to your house for a compliance check operation and demanded to be let in to see your bedroom without a warrant, would you comply? Of 695 ARAs, 84 (12.09%) chose they would allow LE to conduct warrantless searches (“nothing to hide”), 98 (14.1%) cannot deny entry due to household member being under supervision, 449 (64.6%) would refuse entry, and 64 (9.21%) chose “Unsure/Don’t know how I’d react until it happens”. But when adjusted to remove those who CANNOT refuse due to supervision status (597 remaining ARAs):

Q65: Warrantless Entry?	Yes	No	Unsure
Total w/o supervision (597)	14.07% (84)	75.21% (449)	10.72% (64)
RPs (403)	13.4% (54)	78.66% (317)	7.94% (32)
LOs (136)	19.85% (27)	59.56% (81)	20.59% (28)
Others (58)	5.17% (3)	87.93% (51)	6.9% (4)
Males (442)	13.35% (59)	78.51% (347)	8.14% (36)
Females (147)	16.33% (24)	64.63% (95)	19.05% (28)
NARSOL (399)	14.79% (59)	73.68% (294)	11.53% (46)
ACSOL (255)	9.41% (24)	81.57% (208)	9.02% (23)
WAR (195)	11.28% (22)	75.9% (148)	12.82% (25)
TX Voices (49)	16.33% (8)	73.47% (36)	10.2% (5)
FAC (172)	13.37% (23)	75.58% (130)	11.05% (19)
Once Fallen (119)	10.08% (12)	76.47% (91)	13.45% (16)
Republican (162)	16.67% (27)	72.22% (117)	11.11% (18)
Democratic (273)	14.65% (40)	75.46% (206)	9.89% (27)
Libertarian (49)	4.08% (2)	95.92% (47)	0% (0)
Other Parties (113)	13.27% (15)	69.91% (79)	16.81% (19)

Q66: Would you support calls to “Defund the Police” if it means law enforcement operations like community notification or random compliance checks were curtailed?

Q66: Defund Police?	Yes	No	Unsure
TOTAL (695)	46.04% (320)	31.51% (219)	22.45% (156)
RPs (464)	49.78% (231)	32.97% (153)	17.24% (80)
LOs (169)	39.64% (67)	28.4% (48)	31.95% (54)
Others (62)	35.48% (22)	29.03% (18)	35.48% (22)
Males (508)	46.65% (237)	34.06% (173)	19.29% (98)
Females (178)	42.7% (76)	25.84% (46)	31.46% (56)
NARSOL (469)	48.83% (229)	29.64% (139)	21.54% (101)
ACSOL (284)	51.41% (146)	26.41% (75)	22.18% (63)
WAR (232)	52.59% (122)	25.43% (59)	21.98% (51)
TX Voices (59)	49.15% (29)	32.2% (19)	18.64% (11)
FAC (193)	53.89% (104)	24.35% (47)	21.76% (42)
Once Fallen (138)	55.07% (76)	21.74% (30)	23.19% (32)
Republican (193)	29.02% (56)	56.48% (109)	14.51% (28)
Democratic (318)	51.89% (165)	22.01% (70)	26.1% (83)
Libertarian (55)	56.36% (31)	21.82% (12)	21.82% (12)
Other Parties (129)	52.71% (68)	21.7% (28)	25.58% (33)

Q67: Should law enforcement be allowed to post registry fliers on social media?

Q67: LEO posting on social media	YES	Post Only High-Risk	NO	Unsure
TOTAL (695)	0.29% (2)	7.91% (55)	90.5% (629)	1.29% (9)
RPs (464)	0.22% (1)	7.11% (33)	91.59% (425)	1.08% (5)
LOs (169)	0.59% (1)	7.69% (13)	89.94% (152)	1.78% (3)
Others (62)	0% (0)	14.52% (9)	83.87% (52)	1.61% (1)
Males (508)	0.39% (2)	8.66% (44)	89.96% (457)	0.98% (5)
Females (178)	0% (0)	5.62% (10)	92.13% (164)	2.25% (4)
NARSOL (469)	0.21% (1)	6.82% (32)	92.11% (432)	0.85% (4)
ACSOL (284)	0.35% (1)	6.34% (18)	92.25% (262)	1.06% (3)
WAR (232)	0.43% (1)	4.74% (11)	92.67% (215)	2.16% (5)
TX Voices (59)	0% (0)	5.08% (3)	93.22% (55)	1.69% (1)
FAC (193)	0.52% (1)	7.77% (15)	90.16% (174)	1.55% (3)
Once Fallen (138)	0% (0)	4.35% (6)	92.75% (128)	2.9% (4)
Republican (193)	0% (0)	8.81% (17)	89.12% (172)	2.07% (4)
Democratic (318)	0% (0)	6.92% (22)	92.45% (294)	0.63% (2)
Libertarian (55)	0% (0)	9.09% (5)	90.91% (50)	0% (0)
Other Parties (129)	1.55% (2)	8.53% (11)	87.6% (113)	2.33% (3)

Q68: *Should law enforcement be allowed to hold public meeting when a registered person moves into a community?*

Q68: LEO holding town halls?	YES	Post Only High-Risk	NO	Unsure
Total (695)	0.72% (5)	60 (8.63%)	88.2% (613)	2.45% (17)
RPs (464)	0.65% (3)	9.05% (42)	87.72% (407)	2.59% (12)
LOs (169)	0.59% (1)	5.92% (10)	91.72% (155)	1.78% (3)
Others (62)	1.61% (1)	12.9% (8)	82.26% (51)	3.23% (2)
Males (508)	0.98% (5)	9.84% (50)	86.61% (440)	2.56% (13)
Females (178)	0% (0)	5.06% (9)	93.26% (166)	1.69% (3)
NARSOL (469)	0.64% (3)	8.1% (38)	89.13% (418)	2.13% (10)
ACSOL (284)	1.06% (3)	8.1% (23)	88.03% (250)	2.82% (8)
WAR (232)	0.86% (2)	6.03% (14)	90.09% (209)	3.02% (7)
TX Voices (59)	0% (0)	5.08% (3)	91.53% (54)	3.39% (2)
FAC (193)	0.52% (1)	9.84% (19)	87.05% (168)	2.59% (5)
Once Fallen (138)	1.45% (2)	6.52% (9)	87.68% (121)	4.35% (6)
Republican (193)	0% (0)	8.29% (16)	89.64% (173)	2.07% (4)
Democratic (318)	0% (0)	8.81% (28)	88.68% (282)	2.52% (8)
Libertarian (55)	5.45% (3)	3.64% (2)	90.91% (50)	0% (0)
Other Parties (129)	1.55% (2)	10.85% (14)	83.72% (108)	3.88% (5)

Q69: *Do you agree or disagree risk assessment agents do a good job at separating “high risk” registrants from those who pose little to no danger to the community?*

Q69: Do Risk Assess. work?	Strongly Agree	Partly Agree	Neutral	Partly Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Total (695)	2.73% (19)	7.34% (51)	22.16% (154)	16.98% (118)	50.79% (353)
RPs (464)	2.16% (10)	8.19% (38)	22.41% (104)	15.73% (73)	51.51% (239)
LOs (169)	2.96% (5)	5.33% (9)	21.89% (37)	17.75% (30)	52.07% (88)
Others (62)	6.45% (4)	6.45% (4)	20.97% (13)	24.19% (15)	41.94% (26)
Males (508)	2.95% (15)	8.07% (41)	22.64% (115)	15.75% (80)	50.59% (257)
Females (178)	1.69% (3)	5.06% (9)	21.35% (38)	19.66% (35)	52.25% (93)
NARSOL (469)	2.13% (10)	6.82% (32)	22.17% (104)	15.78% (74)	53.09% (249)
ACSOL (284)	1.76% (5)	8.8% (25)	21.13% (60)	17.96% (51)	50.35% (143)
WAR (232)	3.02% (7)	7.33% (17)	21.12% (49)	17.67% (41)	50.86% (118)
TX Voices (59)	1.69% (1)	8.47% (5)	20.34% (12)	6.78% (4)	62.71% (37)
FAC (193)	2.59% (5)	7.25% (14)	20.73% (40)	16.58% (32)	52.85% (102)
Once Fallen (138)	2.17% (3)	5.8% (8)	17.39% (24)	15.94% (22)	58.7% (81)
Republican (193)	3.63% (7)	8.29% (16)	22.28% (43)	17.1% (33)	48.7% (94)
Democratic (318)	2.83% (9)	7.86% (25)	20.44% (65)	19.5% (62)	49.37% (157)
Libertarian (55)	3.64% (2)	3.64% (2)	29.09% (16)	12.73% (7)	50.91% (28)
Other Party (129)	0.78% (1)	6.2% (8)	23.26% (30)	12.4% (16)	57.36% (74)

Q70: Do you agree or disagree that registration officers are “passive aggressive” or otherwise show disdain, disrespect, or hatred toward Registered Persons?

Q70: LE passive-aggressive?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Total (695)	30.22% (210)	27.77% (193)	28.78% (200)	9.64% (67)	3.6% (25)
RPs (464)	28.88% (134)	28.23% (131)	27.59% (128)	10.99% (51)	4.31% (20)
LOs (169)	34.32% (58)	26.04% (44)	30.18% (51)	8.28% (14)	1.18% (2)
Others (62)	29.03% (18)	29.03% (18)	33.87% (21)	3.23% (2)	4.84% (3)
Males (508)	29.13% (148)	27.56% (140)	28.15% (143)	10.43% (53)	4.72% (24)
Females (178)	33.15% (59)	27.53% (49)	31.46% (56)	7.3% (13)	0.56% (1)
NARSOL (469)	30.7% (144)	26.65% (125)	29.85% (140)	8.74% (41)	4.05% (19)
ACSOL (284)	35.21% (100)	26.76% (76)	26.41% (75)	8.1% (23)	3.52% (10)
WAR (232)	34.05% (79)	27.16% (63)	27.59% (64)	7.33% (17)	3.88% (9)
TX Voices (59)	27.12% (16)	25.42% (15)	27.12% (16)	13.56% (8)	6.78% (4)
FAC (193)	30.57% (59)	29.02% (56)	24.87% (48)	12.95% (25)	2.59% (5)
Once Fallen (138)	40.58% (56)	25.36% (35)	23.91% (33)	7.25% (10)	2.9% (4)
Republican (193)	27.46% (53)	29.02% (56)	27.98% (54)	11.4% (22)	4.15% (8)
Democratic (318)	28.62% (91)	27.67% (88)	29.25% (93)	10.69% (34)	3.77% (12)
Libertarian (55)	27.27% (15)	21.82% (12)	40% (22)	7.27% (4)	3.64% (2)
Other Party (129)	39.53% (51)	28.68% (37)	24.03% (31)	5.43% (7)	2.33% (3)

DISCUSSION

IN LAW ENFORCEMENT WE (DIS-)TRUST

“I would like to do more to speak out, but I am afraid that my speaking out against the registry would then put a target on my family member for greater scrutiny by the police and bullying of my children.” – A survey respondent

Americans have a love-hate relationship with Law Enforcement. Annual Gallup polls conducted since 1993 found that confidence in Law Enforcement agencies generally hover between 50%-60%, peaking in 2004 at 64% while dipping to an all-time low of 45% in 2022 and 43% in 2023 (in 2024 it sits at 51%). Those over age 55, those who are White, and those who are Republican voters have significantly higher confidence levels than other groups.¹⁶³

In 2024, confidence in law enforcement was already at the lowest levels in Gallup’s 30 years of polling. Those age 55+ (54%), White adults (49%), and Republicans (60%) still had the highest levels of support; those numbers rose to 61% for age 55+, 62% for Whites, and 62% for Republicans in 2024. Those ages 18-34 (27%), People of Color (31%), and both Independent voters (37%) and Democratic voters (40%) had considerably lower confidence levels; however, the levels rose to 43% among those ages 18-34, 44% among Persons of Color, 49% among Independent voters, and 45% among Democratic voters. Overall, only 1% of respondents chose no confidence in the police and 16% chose “little confidence.” Democratic voters, despite having confidence in Law Enforcement than Republicans, are 18 percentage points more

¹⁶³ Megan Brenan. “U.S. Confidence in Institutions Mostly Flat, but Police Up.” Gallup. 15 July 2024. Accessed 16 Sept 2024 at <https://news.gallup.com/poll/647303/confidence-institutions-mostly-flat-police.aspx>

likely to say they have a lot of confidence in the criminal justice system as a whole (29% Dems vs. 11% Repubs).¹⁶⁴

However, the average American has little-to-no interaction with police, other than in special events, going into government buildings, or getting pulled over for traffic infractions. By contrast, most Registered Persons must go to a police station, courthouse, or other building housing Law Enforcement personnel in order to complete an in-person registration. The Registered Person may receive a random visit at home, at school, or at work for a compliance check or address verification. The act of registration is, in itself, a reminder that society sees everyone on the list as an imminent threat to society.

“Compliance check” operations conducted by multiple law enforcement agencies are the most visible, high-profile forms of interaction a Registered Person may endure. Often, such operations involve the US Marshals working with state and local police and dress in tactical gear for added visual effect. Sometimes they even try to compel freed Registrants to allow warrantless searches.¹⁶⁵

Barely one out of five Anti-Registry Activists have even partial trust in Law Enforcement, while roughly one out of every 75 ARAs have complete trust in Law Enforcement. Just over one in three ARAs completely distrust Law Enforcement in addition to the three out of ten ARAs that partially distrust law enforcement. This confidence level is lower than any comparable group in the Gallup poll. This is especially telling since most ARAs are White and over the age of 55, which had among the highest confidence levels in the Gallup poll. Only around 22.5% of ARAs expressed “partial” or “complete trust” in Law Enforcement, compared to the 51% in the Gallup poll who had either “quite a lot” or “a great deal” of confidence in the police. While only 17% in the Gallup poll had “little” or “no” confidence in Law Enforcement, 66% of ARAs have “partial” or “complete” distrust in Law Enforcement. Once Fallen supporters (41%) are most likely to choose they completely distrust Law enforcement, while Texas Voices supporters (25%) were the least likely to choose they completely distrust Law Enforcement.

Those in the “Others” category (29%) were more likely to express partial trust in Law Enforcement (21% RPs and 20% LOs) and less likely to choose partial distrust (Others 21% vs 30% RPs and 36% LOs). This is understandable since those who are not Registered Persons or Loved Ones living in the same household as a Registered Person likely have less reason to interact with Law Enforcement, especially when it comes to registration and compliance checks.

REGISTRATION & COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

“Overall, I state that the current state of Registry offenses in my state of Georgia is relatively very quiet. We on the registry in my county of Bartow are called for our annual ‘re-up’ date a week before our birthdays. A solid balance exists between law enforcement and us on the registry; comply and all is well. They know the troublemakers.” – A survey respondent

Among those who have interacted with law enforcement when going to a registry office, three out of four chose it was a completely painful experience, one in five chose the registry was painful “only in principle”, and only one out of 33 chose the act of registration is pain-free experience. Registration is far

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ See, for example, the YouTube video “Registered Sex Offender Compliance Checks” by the Wayne Co. IN Sheriff’s Office, 23 May 2013 (<https://youtu.be/0I2yNLeguM8?si=AD0B5f1JgsEHgq9O&t=64>), starting at 1:04, where deputies in tactical vests compel a Registrant to allow them a warrantless entry to see the Registrant’s bedroom.

more painful for Registered Persons than to Loved Ones both in terms of going in general (RPs 71% vs 53% LOs) and in principle (23% RPs vs 7% LOs), which is unsurprising given it is the Registered Person who must register regardless of whether a Loved One chooses to participate in the registry ritual or not. Texas Voices Supporters were the least likely to report a negative view and Once Fallen supporters were the most likely to have a negative view of registration.

Among those who had interacted with registration officers, one out of five stated they were treated “Poorly”, while around 37% had chosen they either treated “Nicely”, and around 37% responded they were treated “Neither Nicely nor Poorly.” Texas Voices Supporters were the least likely to report poor treatment at the registry office, while Once Fallen supporters were the most likely to have a negative view of registration.

Nearly three out of five Anti-Registry Activists (58%) reported feeling like the registration officers were “passive-aggressive”, and that 58% number also applies to Registered Persons. Once Fallen supporters (41%) are far more likely than NARSOL (31%), FAC (31%), and Texas Voices (27%) supporters to “strongly agree” that registry officers are disrespectful or passive-aggressive towards them, but when adding those who at least partially agreed, the totals are nearly identical.

Anti-Registry Activists are also highly skeptical of risk assessments, with only around one out of ten ARAs at least partially agreeing that risk assessments are successfully singling out the few Registered Persons who are highly likely to reoffend.

Less than one out of ten ARAs believe law enforcement should be allowed to disseminate registry information through the use of in-person community meetings or through online social media outlets even for the few Registered Persons who are highly likely to reoffend. Fewer than one out of one hundred ARAs believe community notification through in-person meetings or social media should apply to every Registered Person.

COMPLIANCE CHECKS

“I also disagree with the Halloween ‘fear raising’ about sex offender compliance sweeps and the law enforcement bragging about “keeping people/kids safe” this is wasted air time and serves no purpose other than ‘selling’ the idea law enforcement actually protects citizens prior to crime.” – A survey respondent

“They get to ignore ICAC standards of investigation during stings. The stings set the drag net to wide, making them entrapment because they are not targeting predisposed persons but showing up on adults only websites posing as adults and doing a bait and switch to try to make it seem like the men are interested in children when they are not, the fact that they are on an adults only website is enough due diligence to me, especially when the police are not stating exact ages nor confirming that the accused understands they are talking with a minor. The criminal justice system is purely political so it’s not very fair in general.” – A survey respondent

In 2016, Once Fallen conducted a survey on the interactions with law enforcement specifically during compliance checks; 195 Registered Persons from within various anti-registry groups completed the survey. The survey found the following:¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁶ Derek Logue. “Once Fallen Compliance Check/ Address Verification Survey Results.” Once Fallen. 31 Aug. 2016. <https://oncefallen.com/police-compliance-check-survey-2016/>

1. *Most respondents were NOT on probation/ parole at the time of this survey:* Of the 195 responses, 49 (25.13%) were on supervision at the time the survey was completed; 146 (74.87%) were not.
2. *Compliance checks are frequent events for many registrants:* Over half of respondents had experienced a compliance check within three months prior to taking the survey, with just over a fourth subject to a compliance check within a month prior to taking the survey. Nearly three out of five respondents have endured multiple compliance checks within the past year, and three out of five respondents have endured at least 10 compliance checks during their registration period.
3. *SWAT attire is used infrequently, but other intimidation tactics are commonly utilized:* Only 10.86% of respondents reported seeing officers in SWAT type gear at their doorstep, though none reported seeing SWAT vehicles. However, respondents reported in the comment sections seeing other intimidation tactics like officers dressed in all black, arriving in large numbers, and wearing special clothing marked “Sex Offender Unit,” “Special Victims Unit” and the like. In nearly half the cases where others were present at the time of the compliance check, officers addressed other members of the household (46.84% total), and in one out of every ten checks (10.13%), the officers pulled those present off to the side to speak to them alone.
4. *Officer attitudes vary somewhat between different agencies:* Respondents were most likely to report local law enforcement as “Officer Friendly” (pleasant), “Mutt and Jeff” (The good cop-bad cop duo), or “Robocop” (cold, by the book) than the US Marshals; US Marshals were reported to be more likely to be “Buford T. Justice” (bossy/authoritarian), “Joe Friday” (nosy and asking questions), and “SVU” (disrespectful and bullying), but also noted USMS agents were more likely to be forceful and “pound on the door.” Respondents who endured compliance checks by the private group “Parents For Megan’s Law” were few, but the results matched both local and federal agents in range of attitudes, though the most frequent response was “Robocop” (cold, by the book).
5. *Compliance checks have immediate and long term negative consequences for registered citizens:* An overwhelming majority of respondents agreed the registry led to feelings of anger (83.1%), worry over effects of checks on their loved ones (85.02%), concern over how the neighbors will react (89.23%), fear of retaliation (52.36%), and feeling like they are treated like a criminal or suspect (73.55%). In addition, one in four (25.66%) have experienced harassment shortly after experiencing a compliance check. Surprisingly, 8.81% of respondents agreed the registry was a “necessary evil” to ensure registrants are obeying the law.
6. *Awareness of their rights:* The 4th Amendment guarantees the right against unreasonable searches and seizures. If you are not on supervision, officers need a warrant to enter your household. However, about one in six respondents (16.84%) reported they were not even aware of this fact. About one in four (26.84%) were aware of their rights but allowed officers to conduct warrantless searches out of fear or the belief of having “nothing to hide.” Over half (56.32%) of respondents were both aware of their rights and have exercised the right to refuse warrantless searches.

The results of this survey are not limited to Registered Persons who have suffered through a compliance check operation, however, since it extends to all Anti-Registry Activists. As previously noted, even those we placed in the “Others” category can experience negative consequences, although they do not face compliance checks since they lack registry status. Loved Ones can face direct negative consequences from police, especially if they were home during a compliance check or if Child Protective Services made inquiries due to the registry status of a loved one. They may also suffer negative consequences if they escort their loved one on the registry to the registration office; especially if they are someone who recently began dating a Registered Person. This is not meant to disparage, deny, or minimize the negative experiences those in the “Loved Ones” or “Others”, but an event is more painful when it is experienced firsthand than when acting as a witness or bystander.

As noted in the 2016 Police Check Survey, some Registered Persons experience more compliance check operations than others. This survey only asked all ARAs how they would react “if cop came to your house

for a compliance check operation and demanded to be let in to see your bedroom without a warrant”, but people could have based their answers on prior experiences with law enforcement Asking the question this way opened the door for those in the Others category to answer since the question did not limit itself to a compliance check, but an attempt at a warrantless search in general. People on supervised release, probation, parole, or equivalent post-conviction status not counting registration cannot refuse a warrantless search.

Among those who cannot refuse entry, three out of four ARAs chose “No”, while only about one in seven ARAs said they would allow a warrantless search. While there was little differences in numbers among anti-registry groups, Once Fallen and ACSOL supporters were the least likely to allow warrantless searches, while Texas Voices and NARSOL supporters were the most likely to allow warrantless searches. Those in the “Others” category (88%) were significantly more likely than Registered Persons (78.5%) and Loved Ones (59.5%) to refuse a warrantless entry. Loved Ones were significantly more likely to allow a warrantless entry or to choose they don’t know how they will respond until it happens than Registered Persons and Others.

Ultimately, one out of five Loved Ones would allow a warrantless search of their homes, while an equal amount would not know how to react until the time comes. This is worrisome since law enforcement agents could choose to arrive for a compliance check while the Registered Person is away from home, and a loved one or even a guest could be talked into allowing a warrantless search. This is why it is important Anti-Registry Activists should be aware of their rights in these situations, and discuss these rights with members of their household.

If you or your loved one is on supervision, then warrantless searches by the P.O. and/or cannot be denied. Otherwise, no warrant, no entry, no exceptions! If others are living in the same household, then make an agreement between those living in the household that they should never allow warrantless entry to the police. If they do, only areas they can access including common areas like the living room can be searched, so it is important everyone in the household understands the law.

“DEFUNDING THE POLICE”

“I don’t object to police maintaining a data base of sexual offenders that includes addresses of residence, work, vehicles, and social media accounts. However, these should be updatable online, and only police access. A regular risk assessment should be conducted, and a path to removal should be simple and affordable. Premises restrictions should be scaled back. Employment should not be restricted because there’s a church across the street! This type of restriction is oppressive and does not protect the public.” – A survey respondent

One common mantra amongst groups disillusioned with Law Enforcement in recent years is the call to “defund the police.” This slogan has become part of American culture in recent years, primarily as a response to incidents of police brutality. But defunding the police has been misinterpreted as “eliminating the police.” “Defunding the police does not necessarily mean getting rid of the police altogether. Rather, it would mean reducing police budgets and reallocating those funds to crucial and oft-neglected areas like education, public health, housing, and youth services. (Some activists want to abolish the police altogether; defunding is a separate but connected cause.) It’s predicated on the belief that investing in communities would act as a better deterrent to crime by directly addressing societal problems like

poverty, mental illness, and homelessness — issues that advocates say police are poorly equipped to handle, and yet are often tasked with.”¹⁶⁷

It is difficult to estimate the true cost of keeping the registry and the myriad of draconian measures running. Overall, the US spent \$115 billion on law enforcement in 2020.¹⁶⁸ According to the 2021 Form 990 on the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), \$40.8 million of the funds they collected for the year came directly from government grants.¹⁶⁹ The Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) is a bureaucracy created to promote the federal Adam Walsh Act across the US, primarily through \$20 million annually in grants to state, territorial, and tribal law enforcement; over the years, it has given out 820 grants totaling \$244,502,347 for the sole purpose of compelling the states to adopt the controversial Adam Walsh Act.¹⁷⁰

Spending on the federal Adam Walsh Act includes \$1 million for the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) and \$19,000,000 for sex offender management assistance, as authorized by the Adam Walsh Act, and related activities.¹⁷¹ The AWA also grants authority to the US Marshals Service (USMS) to investigate accusations of Failure To Register (FTR). The USMS boasts of having conducted over 4800 compliance checks between Fiscal Years (FY) 2006 and 2023, including 300+ such operations in FY 2023 involving harassment of over 53 thousand Registered Persons.¹⁷²

It is hard to pinpoint exactly how much money it takes to fund these programs since these federal programs are part of a larger bureaucracy, but it is still in the billions when taking into account the number of registry officers and agencies at the local, state, and federal level. While many social service agencies struggle with budget cuts, law enforcement agencies only face cuts when it is politically expedient, such as when the Republicans pushed through budget cuts in March 2024 to the FBI as retribution for investigating the numerous crimes of former US President Donald Trump.¹⁷³

Overall, just under half of Anti-Registry Activists (46%) would support efforts to defund the police if it means law enforcement operations like community notification or random compliance checks were curtailed, compared to the 31.5% who chose No. Because the slogan “defund the police” is associated with those who are on the political left, Democratic voters (52%) were nearly twice as likely as Republican voters (29%) to support efforts to defund the police. Efforts to defund the police also garnered more support among Registered Persons (49.8%) than among Loved Ones (39.6%) and “Others” (35.5%). Political affiliation once again overrides a sense of loyalty to the cause.

¹⁶⁷ Amanda Arnold. “What Exactly Does It Mean to Defund the Police?” The Cut. 12 June 2020. Accessed 18 Sept 2024 at <https://www.thecut.com/2020/06/what-does-defund-the-police-mean-the-phrase-explained.html>

¹⁶⁸ Polly Mosendz and Jameelah D Robinson. “While Crime Fell, the Cost of Cops Soared.” Bloomberg. 4 June 2020. Accessed 18 Sept 2024 at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-06-04/america-s-policing-budget-has-nearly-tripled-to-115-billion>

¹⁶⁹ See <https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/2021-NCMEC-Form-990.pdf>, accessed 18 Sept 2024

¹⁷⁰ See the list of grants at <https://smart.ojp.gov/funding/awards/list>, number accurate as of 18 Sept 2024

¹⁷¹ See PUBLIC LAW 118-42 at <https://www.congress.gov/118/plaws/plubl42/PLAW-118publ42.pdf>

¹⁷² “FY 2023 Annual Report.” US Marshals Service. July 2024. Accessed 18 Sept. 2024.

¹⁷³ Thomas G. Moukawsher. “No Country for Law Men: The GOP Votes to Defund the FBI.” Newsweek. 22 Mar 2024. Accessed 18 Sept 2024 at <https://www.newsweek.com/no-country-law-men-gop-votes-defund-fbi-opinion-1882085>

SUMMARY

“I have recurring dreams of being back in prison. I don’t know where I belong in the Prison cells and I hope no one finds out who and why I’m back in Prison. I have these types of dreams as the ones I recall after I’m awake.” – A survey respondent

Many encounters between law enforcement agents and Registered Persons are for the purposes of registration, including compliance check operations. This may explain the extremely low levels of confidence in the police, even when counting the statistically significant difference between Democratic and Republican Anti-Registry Activists. Political views divide ARAs somewhat, particularly when it comes to “defunding police” initiatives to compel law enforcement agencies to shift focus away from the registry. In light of the drastic political shift from the time the survey was publicized up to the time this report was written and the growing militarization of police for immigrant raids and suppressing the right to protest, I feel some answers may be different if the survey were to be conducted today.

Comments by Respondents:

- “I have missed one registration day in 10 years. I am currently living in my car. I have stage 3 kidney disease, type 2 diabetes, and was supposed to have gall bladder removed over a year ago. Because of my high sugar levels from not be able to store insulin in my car. I missed registration date and I’m now facing 1 to 2 1/2 years in prison. This has led to more anxiety and stress which elevates my levels even more. I go to pretrial on 2/22/23. Haven’t even spoken to my defender yet. So do I think the system is broken? Hell yes!”
- “I think that we need to focus more on the individual vs the big umbrella of sexual offenses. When there is consensual sex involved I don’t believe a conviction should happen. I think we need to focus more on rehabilitating those who have committed actual sexual abuse and harmed a child. Help them transition back into the real world after their punishment. It is honestly shocking that attempted murder charges and those with murder convictions move right back into the real world but sex offenders can’t even go on vacation without reporting every move they make, especially those who had consensual sex with someone. Like I said, we need to focus on each individual and look at their actual charge and decide who is actually violent and who is someone who simply made a mistake. I heard a police officer say they just didn’t have time to look through every single conviction. I thought that was really sad, because if I compared this to teaching what if a teacher said, I really don’t have time to teach each child on their learning level they’ll just all have to learn the same way. What would be said then? How are police officers not held to the same standard? Ruining people’s lives and forcing them to check in month after month after serving their sentence and/or probation. Especially those who have been on the registry for 20+ years and never repeated any offense. Is that fair? I think we need to do a better job.”
- “We are stalked by German police because of the evil empire’s lies.”
- “Vietnam Vet 100% disability PTSD put on stronger medication since DOJ has me reporting to police every 90 days as opposed to not reporting at all. Making me more suicidal.”
- “Sex offenders are lumped into one group no matter what the story is. Also, victimless crimes are increasing as those on the sex offender lists. Many of these are fake crimes made by police, confusing people on legit adult dating apps or sites.”
- “I am very cautious because they manufactured lies; and I believe the wrong, overzealous people can do it again even if it hurts the minors they say they are helping. In my case they used people to destroy me even though they knew the truth. When I was in the police station they had a quota board up. Really, a quota board!”

- “If public shaming is an effective tool, why isn't it used in all the other areas where it could be at least as effective: police abuse, political corruption, corruption in public finance? Should there be a registry for any politician caught with their hand in the ‘cookie jar’ or police abusing their power?”
- “The worst is the passport. I had to fly home in March to Ireland for my mother's funeral, I was arrested at Heathrow based on passport stamp and told I would be returned to USA. I am also an Irish citizen and had to use that to get them to let me fly to Dublin. They contacted Irish police and completely embarrassed me and I arrived home 3 hours before the funeral, instead of 36 hours.”
- “I believe there should be some type of law that protects family members of sex offenders while on parole so they don't get harassed by parole agents when they are out on the street.”
- “This shit is out of control and getting worse I bought a house in West Virginia and can't live in it with piece of mind because some asshole parole officer don't want to do their job and lied about a made up law preventing me from living the American dream and taking a loss that I could have spent elsewhere (They claim my house is within 1000 feet of a school bus stop but there law is 1000 feet from school or taking a job within 1000 feet of a school) so any PO can add on punishment without good cause) This has caused mental illness I'm struggling with even worse and yes it delight's me to see a man in power get locked up for it and at the same time pisses me off because they never have to register for it.”
- “I understand this is about the registry but a bigger problem is the lifetime supervision in some states. It follows the person if they move out of the state of conviction and is 10x worse than the registry alone.”

POLITICS AND VOTING

Questions 71-72, 74-80, and 89-90 address Anti-Registry Activists' attitudes on politics, voting and their preferred political party.

Q71: Which political party do you typically vote for?

Q71: Political Party Affiliation	Republican	Democratic	Libertarian	Green	Other Party
Total (695)	27.77% (193)	45.76% (318)	7.91% (55)	1.29% (9)	17.27% (120)
RPs (464)	29.09% (135)	44.18% (205)	8.41% (39)	0.65% (3)	17.67% (82)
LOs (169)	28.4% (48)	45.56% (77)	7.1% (12)	2.37% (4)	16.57% (28)
Others (62)	16.13% (10)	58.06% (36)	6.45% (4)	3.23% (2)	16.13% (10)
Males (508)	28.35% (144)	43.31% (220)	8.86% (45)	1.38% (7)	18.11% (92)
Females (178)	27.53% (49)	51.12% (91)	5.62% (10)	1.12% (2)	14.61% (26)
NARSOL (469)	24.95% (117)	47.12% (221)	8.74% (41)	1.07% (5)	18.12% (85)
ACSOL (284)	21.48% (61)	52.46% (149)	9.15% (26)	1.06% (3)	15.85% (45)
WAR (232)	31.03% (72)	40.95% (95)	8.62% (20)	1.72% (4)	17.67% (41)
TX-Voices (59)	35.59% (21)	37.29% (22)	6.78% (4)	0% (0)	20.34% (12)
FAC (193)	27.98% (54)	43.01% (83)	8.29% (16)	1.55% (3)	19.17% (37)
Once Fallen (138)	26.81% (37)	42.75% (59)	10.14% (14)	0.72% (1)	19.57% (27)

Q72: What is your political alignment?

Q72: Political Alignment	Strongly Liberal	Slightly Liberal	Moderate/ Centrist	Slightly Conservative	Strongly Conservative
TOTAL (695)	21.58% (150)	16.55% (115)	35.11% (244)	15.25% (106)	11.51% (80)
RPs (464)	21.55% (100)	16.16% (75)	34.27% (159)	15.3% (71)	12.72% (59)
LOs (169)	15.38% (26)	19.53% (33)	39.64% (67)	15.38% (26)	10.06% (17)
Others (62)	38.71% (24)	11.29% (7)	29.03% (18)	14.52% (9)	6.45% (4)
Males (508)	20.67% (105)	16.73% (85)	34.06% (173)	16.14% (82)	12.4% (63)
Females (178)	21.91% (39)	16.29% (29)	38.76% (69)	13.48% (24)	9.55% (17)
NARSOL (469)	23.45% (110)	17.27% (81)	34.33% (161)	15.35% (72)	9.59% (45)
ACSOL (284)	20.77% (59)	21.48% (61)	37.32% (106)	11.97% (34)	8.45% (24)
WAR (232)	19.4% (45)	18.1% (42)	38.36% (89)	12.07% (28)	12.07% (28)
TX-Voices (59)	16.95% (10)	22.03% (13)	28.81% (17)	18.64% (11)	13.56% (8)
FAC (193)	21.24% (41)	17.1% (33)	35.23% (68)	16.58% (32)	9.84% (19)
OnceFallen (138)	23.91% (33)	16.67% (23)	31.16% (43)	17.39% (24)	10.87% (15)
Republican (193)	0.52% (1)	1.55% (3)	27.98% (54)	33.68% (65)	36.27% (70)
Democratic (318)	38.36% (122)	30.5% (97)	27.04% (86)	3.14% (10)	0.94% (3)
Libertarian (55)	7.27% (4)	10.91% (6)	56.36% (31)	18.18% (10)	7.27% (4)
Other Party (129)	17.83% (23)	6.98% (9)	56.59% (73)	16.28% (21)	2.33% (3)

Q74: Which political party do you believe would benefit anti-registry activism the most if they were in power?

Q74: Best Party for ARAs?	DEMS	REPUBS	LIBER-TARIANS	GREEN PARTY	OTHER	NONE-ALL = BAD
Total (695)	27.63% (192)	4.46%	16.12% (112)	1.44% (10)	2.45% (17)	47.91% (333)
RPs (464)	26.94% (125)	4.31% (20)	18.97% (88)	1.72% (8)	2.37% (11)	45.69% (212)
LOs (169)	27.81% (47)	5.92% (10)	8.28% (14)	0.59% (1)	1.18% (2)	56.21% (95)
Others (62)	32.26% (20)	1.61% (1)	16.13% (10)	1.61% (1)	6.45% (4)	41.94% (26)
Males (508)	26.97% (137)	4.33% (22)	17.91% (91)	1.57% (8)	2.95% (15)	46.26% (235)
Females (178)	29.21% (52)	5.06% (9)	11.24% (20)	1.12% (2)	0.56% (1)	52.81% (94)
NARSOL (469)	27.72% (130)	3.84% (18)	17.06% (80)	1.71% (8)	2.35% (11)	47.33% (222)
ACSOL (284)	27.11% (77)	3.87% (11)	19.72% (56)	1.76% (5)	1.76% (5)	45.77% (130)
WAR (232)	21.98% (51)	4.31% (10)	15.52% (36)	3.02% (7)	0.86% (2)	54.31% (126)
TX-Voices (59)	23.73% (14)	3.39% (2)	16.95% (10)	3.39% (2)	0% (0)	52.54% (31)
FAC (193)	25.91% (50)	3.63% (7)	14.51% (28)	1.55% (3)	1.55% (3)	52.85% (102)
OnceFallen (138)	21.01% (29)	5.07% (7)	18.84% (26)	1.45% (2)	1.45% (2)	52.17% (72)
Republican (193)	14.51% (28)	11.92% (23)	17.1% (33)	0.52% (1)	0.52% (1)	55.44% (107)
Democratic (318)	45.28% (144)	2.2% (7)	11.64% (37)	1.57% (5)	1.89% (6)	37.42% (119)
Libertarian (55)	12.73% (7)	0% (0)	61.82% (34)	0% (0)	1.82% (1)	23.64% (13)
Other Party (129)	10.08% (13)	0.78% (1)	6.2% (8)	3.1% (4)	6.98% (9)	72.87% (94)

Q75: *Did you vote in the last presidential election?*

Q75: Did you vote for Prez in 2020?	YES	NO: Can legally vote but chose not to vote	NO: I am not legally allowed to vote
TOTAL (695)	69.21% (481)	12.23% (85)	18.56% (129)
RPs (464)	60.56% (281)	12.28% (57)	27.16% (126)
LOs (169)	86.39% (146)	12.43% (21)	1.18% (2)
Others (62)	87.1% (54)	11.29% (7)	1.61% (1)
Males (508)	62.6% (318)	12.8% (65)	24.61% (125)
Females (178)	87.64% (156)	10.11% (18)	2.25% (4)
NARSOL (469)	69.08% (324)	12.58% (59)	18.34% (86)
ACSOL (284)	72.89% (207)	10.56% (30)	16.55% (47)
WAR (232)	75.86% (176)	11.64% (27)	12.5% (29)
TX-Voices (59)	72.88% (43)	11.86% (7)	15.25% (9)
FAC (193)	59.59% (115)	11.4% (22)	29.02% (56)
Once Fallen (138)	65.22% (90)	10.87% (15)	23.91% (33)
Republican (193)	73.58% (142)	6.74% (13)	19.69% (38)
Democratic (318)	78.62% (250)	6.6% (21)	14.78% (47)
Libertarian (55)	69.09% (38)	14.55% (8)	16.36% (9)
Green Party (9)	88.89% (8)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)
Other Party (120)	35.83% (43)	35% (42)	29.17% (35)

Q76: *Did you vote in the most recent state or local-level elections?*

Q75: Voted in last state/local election?	YES	NO: Can legally vote but chose not to vote	NO: I am not legally allowed to vote
TOTAL (695)	67.63% (470)	15.68% (109)	16.69% (116)
RPs (464)	61.21% (284)	14.22% (66)	24.57% (114)
LOs (169)	79.29% (134)	20.12% (34)	0.59% (1)
Others (62)	83.87% (52)	14.52% (9)	1.61% (1)
Males (508)	62.99% (320)	14.76% (75)	22.24% (113)
Females (178)	79.78% (142)	18.54% (33)	1.69% (3)
NARSOL (469)	68.66% (322)	14.93% (70)	16.42% (77)
ACSOL (284)	72.18% (205)	14.08% (40)	13.73% (39)
WAR (232)	72.84% (169)	15.95% (37)	11.21% (26)
TX-Voices (59)	72.88% (43)	11.86% (7)	15.25% (9)
FAC (193)	60.1% (116)	12.95% (25)	26.94% (52)
Once Fallen (138)	68.12% (94)	12.32% (17)	19.57% (27)
Republican (193)	70.98% (137)	10.88% (21)	18.13% (35)
Democratic (318)	77.99% (248)	9.12% (29)	12.89% (41)
Libertarian (55)	69.09% (38)	18.18% (10)	12.73% (7)
Green Party (9)	77.78% (7)	22.22% (2)	0% (0)
Other Party (120)	33.33% (40)	39.17% (47)	27.50% (33)

Q77: *Before voting, do you research candidates?*

Q77: Research Candidates?	YES, Independent research	YES, but rely on my party's media	NO, vote solely on party lines	NO, I can't or don't vote
TOTAL (695)	68.49% (476)	9.93% (69)	4.46% (31)	17.12% (119)
RPs (464)	63.36% (294)	9.05% (42)	4.74% (22)	22.84% (106)
LOs (169)	79.88% (135)	10.65% (18)	2.96% (5)	6.51% (11)
Others (62)	75.81% (47)	14.52% (9)	6.45% (4)	3.23% (2)
Males (508)	64.57% (328)	9.25% (47)	4.72% (24)	21.46% (109)
Females (178)	79.78% (142)	11.8% (21)	2.81% (5)	5.62% (10)
NARSOL (469)	68.66% (322)	10.66% (50)	4.69% (22)	15.99% (75)
ACSOL (284)	72.54% (206)	10.21% (29)	3.87% (11)	13.38% (38)
WAR (232)	73.71% (171)	9.91% (23)	3.88% (9)	12.5% (29)
TX-Voices (59)	76.27% (45)	8.47% (5)	1.69% (1)	13.56% (8)
FAC (193)	62.18% (120)	7.25% (14)	3.63% (7)	26.94% (52)
Once Fallen (138)	70.29% (97)	9.42% (13)	2.9% (4)	17.39% (24)
Republican (193)	70.47% (136)	12.44% (24)	4.66% (9)	12.44% (24)
Democratic (318)	70.44% (224)	12.58% (40)	4.72% (15)	12.26% (39)
Libertarian (55)	87.27% (48)	1.82% (1)	3.64% (2)	7.27% (4)
Green Party (9)	100.00% (9)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Other Party (120)	49.17% (59)	3.33% (4)	4.17% (5)	43.33% (52)

Q78: Two candidates, Mike and John, are running for office. Mike, the candidate for your preferred political party, aligns with your views on most key issues (economy, healthcare, environment, jobs, national defense, etc.), but vows to fight a "war on sex offenders" and will increase residency restrictions. John runs for the opposing party, and while you disagree with his stance on many issues, he vows to repeal most sex offense restrictions. If you could vote, who would get your vote?

Q78: Vote pro-SORNA Mike or Non-SORNA John	Mike, because I'm a party loyalist	Mike, reluctantly but the other issues are more important	John, because registry reform is of the utmost importance	John but for other reasons	Probably vote third party or decide not to vote	Unsure/Don't Know
TOTAL (695)	0.43% (3)	7.34% (51)	66.91% (465)	1.58% (11)	9.64% (67)	14.1% (98)
RPs (464)	0.43% (2)	6.9% (32)	69.4% (322)	1.51% (7)	10.78% (50)	10.99% (51)
LOs (169)	0.59% (1)	5.33% (9)	68.64% (116)	2.37% (4)	6.51% (11)	16.57% (28)
Others (62)	0% (0)	16.13% (10)	43.55% (27)	0% (0)	9.68% (6)	30.65% (19)
Males (508)	0.59% (3)	7.09% (36)	68.9% (350)	1.77% (9)	10.24% (52)	11.42% (58)
Females (178)	0% (0)	6.74% (12)	62.92% (112)	1.12% (2)	7.87% (14)	21.35% (38)
NARSOL (469)	0% (0)	6.61% (31)	69.72% (327)	1.28% (6)	10.23% (48)	12.15% (57)
ACSOL (284)	0.35% (1)	5.28% (15)	72.18% (205)	0.35% (1)	8.45% (24)	13.38% (38)
WAR (232)	0% (0)	5.6% (13)	69.4% (161)	1.72% (4)	9.05% (21)	14.22% (33)
TX-Voices (59)	0% (0)	5.08% (3)	74.58% (44)	1.69% (1)	6.78% (4)	11.86% (7)
FAC (193)	0% (0)	5.18% (10)	74.09% (143)	1.04% (2)	8.29% (16)	11.4% (22)
Once Fallen (138)	0.72% (1)	4.35% (6)	68.84% (95)	2.17% (3)	10.14% (14)	13.77% (19)
Republican (193)	0.52% (1)	10.88% (21)	63.73% (123)	1.04% (2)	9.33% (18)	14.51% (28)
Democratic (318)	0.31% (1)	7.55% (24)	72.33% (230)	1.26% (4)	5.35% (17)	13.21% (42)
Libertarian (55)	0% (0)	5.45% (3)	60% (33)	3.64% (2)	18.18% (10)	12.73% (7)
Green (9)	11.11% (1)	11.11% (1)	55.56% (5)	0% (0)	22.22% (2)	0% (0)
Other (120)	0% (0)	1.67% (2)	61.67% (74)	2.5% (3)	16.67% (20)	17.5% (21)

Q79: Comparing JUST Democrats versus Republicans, who do you feel is more responsible for pushing sex offense legislation?

Q79: Who pushed SOR more?	Democratic	Republican	Both parties played equal role	Neither
TOTAL (695)	7.48% (52)	32.09% (223)	56.98% (396)	3.45% (24)
RPs (464)	7.33% (34)	30.39% (141)	58.84% (273)	3.45% (16)
LOs (169)	9.47% (16)	35.5% (60)	50.89% (86)	4.14% (7)
Others (62)	3.23% (2)	35.48% (22)	59.68% (37)	1.61% (1)
Males (508)	7.09% (36)	30.91% (157)	59.06% (300)	2.95% (15)
Females (178)	8.99% (16)	33.15% (59)	52.81% (94)	5.06% (9)
NARSOL (469)	7.68% (36)	31.13% (146)	57.78% (271)	3.41% (16)
ACSOL (284)	6.69% (19)	32.75% (93)	57.39% (163)	3.17% (9)
WAR (232)	9.05% (21)	27.59% (64)	59.91% (139)	3.45% (8)
TX-Voices (59)	5.08% (3)	25.42% (15)	64.41% (38)	5.08% (3)
FAC (193)	7.25% (14)	29.02% (56)	60.62% (117)	3.11% (6)
Once Fallen (138)	7.97% (11)	28.99% (40)	60.87% (84)	2.17% (3)
Republican (193)	11.4% (22)	17.1% (33)	67.36% (130)	4.15% (8)
Democratic (318)	5.03% (16)	47.8% (152)	45.28% (144)	1.89% (6)
Libertarian (55)	12.73% (7)	21.82% (12)	61.82% (34)	3.64% (2)
Green Party (9)	11.11% (1)	11.11% (1)	77.78% (7)	0% (0)
Other Party (120)	5% (6)	20.83% (25)	67.5% (81)	6.67% (8)

Q80: Which political alignment do you feel reinforces stronger feelings of hatred towards Registered Persons?

Q80: Which hates us more?	Liberals	Moderates	Conservatives	All of them are equally bad	Unsure/Don't Know
TOTAL (695)	3.31% (23)	0.58% (4)	44.88% (298)	42.16% (293)	11.08% (77)
RPs (464)	3.23% (15)	0.22% (1)	42.89% (199)	43.32% (201)	10.34% (48)
LOs (169)	4.73% (8)	1.18% (2)	41.42% (70)	40.83% (69)	11.83% (20)
Others (62)	0% (0)	1.61% (1)	46.77% (29)	37.1% (23)	14.52% (9)
Males (508)	3.54% (18)	0.59% (3)	43.11% (219)	42.52% (216)	10.24% (52)
Females (178)	2.81% (5)	0.56% (1)	41.57% (74)	41.57% (74)	13.48% (24)
NARSOL(469)	2.13% (10)	0.85% (4)	44.78% (210)	42.64% (200)	9.59% (45)
ACSOL (284)	2.11% (6)	0.35% (1)	45.07% (128)	42.25% (120)	10.21% (29)
WAR (232)	3.45% (8)	0.86% (2)	40.09% (93)	46.55% (108)	9.05% (21)
TX-Voices(59)	3.39% (2)	1.69% (1)	42.37% (25)	45.76% (27)	6.78% (4)
FAC (193)	3.11% (6)	0.52% (1)	43.01% (83)	44.04% (85)	9.33% (18)
OnceFln(138)	3.62% (5)	0% (0)	38.41% (53)	54.35% (75)	3.62% (5)
Repub (193)	8.29% (16)	0.00% (0)	23.32% (45)	54.4% (105)	13.99% (27)
Dem (318)	0.94% (3)	0.94% (3)	63.21% (201)	27.36% (87)	7.55% (24)
Libert.(55)	1.82% (1)	1.82% (1)	36.36% (20)	47.27% (26)	12.73% (7)
Green (9)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	44.44% (4)	44.44% (4)	0% (0)
Other Pol(120)	1.67% (2)	0% (0)	23.33% (28)	59.17% (71)	15.83% (19)

Q89: Do you feel movements considered “liberal” or left-leaning, like #MeToo or third-wave feminism, harm or help efforts to reform or abolish the sex offense registry?

Q89: Leftists harm or help us	Greatly harms	Slightly harms	Neither Harms nor Helps	Slightly Helps	Greatly Helps
Total (695)	34.53% (240)	26.19% (182)	31.94% (222)	6.19% (43)	1.15% (8)
RPs (464)	34.27% (159)	25.86% (120)	32.11% (149)	6.47% (30)	1.29% (6)
LOs (169)	37.87% (64)	23.08% (39)	33.73% (57)	4.14% (7)	1.18% (2)
Others (62)	27.42% (17)	37.1% (23)	25.81% (16)	9.68% (6)	0% (0)
Males (508)	35.04% (178)	25.98% (132)	31.5% (160)	6.5% (33)	0.98% (5)
Females (178)	34.27% (61)	27.53% (49)	32.02% (57)	5.06% (9)	1.12% (2)
NARSOL(469)	36.46% (171)	27.93% (131)	29.42% (138)	4.9% (23)	1.28% (6)
ACSOL (284)	35.56% (101)	26.76% (76)	30.63% (87)	5.28% (15)	1.76% (5)
WAR (232)	44.4% (103)	24.57% (57)	22.84% (53)	6.47% (15)	1.72% (4)
TX-Voices(59)	38.98% (23)	28.81% (17)	23.73% (14)	6.78% (4)	1.69% (1)
FAC (193)	35.75% (69)	24.87% (48)	32.64% (63)	5.7% (11)	1.04% (2)
OnceFaln(138)	47.1% (65)	24.64% (34)	23.19% (32)	4.35% (6)	0.72% (1)
Repub (193)	51.81% (100)	25.91% (50)	17.62% (34)	4.15% (8)	0.52% (1)
Dem (318)	20.44% (65)	30.5% (97)	37.74% (120)	9.75% (31)	1.57% (5)
Libert. (55)	38.18% (21)	30.91% (17)	30.91% (17)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Other Pol(129)	41.86% (54)	13.95% (18)	39.53% (51)	3.1% (4)	1.55% (2)

Q90: Do you feel movements considered “conservative” or right-leaning, like #SaveTheChildren or QAnon, impacts efforts to reform or abolish the sex offense registry?

Q90: Rightists harm or help us	Greatly harms	Slightly harms	Neither Harms nor Helps	Slightly Helps	Greatly Helps
Total (695)	61.73% (429)	20.14% (140)	16.69% (116)	0.72% (5)	0.72% (5)
RPs (464)	61.85% (287)	19.61% (91)	17.46% (81)	0.65% (3)	0.43% (2)
LOs (169)	62.13% (105)	17.75% (30)	17.75% (30)	1.18% (2)	1.18% (2)
Others (62)	59.68% (37)	30.65% (19)	8.06% (5)	0% (0)	1.61% (1)
Males (508)	61.02% (310)	20.28% (103)	17.13% (87)	0.79% (4)	0.79% (4)
Females (178)	62.36% (111)	20.79% (37)	15.73% (28)	0.56% (1)	0.56% (1)
NARSOL(469)	65.46% (307)	19.4% (91)	14.5% (68)	0.21% (1)	0.43% (2)
ACSOL (284)	69.37% (197)	15.49% (44)	14.44% (41)	0.35% (1)	0.35% (1)
WAR (232)	67.67% (157)	18.1% (42)	14.22% (33)	0% (0)	0% (0)
TXVoices(59)	62.71% (37)	20.34% (12)	15.25% (9)	1.69% (1)	0% (0)
FAC (193)	64.25% (124)	18.65% (36)	14.51% (28)	1.04% (2)	1.55% (3)
OnceFaln(138)	69.57% (96)	15.22% (21)	13.77% (19)	0.72% (1)	0.72% (1)
Repub (193)	46.63% (90)	27.98% (54)	22.28% (43)	1.55% (3)	1.55% (3)
Dem (318)	72.01% (229)	18.87% (60)	8.81% (28)	0.31% (1)	0% (0)
Libert. (55)	58.18% (32)	20% (11)	21.82% (12)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Other Pol(129)	60.47% (78)	11.63% (15)	25.58% (33)	0.78% (1)	1.55% (2)

DISCUSSION

“I do not like that this survey has political questions. We should fight for what we personally believe in regardless of our political party. I am a mom who loves my son, not a Democrat or Republican who loves my son!!” -- A Survey Respondent

Politics has always been a divisive issue, but the past ten years have divided the United States in unfathomable ways. The first few weeks of the second Trump administration has brought America into territory largely uncharted in the lives of most Americans. We are in danger of serious disruptions to basic life services like Social Security and Medicaid and the US has undergone a dramatic shift in international policy that could place it once again on the wrong side of history.

Even asking questions about politics angered a very vocal minority of respondents, with a handful of them accusing me of showing bias, having “an agenda”, or intentionally making certain parties look bad. But we cannot avoid politics. Sex offense laws exist because elected officials create and pass new laws or expand existing laws.

The sex offense registry, residency restrictions, civil confinement, and other laws have been passed overwhelmingly by both political parties. The federal Megan’s Law was introduced by NJ Republican Congressman Richard Zimmer, and had 27 Cosponsors (23 Republican, 4 Democratic). Megan’s Law passed in the Republican-led House, and passed unanimously in the Senate with all 55 Republican and all 45 Democratic Senators voting for passage before being signed by Democratic president Bill Clinton in 1996.

The 2006 Adam Walsh Act was introduced by WI Republican Congressman James Sensenbrenner. It had 37 cosponsors (32 Republican, 5 Democratic). It passed both chambers (led by Republicans) through “suspension of the rules” (an action allowing certain bills to be fast-tracked without a full chamber vote if there are no objections) and signed by Republican President George W. Bush in 2006.

In contrast to 2006, the 111th Congress was a Democratic trifecta, with a Democratic-led Congress, a one-person majority in the Senate, and Democratic President Barack Obama. There were three bills targeting Registered Persons introduced that year:

- H.R.5072 – FHA Reform Act of 2010, sponsored by Rep. Maxine Waters, D-CA-35 (4 Democratic and 1 Republican co-sponsor); it passed the House 406-4 (1 Democratic and 3 Republican NO votes) but failed to advance in the Senate. This would have prohibited Registered Persons from obtaining FHA loans had it passed.
- H.R.5618 – Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2010, sponsored by Jim McDermott, D-MA-7 (1 Democratic co-sponsor); passed the House by a vote of 270-153 (NO votes: 142 Republican, 11 Democratic); failed to advance in Senate. This would have prohibited Registered Persons from receiving unemployment compensation.
- H.R.5297, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, 111th Congress (2009-2010), sponsored Rep. Barney Frank, D-MA-4 (20 Democratic co-sponsors); passed Senate 61-39 (All Democratic and Independent voters, and one Republican voted YES, all 39 NO votes were Republican); Passed the House 237-187 (NO Votes: 174 Republican, 13 Democratic); signed by Democratic President Barack Obama. This law prohibits Registered Persons from obtaining small business loans through the SBA.

International Megan’s Law failed numerous times. It was first introduced by NJ Congressman Chris Smith in 2008 but failed to advance for many years. The version that passed in 2016 had 15 cosponsors

(11 Republican, 4 Democratic). It passed both Republican-led chambers and signed by Democratic President Barack Obama.

In 2025 Republican legislators Anna Paulina Luna and Nancy Mace have introduced bills that will expand death penalty cases on the federal level to include sex offenses not including murder (HR 393 and HR 395, 119th Congress) as well as a national ban on emergency shelter access for Persons Forced to Register (HR 1205, 119th Congress). Mace had previously introduced legislation to expand death penalty to CP offenses (H.R.10398, 118th Congress) and so it could be reintroduced in the current administration.

The point of this exercise was to emphasize the role both political parties have played in passing laws that cause harm to Persons Forced to Register. Yet our own movement is not immune to political biases. Others feel we should leave politics out of our movement. But like it or not, our future well-being depends on taking on these politicians head-on, but we cannot deny that the two dominant political parties approach a problem in vastly different ways. Like it or not, Anti-Registry Activists is intertwined with politics, especially since much of our activist efforts involve stopping legislation from passing. And like it or not, Democratic and Republican politicians approach most issues, especially criminal justice reform. For example, those who vote Republican consider themselves to be more religious than those who vote Democratic, a result that was reflected earlier in this survey. We have to deal with politics because lawmakers are elected officials that are mostly members of the Democratic or Republican parties.

Furthermore, we must acknowledge that the American political landscape is more divided and more perilous than ever. The current structure of our network of anti-registry activists took shape between 2007 and 2009. The few of us who've been in this fight for two decades or longer are seeing our fifth, or even sixth, presidential change. We have seen the rise of the Tea Party, online culture wars, and the rise of online conspiracies like PizzaGate and QAnon that have revived long-debunked beliefs like Satanic Ritual Abuse. Our movement is a microcosm of the challenges every political activist now faces. Anti-Registry activists have dealt with a close-minded political landscape longer than most.

Politics is the most divisive issue even within the Anti-Registry Movement, and the greatest indicator of activist participation in this survey. Throughout this survey, those who vote Democratic and those who vote Republican vary in most of the categories in this survey, with Libertarians often falling in between the two groups. Overall, there are more ARAs and more *active* participants among those who vote for the Democratic Party than from those who vote for or support other political parties.

A 2022 Pew Research Survey found that 62% of Republican party supporters say that the Democratic voters are lazier, 2% say Democratic voters are more hard-working, and 35% said both parties have the same level of work ethic; 49% of Democratic party supporters say Republicans are lazier, 4% say Republicans are more hard-working, and 45% said both parties have the same level of work ethic.¹⁷⁴ In this survey, Democratic voters outnumber Republican voters 318 to 193, a difference of 125 ARA. In the “Participation in Anti-Registry Activism” section of this survey, Democratic voters are more likely than Republican voters to have participated in anti-registry activist efforts, and will participate in the future, in every category of activism.

Furthermore, in the “Current Cultural Norms and Views on Sexual Offending” section of this survey, the Republican voters were far more likely to believe in cultural theories that promote harmful pro-SOR

¹⁷⁴ “As Partisan Hostility Grows, Signs of Frustration With the Two-Party System.” Pew Research Center. 9 Aug 2022. Accessed 9 Oct 2024 at <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2022/08/09/as-partisan-hostility-grows-signs-of-frustration-with-the-two-party-system/>

legislation, including beliefs in Satanic Ritual Abuse, “grooming” culture, the villainization of legal adult pornography, and loosening of traditional sexual norms. Republican voters were more supportive of the concept of self-sustaining Registrant-run communities, though they were no more likely to consider actually moving there than any other group.

Before proceeding, we must recognize one major caveat—this survey was conducted just after the mid-term elections of 2022, when we had a Democratic president and Senate but the Republican Party took control of the House of Representatives. Some responses from this survey would likely be different in light of the results of the 2024 election, where the Republican Party gained control of the Presidency, Senate, and House.

VOTING PARTICIPATION

“I have always had a strong belief in our system of government and voted every year since my 18th I am now 66. Due to the restrictions of my state and the infringements on the rights to vote of others I choose to protest through not voting till ALL can vote I still study and research the issues and candidates and share my opinions with family and peers , but for the past 2 years I have chosen NOT to vote. I am not encouraging others to do the same just that this is my standing. I may this year request that I be completely removed from the voter rolls till my state sees fit to allow their entire RIGHT vote.” – A survey respondent

Reminder: This survey was open in September of 2022 and concluded in January 2023, the middle part of the Democratic president Joe Biden’s term as President. During this time, many states held elections for state level legislators as well as some “mid-tem elections” for federal legislators.

The media reported that only about 155 million of the USA’s 245 million eligible voters had voted in the 2024 election; around 89 million people (36%) did not vote.¹⁷⁵ In 2020, it was estimated voter turnout was 66.8%, considered the highest turnout of the 21st Century to date.¹⁷⁶ Anti-Registry Activists, even when accounting for those who cannot vote, outpaced the average American in voter turnout, with 69.21% (481) choosing to vote. If you remove the 18.56% (129) who stated they were ineligible to vote at the time of the 2020 presidential election, there were 536 ARAs who were also eligible voters, so 89.7% of ARAs who could vote chose to vote in the 2020 presidential election. Voter turnout for the 2022 midterms was 52.2% for the average American, which was slightly lower than the 53.4% in the 2018 midterms. By contrast, 67.63% (470) ARAs voted in their most recent state-local elections; after removing the 16.69% (116) who stated they could not vote in the most recent elections, 470 of 579 ARAs (81.2%) voted in the last election.

Anti-Registry Activists are more willing to vote than the average American. Furthermore, those who participated in this survey typically vote for Democratic candidates rather than Republican candidates, with Democratic candidates holding an 18% advantage overall. It was only within supporters of WAR and Texas Voices that we found the gap between Democratic and Republican supporters to be less than 10%. Between 5%-10% of ARAs vote Libertarian, and about 1% vote Green Party.

¹⁷⁵ Alan Kronenberg. “How Many People Didn’t Vote in the 2024 Election?” US News & World Report. 15 Nov. 2024. Accessed 8 Jan 2025 at <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2024-11-15/how-many-people-didnt-vote-in-the-2024-election>

¹⁷⁶ “2020 Presidential Election Voting and Registration Tables Now Available.” US Census Bureau. 29 Apr 2021. Accessed 8 Jan 2024 at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/2020-presidential-election-voting-and-registration-tables-now-available.html>

The information was largely extrapolated from “Criminal Disenfranchisement Laws Across the United States,” Brennan Center for Justice, Aug. 2022 and adjusted just to reflect voting rights for RPs as of Nov. 2022:

- Voting rights restored upon completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation (and may also require repayment of fines/fees associated with conviction) (18): AK, AR, GA, IA, ID, KS, MN, MP, NE, NM, OK, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, WV, WI
- Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison (22): CA, CO, CT, GU, HI, IL, IN, MA, MI, MT, NV, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OR, PA, RI, UT, WA
- Louisiana: Voting rights restored for those on probation or parole who have not been sentenced to incarceration; if incarcerated, rights are restored five years after release even if on paper
- No disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions (4): DC, ME, PR, VT

The nine states and one territory that disenfranchises some or all Registrants from voting:

- Alabama: All RPs disenfranchised but rights can be restored via pardon. Act 2024-191 (HB81, 2024) signed into law, prohibiting those with offenses involving minors are ineligible for pardons, so this likely means most RPs cannot receive their voting rights at all.
- American Samoa: All felons are disenfranchised but this can be challenged in court.
- Arizona: Permanent if convicted 2+ times
- Delaware: All felonies, unless pardoned
- Florida: Passed a law in Nov. 2018 that restored voting rights for all once they have completed the terms of their sentence, including probation and parole, EXCEPT murder and felony SOs. In 2022, many ineligible voters were arrested but most charges were dismissed because gov’t officials mislead them into voting.
- Kentucky: By virtue of a Governor’s Executive Order, those convicted of human trafficking and most felony “hands on” offenses must apply for restoration of rights, all other RPs are automatically allowed to vote. This can change after the next election.
- Mississippi: Lists “rape” and “statutory rape” among the 23 offenses barred from voting; however, this only applies to convictions within the state.
- Tennessee: Disenfranchisement for sex offenses vary by date, automatic disqualifications based on conviction date—7/1/1986 for aggravated rape, 7/1/1996 for rape, 7/1/2006 for a Rape or any felony offense under TCA 39-16, parts 1, 4, or 5; or any sexual offense under TCA §40-39-202(20) or any violent sexual offense under TCA § 40-39-202(30) designated as a felony and where the victim of such offense was a minor
- Virginia: Permanent disenfranchisement written in the state constitution, but the past few governors have either restored the rights of thousands through individual applications or by passing executive orders temporarily allowing all not incarcerated the right to vote.
- Wyoming: Voting rights are only restored for first time non-violent offenses, and most hands on offenses are considered “violent”

In short, many Registered Persons are still barred from participating in elections; in fact, about 27.2% of Registered Persons in this survey (126 out of 464 RPs) responded they were ineligible to vote due to disenfranchisement laws. Still, their family members can vote, so having family members express their voices with a vote is one way to influence our government.

VIEWS ON POLITICAL PARTIES

“We do not have two parties but a uni-party.” – A survey respondent

The feeling that we have a “uni-party” in this country is largely a punchline in common conversation but it is not without merit. In a June 2024 YouGov survey, most respondents had a similarly negative overall view of both Democratic and Republican parties; for example, 34% found both Democrats and Republicans are “corrupt”, 19% felt both parties are “evil”, and 16% felt both parties were “losers”. Many similar terms had similar rates, agreeing within 5 percentage points of each other on both parties. There were a few differences, however: the Democratic Party was seen as more open-minded (+12 points), inclusive (+12 points), modern (+8 points) and honest (+6 points) but more Anti-American (+7 points); the Republican Party was seen as more patriotic (+15 points) and strong (+7 points), but also more racist (+9 points) and more likely to be viewed as “a cult” (+10 points).¹⁷⁷

But there is also a difference between both main parties in relation to criminal justice reform. In a 2024 survey conducted by FWD.us, 85% of Democratic voters, 82% of Independent voters, and 76% of Republican supporters slightly or strongly support criminal justice reform efforts; 46% of Democratic voters, 26% of Independent voters, and 26% of Republican voters strongly support criminal justice reform efforts. In addition, when asked how much they think mass incarceration contributes to social problems, nearly 2 in 3 respond that it worsens them, as opposed to only 1 in 14 who believe that locking more people up alleviates issues of homelessness, drug use, and overdoses. Overall, criminal justice reform efforts from good time credits, eliminating mandatory minimums, and even reducing sentencing enhancements received support from a majority of respondents, even when broken down into political affiliations. Only 10% of voters said they would be less likely to vote for a pro-reform candidate.¹⁷⁸

However, this survey did not ask about support for sex offense registry reform. A 2013 YouGov survey found that overall, 62% of the population thinks it is very important that the information is publicly available – 71% of women and 52% of men strongly support making sex offender homes public information.¹⁷⁹ Another study published in 2020 found that, “Almost two thirds of those surveyed believed SORs should be publicly available, and one third believed SORs helped to protect the public. These beliefs were associated with those with conservative-leaning political views.”¹⁸⁰ However, that survey consisted of only 26 legislators from the US and Canada that responded to this survey. A study conducted in 2017 found that conservative values were also correlated with negative attitudes towards those on the registry, but that those who were more knowledgeable about the negative consequences of sex offense laws were less likely to support them.¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁷ Jamie Ballard. “How Americans describe the Democratic and Republican parties.” YouGov. 8 July 2024. Accessed 18 June 2025 at <https://today.yougov.com/politics/articles/49988-how-americans-describe-democratic-republican-parties-poll>

¹⁷⁸ “New Polling Shows Criminal Justice Reform is a Winning Issue for 2024 Election.” FWD.org. 9 Oct 2024. Accessed 29 Jan 2025 at <https://www.fwd.us/news/new-polling-confirms-ongoing-support-for-criminal-justice-reform-ahead-of-november-2024-election/>

¹⁷⁹ Kate Palmer. “Half of Americans have checked the Sex Offender Registry.” YouGov. 14 Aug 2013. Accessed 22 June 2019 at <https://today.yougov.com/topics/lifestyle/articles-reports/2013/08/14/half-americans-have-checked-sex-offenders-register>

¹⁸⁰ Jung S, Allison M, Toop C, Martin E. Sex offender registries: exploring the attitudes and knowledge of political decision-makers. Psychiatr Psychol Law. 2020 May 14;27(3):478-492. doi: 10.1080/13218719.2020.1733698. PMID: 33071553; PMCID: PMC7534266.

¹⁸¹ Rosselli MK, Jeglic EL. Factors Impacting upon Attitudes Toward Sex Offenders: The Role of Conservatism and Knowledge. Psychiatr Psychol Law. 2017 Jan 16;24(4):496-515. doi: 10.1080/13218719.2016.1254562. PMID: 31983970; PMCID: PMC6818402.

Throughout the history of the Anti-Registry Movement, we have witnessed bipartisan support for sex offense legislation; that is to say, both the Republican and Democratic Parties have supported and passed sex offense legislation. While we have no direct allies among either political party, we have to recognize the differences in approach between the two political parties.

While the choice of president has no direct consequence to anti-registry activism, Democratic presidents have nominated left-leaning or “liberal” justices that are more skeptical of overreaching police actions. The Warren court of the late 1950s and 1960s was an anomaly that gave us civil rights and protections that are being slowly undone by the current conservative supermajority. The minority opinion in the infamous 2003 *Smith v. Doe* ruling that agreed with our assessment of the registry as punitive and unconstitutional was written by Ruth Bader Ginsburg and signed by the three most liberal justices on the bench. The liberal justices have sided with us more often than not. If *Smith v. Doe* had been before the liberal Warren Court of the civil rights era instead of the conservative Rehnquist court, there would likely be no need for an anti-registry movement.

Based on this survey’s results, even Anti-Registry Activists who support the Republican Party recognize that the Democratic Party is more receptive to our needs and beneficial to our cause.

Overall, 57% of Anti-Registry Activists believe both parties played an equal role in advancing draconian sex offense legislation; among the remaining respondents, 32.1% felt the Republican Party shared more of the responsibility, while 7.5% put the blame primarily on the Democratic Party. Even among Republican Party voters, more blamed the Republican Party (17.1%) than they did the Democratic Party (11.4%); among Democratic Party voters, 47.8% blamed the Republican Party while only 5% blamed the Republican Party. Libertarian Party voters fell in the middle; here, 12.7% blamed the Republican Party while 21.8% blamed the Republican Party. Democratic Party voters were less likely to blame both parties equally (45.3%) than Libertarian Party voters (61.8%) and Republican Party voters (67.4%).

As noted earlier in this survey, most ARAs consider the Democratic Party have a liberal political alignment on the classic political scale, and the Republican Party to have a conservative political alignment. Overall, more ARAs felt conservative political alignment is far more inclined to reinforce strong feelings of hatred towards Registered Persons (44.8%) than those considered liberal (3.3%) or moderate (0.6%) on the classic political scale; another 42.2% felt all were equally bad. Even among Republican Party voters, conservative alignment (23.3%) was blamed for reinforcing animus towards Registered Persons than liberals (8.3%) and moderates (0%). Among Libertarian Party voters, conservative alignment (36.7%) was blamed for reinforcing animus towards Registered Persons than liberals (1.8%) and moderates (1.8%); 47.3% felt all were equally bad. Among Democratic Party voters, conservative alignment (63.2%) was blamed for reinforcing animus towards Registered Persons than liberals (0.9%) and moderates (0.9%); 27.4% felt all were equally to blame.

The basic morality bias is the exaggerated perception that outgroup members lack basic moral values—that they accept basic moral wrongs. In politics, this basic morality bias manifests itself in the belief that political opponents are willing to accept basic moral wrongs. In the United States, Democrats, and Republicans overestimate the number of political outgroup members who approve of blatant immorality (e.g. child pornography, embezzlement). This “basic morality bias” is tied to political dehumanization.¹⁸² The easiest example is how adherents to each political party desires to affiliate certain politicians or those

¹⁸² Curtis Puryear, Emily Kubin, Chelsea Schein, Yochanan E Bigman, Pierce Ekstrom, Kurt Gray, People believe political opponents accept blatant moral wrongs, fueling partisan divides, PNAS Nexus, Volume 3, Issue 7, July 2024, pgae244, <https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgae244>

tied to a political cause to the late Jeffrey Epstein, a name that has become synonymous with sex trafficking and child abuse.

On a comedy segment from “The Daily Show” that aired on 3/28/2025, host Ronnie Chieng introduced a video montage of clips from the TV ads running in Wisconsin. Campaigns for both the Democratic candidate Susan Crawford and Republican candidate Brad Schimel ran ads that accused their opponent of being soft on sex crimes. Republicans ads included claims the “criminal are praying Susan Crawford gets elected” and your new neighbor will be “a p*dophile, thanks to Judge Susan Crawford's sweetheart sentence.” Democratic ads included claims like, “How corrupt is Brad Schimel? Schimel gave a plea deal to a man caught with child porn” and “Brad Schimel let a sex predator loose on our kids.”¹⁸³

Of course, most Anti-Registry Activists understand that both political parties have used Registered Persons as political cannon fodder, and that even being seen as “soft on sex offenders” is an attempt at political assassination. The survey results still show despite some evidence of political bias among ARAs, the liberal political alignment, most associated with the Democratic Party, is viewed more favorably, even among conservatives, mostly aligned with the Republican Party.

TRUST IN POLITICALLY-ALIGNED SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

“VP Harris and Gov. McMaster are 2 examples, 1 from each side of the aisle, that got to where they are today on the backs of sex offenders. The first reform should be making it mandatory that no prosecutor or AG can run for higher office for at least 5 years after they stop prosecuting cases. These same politicians then find ways to use sex offenders as a tool to buy votes just like handing out free cash. There has to be a concerted effort in every state and federal court to stop the overreach and find cases to appeal or 1983 that should have never been prosecuted, or pled out, in the 1st place. In the section about political preferences, I vote a split ticket. In general some of these questions are too hard for a lot of offenders to answer. I did my time in max and medium security prisons and I found in southern states a lot of poorly educated people just "took the deal", are now on the registry yet have perhaps an 8th grade reading comprehension. Even for myself, with some college, the questions made you think and I wish you had more of the option "I wouldn't know till it happened." – A survey respondent

A number of social movements place at least partial focus on sexual offenses and criminal justice “reforms”, although reform typically means increased punishment.

Left-Leaning Movements

Feminism has different eras or “waves.” The current wave of feminism, “fourth-wave feminism” (2010s-Present), focuses on sexual harassment, body shaming, “online misogyny”, and “rape culture”. Examples of movements tied to fourth-wave feminism are the campus rape awareness campaigns of the early 2010s and the #MeToo movement. Feminism is generally considered to be a left-leaning movement. It is easy for outsiders to not understand the differences. (This survey added “third-wave” feminism to a question rather than the current “fourth wave” of feminism, in a survey question).

In the book “The Feminist and the Sex Offender,” authors Judith Levine and Erica Meiners point there is a segment of the feminist population that can be considered “carceral feminists,” i.e., those who advance the use of the criminal justice system and the sex offense registry, as part of the bipartisan effort to

¹⁸³ “Elon Musk & Billionaires Flood the Zone in Wisconsin Supreme Court Race.” The Daily Show. 28 Mar 2025. Accessed 18 June 2025 at <https://youtu.be/e6pmIA11ilc?si=CgTWDhWTjW-8tg4a>

increase post-release sex offense sanctions. Levine's and Meiners's solution is "abolition feminism." To Levine and Meiners, addressing both "interpersonal violence" (such as individual sexual offenses) and "violence inflicted by the state" (like the sex offense registry) are not opposing factors or forces. Changes must be made to address both.¹⁸⁴

Indeed, some feminists have argued against the sex offense registry. A 2018 article on the website Feministing argues the registry increases the likelihood of recidivism, diverts attention and resources away from victim resources, perpetuate myths about sexual violence, and violate human rights.¹⁸⁵ Still, the #MeToo Movement not have directly taken on post-conviction sanctions like the registry.

Among Anti-Registry Activists, however, left-leaning activism is generally viewed negatively. Overall, only about 7.3% believe left-leaning social movement benefit anti-registry activism in any way, while 60.7% view such movements negatively. There is a political divide—11.3% of Democratic Party voters, 4.7% of Republican Party voters, and no Libertarian Party voters view left-leaning movements as beneficial. Conversely, 77.5% of Republican voters, 69.1% of Libertarian voters, 50.9% of Democratic voters view left-leaning movements as at least slightly harmful to anti-registry activism.

Right-Leaning Movements

Among the conservative or right-leaning "movements," even the nature of said movements differs in structure than those of left-leaning movements. The non-profit organization Save The Children works on health-related issues for children around the world, social media posts using the hashtag #savethechildren is tied to the online QAnon conspiracy. In this instance, the online conservative conspiracists have been accused of "hashtag hijacking," i.e., repurposing an existing hashtag to "promote topics that are substantially different from its recent context" or "to promote one's own social media agenda".¹⁸⁶

Furthermore, "The QAnon conspiracy threatens anti-trafficking education because of its broad dissemination and focus on a range of myths about trafficking. These myths are rooted in historic and ongoing misinformation about abductions, exploitation, and community threats."¹⁸⁷

Previously we mentioned a study that found that conservative values were also correlated with negative attitudes towards those on the registry, but that those who were more knowledgeable about the negative consequences of sex offense laws were less likely to support them."¹⁸⁸ While conservatives are generally more in favor of punitive actions towards those on the public sex offense registry, they are also less likely than liberals to reject a political candidate accused of a sex offense.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁴ Supra., Levine & Meiners. "The Feminist and the Sex Offender" pgs. 4-5

¹⁸⁵ Reina Gattuso. "Why Should Feminists Be Against the Sex Offender Registry?" Feministing. 21 Dec 2018. Accessed 18 June 2025 at <https://feministing.com/2018/12/21/why-should-feminists-be-against-the-sex-offender-registry/>

¹⁸⁶ Katherine M. Fitzgerald and Timothy Graham. "#SaveTheChildren: A pilot study of a social media movement co-opted by conspiracy theorists." Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review. 23 May 2024. Accessed 18 June 2025 at <https://misinforeview.hks.harvard.edu/article/savethechildren-a-pilot-study-of-a-social-media-movement-co-opted-by-conspiracy-theorists/>

¹⁸⁷ Bond Benton and Daniela Peterka-Benton. "Truth as a Victim: The challenge of anti-trafficking education in the age of Q." Anti-Trafficking Review. Issue 17, 2021, pp. 113-131, <https://doi.org/10.14197/atr.201221177>

¹⁸⁸ Supra., Rosselli & Jeglic, "Conservatism and Knowledge" 2017.

¹⁸⁹ Stephanie Stark and Sofia Collignon. "Sexual predators in contest for public office: how the American electorate responds to news of allegations of candidates committing sexual assault and harassment." Polit. Stud. Rev., 20 (3)

A 2017 Time poll of more than 2,300 adults also revealed “a stark partisan divide in how Americans view sexual assault allegations. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to believe accusers: 93% of Democrats say they believe the women alleging sexual harassment, compared to 78% of Republicans. Republicans are also twice as likely as Democrats to think that accused men are being unfairly treated by the media (52% of Republicans think the media coverage of the sexual allegations is unfair, compared to 20% of Democrats). And while 77% of Democrats say the #MeToo movement will lead to meaningful change, 55% of Republicans say the movement is a distraction.”¹⁹⁰

Among Anti-Registry Activists, conservative movements are seen as even less helpful than left-leaning movements. Only 10 ARAs (1.44%) responded that right-leaning movements slightly or greatly help anti-registry activism; 81.9% of ARAs believe right-leaning movements hinder anti-registry efforts. Furthermore, more ARAs felt that right-leaning movements cause great harm to anti-registry activism (61.7%) than the total number of ARAs that felt left-leaning movements either slightly or greatly hurt anti-registry movements (60.7%). The political divide exists here as well; Democratic voters (90.9%) are more likely than Libertarian voters (78.2%) and Republican voters (74.6%) to believe right-leaning movements hinder anti-registry activism.

PARTY LOYALTY AND ANTI-REGISTRY ACTIVISM

“The registry is used by public officials of any political affiliation to sway the public's opinion of them.” – A survey respondent

Throughout this survey, there have been examples of both political parties in power at various times over the past few decades have taken turns passing “tough-on-crime” legislation. However, there is some evidence that the “tough-on-crime” platform is not a sure-fire way to win an election. In fact, a tough-on-crime stance may be more of a liability than an asset.

Former California Attorney General, Vice-President, and twice-failed presidential candidate Kamala Harris lost her first campaign after attacks on the same tough-on-crime rhetoric that helped her win the office of California Attorney General was now seen as a liability.¹⁹¹

A 2023 article in Vera Action, the advocacy affiliate of the Vera Institute of Justice, argues that, “Although many politicians and pundits have painted this moment as a false choice between safety and justice—that you can have one or the other, but not both—voters are in fact rejecting ‘tough-on-crime’ rhetoric for a more nuanced approach to safety. And candidates who demonstrate they understand these nuances are winning elections. Typically, candidates either ignore a ‘soft-on-crime’ attack and pivot to a more favorable issue, or double down on ‘law-and-order’ rhetoric that makes them sound indistinguishable from their opposition. But a new breed of candidates is listening to voters and owning the issue of safety with a strong, affirmative vision of solutions to prevent crime before it happens instead

(2022), pp. 329-352. Found online at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1478929921995333?icid=int.sj-abstract.similar-articles.1>

¹⁹⁰ Charlotte Alter. “Republicans Are Less Likely Than Democrats to Believe Women Who Make Sexual Assault Accusations: Survey.” Time. 6 Dec. 2017. Accessed 18 June 2015 at <https://time.com/5049665/republicans-democrats-believe-sexual-assault-accusations-survey/>

¹⁹¹ Jody D. Armour. “How being ‘tough on crime’ became a political liability.” The Conversation. 20 Dec. 2019. Accessed 18 June 2025 at <https://theconversation.com/how-being-tough-on-crime-became-a-political-liability-128515>

of the status quo approach of just reacting after.”¹⁹² Vera Action also lists numerous individuals who won despite aggressive negative ad campaigns painting them as soft-on-crime.

A common mantra spread among anti-registry activists over the years is that saying anything aside from add more penalties to Registered Persons is “political suicide.” There is no evidence supporting this notion. Virginia Representative Bobby Scott has spoken out numerous times against federal sex offense legislation including the federal Adam Walsh Act and yet he is still a sitting congressperson.

As Anti-Registry Activists, we should support candidates that support criminal justice reform, at least through our votes. Question 78 of this survey posed the following hypothetical scenario:

Two candidates, Mike and John, are running for office. Mike, the candidate for your preferred political party, aligns with your views on most key issues (economy, healthcare, environment, jobs, national defense, etc.), but vows to fight a "war on sex offenders" and will increase residency restrictions. John runs for the opposing party, and while you disagree with his stance on many issues, he vows to repeal most sex offense restrictions. If you could vote, who would get your vote?

In this hypothetical scenario, two out of three ARAs (66.9%) would vote for a candidate if their message involve registry reform, even if they disagree with other key issues, 7.3% would vote their preferred candidate because other issues are important, and only 0.4% would vote for their own political party due to party loyalty. Those in the “Others” category (at 43.6%) are less likely to vote for a candidate due to the importance of registry reform, while 16.3% would stick to their party’s candidate because other issues are more important to them. Democratic voters (72.3%) are more likely than Republican voters (63.7%) and Libertarian voters (60%) to vote based on the importance of anti-registry activism.

SUMMARY

“Legislators answer to the people. The people are the culture. American culture is highly punitive. We are Romans at the Coliseum. Until you change the culture, you can’t change the legislators.” – A survey respondent

Anti-Registry Activists don’t have the luxury of “staying out of politics” because politics dictates policy. Our overall view of politics and legislation are largely negative, and for good reason. Neither Democratic nor Republican, or conservative nor liberal, candidates and causes seems eager to promote registry reform even as We view Democratic and left-leaning candidates and causes only slightly more favorable than conservative and right-leaning causes. This does reflect the view among Americans that Democratic candidates are more open-minded to the message of criminal justice reform than Republican politicians.

Other responses from ARAs

- “Self-declared 'woke' people have treated me the worst. They seem unable to listen to facts that contradict their beliefs.”
- “In this highly eroticized society, the social forces which are moving toward a correction are going for the easiest targetsand terrifying all. In addition, and scarily, the registry can become a model for legislation that will identify and ostracize citizens. We saw the beginnings of this in the McCarthy era. A forceful push against this challenge to freedom must be made. As in so many ways

¹⁹² Insha Rahman and Sam Raim. “Ten Takeaways on How Crime Impacts Elections.” Vera Action. 10 Aug. 2023. Accessed 18 June 2025 at <https://veraaction.org/resource/crime-impacts-elections/>

we may be saying goodbye to an America we once knew. A challenge to the registry would be a step in the direction of preserving our democracy. “

- “Simply put, the registry is unconstitutional. John Roberts is a dunce.”
- “One of my biggest fears is that the ‘left’ will stumble upon the right stance to take regarding sex offense laws and treatment of MAPs, likely by the wrong reasons, the ‘right’ will oppose it for all the wrong reasons, and a culture war will ensue.”
- “I wish I thought any of these efforts will help to get the registry dissolved/modified but there are almost no politicians willing to honestly take on the problem.”
- “A crime is a crime; time is served for that crime according to the Judge that makes the penalty. that penalty should be honored and not added to later, I thank God I was able to raise my Children before being put on the registry, Since my Mistake was before the registry, Being forced into the register 28 years later, with the worst classification Tennessee can give, and the fact that they revise it every three months on my background checks has all but destroyed my ability to work. I’m disgusted with the way it works, but I have good adult children, one spared the humiliation. This keeps me quite and I know the Government will destroy or try to destroy friends and family again, the Government has no soul or heart for truth and freedom anymore. I have seen what they do in court, military, and other areas. This sounds harsh, sure, I have seen some good reforms and know some details, But When i watch election politicians make the people that disagree into monsters, Doing what they do, and realize these are our leaders? i want to puke. Sorry, the world is getting sicker every day, God Save Us ALL.”
- “Nothing will ever change. So not sure why you're doing this. It's unfortunate. But both parties will never allow the registry to be abolished, or for LEO eyes only.”
- “I think the registry is a waste of tax payer money and a setup for votes by the political parties.”

TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

Questions 73, 81-85, and 87-88 gauge the thoughts of Anti-Registry Activists concerning the US Government.

Q73: *Do you consider yourself patriotic?*

Q73: Patriotism	Strongly YES	Slightly YES	NEUTRAL	Slightly NO	Strongly NO	UNSURE
Total (695)	47.05% (327)	22.16% (154)	14.24% (99)	6.33% (44)	7.48% (52)	2.73% (19)
RPs (464)	48.49% (225)	20.91% (97)	14.66% (68)	6.03% (28)	7.54% (35)	2.37% (11)
LOs (169)	42.6% (72)	25.44% (43)	14.79% (25)	7.69% (13)	5.92% (10)	3.55% (6)
Others (62)	48.39% (30)	22.58% (14)	9.68% (6)	4.84% (3)	11.29% (7)	3.23% (2)
Males (508)	49.61% (252)	21.06% (107)	13.98% (71)	5.31% (27)	7.68% (39)	2.36% (12)
Females (178)	41.57% (74)	25.84% (46)	14.04% (25)	8.43% (15)	6.18% (11)	3.93% (7)
NARSOL (469)	47.55% (223)	21.75% (102)	13.43% (63)	6.82% (32)	7.89% (37)	2.56% (12)
ACSOL (284)	42.96% (122)	26.76% (76)	15.14% (43)	7.75% (22)	4.58% (13)	2.82% (8)
WAR (232)	44.4% (103)	23.71% (55)	12.93% (30)	8.19% (19)	8.19% (19)	2.59% (6)
TX-Voices (59)	61.02% (36)	23.73% (14)	8.47% (5)	3.39% (2)	1.69% (1)	1.69% (1)
FAC (193)	47.67% (92)	24.35% (47)	15.54% (30)	5.7% (11)	4.66% (9)	2.07% (4)
OnceFallen (138)	42.03% (58)	25.36% (35)	12.32% (17)	6.52% (9)	9.42% (13)	4.35% (6)
Republican (193)	72.02% (139)	17.62% (34)	6.74% (13)	1.04% (2)	1.55% (3)	1.04% (2)
Democratic (318)	38.05% (121)	27.36% (87)	17.61% (56)	9.43% (30)	5.66% (18)	1.89% (6)
Libertarian (55)	38.18% (21)	30.91% (17)	16.36% (9)	7.27% (4)	5.45% (3)	1.82% (1)
Other Party (129)	35.66% (46)	12.4% (16)	16.28% (21)	6.2% (8)	21.71% (28)	7.75% (10)

Q81: Do you agree or disagree, as an individual you have the power to influence the government?

Q81: We can influence gov't	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Total (695)	9.64% (67)	31.37% (218)	11.37% (79)	22.59% (157)	25.04% (174)
RPs (464)	8.84% (41)	28.02% (130)	11.21% (52)	25.65% (119)	26.29% (122)
LOs (169)	7.69% (13)	37.28% (63)	11.24% (19)	18.93% (32)	24.85% (42)
Others (62)	20.97% (13)	40.32% (25)	12.9% (8)	9.68% (6)	16.13% (10)
Males (508)	10.24% (52)	27.36% (139)	11.81% (60)	24.8% (126)	25.79% (131)
Females (178)	8.43% (15)	42.13% (75)	10.11% (18)	16.85% (30)	22.47% (40)
NARSOL (469)	9.38% (44)	30.7% (144)	11.94% (56)	22.17% (104)	25.8% (121)
AC SOL (284)	10.56% (30)	33.8% (96)	13.38% (38)	25% (71)	17.25% (49)
WAR (232)	11.21% (26)	36.64% (85)	10.34% (24)	19.4% (45)	22.41% (52)
TX-Voices (59)	13.56% (8)	37.29% (22)	13.56% (8)	10.17% (6)	25.42% (15)
FAC (193)	8.29% (16)	29.53% (57)	11.92% (23)	23.32% (45)	26.94% (52)
OnceFallen (138)	14.49% (20)	29.71% (41)	8.7% (12)	23.91% (33)	23.19% (32)
Republican (193)	7.25% (14)	30.05% (58)	13.47% (26)	20.21% (39)	29.02% (56)
Democratic (318)	12.89% (41)	37.11% (118)	9.12% (29)	23.58% (75)	17.3% (55)
Libertarian (55)	7.27% (4)	20% (11)	14.55% (8)	36.36% (20)	21.82% (12)
Other Party (129)	6.2% (8)	24.03% (31)	12.4% (16)	17.83% (23)	39.53% (51)

Q82: Do you agree or disagree that a cooperative effort amongst registry reformists and abolitionists has the power to influence the government?

Q82: ARM can influence gov't	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Total (695)	28.06% (195)	50.36% (350)	11.08% (77)	6.19% (43)	4.32% (30)
RPs (464)	27.59% (128)	50% (232)	10.78% (50)	6.47% (30)	5.17% (24)
LOs (169)	26.63% (45)	55.62% (94)	11.24% (19)	4.14% (7)	2.37% (4)
Others (62)	35.48% (22)	38.71% (24)	12.9% (8)	9.68% (6)	3.23% (2)
Males (508)	27.95% (142)	49.21% (250)	10.43% (53)	6.89% (35)	5.51% (28)
Females (178)	28.65% (51)	53.37% (95)	12.92% (23)	3.93% (7)	1.12% (2)
NARSOL (469)	29.21% (137)	50.11% (235)	10.02% (47)	7.04% (33)	3.62% (17)
ACSOL (284)	33.8% (96)	48.94% (139)	9.86% (28)	4.58% (13)	2.82% (8)
WAR (232)	35.78% (83)	46.12% (107)	9.48% (22)	6.47% (15)	2.16% (5)
TX-Voices (59)	38.98% (23)	45.76% (27)	3.39% (2)	6.78% (4)	5.08% (3)
FAC (193)	29.53% (57)	49.22% (95)	9.84% (19)	7.77% (15)	3.63% (7)
OnceFallen (138)	31.16% (43)	50.72% (70)	7.97% (11)	5.8% (8)	4.35% (6)
Republican (193)	32.12% (62)	50.26% (97)	5.7% (11)	4.66% (9)	7.25% (14)
Democratic (318)	28.62% (91)	53.77% (171)	9.43% (30)	6.29% (20)	1.89% (6)
Libertarian (55)	18.18% (10)	49.09% (27)	20% (11)	9.09% (5)	3.64% (2)
Other Party (129)	24.81% (32)	42.64% (55)	34.88% (25)	6.98% (9)	6.2% (8)

Q83: *Do you feel the government is tracking you beyond the act of registration?*

Q83: Gov spy on you?	YES	NO	UNSURE
TOTAL (695)	59.57% (414)	14.68% (102)	25.76% (179)
RPs (464)	66.59% (309)	14.66% (68)	18.75% (87)
LOs (169)	50.3% (85)	12.43% (21)	37.28% (63)
Others (62)	32.26% (20)	20.97% (13)	46.77% (29)
Males (508)	63.78% (324)	14.96% (76)	21.26% (108)
Females (178)	47.75% (85)	14.61% (26)	37.64% (67)
NARSOL (469)	60.34% (283)	15.35% (72)	24.31% (114)
ACSOL (284)	60.21% (171)	14.08% (40)	25.7% (73)
WAR (232)	59.05% (137)	16.38% (38)	24.57% (57)
TX-Voices (59)	55.93% (33)	18.64% (11)	25.42% (15)
FAC (193)	67.88% (131)	11.92% (23)	20.21% (3)
Once Fallen (138)	66.67% (92)	13.77% (19)	19.57% (27)
Republican (193)	60.1% (116)	14.51% (28)	25.39% (49)
Democratic (318)	55.03% (175)	18.55% (59)	26.42% (84)
Libertarian (55)	61.82% (34)	7.27% (4)	30.91% (17)
Other Party (129)	68.99% (89)	8.53% (11)	22.48% (29)

Q84: *Do you believe the government is “setting you up to fail”?*

Q84: Gov’t sets us up to fail?	YES	NO	UNSURE
TOTAL (695)	58.13% (404)	21.44 % (149)	20.43% (142)
RPs (464)	61.42% (285)	21.55% (100)	17.03% (79)
LOs (169)	59.76% (101)	15.38% (26)	24.85% (42)
Others (62)	29.03% (18)	37.1% (23)	33.87% (21)
Males (508)	59.25% (301)	23.03% (117)	17.72% (90)
Females (178)	56.74% (101)	16.29% (29)	26.97% (48)
NARSOL (469)	59.06% (277)	20.9% (98)	20.04% (94)
ACSOL (284)	58.45% (166)	20.07% (57)	21.48% (61)
WAR (232)	62.07% (144)	18.97% (44)	18.97% (44)
TX-Voices (59)	57.63% (34)	32.2% (19)	10.17% (6)
FAC (193)	67.36% (130)	13.47% (26)	19.17% (37)
Once Fallen (138)	65.94% (91)	17.39% (24)	16.67% (23)
Republican (193)	62.69% (121)	17.62% (34)	19.69% (38)
Democratic (318)	50.31% (160)	28.62% (91)	21.07% (67)
Libertarian (55)	58.18% (32)	21.82% (12)	20% (11)
Other Party (129)	70.54% (91)	9.3% (12)	20.16% (26)

Q85: Do you believe the sex offense registry is a "beta test" for oppressive government programs of a larger scale?

Q85: SORNA beta test for wider oppression?	YES	NO	UNSURE
TOTAL (695)	42.88% (298)	27.34% (190)	29.78% (207)
RPs (464)	46.98% (218)	28.02% (130)	25% (116)
LOs (169)	36.69% (62)	22.49% (38)	40.83% (69)
Others (62)	29.03% (18)	35.48% (22)	35.48% (22)
Males (508)	45.47% (231)	28.94% (147)	25.59% (130)
Females (178)	37.08% (66)	23.03% (41)	39.89% (71)
NARSOL (469)	44.78% (210)	26.65% (125)	28.57% (134)
ACSOL (284)	46.13% (131)	26.41% (75)	27.46% (78)
WAR (232)	47.41% (110)	25.43% (59)	27.16% (63)
TX-Voices (59)	52.54% (31)	27.12% (16)	20.34% (12)
FAC (193)	47.67% (92)	20.73% (40)	31.61% (61)
Once Fallen (138)	58.7% (81)	17.39% (24)	23.91% (33)
Republican (193)	50.78% (98)	20.73% (40)	28.5% (55)
Democratic (318)	32.08% (102)	38.68% (123)	29.25% (93)
Libertarian (55)	52.73% (29)	20% (11)	27.27% (15)
Other Party (129)	53.49% (69)	12.4% (16)	34.11% (44)

Q87: Do you believe the lives of Registered Persons would improve if the US government somehow collapsed (foreign invasion, civil war, etc.)?

Q87: Would Gov't collapse help RPs?	YES	NO	UNSURE
TOTAL (695)	20% (139)	48.78% (339)	31.22% (217)
RPs (464)	22.41% (104)	49.78% (231)	27.8% (129)
LOs (169)	15.38% (26)	45.56% (77)	39.05% (66)
Others (62)	14.52% (9)	50% (31)	35.48% (22)
Males (508)	21.85% (111)	50.59% (257)	27.56% (140)
Females (178)	14.61% (26)	44.94% (80)	40.45% (72)
NARSOL (469)	19.62% (92)	47.12% (221)	33.26% (156)
ACSOL (284)	21.13% (60)	44.37% (126)	34.51% (98)
WAR (232)	22.84% (53)	40.09% (93)	37.07% (86)
TX-Voices (59)	16.95% (10)	45.76% (27)	37.29% (22)
FAC (193)	27.46% (53)	38.86% (75)	33.68% (65)
Once Fallen (138)	28.26% (39)	34.78% (48)	36.96% (51)
Republican (193)	23.83% (46)	49.22% (95)	26.94% (52)
Democratic (318)	15.72% (50)	55.66% (177)	28.62% (91)
Libertarian (55)	18.18% (10)	36.36% (20)	45.45% (25)
Other Party (129)	25.58% (33)	36.43% (47)	37.98% (49)

Q88: *If you had the resources to leave the USA and never register again on the condition you would NEVER set foot on American soil ever again, would you leave?*

Q85: Would you leave the US if you could?	YES	NO	UNSURE
TOTAL (695)	43.6% (303)	26.91% (187)	29.5% (205)
RPs (464)	49.35% (229)	26.51% (123)	24.14% (112)
LOs (169)	33.73% (57)	28.4% (48)	37.87% (64)
Others (62)	27.42% (17)	25.81% (16)	46.77% (29)
Males (508)	48.23% (245)	26.38% (134)	25.39% (129)
Females (178)	30.9% (55)	29.21% (52)	39.89% (71)
NARSOL (469)	47.12% (221)	24.31% (114)	28.57% (134)
ACSOL (284)	45.42% (129)	24.3% (69)	30.28% (86)
WAR (232)	41.81% (97)	24.14% (56)	34.05% (79)
TX-Voices (59)	38.98% (23)	28.81% (17)	32.2% (19)
FAC (193)	53.37% (103)	19.69% (38)	26.94% (52)
Once Fallen (138)	49.28% (68)	18.12% (25)	32.61% (45)
Republican (193)	37.82% (73)	33.16% (64)	29.02% (56)
Democratic (318)	42.14% (134)	27.36% (87)	30.5% (97)
Libertarian (55)	40% (22)	20% (11)	40% (22)
Other Party (129)	57.36% (74)	19.38% (25)	23.26% (30)

DISCUSSION

Instinctively, Anti-Registry Activists seemingly have a strong distrust for the government and those who run it, and for good reason. As discussed in the Politics section, both those perceived as conservatives and liberals, and legislators associated with Democratic and Republican parties, have passed “tough on crime” laws over the years. Passing laws that cause harm to Registered Persons is truly a bipartisan effort. Registered Persons resent. But does this resentment influence how Registered Persons feel about the United States and living in the US?

PATRIOTISM

“I think this country is a big sham. I think there will be a revolution again.” – One respondent to this survey

In the annual Gallup Poll on American Pride, 38% of Americans proclaimed they were “extremely proud” to be an American in 2023; only 4% stated they have “no pride at all”; 60% of Republicans, 29% of Democrats and 33% of independents say they are extremely proud to be American, while only 4% of Republicans, 6% of Democrats and 4% of independents say they are “not at all” proud to be American¹⁹³

Comparably to our own survey (Note: Numbers are rounded up to the nearest whole number since the Gallup poll rounds to the nearest whole amount; here, Libertarian will be added to the “Independent” category since the Gallup poll did not make a separate category for third party candidates):

Extremely Patriotic	2023 Gallup Poll	2023 ARA survey
ALL	39%	47%
Males	42%	50%
Females	39%	42%
Democratic	29%	38%
Republican	60%	72%
Independent	33%	36%

Not Patriotic At All	2023 Gallup Poll	2023 ARA survey
ALL	4%	8%
Males	2%	8%
Females	6%	6%
Democratic	6%	6%
Republican	2%	2%
Independent	4%	17% (25% w/o Libertarians)

This survey shows that, amazingly, ARAs are both slightly more patriotic to those in the Gallup poll and twice as likely to be non-patriotic; Registered Persons (49%) were shockingly slightly more patriotic than Loved Ones or those in the “Others” category, despite the inclusion of Registered Persons on a publicly accessible registry.

¹⁹³ Megan Brenan. “Extreme Pride in Being American Remains Near Record Low.” Gallup. 29 June 2023. Accessed 8 Oct 2024 at <https://news.gallup.com/poll/507980/extreme-pride-american-remains-near-record-low.aspx>
Full results can be downloaded from a link on this page.

In a 2019 Pew Research survey on the rift between the two political parties, even Democrats tend to view Republicans as being the more patriotic party.¹⁹⁴ This survey closely matches the 2019 Pew Research results. Texas Voices scored significantly higher than other ARA groups on the highest patriotism score; it is also the most conservative ARA group according to the results of this survey. More importantly, males and those who were neither Democratic nor Republican voters (Libertarians at 5% and other party voters at 25%) were most likely to view themselves as not patriotic.

In my discussions with other activists, it was suggested that Republicans tend to be more patriotic, but that patriotism is called into question after experiencing ostracism as a Registrant. But this survey dispels that hypothesis. To put bluntly, the negative experiences of Anti-Registry Activists seemingly have little discernable impact on their patriotism, except among Males and possibly among those who lack a defined political affiliation. This is a surprising result given the myriad of laws passed to restrict the lives of Registered Persons by both state and federal governments. Support for the registry is a bipartisan effort; both Democratic and Republican-led governments have passed tighter restrictions on the lives of Registered Persons.

“LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT”

“Life in the registry is almost impossible. My wife and I would leave the country if we could just to be able to live the remainder of our lives with some semblance of peace and dignity.” – One respondent to this survey

We often hear patriotic persons say “Love it leave it” in response to criticisms of the American system of government and law. Just over two out of five ARAs would flee America if they had the resources to move; roughly half of Registered Persons would do so.

The prospect of fleeing the US already looked good to many Registered Persons. Among the inquiries to Once Fallen in any given year, Registered Persons or those who will be forced to register upon release often ask where in America they can live with the least restrictions, often followed by questions about emigration as a possible strategy for dealing with the registry.

In this survey, 43.6% of respondents stated they would leave the US if it was possible for them to do so, compared to 26.9% who said they would not leave the US. When looking solely at Registered Persons, 49.4% stated they would leave the US if they could, compared to 26.5% who would not, a nearly two-to-one ratio. Among those in the “Loved Ones” and “Others” categories, this ratio is nearly even. Furthermore, supporters of Once Fallen and FAC had the highest leave-versus-stay ration, with roughly 2.5 times the number choosing leave rather than stay. Republicans are least likely to desire to leave with a near-ratio (37.8% leave, 33.2% stay); the leave-stay ratio is higher among Democratic voters (42.1% leave, 27.4% stay), Libertarians (40% leave, 20% stay), and other third-party voters (57.4% leave, 19.4% leave).

By comparison, years of Gallup polls have found the desire to emigrate among the US population as a whole fluctuated between 11% during Obama’s presidential term to 16% in Trump’s first term, lowered

¹⁹⁴ See Carroll Doherty, Jocelyn Kiley, and Nida Asheer. “Partisan Antipathy: More Intense, More Personal. Pew Research Center. 10 Oct 2019. Accessed 4 Nov 2023 at <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2019/10/10/partisan-antipathy-more-intense-more-personal/>

again under Biden but spiked again to 16% following the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade*.¹⁹⁵

However, when taking divisions among various groups in the US, there are some groups of individuals that have more desire to leave the US more than others. The “Trump Effect” has polarized the nation, leading to the desire to emigrate among the poor, those under age 50, and women. A 2019 survey, under Trump, found that 20% of women would emigrate if they could, in comparison to 11% under Bush and 10% under Obama. About 30% of persons under age 30 would emigrate under Trump, compared to 24% under Bush and 18% under Obama. About 19% of those ages 30-49 desired to emigrate under Trump compared to 9% under Bush and 10% under Obama. About 30% of those in the poorest 20% of the US population desired to emigrate, compared to just 13% under Obama. Furthermore, 40% of women under age 30 would emigrate if they could under Trump.¹⁹⁶

Perhaps the one disenfranchised group that is treated as bad as Registered Persons are persons who identify as transgender or non-binary. Those who identify as transgender or non-binary often face false accusations of being “groomers” or “pedophiles.” Just as there have been hundreds of proposed bills targeting Registered Persons, there have been a comparable number of introduced bills targeting those who identify as transgender or non-binary. As a result, those who identify as transgender have reported similar rates of desire to flee the country to the rate of Registered Persons in this survey. A 2022 survey conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality found that 47% of the roughly 92,000 transgender respondents expressed a desire to move out of the US.¹⁹⁷

OPPRESSION & GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE

“The registry is a political scam. It has not reigned in or curtailed sex offense, but it has saved politicians running for office who needed a boost. It has succeeded as a litmus test for increased government control over our society by playing upon media-generated fears. For all the harm it causes directly and collaterally, it must be abolished. Law enforcement already has computerized records of all crimes. The registry is redundant in this respect therefore a waste of resources and finances that could go much further to help society in other ways.” – One respondent to this survey

“In Revelation 13, it talks about a time soon coming in history when those persons that do not have the mark of a lawless government will be identified. People, you are that ‘Beta System.’ You tell the preacher, you tell the bishop, you tell the Sunday school person, ‘I may be on the registration system right now, but Christians are coming, and the time is near; Satan always has disguised his true intentions for something. That registration system is backed by government, sanctioned by the courts, people can see your face and your address, the vigilantes come in, congress ostracizes you. I submit to you that is the same system that Christians will be on, and it simply means that the time is near! You have been chosen to get the message out.” – Dr. Steven Davidson at the Silent No More Rally, Columbus OH, 12/1/2007¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁵ Alaric DeArment. “The Americans Who Are Fleeing the United States.” The New Republic. 2 Feb 2023. Accessed 7 Apr 2025 at <https://newrepublic.com/article/170259/american-emigration-far-right-violence>

¹⁹⁶ Julie Ray and Neli Espipova. “Record Numbers of Americans Want to Leave the U.S.” Gallup. 4 Jan 2019. Accessed 7 Apr 2025 at <https://news.gallup.com/poll/245789/record-numbers-americans-leave.aspx>

¹⁹⁷ Brooke Migdon. “Half of trans people in US have considered moving out of state because of anti-LGBTQ laws: Survey.” The Hill. 7 Feb 2024. Accessed 7 Apr 2025 at <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/4452248-half-of-trans-people-in-us-have-considered-moving-out-of-state-because-of-anti-lgbtq-laws-survey/>

¹⁹⁸ See Derek Logue, ““Silent No More: Out of the Shadows” Rally.” Once Fallen. 1 Dec. 2007. <https://oncefallen.com/ohio-silent-no-more-rally-2007/>

The “Silent No More” rally, the first successful public gathering of anti-registry activists, took place in Columbus, Ohio, in December 2007. Dr. Steven Davidson, a pastoral counselor from Texas, gave a speech concerning the beliefs some people already held about the weaponization of the sex offense registry by our government as a greater tool of oppression.

At this point in our history, we were only six years removed from the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, which was used to justify increases in government intrusion such as the USA PATRIOT Act. Jokes and ridicule were aimed at sillier reactionary policies like attempts to rename anything containing the word “French” (freedom fries, freedom toast, freedom kissing, etc.), a reaction to France’s reluctance to back the USA on the war on Iraq. Of course, the infamous *Smith v. Doe* case was decided in March 2003, only 18 months after 9/11 and 1 month after the “Freedom Fries” controversy began.

However, there were more serious threats to the freedom of Registered Persons and of our democracy as a whole. In 2006, Halliburton, a company with direct ties to then-Vice President Dick Cheney, received a multi-million dollar grant to build temporary “immigrant detention centers.”¹⁹⁹ Registered Persons were worried the Halliburton camps could be used to round up Registered Persons. This fear was amplified by Operation FALCON (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally), a series of mass arrests of thousands of people that included roundups of hundreds of Registrants for Failure To Register.²⁰⁰

As one critic posited about the FALCON raids, “Operation FALCON, an acronym for “Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally,” is the clearest indication yet that the Bush administration is fine-tuning its shock troops so it can roll up tens of thousands of people at a moment’s notice and toss them into the newly-built Halliburton detention centers. This should be a red flag for anyone who cares at all about human rights, civil liberties, or simply saving his own skin... Dictatorships require strong centralized authority and the FALCON program is a logical corollary of that ambition. It creates new inroads for Bush to assume greater control over the nationwide police-state apparatus. That alone should be sufficient reason for alarm.”²⁰¹ The actions from FALCON raids are still utilized in the random “compliance checks” that remain in use against Registered Persons to this day.

For a time it felt as if we were making small but significant changes in how returning citizens convicted of sex offenses are treated, including convincing states with lifetime-for-all registration requirements to provide a pathway off registration. However, politics can change the landscape of reform rather frequently.

In the past, a barrage of onerous sex offense legislation was introduced and passed in the wake of a rare tragedy, such as a high profile murder. But the recent push for the death penalty for people convicted of certain sexual offenses, despite a SCOTUS ruling in *Kennedy v. Louisiana* in 2008 stating that death penalty for crimes not involving murder is unconstitutional, was not fueled by any high-profile cases.

¹⁹⁹ Rachel L. Swarns. “Halliburton Subsidiary Gets Contract to Add Temporary Immigration Detention Centers.” New York Times. 4 Feb. 2006. Accessed 7 Apr 2025 at <https://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/04/national/04halliburton.html>

²⁰⁰ See “Dragnet nabs 10,000 fugitives.” CNN. 15 Apr 2005. Accessed 7 Apr 2025 at <https://us.cnn.com/2005/LAW/04/14/fugitive.arrests/index.html>; see also “More than 1,600 Sex Offender Arrests by U.S. Marshals’ ‘Operation Falcon III’”. USDOJ. 2 Nov 2006. Accessed 7 Apr 2015 at https://www.justice.gov/archive/opa/pr/2006/November/06_ag_744.html

²⁰¹ See *Operation FALCON and the Looming Police State.* Socialist Viewpoint. 28 Feb. 2007. Accessed 15 Apr 2025 at https://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/socialist-viewpoint-us/mayjun_07/mayjun_07_16.html

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis introduced the idea of executing people for sex crimes against minors as a Hail Mary in his failed presidential bid. At a news conference, Gov. DeSantis criticized the Supreme Court's decision in Kennedy, telling reporters he "believe[s] that that precedent was wrong. We do not believe the Supreme Court in its current iteration would uphold it. And so, we are going to be exploring ways to facilitate some capitals trials if you have the worst of the worst."²⁰²

As of June 2025, three states (Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Oklahoma, and Tennessee) have passed death penalty laws calling for capital punishment for some sex offenses, with Missouri seemingly poised to pass similar legislation. Also, Rep. Nancy Mace introduced H.R.393, a.k.a., the "No Repeat Child Sex Offenders Act," which would allow the death penalty at the federal level for some sex offense cases without ending in a murder.²⁰³ Trump's meeting with El Salvador's dictator Nayib Bukele should also raise warning flags; Trump proclaimed, "Home-grown are next. The home-grown. You gotta build about five more places...If they're criminals and if they hit people with baseball bats over their head that happen to be 90 years old and if — if they rape 87-year-old women in Coney Island, Brooklyn, yeah, yeah, that includes them. They're as bad as anybody that comes in."²⁰⁴

This recent spate of legislation and threats from those in the highest offices of the US government should cause concern about our own safety given the erratic nature of the second Trump administration and Project 2025's desire to expand the death penalty to sex offenses. As listed in their document:

"Enforce the death penalty where appropriate & applicable. Capital punishment is a sensitive matter, as it should be, but the current crime wave makes deterrence vital at the federal, state, & local levels. However, providing this punishment without ever enforcing it provides justice neither for the victims' families nor for the defendant. The next conservative Administration should therefore do everything possible to obtain finality for the 44 prisoners currently on federal death row. It should also pursue the death penalty for applicable crimes—particularly heinous crimes involving violence & sexual abuse of children—until Congress says otherwise through legislation."²⁰⁵

On July 24, 2025, Trump signed an Executive Order (EO) entitled, "ENDING CRIME AND DISORDER ON AMERICA'S STREETS." The primary target of this EO was homeless persons sleeping on the streets, but the EO also called for increased civil confinement of transient registrants and stricter enforcement of sex offense registration. The EO ordered the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the Secretary of Transportation to distribute grants to:

- "Substantially implement and comply with, to the extent required, the registration and notification obligations of the Sex Offender Registry and Notification Act, particularly in the case of registered sex offenders with no fixed address, including by adequately mapping and checking the location of homeless sex offenders."

²⁰² "Death Penalty for Child Sexual Abuse that Does Not Result in Death." Death Penalty Information Center. Accessed 15 Apr 2015 at <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/facts-and-research/background/crimes-punishable-by-death/death-penalty-for-child-sexual-abuse-that-does-not-result-in-death>

²⁰³ See <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/393/all-actions>

²⁰⁴ Alex Galbraith. "'Home-grown are next': Trump proposes sending US citizens to El Salvador prisons." Yahoo! News. 14 Apr 2025. Accessed 15 Apr 2025 at <https://www.yahoo.com/news/home-grown-next-trump-proposes-201649789.html>

²⁰⁵ "Mandate for Leadership 2025: The Conservative Promise." Heritage Foundation. 2023. Accessed 15 Apr 2025 at https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf

- “(The Attorney General...shall ensure that homeless individuals arrested for Federal crimes are evaluated, consistent with 18 U.S.C. 4248, to determine whether they are sexually dangerous persons and certified accordingly for civil commitment.”
- “The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall take appropriate measures and revise regulations as necessary to allow, where permissible under applicable law, federally funded programs to exclusively house women and children and to stop sex offenders who receive homelessness assistance through such programs from being housed with unrelated children.”²⁰⁶

While Trump is primarily targeting undocumented migrants, Trump has stated that, “The homegrowns are next, the homegrowns. You've got to build about five more places.”²⁰⁷

While I am loathe to cite the work of a bitter enemy that tried to blackball me from the Anti-Registry Movement, but I have to agree with the article written by former NARSOL board member Dwayne Daughtry when he wrote the following statements after the July 2025 Trump Executive Order passed:

“For anyone holding out hope that a second Trump administration might bring meaningful change to the nation’s sex offense policies, the July 24, 2025 executive order should clear up any confusion: the registry is here to stay—and it’s growing teeth. President Donald J. Trump has made it unmistakably clear that he supports the continued enforcement, expansion, and surveillance of the sex offender registry. This isn’t a course correction or a fresh approach. It’s a doubling down. The executive order, issued under the guise of addressing homelessness, public safety, and mental illness, lays out a sweeping policy framework that escalates civil commitment, increases registry enforcement—particularly for the unhoused—and offers federal incentives to states and localities that follow suit. For those who believed America might be inching toward a more rational, evidence-based approach to sex offense policy, this document should serve as a wake-up call. The policy isn’t shifting. If anything, it’s becoming more entrenched...”²⁰⁸

Just as we once feared being rounded up in the FALCON raids and shipped off to Halliburton camps in 2006, Registered Persons must fear being rounded up by federal agents and shipped to an internment camp nearly twenty years after the first FALCON raids.

Even with these recent revelations in mind, it is hard to tell how this section of the survey would play out if the survey was conducted today, but in this survey, roughly three out of five ARAs, believe the government is tracking them beyond the act of sex offense registration. Two out of three Registered Persons believe they are being monitored, compared to only half of loved ones, and around one in three in the “Others” category, believe they are the subject of government tracking. The results for alignment with anti-registry groups and political alignment are pretty even, though those who are Other Party voters have a higher level of mistrust than Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian voters.

There is no comparable study of Americans who believe the US government is specifically targeting them, but a 2018 Monmouth University poll found the following:

²⁰⁶ See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/07/ending-crime-and-disorder-on-americas-streets/>

²⁰⁷ Brian Mann. “Homegrowns are next’: Trump hopes to deport and jail U.S. citizens abroad.” NPR. 16 Apr 2025. Accessed 27 July 2025 at <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/16/10936178/trump-deport-jail-u-s-citizens-homegrowns-el-salvador>

²⁰⁸ Dwayne Sam Daughtry. “Trump’s Executive Order Confirms the Registry Machine Isn’t Going Anywhere.” Substack. 26 July 2025. Accessed 29 July 2025 at <https://substack.com/home/post/p-169226081>

“Just over half of the public is either very worried (23%) or somewhat worried (30%) about the U.S. government monitoring their activities and invading their privacy. There are no significant partisan differences – 57% of independents, 51% of Republicans, and 50% of Democrats are at least somewhat worried the federal government is monitoring their activities. Another 24% of the American public are not too worried and 22% are not at all worried.”

“Fully 8-in-10 believe that the U.S. government currently monitors or spies on the activities of American citizens, including a majority (53%) who say this activity is widespread and another 29% who say such monitoring happens but is not widespread. Just 14% say this monitoring does not happen at all. There are no substantial partisan differences in these results.”²⁰⁹

However, Americans are more willing to accept government surveillance of unpopular groups. According to a 2015 Pew Research poll, 77% of respondents were supportive of government surveillance of someone who visited a child pornography website, comparable only to suspected terrorists (82%), and significantly more than support for monitoring visitors to known anti-American groups (67%). Only a minority of Americans — 40% — feel it is acceptable to monitor ordinary American citizens. Some 57% say it is unacceptable for the government to monitor their communications.²¹⁰

Persons Forced to Register live in a parallel universe than the average American. Most citizens do not have to live under a patchwork of laws restricting our ability to reside, work, travel, or even form relationships, and these laws can change state-to-state or even city-to-city.

In Florida, many Registered Persons cannot live within 1000 feet of a school, child care facility, park, or playground or loiter within 300 feet of “any place children congregate.” However, 220 out of 478 total municipalities and counties (46%) have some form of additional residency restrictions on their books (if including those covered by countywide ordinances), and 87 have additional proximity or anti-loitering restriction laws in place. Only 13 counties have not been confirmed to have any additional restrictions other than those listed in the state law. Two counties and three municipalities have “anti-clustering” ordinances that prevent more than one Registered Persons from occupying the same building or living too close to each other. An additional 18 counties and 16 municipalities have ordinances banning Registered Persons from using emergency shelters or requiring segregated facilities, usually a local prison or jail. Six counties have ordinances banning Registered Persons from engaging in certain holiday activities like dressing in costumes or passing out candy. Some ordinances ban Registered Persons from working various jobs from cab driver to street performer to peddler. There are also restrictions on “short term” rentals like AirBnB or Vrbo. To further complicate matters, the number of Registered Persons that must abide by these extra rules can vary; some municipalities only apply to those with a victim under ages 16 to 18 or classified as an AVP, but applies to all Registered Persons in other places. Some county ordinances apply only to unincorporated areas while others apply to incorporated communities within the county. The number of restricted areas can vary, and even the definitions of terms can vary.²¹¹

²⁰⁹ “NATIONAL: PUBLIC TROUBLED BY ‘DEEP STATE’.” Monmouth University. 19 Mar. 2018. Accessed 12 June 2025 at [https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/documents/monmouthpoll_us_031918.pdf/](https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/documents/monmouthpoll_us_031918.pdf)

²¹⁰ Lee Rainie and Mary Madden. “Americans’ Views on Government Surveillance Programs.” Pew Research Center. 16 Mar 2025. Accessed 12 June 2025 at <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2015/03/16/americans-views-on-government-surveillance-programs/>

²¹¹ Derek W. Logue. “FLORIDA MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES AFFECTING PERSONS FORCED TO REGISTER (SHORT VERSION).” Once Fallen. 26 Apr 2025. Accessed 12 June 2025 at <https://oncefallen.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/FL-Local-RP-Ords-Short-Version-Apr2025.pdf>

In Wisconsin, some municipalities have passed an “original domicile” rule, meaning that at least some Registered Persons can only reside in a particular location if they resided in that community before their conviction.²¹² Further complicating research on Wisconsin is the added layer of government through “towns” (or townships), an unincorporated, general-purpose 6 mile-by-six mile unit of local government within a county.

In Texas, some municipalities still require Registered Persons to place signs in their yards or vehicles declaring a Registered Person lives there. Bay City’s ordinance states, “(W)hile operating a motor vehicle within the city, shall prominently display either a sign in the window of the motor vehicle or a bumper sticker on the motor vehicle stating "Sexual Predator's Vehicle" or "Sex Offender's Vehicle." The sign and the bumper sticker shall:(1)Be at least three inches by ten inches;(2)Contain at least two-inch lettering; and(3)Be seen clearly without obstruction from a minimum distance of ten feet.²¹³

Under Ohio Revised Code Sec. 2950.034, Registered Persons are prohibited from living within 1,000 ft. from “any school premises, preschool or child care center premises, children's crisis care facility premises, or residential infant care center premises.” ORC §2950.034. This only applies to those convicted after July 31, 2003. (The children's crisis care facility premises, or residential infant care centers are added on 6/13/2022, so this shouldn’t apply to those convicted before this date.) Unlike most states, there is no criminal penalty for violating this law, but you can be forced to move by civil law, i.e., municipal authority files an eviction in civil court. But some municipalities have local restrictions beyond these state levels. In Golf Manor (a suburb of Cincinnati), a person could face six months in jail for violating the local residency restriction ordinance, which adds playgrounds, parks, libraries, swimming pools, churches, or non-school athletic field premises to the list of restrictions.²¹⁴

Alabama, Georgia, Montana (those considered high risk), and Tennessee have employment proximity restriction statutes in place, and the prohibition is broadly applied.²¹⁵

This is only a sample of the myriad of regulations designed to limit the lives of returning citizens forced to register. The myriad of regulations that can wildly vary between adjacent communities can make navigating life on the public sex offense registry immensely difficult. As a result, a Registered Person is more likely to be arrested on a “Failure To Register” charge than for a new sexual offense.

One study of parolees Rehabilitation released from the California Department of Corrections and between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 (Fiscal Year 2014-15) found that only 1.9% of persons convicted of sex offenses (64 of 3298) were re-convicted a new sex offense within 3 years of release. However, 6% (198 of 3298) were convicted for a Failure To Register (FTR) offense within three years of release.²¹⁶

²¹² See as an example, Keweenaw County WI’s ordinance at Chapter 32, Sec. 32.04, at <https://www.keweenawco.org/i/f/files/Ordinances/Chapter%2032.pdf>

²¹³ See Bay City Tx. Code of Ordinances, Sec. 87-5

²¹⁴ See Golf Manor, Ohio Code of Ordinances §533.16. A copy can be accessed at https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/golfmanor/latest/golfmanor_oh/0-0-0-21651

²¹⁵ See Ala. Code §15-20A-13, OCGA § 42-1-15 to §42-1-16, MT Code §45-5-513(e), TCA §40-39-211(a)(1)

²¹⁶ “APPENDIX TO THE RECIDIVISM REPORT FOR OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2014-15.” California Dept. of Correction and Rehabilitation, Office of Research. January 2020. Pages 34-35. Accessed 13 June 2025 at <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2023/05/Appendix-to-the-Recidivism-Report-for-Offenders-Released-in-Fiscal-Year-2014-15.pdf>

With this in mind, it is not surprising that nearly three out of five Anti-Registry Activists (58.1%) feel the government is setting them up to fail, compared to just over one in five ARAs (21.4%) who do not believe the government is setting them up to fail. Those in the “Others” category are far less pessimistic; only 29% of those in the Others category believe the government is setting us up to fail, while 37.1% do not believe the government is setting us up to fail. While supporters of anti-registry groups is fairly even, just over two out of three supporters of Florida Action Committee (67.4%) believe the government is setting up to fail. This is understandable given Florida’s reputation as the worst state for a Registered Person to reside. Politically, Other Party voters (70.5%) are the most likely to believe the government is setting them up to fail, compared to 62.7% of Republicans, 58.2% of Libertarians, and only 50.3% of Democrats.

Overall, just over two out of five ARAs (42.9%) believe that the sex offense registry is a “beta test” for oppressive programs of a larger scale, compared to just over one in four (27.3%) of ARAs who do not believe the registry is a prelude to wider scales of oppression. Those in the “Others” category and Democratic voters are the only two groups where the number of those who believe the registry is a prelude to wide scale oppression is outnumbered by those who do not believe the registry is a prelude to wide scale oppression. While 29% of those in the Others category and 32.1% of Democratic voters believe the registry is a prelude to wide scale oppression, 35.5% of Others and 38.7% of Democratic voters do not believe the registry is a prelude to wide scale oppression. Every other category stayed close to the overall rate.

It is likely the attitudes of those who believe the registry is prelude to wide scale oppression may have a different outlook under the second Trump administration. Donald Trump started enforcing a dormant law, section 262 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 USC §1302, codified via the Alien Registration Act of 1940. The INA requires that, with limited exceptions, all aliens 14 years of age or older who were not registered and fingerprinted (if required) when applying for a U.S. visa and who remain in the United States for 30 days or longer, must apply for registration and fingerprinting.²¹⁷ Migrants have been arrested for Failure To Register; while some courts dismissed charges, others have already pled guilty.²¹⁸

Our political chaos under the second Trump administration, including concerns over an economic collapse and a civil and/or world war, has made the United States seemingly more vulnerable to collapse than any time in recent history. At the least, as evident by the results of this very survey, politics has polarized this nation. Without getting into an entire volume of material about past collapses of empires, nations, and assorted governments, the United States could operate vastly different should it become the Divided States. As the nation collapses, a series of city-states could form, or as one writer put it, a “great reshuffling” could occur as people with certain ideologies move to locations with more desirable laws.²¹⁹

Sisson speculated in his 2021 article that he believes that a liberal secession may be the most likely scenario. He argues:

²¹⁷ “Alien Registration Requirement.” US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Accessed 13 June 2025 at <https://www.uscis.gov/alienregistration>

²¹⁸ Jeremy Roebuck and Marianne LeVine. “Migrants criminally charged after failing to register with U.S. government.” Washington Post. 31 May 2025. Accessed 13 June 2025 at

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/05/31/trump-immigrants-registry-doj-justice/>

²¹⁹ See Daniel Sisson. “How the United States Will Fall.” Daniel Sisson. 14 Sept. 2025. Accessed 19 June 2025 at <https://www.danielsisson.com/articles/how-the-united-states-will-fall>

“I think we might shockingly see a liberal secession first. California has already had some ballot measures proposed in the past. One could conceivably make it on the ballot and get passed. That would throw the US into uncharted territory. Of course, an actual secession is not currently “legal” but I could see a couple of different ways this plays out. California could throw its economic power and influence behind the will of its people and apply enough pressure to make it happen. No war, no bullets — California starts withholding tax dollars, refusing to participate in Washington DC, petitions to the United Nations, and so on. After enough time, tension, and stock market chaos, The US might cave.”²²⁰

Sisson’s mere speculation in 2021 now seems to be a possibility in 2025. Since Republicans regained control of all bodies of the federal government in 2025, the Trump administration has targeted “blue states” like California for his draconian policies including immigrant raids. A poll released in January 2025 by the Independent California Institute found that 60% of Californians surveyed agree that they “would be better off California if peacefully seceded from the U.S. at some point in the next 10 years.”²²¹ Trump’s chaotic tariff policies²²² and ICE raids made worse by Trump’s decision to send the military into California to intimidate peaceful protesters²²³ have only increased public support for the idea of California secession.

Should California secede from the US, they still have a government and laws. Current sex offense laws may still continue to exist. They could abandon certain other measures mandated by the federal government. But California is also the birthplace of the sex offense registry. Thus, it seems rather improbable that Registered Persons would benefit from California if became a sovereign nation.

About half of Anti-Registry Activists (48.8%) feel they would their lives would not improve if the US government somehow collapsed, compared to one in five (20%) who believe their lives would improve if the US government collapsed. Registered Persons (22.4%) are more optimistic their lives would improve compared to Loved Ones (15.4%) and Others (14.5%). Supporters of Once Fallen (28.3%) and FAC (27.5%) are more optimistic their lives would improve compared to supporters of Texas Voices (17%) and NARSOL (19.6%). Other Party voters (25.6%) and Republican voters (23.8%) more optimistic their lives would improve compared to Libertarian voters (18.2%) and Democratic voters (15.7%).

It is hard to say what would happen to sex offense laws in the wake of a dividing of the US if it breaks up into smaller nations, but most Anti-Registry Activists still find little hope in the thought of a life under a new nation formed by the remnants of a collapsed nation.

INFLUENCING THE GOVERNMENT

“Lawmakers, Congress, Senators & whoever else has the authority is scared to show initiative to do the right thing and abolish the registry. If these lawmakers/Congressmen/Senators would do the right thing, and all come together to do what’s right, none of them would be singled out during reelection. The sex offender registry is just wrong! People serve their time, come out of prison and try to live a productive

²²⁰ Ibid.

²²¹ Dan Walters. “If California split from the US and became a nation, it would be comparable to Canada.” Cal Matters. 24 Jan 2025. Accessed 19 June 2025 at <https://calmatters.org/commentary/2025/01/california-nation-economy-like-canada/>

²²² Sofia Ruvalcaba. “National Tariffs Fuel Growing Support for California Secession.” The Santa Clara. 30 May 2025. Accessed 19 June 2025 at <https://www.thesantaclara.org/blog/kz8havb2dz6fq0zf50wabo40ibnxe0>

²²³ Jackson Ellison. “LA protests help California secession movement gain momentum: What to know.” ABC 10 Sacramento,. 11 June 2025. Accessed 19 June 2025 at <https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/california/la-protests-momentum-california-secession-movement/103-ffb1176b-13cf-44c1-90b2-f097aa49cf39>

and healthy life. The registry makes that very hard and unmanageable, not only does it affect the registered person, but their children, spouses, family.” – A survey respondent

“The registry is a way for the government to gain money. The government uses it for a way to create jobs it within the law enforcement and the registry itself. We are fighting an uphill battle. Once power is given it is no surrendered willingly or voluntarily.” – Another survey respondent

The whole point of any kind of activism is to bring about a desired change. In recent years, we've seen movements like Black Lives Matter, the #MeToo Movement, the Occupy Movement, and the current protests against Trump's immigration policies gain traction in American society. Anti-Registry activism is considerably smaller and less popular or well-known by the general public. Still, this conglomerate of individuals and groups referred to in this report as the Anti-Registry Movement has retained an organized structure with dedicated activists that have given it staying power that has outlived larger movements.

Overall, Anti-Registry Activists maintain a pessimistic outlook on their ability as individuals to influence the government to our benefit. About 47.6% of ARAs at least slightly disagree that they have the power to influence the government to their benefit, compared to 41% who believe they can. Those in the Others category (61.3%) are more likely to believe they have the power to influence out government than Registered Persons (36.9%) and their Loved Ones (45%). Women (50.5%) are more positive than men (37.6%) that they can influence the government; supporters at Texas Voices (50.8%) are the most positive, while members of FAC (37.8%) are the least positive; and Democratic voters (50%) are more positive they can positively influence the government than Republican voters (37.3%), Other Party voters (30.2%), and Libertarian voters (27.3%).

Anti-Registry Activists have a rosier outlook about the collective efforts of the Anti-Registry Movement; overall, 78.4% of ARAs believe the collective efforts of the Anti-Registry Movement can influence the government to our benefit, compared to only 10.5% who do not believe that we can positively change the laws as a collective front. Furthermore, there is little significant deviation in the positive versus negative beliefs between males and females, supporters of anti-registry groups, or political alignment. All of us seemingly agree that having an organized collective working to change the registry is a good thing, though as seen in the segment of this survey on personal participation, some ARAs simply seem the idea rather than the action of anti-registry activism.

When we say “government”, however, we must keep in mind that when we mean “influencing the government”, we are not just talking about the legislature. The legislature may suggest passage of laws and a President or Governor may sign a bill into law (or veto it), there are other agencies at work. The courts are part of the government. The SMART Office is a federal agency that promotes the federal Adam Walsh Act, using many myths that we must address. Law enforcement agencies from local police to the federal lettered agencies are also the government and some also spout inaccurate claims about Persons Forced to Register.

There is a mindset among some ARAs that the courts alone are our pathway to salvation. As noted by one respondent to this survey, “It is apparent that the path towards registry reform is via the courts, and not the legislature. Public opinion is not going to reform the registry. It must be forced by judicial decree. Efforts should be focused on successful litigation and NOT public opinion efforts.” However, courts have also been influenced by erroneous claims. The infamous 2003 *Smith v. Doe* SCOTUS ruling that upheld the use of the public sex offense registry was in part justified by a report that was wrongly interpreted to conclude persons convicted of sex offenses are highly likely to reoffend. Numerous courts and legislators

have repeated the erroneous claim of “frightening and high recidivism” because it was stated by a US Supreme Court justice²²⁴; thus, other courts see the claim as infallible Gospel.

Certain ARAs have been promoting the notion of convincing SCOTUS to revisit *Smith v. Doe* in light of decades of researching debunking the “frightening and high” statement made by Justice Kennedy, but we now have a 6-3 conservative supermajority, with the possibility of adding a seventh in the event Justice Sotomayor retires or is otherwise unable to perform her duties while Trump is still in office. A history of SCOTUS rulings over the past three decades shows that a conservative-led SCOTUS works against us.

Kansas v. Hendricks, 521 US 346 (1997): A 5-4 split, with conservative justices Thomas, Scalia, Rehnquist, and O’Connor joining Kennedy in upholding civil commitment based on a lower standard for commitment and a lower burden of proof. Justices Ginsburg joined Breyer, Stevens, and Souter in dissent.

McKune v. Lile, 536 US 24 (2002): A 5-4 split, with conservative justices Thomas, Scalia, Rehnquist, and O’Connor joining Kennedy in denying the Kansas Sexual Abuse Treatment Program violate inmates’ Fifth Amendment privilege against compelled self-incrimination. Justices Ginsburg joined Breyer, Stevens, and Souter in dissent.

Smith v. Doe, 538 US 84 (2003): A 6-3 split, with conservative justices Thomas, Scalia, Rehnquist, and O’Connor joining Kennedy and liberal justice Souter in denying the Alaska sex offense registry is punitive and thus violating the ex post facto clause. Justices Ginsburg wrote the dissent, joined by Breyer and Stevens.

“What ultimately tips the balance for me is the Act’s excessiveness in relation to its nonpunitive purpose,” Ginsburg wrote in her dissent. “The Act applies to all convicted sex offenders, without regard to their future dangerousness. And the duration of the reporting requirement is keyed not to any determination of a particular offender’s risk of reoffending, but to whether the offense of conviction qualified as aggravated. The reporting requirements themselves are exorbitant: The Act requires aggravated offenders to engage in perpetual quarterly reporting, even if their personal information has not changed. And meriting heaviest weight in my judgment, the Act makes no provision whatever for the possibility of rehabilitation: Offenders cannot shorten their registration or notification period, even on the clearest demonstration of rehabilitation or conclusive proof of physical incapacitation. However plain it may be that a former sex offender currently poses no threat of recidivism, he will remain subject to long-term monitoring and inescapable humiliation.” (Citations omitted.)

Kennedy v. Louisiana, 554 US 407 (2008): A 5-4 split, with liberal justices Ginsburg, Stevens, Souter, and Breyer joining Kennedy in a majority opinion declaring a person cannot be executed for a sex offense where no death was involved. Conservative justices Roberts, Alito, Scalia, and Thomas feels it is perfectly fine to execute a Registered Person if his offense did not result in death.

Packingham v. North Carolina, 582 US _ (2017): While this decision was unanimous on upholding a registrant’s right to social media (8-0, as Justice Gorsuch was not a part of the vote), the conservative justices Roberts, Alito, Roberts, and Thomas wrote a concurring opinion that state states should be allowed to regulate activity on certain websites.

²²⁴ See Ellman, Ira Mark and Ellman, Tara, 'Frightening and High': The Supreme Court’s Crucial Mistake About Sex Crime Statistics (September 16, 2015). Published at 30 Constitutional Commentary 495 (2015), Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2616429> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2616429>

US v Haymond, 588 US _ (2019): In a 5-4 split that ruled 18 USC 3583(k) violates the Fifth and Sixth Amendments by imposing a mandatory minimum punishment on a criminal defendant upon a finding by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant engaged in certain criminal conduct during supervised release, Ginsburg joined liberal justices Breyer, Kagan, and Sotomayor and conservative justice Gorsuch in the majority opinion. Conservative justices Alito, Roberts, Thomas, and Kavanaugh dissented. The case involved a Registered Person sentenced on a parole violation based on a “preponderance of the evidence” finding the registrant’s computer may have recently contained illicit photos.

While this pattern has not been universal (*See US v Comstock*, 560 US 126 (2010), where only conservative justices Alito and Thomas rejected the majority opinion that Congress had the constitutional authority to enact the Adam Walsh Act under the Necessary and Proper Clause), the majority of landmark cases impacting Registered Persons have been divided, with liberal justices more likely to vote against registry laws and other draconian sanctions.

This is not to say hoping for a favorable decision is a lost cause, but our expectations must be tempered. Anti-Registry Activists place too much faith in the Courts, which have only gotten more chaotic under the second Trump administration.

SUMMARY

“In the current social climate of our country, which is extremely dysfunctional, there will never be much popular support for drastically curtailing the registries. This translates to political action by all political parties that almost always goes against a registered person’s interests. Therefore, in my opinion, the only way we can hope to see relief is through the long slog of court challenges that will eventually show many of these registry laws to be unlawful and without merit. I am very excited to see the ALI’s changes to the Model Penal Code as it pertains to the registries. This is the path that will get us relief- eventually. All advocacy groups should continue, however, to educate the general public about the total uselessness of the current public registry scheme.” – A survey respondent

At the end of the documentary “Capitalism: A love Story,” filmmaker Michael Moore stated, “I refuse to live in a country like this — and I’m not leaving.” Anti-Registry Activists largely follow this mantra. Individually, we feel rather powerless, but we are more optimistic amongst members of established groups that we can influence the government. However, we’re still largely pessimistic about the future given the recent return of tougher sanctions for Registered Persons.

Registered Persons live under a series of draconian measures and long to be free of these oppressive laws. However, most Anti-Registry Activists still show higher levels of patriotism than the average American, despite being a hated and readily disenfranchised group. At the same time, twice as many ARAs have no feelings of patriotism than the average American. Simply put, we both love and hate the US at a higher rate than the average American.

While many of us feel we are on the receiving end of an abusive relationship with our government, most would rather “love it” than “leave it.” Furthermore, we believe a governmental collapse would not benefit us in the long-run.

ARAs are optimistic in some ways, but the chaos under the Trump administration may curtail some of that optimism, especially under an ultra-conservative US Supreme Court.

Additional comments from ARAs:

- “Not enough political pressure on elected officials. They run on false bravado of tough on crime which is BS.”
- “It's never ever going to change. Will never happen. Politicians want to be reelected so they'll never vote to reform the laws. Sorry.”
- “It's here to stay because it is so well entrenched into federal and state law, it will never go away despite the good efforts to end this pernicious law. And it really all about the\$\$\$\$\$. Follow the money trail.....”
- “Registry reform is political suicide. The only way to strike it down is through the courts.”
- “The system is rigged and morally bankrupt. The politicians/judiciary use it as tool to promote their agendas and careers. The laws are so overwhelming that you don't ever really feel you're on safe ground.”
- “The USA has declared war on registrants by fomenting government-sponsored hatred. Let's push back!”
- “The registry is long overdue to be taken down completely! It is totally unconstitutional, clearly a human rights violation plus the unprecedeted allowing of collateral damage of the families of registered people & furthermore to my knowledge it is the only laws allowed to be made retroactive?? Finally, it has been shown it is not "saving the children" or protecting anyone?? However, the reality of it is, it might never come down completely or even come down at all. Because it is a political tool/platform, political career maker/money maker!!”
- “Why are there little or NO use of statistics that show how ineffective the registry has become? If it has to stay there must be more tiers showing WHO the people are who need to be watched. There must be a termination date that is humane, logical, and fair. Reviews of Registrants cases can show unconstitutional arrests or searches. Also, Judicial prejudice, and how the system enables Attorneys, Prosecutors and Judges to use the system for personal and political gain.”
- “I have ample knowledge in U. S. Federal law and have had petitions filed in court, although with very messed up results. For instance, the Western District of Louisiana, Lake Charles Division implied that the State of Louisiana is permitted to kill sex offenders as punishment for violating federal law. My suit involved the State of Louisiana taking for itself, without proper delegation of authority under SORNA, to create punishments for violating federal law. I used various points from pre-emption to Chevron Deference to the non-delegation doctrine to constitutional avoidance to the interpretive cannon exclusio unius to prove my case. I explicitly challenged all laws that was substantively different than SORNA, which included La. R. S. 14:91.2 (proximity laws), but the court exceeded its jurisdiction by not only failing to adjudicate an injury of fact under Article III of the constitution in the enforcement of unconstitutional laws, but held that SORNA delegated the authority (which meant that all laws were constitutional) to execute the registration process (which I did not challenge because SORNA required me to register with the State of Louisiana, but that such an apparent authority did not include the right to create a slew of additional regulations not explicitly provided by SORNA). At this point, the court implied that Louisiana can do anything they want to those who were convicted of a Federal Sex Offense.”
- “A good question that I'd be interested in hearing answered is which state lawmakers do you know that would take some action at least to wrong or inappropriate sex offender laws and penalties?”
- “My life is no longer mine. Since marrying my husband who falls under the FL ex post facto law, we can't travel, take cruises or go to theme parks. He served his time completed probation and shouldn't be held on the registry 30 years after his offense, which today would fall under Romeo and Juliet laws. Yet lawmakers can stay in office, keep their war chests and not be held to the rest of the laws that registered persons have to comply with or be charged with new felonies for violating those requirements. Until lawmakers are held to the same standard, the registry should be abolished.”
- “I believe SCOTUS should be made to admit that they erroneously set opinion that sex offenders have a "frighteningly high" rate of recidivism.”
- “Abolish the registry. Mass incarceration is a money making scam, harming all.”

- “To take a mountain you can't attack it from the front, you have to attack from all sides . Little lawsuits add up to big results. Lawsuits against polygraphs and violating our constitutional rights. More resources to contact politicians who will listen. They don't like to respond to anything that's sex offender associated.”
- “Get the heck out of the country before they put SO's in locked camps!!!”
- “The registry is not going anywhere it's more likely to have the U.S. government create kill teams and or gas chambers for us on the registry.”
- “The registry does nothing but harm. I cannot believe that more of the public and especially lawmakers do not understand this.”
- “I believe the whole Registry is designed to further punish people who have already completed their sentences. “No punishment to too harsh for a sex offender.” I had a deal with the state. “You serve this sentence and we're all square.” The state reneged on this deal.”
- “It seems the only way to abolish this registry is through the courts.”
- “You have to specifically educate judges too, not just legislators. Even if they won't do the right thing while on the bench for fear of losing their job, it may influence sentencing and they may speak out, as some have, when retired. Coming from a judge is powerful. I also would like to see a huge protest in D.C. or a day for protests at every state capitol. Inundate the local cops there with too many registrations they can't handle and get the families seen/stories out there. Help train public defenders on the law for PFRs and how to fight them.”
- “I am the mother of a registered citizen. The biggest reason used for the registry by politicians is to prevent from hiring offenders to work with children. Public knowledge. Would that not be something that can be found in a criminal report anyway?”
- “Should you be able to live in your house and never leave for needs or entertainment you might have a chance and frankly this is what the legislators want but they don't want to provide the assistance. They want their cake and eat it too as they say. I highly resent having to pay taxes for public libraries, pools and other amenities and social safety nets that I can't have access to because I'm a registered person. Since I can't have access to it why should I have to pay for it???? I really find it interesting that what I'm supposedly guilty of in my state isn't illegal in over 87% of the country and 99.1% of the world but here I sit. Two countries that border our nation Mexico and Canada if I lived there I wouldn't have committed any crime but if I traveled there they would have me arrested at the border. You just can't make this stuff up. There was absolutely no thinking or consideration by the politicians and law enforcement when they decided to put these laws into place. A total lack of common sense. As I said earlier MORALLY BANKRUPT!!!!”
- “I left Florida where my charges were. Florida was a nightmare. I always felt that I was being set up to fail. I don't feel that way now. I'm a low-risk offender. I was caught in a Craigslist entrapment sting. North Carolina has largely left me alone.”
- “I believe that until we can separate Sex offender laws from ‘getting tough on crime’ mentality, it will be difficult to get politicians who otherwise agree with removing the registry for low risk offenders, to publicly support it.”
- “Praying that Texas will adopt the ALI approved recommendations MPC on sex offenses.”
- “What about the Bill of Rights and that all men are created equal?”
- “The registry costs states way too much money to maintain, and half the time they are slow to update them.”
- “Sex offender registration has solved nothing to keep the public safe. What it has done, it has added jobs, and is costing millions of dollars to run. Not to mention it created untold amount of money to be made by so called treatment centers. It has gotten so large, with so many rules, regulations that I doubt the US Attorney General could remember them or even live under them. The government created a whole new class of people. Unwanted.”
- ““This could be a small step legislators could get behind. If passed on Federal level then maybe more states would follow. Human and just treatment of elderly and handicapped. Revision to SORNA,

AWA, and IML to make the law reflect a more human and just treatment of the elderly, infirm, disabled, hospitalized, handicapped, Alzheimer, and the like. Regardless if a person is required to register as a Tier I, II, or III level they may make application to be removed if they meet the following criteria.

- 1. Removal requests due to disability shall meet the following.
 - A. Have a permanent disabling infirmity that makes it impossible or difficult for them to properly maintain a registration, which may be, but not limited to Alzheimer, dementia, bed ridden, hospice care, or hospital confinement.
 - B. Or have a permanent confinement to a nursing home, mental institution, or hospital.
 - C. Have a certified letter from a registered medical professional that states the said person has this mental or physical disability that makes maintaining a registration an extreme hardship or near impossible requirement.
- 2. Removal request if a person has reached the age of 70 and meets the following requirements:
 - A. The person is a minimum of 70 years of age or older.
 - B. A minimum of 20 years has passed since the commission of the offense(s) that required their registration requirement with no new related felony charges.
 - C. Have successfully completed an approved sex offender program in any jurisdiction.
 - D. Have maintained a registry in good standing for the whole time they have been on the registry and have no outstanding related felony charges.
- Is the United States of America & its legislators so heartless & cruel they will force the elderly, infirm, disabled, hospitalized, handicapped, Alzheimer, or others with limiting factors to be forced into facing prison or suicide. SORNA & AWA registry Tier system does not provide for many any other option for removal but death. If they are limited by abilities to register or miss a set date in most states they face felony charges & prison, with death as their only other option. Felony charges required under failure to register leave no options either. While some states require electronic monitoring yet they allow termination at age sixty-five which does recognize that the elderly are low risk & provide for termination of electronic monitoring no such provision is in SORNA & AWA registry Tier system. For many death is the only option left or go to prison, suicide for many is the only way out left by the law. You need to propose and sponsor changes in the law to address this problem. Remember the saying 'Salus populi suprema lex esto', Latin for 'the welfare of the people shall be the supreme law.' which indicates that a country should always put their people first, but is that only for a limited set of people while others are forced by the state to choose prison or suicide."

TRUST IN NEWS AND THE MEDIA

Questions 34, 91-98 all address attitudes towards the media and news stories related to Registered Persons.

Q34: How often do you keep up with news related to the issue of sex offense laws?

Q34: Do you check SOR news?	Frequently or Often	Regularly	Seldom or Rarely	Never
TOTAL (695)	44.17% (307)	42.3% (294)	13.24% (92)	0.29% (2)
RPs (464)	45.47% (211)	41.38% (192)	12.93% (60)	0.22% (1)
LOs (169)	40.83% (690)	43.2% (73)	15.38% (26)	0.59% (1)
Others (62)	43.55% (27)	46.77% (29)	9.68% (6)	0% (0)
Males (508)	44.29% (2250)	41.54% (2110)	13.78% (70)	0.39% (2)
Females (178)	45.51% (81)	43.26% (77)	11.24% (20)	0% (0)
NARSOL (469)	50.75% (238)	40.3% (189)	8.96% (42)	0% (0)
ACSOL (284)	54.58% (155)	36.62% (104)	8.8% (25)	0% (0)
WAR (232)	54.31% (126)	38.36% (89)	7.33% (17)	0% (0)
TX Voices (59)	54.24% (32)	38.98% (23)	6.78% (4)	0% (0)
FAC (193)	64.77% (125)	29.53% (57)	5.7% (11)	0% (0)
Once Fallen (138)	60.14% (83)	32.61% (45)	7.25% (10)	0% (0)
Republican (193)	37.31% (72)	45.08% (87)	17.62% (34)	0% (0)
Democratic (318)	46.86% (149)	41.82% (133)	11.32% (36)	0% (0)
Libertarian (55)	40% (22)	47.27% (26)	12.73% (7)	0% (0)
Other Parties (129)	49.61% (64)	37.21% (48)	11.63% (15)	1.55% (2)

Q92: Do you agree or disagree the coverage of sex offense news topics in popular media is merely advertising for the registry or pushing stronger laws against Registered Persons?

Q92: Media promotes SOR?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
TOTAL (695)	54.68% (380)	29.64% (206)	12.37% (86)	2.16% (15)	1.15% (8)
RPs (464)	54.09% (251)	31.25% (145)	11.21% (52)	2.16% (10)	1.29% (6)
LOs (169)	62.72% (106)	21.89% (37)	13.02% (22)	1.78% (3)	0.59% (1)
Others (62)	37.1% (23)	38.71% (24)	19.35% (12)	3.23% (2)	1.61% (1)
Males (508)	52.95% (269)	30.71% (156)	12.60% (64)	2.36% (12)	1.38% (7)
Females (178)	60.11% (107)	26.4% (47)	11.24% (20)	1.69% (3)	0.56% (1)
NARSOL (469)	55.01% (258)	30.92% (145)	10.23% (48)	2.56% (12)	1.28% (6)
ACSOL (284)	57.04% (162)	26.41% (75)	13.38% (38)	1.76% (5)	1.41% (4)
WAR (232)	55.17% (128)	30.17% (70)	11.64% (27)	1.72% (4)	1.29% (3)
TX-Voices (59)	50.85% (30)	30.51% (18)	10.17% (6)	6.78% (4)	1.69% (1)
FAC (193)	56.48% (109)	31.09% (60)	9.84% (19)	1.55% (3)	1.04% (2)
Once Fallen (138)	59.42% (82)	31.16% (43)	7.25% (10)	0.72% (1)	1.45% (2)
Republican (193)	61.66% (119)	24.87% (48)	11.4% (22)	1.55% (3)	0.52% (1)
Democratic (318)	48.11% (153)	33.33% (106)	12.89% (41)	3.46% (11)	2.2% (7)
Libertarian (55)	49.09% (27)	36.36% (20)	12.73% (7)	1.82% (1)	0% (0)
Other Party (129)	62.79% (81)	24.81% (32)	12.4% (16)	0% (0)	0% (0)

Q91: *Where do you get news on sex offense topics? Check ALL that apply.*

Q91: News Sources	National MSM	Local Media	ARA websites	Search Engines	Social Media	ALL of the Above	NONE of the Above
Total (695) (295)	42.45% (295)	38.42% (267)	69.06% (480)	39.14% (272)	19.42% (135)	26.04% (181)	2.45% (17)
RPs (464) (206)	44.4% (206)	41.38% (192)	72.2% (335)	39.66% (184)	18.53% (86)	25.22% (117)	2.8% (13)
LOs (169) (53)	31.36% (53)	26.63% (45)	60.95% (103)	34.32% (58)	15.98% (27)	29.59% (50)	2.37% (4)
Others (62) (36)	58.06% (36)	48.39% (30)	67.74% (42)	48.39% (30)	35.48% (22)	22.58% (14)	0% (0)
Males (508) (228)	44.88% (228)	41.14% (209)	71.06% (361)	40.55% (206)	18.9% (96)	24.8% (126)	2.56% (13)
Females (178) (62)	34.83% (62)	30.9% (55)	62.36% (111)	34.27% (61)	20.22% (36)	30.9% (55)	2.25% (4)
NARSOL (469) (207)	44.14% (207)	40.51% (190)	72.49% (340)	41.36% (1940)	20.47% (96)	28.14% (132)	1.92% (9)
AC SOL (284) (118)	41.55% (118)	39.79% (113)	76.41% (217)	38.38% (109)	21.13% (60)	28.17% (80)	0.70% (2)
WAR (232) (88)	37.93% (88)	34.05% (79)	70.26% (163)	45.69% (106)	25% (58)	34.48% (80)	0.86% (2)
TX-Voices (59) (30)	50.85% (30)	44.07% (26)	74.58% (44)	47.46% (28)	27.12% (16)	42.37% (25)	0% (0)
FAC (193) (86)	44.56% (86)	39.38% (76)	73.06% (141)	47.67% (92)	21.76% (42)	30.05% (58)	2.07% (4)
OnceFallen (138) (58)	42.03% (58)	39.86% (55)	76.09% (105)	50.00% (69)	26.81% (37)	35.51% (49)	0.72% (1)
Republican (193) (80)	41.45% (80)	38.34% (74)	70.98% (137)	36.79% (71)	20.73% (40)	25.39% (49)	2.59% (5)
Democratic (318) (156)	49.06% (156)	43.08% (137)	71.07% (226)	35.85% (114)	18.55% (59)	25.16% (80)	0.94% (3)
Libertarian (55) (22)	40% (22)	45.45% (25)	61.82% (34)	50.91% (28)	21.82% (12)	30.91% (17)	0% (0)
Other Party (129) (37)	26.36% (37)	24.03% (31)	64.34% (83)	45.74% (59)	18.6% (24)	27.13% (35)	6.98% (9)

Q93: *How well do you trust the mainstream media in general, not just on sex offense topics?*

Q93: Trust in media?	Not at all	A Little	Moderately	A lot	Strongly/ Completely
Total (695)	44.89% (312)	27.63% (192)	23.17% (161)	3.74% (26)	0.58% (4)
RPs (464)	45.26% (210)	27.37% (127)	22.84% (106)	3.66% (17)	0.86% (4)
LOs (169)	49.11% (83)	26.63% (45)	20.71% (35)	3.55% (6)	0% (0)
Others (62)	30.65% (19)	32.26% (20)	32.26% (20)	4.84% (3)	0% (0)
Males (508)	43.9% (223)	26.97% (137)	24.02% (122)	4.33% (22)	0.79% (4)
Females (178)	49.44% (88)	28.09% (50)	20.79% (37)	1.69% (3)	0% (0)
NARSOL (469)	43.71% (205)	28.78% (135)	22.6% (106)	4.05% (19)	0.85% (4)
ACSOL (284)	45.07% (128)	27.82% (79)	21.83% (62)	4.23% (12)	1.06% (3)
WAR (232)	52.16% (121)	25.86% (60)	17.67% (41)	3.45% (80)	0.86% (2)
TX-Voices (59)	54.24% (32)	23.73% (14)	16.95% (10)	5.08% (3)	0% (0)
FAC (193)	49.22% (95)	27.46% (53)	19.69% (38)	3.11% (6)	0.52% (1)
Once Fallen (138)	51.45% (71)	26.81% (37)	18.84% (26)	2.17% (3)	0.72% (1)
Republican (193)	71.5% (138)	18.65% (36)	9.84% (19)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Democratic (318)	22.96% (73)	31.45% (100)	36.48% (116)	7.86% (25)	1.26% (4)
Libertarian (55)	52.73% (29)	29.09% (16)	16.36% (9)	1.82% (1)	0% (0)
Other Party (129)	55.81% (72)	31.01% (40)	13.18% (17)	0% (0)	0% (0)

Q94: *If a reporter came to your door to discuss sex offense laws, would you agree to an interview?*

Q94: Agree to an Interview?	YES	Only the media aligned w/ beliefs	Only if I can be anonymous	NO
Total (695)	26.62% (185)	8.78% (61)	43.02% (299)	21.58% (150)
RPs (464)	22.84% (106)	7.33% (34)	48.06% (223)	21.77% (101)
LOs (169)	30.18% (51)	12.43% (21)	35.5% (60)	21.89% (37)
Others (62)	45.16% (28)	9.68% (6)	25.81% (16)	19.35% (12)
Males (508)	23.82% (121)	7.68% (39)	46.85% (238)	21.65% (110)
Females (178)	34.83% (62)	12.36% (22)	32.02% (57)	20.79% (37)
NARSOL (469)	26.23% (123)	7.89% (37)	46.48% (218)	19.4% (91)
ACSOL (284)	26.06% (74)	7.75% (22)	46.48% (132)	19.72% (56)
WAR (232)	30.6% (71)	9.05% (21)	40.52% (94)	19.83% (46)
TX-Voices (59)	35.59% (21)	10.17% (6)	40.68% (24)	13.56% (8)
FAC (193)	30.57% (59)	6.74% (13)	44.04% (85)	18.65% (36)
Once Fallen (138)	26.09% (36)	10.87% (15)	43.48% (60)	19.57% (27)
Republican (193)	24.87% (48)	10.36% (20)	47.67% (92)	17.1% (33)
Democratic (318)	29.87% (95)	9.12% (29)	40.25% (128)	20.75% (66)
Libertarian (55)	20% (11)	3.64% (2)	50.91% (28)	25.45% (14)
Other Party (129)	24.03% (31)	77.52% (10)	39.53% (51)	28.68% (37)

Q95: *In the rare instances registry reformists or abolitionists are featured in the media, do you feel reporters have a genuine interest in reporting the facts or simply adding Registrants for “shock value” or “sweeps week ratings”?*

Q95: Media Motivations	Sweeps Week/“Shock Value”	Genuine Interest	Equal Interest and Shock Value	Unsure/ I don’t now
Total (695)	61.44% (427)	5.04% (35)	19.57% (136)	13.96% (97)
RPs (464)	64.22% (298)	5.17% (24)	18.32% (85)	12.28% (57)
LOs (169)	62.13% (105)	2.37% (4)	19.53% (33)	15.98% (27)
Others (62)	38.71% (24)	11.29% (7)	29.03% (18)	20.97% (13)
Males (508)	62.6% (318)	5.91% (30)	19.49% (99)	12.01% (61)
Females (178)	59.55% (106)	2.81% (5)	19.66% (35)	17.98% (32)
NARSOL (469)	62.05% (291)	4.48% (21)	20.04% (94)	13.43% (63)
ACSOL (284)	61.62% (175)	4.93% (14)	19.01% (54)	14.44% (41)
WAR (232)	61.64% (143)	4.74% (11)	19.4% (45)	14.22% (33)
TX-Voices (59)	61.02% (36)	1.69% (1)	28.81% (17)	8.47% (5)
FAC (193)	64.25% (124)	3.63% (7)	19.69% (38)	12.44% (24)
Once Fallen (138)	71.74% (99)	2.17% (3)	13.04% (18)	13.04% (18)
Republican (193)	70.47% (136)	3.63% (7)	17.1% (33)	8.81% (17)
Democratic (318)	51.57% (164)	7.55% (24)	24.84% (79)	16.04% (51)
Libertarian (55)	60% (33)	3.64% (2)	14.55% (8)	21.82% (12)
Other Party (129)	72.87% (84)	1.55% (2)	12.4% (16)	13.18% (17)

Q96: *Do you agree or disagree that media outlets aligned to your political beliefs are better suited to discuss sex offense reform efforts?*

Q96: Same aligned Pol. Media Trust?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
TOTAL (695)	9.21% (64)	21.58% (150)	52.09% (362)	8.06% (56)	9.06% (63)
RPs (464)	8.62% (40)	21.34% (99)	52.8% (245)	8.62% (40)	8.62% (40)
LOs (169)	10.65% (18)	21.3% (36)	50.89% (86)	7.69% (13)	9.47% (16)
Others (62)	9.68% (6)	24.19% (15)	50% (31)	4.84% (3)	11.29% (7)
Males (508)	9.45% (48)	20.67% (105)	52.17% (265)	8.66% (44)	9.06% (46)
Females (178)	8.99% (16)	22.47% (40)	52.81% (94)	6.18% (11)	9.55% (17)
NARSOL (469)	9.59% (45)	20.9% (98)	50.75% (238)	8.53% (40)	10.23% (48)
ACSOL (284)	9.86% (28)	19.72% (56)	50.7% (144)	8.1% (23)	11.62% (33)
WAR (232)	9.91% (23)	21.98% (51)	52.16% (121)	7.33% (17)	8.62% (20)
TX-Voices (59)	5.08% (3)	16.95% (10)	62.71% (37)	5.08% (3)	10.17% (6)
FAC (193)	10.36% (20)	18.65% (36)	51.81% (100)	6.74% (13)	12.44% (24)
Once Fallen (138)	10.14% (14)	20.29% (28)	51.45% (71)	7.25% (10)	10.87% (15)
Republican (193)	3.63% (7)	11.4% (22)	58.55% (113)	13.99% (27)	12.44% (24)
Democratic (318)	13.21% (42)	33.02% (105)	43.4% (138)	5.66% (18)	4.72% (15)
Libertarian (55)	5.45% (3)	18.18% (10)	61.82% (34)	9.09% (5)	5.45% (3)
Other Party (129)	9.3% (11)	10.08% (13)	59.69% (77)	4.65% (6)	16.28% (21)

Q97: Should mass media be allowed to report on "sex offenders in your community"?

Q97: Should media report on RPs in town?	YES	NO	Unsure/ I Don't Know
TOTAL (695)	7.05% (49)	77.27% (537)	15.68% (109)
RPs (464)	6.03% (28)	76.94% (357)	17.03% (79)
LOs (169)	4.14% (7)	84.62% (143)	11.24% (19)
Others (62)	22.58% (14)	59.68% (37)	17.74% (11)
Males (508)	8.07% (41)	75.2% (382)	16.73% (85)
Females (178)	4.49% (8)	82.02% (146)	13.48% (24)
NARSOL (469)	7.04% (33)	78.04% (366)	14.93% (70)
ACSOL (284)	6.34% (18)	78.87% (224)	14.79% (42)
WAR (232)	6.03% (14)	82.33% (191)	11.64% (27)
TX-Voices (59)	8.47% (5)	76.27% (45)	15.25% (9)
FAC (193)	7.77% (15)	77.72% (150)	14.51% (28)
Once Fallen (138)	5.8% (8)	80.43% (111)	13.77% (19)
Republican (193)	5.7% (11)	78.24% (151)	16.06% (31)
Democratic (318)	7.55% (24)	78.3% (249)	14.15% (45)
Libertarian (55)	7.27% (4)	70.91% (39)	21.82% (12)
Other Party (129)	7.75% (10)	75.97% (98)	16.28% (21)

Q98: Should social media be prevented from posting information about "sex offenders in your community"?

Q98: Ban social media from posting RPs?	YES	NO	Unsure/ I Don't Know
TOTAL (695)	83.45% (580)	9.06% (63)	7.48% (52)
RPs (464)	83.62% (388)	8.62% (40)	7.76% (36)
LOs (169)	87.57% (148)	6.51% (11)	5.92% (10)
Others (62)	70.97% (44)	19.35% (12)	9.68% (6)
Males (508)	82.09% (417)	10.24% (52)	7.68% (39)
Females (178)	87.64% (156)	6.18% (11)	6.18% (11)
NARSOL (469)	83.16% (390)	8.74% (41)	8.1% (38)
ACSOL (284)	85.92% (244)	8.1% (23)	5.99% (17)
WAR (232)	87.5% (203)	6.47% (15)	6.03% (14)
TX-Voices (59)	79.66% (47)	8.47% (5)	11.86% (7)
FAC (193)	82.9% (160)	8.81% (17)	8.29% (16)
Once Fallen (138)	83.33% (115)	8.7% (12)	7.97% (11)
Republican (193)	85.49% (165)	8.29% (16)	6.22% (12)
Democratic (318)	85.85% (273)	7.55% (24)	6.6% (21)
Libertarian (55)	72.73% (40)	14.55% (8)	12.73% (7)
Other Party (129)	79.07% (102)	11.63% (15)	9.3% (12)

DISCUSSION

“All forms of media should focus more on 1) differentiating between situational sex offenses and true pedophilia and 2) how the registry and “stranger danger” is actually a harmful distraction from the most prevalent danger - the people (men) that we know and are close to, who have no previous convictions. The registry gives a false sense of safety to society at large, all the while making it possible for molestation to occur unnoticed, unreported, and undetected in homes across the nation.” – One respondent to this survey

The common understanding of the term “media” is a place where we receive news. The landscape of what we consider the “media” is rapidly changing, however. The conglomerate of individuals and groups referred to as the “Anti-Registry Movement” gained traction in part through new technology designed to connect opinions of individuals with the media in a way that was nearly impossible in the 20th century. As media outlets moved online, news outlets began allowing viewers to comment on news articles, giving Anti-Registry Activists the opportunity to challenge negative reporting and debunking erroneous statistics. Over time, the media shifted towards using social media services like Facebook for comment boards and/or outright moving comment areas to a social media page. Today, anyone can spread misinformation through social media, bypassing traditional media altogether. However, these “independent”, agenda-driven pundits are also a form of the media. Additionally, many anti-registry groups share news articles of interest and have become a form of media in its own right. It has, at times, gained attention of the media and allowed ARAs the opportunity to voice an opinion and challenge the media.

MEDIA FOCUS ON “SEX OFFENDERS”

“I think we need more public education. All sex offenses/offenders are not the same, yet they are lumped together. Society’s general belief is that if you have been convicted of a sex offense, you are a pedophile and you will always be one. Also, bad news is easy to get and sells quickly. There’s definitely too much hate and division about hard topics in life.” – One respondent to this survey

Throughout the history of the Anti-Registry Movement, activists have challenged erroneous reporting, and so our outlook on the media is more negative than the average American. After all, many ARAs spend their time looking for negative reporting for the sake of challenging and debunking bad reporting.

Research into media portrayals of persons accused or convicted of sexual offenses confirms what we already knew—news reports are largely negative.

A 2022 study by John Navarro and Ethan Higgins²²⁵ found that, “four salient media frames used to construct the sex offender. These four frames – the monstrous sex offender, the psychotic sex offender, the sex offender versus the victim, and the humanized sex offender – were structured by scripts to describe sex offenders and their offenses. Additionally, these frames and scripts were underscored by specific policy solutions.” Each depiction leads to an emphasis on specific legal policy:

1. “Monstrous”
 - a. “Serial Rapist” → Apprehension

²²⁵ Navarro, John & Higgins, Ethan. (2022). Media frames and the sex offender: A qualitative content analysis from six major metropolitan areas. *Journal of Crime and Justice*. 46. 1-18. 10.1080/0735648X.2022.2074868.

- b. “Behaviorally Violent SO”→ Banishment
 - c. “Familiar SO”→ Public Education
- 2. “Psychotic”→ Medical Vernacular→ Civil Commitment
- 3. “SO versus the victim”
 - a. Victim-Centered→ Sex Crime Policies
 - b. Victim-Oriented (forefront or afterthought)→ Shapes the SO
 - c. Victim-Omission→ Disregards the victim
- 4. Humanized
 - a. Juvenile SO→ Rehabilitation
 - b. (General) SO→ Restoration

“The monstrous sex offender was the most salient frame employed across newspaper outlets in discussions of sex crimes. This frame was underpinned by three prominent scripts: the prowling or elusive serial rapist, the excessively violent or brutal sex offender, and the familiar sex offender who hides in plain sight. Each script within the monstrous sex offender frame was broadly anchored by conservative rhetoric on sex crimes and policy solutions, a certainty of re-offense, and animalistic descriptors for sexual offending. The frame’s focused use of dehumanization meant that treatment was rarely discussed and suggested that monstrous sex offenders were unredeemable...”

“Another frame that communicated a conservative orientation was the presentation of sex offenders as psychotic. A shared feature between the psychotic and monstrous sex offender frames was the predisposition toward sexual compulsions. Medicalized language to describe sexual offending underscored the psychotic sex offender frame, which contrasted with the scant mention of treatment in the monster sex offender frame. The psychotic sex offenders were scripted with pathology as their criminal sexual acts were a product of a mental disease or defect, whereas monstrous sex offenders were othered as inherently evil. Medical terminology was saliently used within articles of this frame to construct the sex offender who needs psychiatric institutionalization. Terms like ‘deranged,’ ‘ill,’ ‘commit,’ and ‘institutionalize’ accompanied inferences to medical professionals, like ‘doctors’ or ‘mental health officials,’ suggesting that sex offending is a chronic psychiatric condition that requires treatment. This medical vernacular existed in stark contrast to those used when characterizing the monstrous frame (e.g., ‘monster,’ ‘predator,’ ‘wicked’)...”

“Our analysis also identified that newspapers used the victim as a tool to frame the sex offender with three scripts. In two of these scripts, the presence of the victim emerged in the data. The first script was victim-centered to implicitly dehumanize the sex offender while prominently featuring sex crime policies. The second script was victim-oriented, whereby victims had various degrees of appearance either at the forefront (to emphasize harm done to the victim) or as an afterthought (to assist the sex offender depiction within) the sex crime news story. Moreover, considering that complete omission or a lowered profile of certain features can be as important as the inclusion of information in media framing (Entman 1993), our analysis demonstrated a third script where the victim was downplayed or missing when detailing sex crimes. At times, victims were featured with character depth within stories concerning sex offending. Some articles provided a victim-centered script instead of the offender being the core piece of the news story... Stories of individual victims were shared with potential policy strategies communicated from the victim’s perspective, where crime victims or non-state actors were united with state actors to sponsor legislation to prevent future victims of sex crimes...”

Some newspapers humanized sex offenders by undermining common prejudices or stereotypes, evidenced by an absence of negative language used to describe sex crimes. The humanized sex offender frame was interwoven with considerations of redemption, and police or courts were seldomly depicted within this counter frame. Instead, discussions of evidence-based rehabilitation and reintegration practices were tied with education or moral campaigns to curb fearmongering around sex crimes. These articles served as a

negative case analysis due to the significant departure from the dehumanizing and policy-oriented rhetoric that anchored the previous sex offender frames, with salvageability scripted for juvenile sex offenders and redemption scripted for sex offenders in general. Within a humanized sex offender frame, a humanistic discourse dominated articles that positively framed juveniles identified as perpetrators of sex crimes... Despite articles widely having castigated sex offenders, some articles devoted space that favorably communicated rehabilitation and re-entry processes for all sex offenders: 'We should not use what "they" did to "us" to justify what "we" do to "them." They come from us. Reclaiming offenders is not only good public policy, it is the responsibility of a just and compassionate society' (Minnesota Star Tribune, 17 June 2015). This counter-discourse humanized sex offenders by constructing them with a sense of self and introspection.'

The Navarro and Higgins study did a great job of organizing the different approaches the media takes to the subject of Persons Forced to Register. Furthermore, it is not just that we *feel* most news stories are negative, it is that most news stories *are* negative.

Furthermore, outlets offering any form of online commenting are filled with negative comments or actions, even if the news reporting is positive. For example, in 2010, the Times Daily, the newspaper for Northwest Alabama, ran a positive report on a man who bought an old hotel and was using it as a program for Registered Persons. After that Times Daily report, the man and his fiancée began receiving late night telephone death threats. The city of Sheffield's building inspectors were under pressure to shut down the dilapidated hotel. Someone even drove around the hotel in the dead of night, noting the layout of the place while discussing where they could plant bombs, and subsequently posted the "findings" on YouTube. Churches denied assistance to anyone working or living at the hotel. Despite working with law enforcement in the past, the police did nothing to help. No one wanted to rent from a hotel flagged as a sex offender ghetto, and eventually the hotel closed its doors; the owner had moved away and sold the property.²²⁶

Given all of the research, it should now be surprising Anti-Registry Activists have little faith in the media. Overall, barely 3% of respondents across every category of respondent to this survey disagreed even slightly with the notion that the coverage of sex offense topics is "merely advertising" for the public registry and increased legislation against Registered Persons. People in the "Others" category were significantly less likely to "strongly agree" or neither agree nor disagree, but the level of those who didn't agree the media is pro-registry advertorials was only slightly higher, at just under 5%. There was also more strong agreement with this statement among females than males (by around seven percentage points), and no significant differences between anti-registry groups. There was significantly more distrust in the media between Republican voters (at 61.66%) and those who voted "Other Party" (62.79%) both Democratic (49.09%) and Libertarian (49.09%) voters, though only Democratic voters has a higher than average rate of trust in the media, at around 5.6%.

One major stereotype of mainstream or "legacy" media is the use of "sweeps week" periods where controversial topics that offer a "shock value" may be covered by news media as a way to gain more viewers. One promo aired by Oregon TV station KATU epitomizes this "sweeps week" mentality:

The promo begins with a deep-voiced narrator, with matching ominous piano music playing in the background throughout the promo, stating ominously, "Thursday night at 11: after Private Practice-- Sex

²²⁶ Derek W. Logue. "Empty Building Reflects Empty Hearts: NIMBYism and the closing of Shady Court." REFORM Alabama. 25 Dec. 2010. Accessed 11 June 2025 at <https://reformalabama.blogspot.com/2010/12/empty-building-reflects-empty-hearts.html>

offenders, Next Door!” The promo then adds a clip of some random white, blonde woman (a “Karen” to use the current vernacular”), looking flustered while stating, “There are so many more sex offenders around me than I thought.” The promo cuts to a KATU reporter sitting in a darkened room next to a laptop showing the top of the webpage for the Oregon registry. She adds, “I’m K2 investigator Anna Canzano. Is your neighbor a sex offender?” She then points to the laptop, then the screen switches to the website, “The State website only gives you a *fraction of the information.*” The phrase “Fraction of the Information” is shown in bold type on screen. Then the scene changes back to Karen and what I presume to be her two children viewing a computer while looking concerned. Ana continues: :I’ll show you the best way to find out if there’s danger living in your neighborhood. (This is followed up by a couple of blurred pictures of residences. It is unclear if they are homes of actual registrants or stock photos. Next, Karen is back on the screen, who says in an angry-sounding voice, “Who are they trying to protect?” (Finally it ends with a video of one of the blurred homes with the phrase “PROTECT YOUR FAMILY” and the “THE SEX OFFENDER NEXT DOOR” is shown in bold type, followed by a video of someone typing into the registry site; the low-voiced narrator returns, adding, “Protect your family from the sex offender next door! Thursday night at 11: on K2 news.”²²⁷

Some Anti-Registry Activists, including the person writing this report, have had interviews that have landed in media reports. In 2018, Derek Logue of Once Fallen was featured in a news report by the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News” entitled, “Sex offender says Ohio’s registry ‘destroys lives,’ should be abolished.” The headline alone can add to a negative reaction from the reader; anti-registry activists have pushed back against the use of the term “sex offender for years. While the report is intended to highlight the struggles Registered Persons face, the media report also added the offense that landed Mr. Logue on the registry, which would cause readers to react negatively as well. Finally, there was an opposing opinion from a county prosecutor who shows no sympathy and adds the needs of the public outweigh the needs of the individual.²²⁸ Rarely do activists get allowed to voice dissenting opinions in articles spotlighting pro-registry activists and officials.

Overall, three out of five Anti-Registry Activists (61.4%) view reporting on anti-registry activism to be motivated by shock value or sweeps week ratings than by a genuine interest or desire for fair reporting, while only one out of twenty ARAs feel the media has a genuine interest in fair reporting of anti-registry activism. Those in the Others category deviate greatly from this noting, with only 38.7% feeling the media is focused more on shock value/sweeps week ratings and 11.3% say the media have a genuine interest in fair reporting. Also, Democratic (51.6%) and Libertarian (60%) voters were less likely to feel the media is motivated primarily by shock value/sweeps week ratings than Republican (70.5%) and voters of other parties (72.9%).

TRADITIONAL, MAINSTREAM, OR “LEGACY” MEDIA

“Because I believe in the First Amendment, of course mass media should be able to report anything they want. That doesn’t mean that I will respect their journalism.” – One respondent to this survey

²²⁷ “The Sex Offender Next Door promo.” KATU. 31 Jan. 2012. Accessed 11 June 2025 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgQZyPpjIMk>

²²⁸ Josh Sweigart. “Sex offender says Ohio’s registry ‘destroys lives,’ should be abolished.” Dayton Daily News. 23 March 2018. Accessed 11 June 2025 at <https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/sex-offender-says-ohio-registry-destroys-lives/ANVp5LPEWrptbGOIgR5XDJ/>

“I believe that media should do whatever they want (freedom of the press). My issue is with the existence with the registry. If there were no registry, media wouldn’t report on sex offenders in your area. Thank you for all your efforts (i.e., your website, activism, etc.).” – Another respondent to this survey

Traditional forms of media—the television or “cable” news, radio, and “newspapers”—have faced decreasing levels of trust since its peak in the 1970s. According to Pew, “in 1973, most Americans expressed a high degree of trust and confidence in the news media to do its job. Democrats (74%) and Republicans (68%) were generally on the same page. But by 2023, while the media had lost ground with both groups (and with independents), the gap had widened dramatically, with just 11% of Republicans trusting the media, compared with 58% of Democrats.²²⁹

A 2024 Gallup poll found that in 2023, 7% of respondents have a “great deal” of confidence with the media, 25% have a “fair amount”, 29% “not very much” and 39% have no confidence in the media. Democratic (15%) voters are far more likely than Republican (1%) or Independent (5%) voters. Republican (56%) voters are far more likely than Democratic (11%) and Independent (43%) voters to have no faith in the media.²³⁰

Comparably to our own survey (Note: Numbers are rounded up to the nearest whole number since the Gallup poll rounds to the nearest whole amount; here, Libertarian will be added to the “Independent” category since the Gallup poll did not make a separate category for third party candidates):

“Great Deal” of faith in media	2023 Gallup	2023 ARA survey
ALL	7%	1%
Males	5%	1%
Females	8%	1%
Democratic	15%	1%
Republican	1%	0%
Independent	5%	0%

No faith in media	2023 Gallup	2023 ARA survey
ALL	39%	45%
Males	43%	44%
Females	35%	49%
Democratic	11%	23%
Republican	58%	77%
Independent	43%	54%

Among the comparable categories, Anti-Registry Activists have less trust in the media than the average American, except among male ARAs. Since many of those in the “Loved Ones” category in this survey are female, this is the most likely reason they scored four percentage points higher than Registered Persons. Only NARSOL (44%) and ACSOL (45%) supporters scored at or below the total of ARAs that

²²⁹ Jesse Holcomb. “Media Mistrust Has Been Growing for Decades—Does It Matter?” Pew Charitable Trusts. 17 Oct. 2024. Accessed 11 June 2025 at <https://www.pew.org/en/trend/archive/fall-2024/media-mistrust-has-been-growing-for-decades-does-it-matter>

²³⁰ Full statistics can be found though a link at Began Brenan. “Media Confidence in U.S. Matches 2016 Record Low”. Gallup. 19 Oct. 2023. Accessed 8 Oct 2024 at <https://news.gallup.com/poll/512861/media-confidence-matches-2016-record-low.aspx>

chose “no faith at all” in the media; Texas Voices (54%), WAR (52%) and Once Fallen (51%) all scored over 51% in the amount of supporters choosing “no faith at all” in the media.

In short, faithlessness of the media is stronger in the Anti-Registry Movement than in the general public. Concerns over media bias can influence the willingness of ARAs to correspond with media outlets. One respondent stated, “I would only agree to an interview if my attorney was present, and the interview was in her office.”

Interestingly, only around one out of five ARAs would not agree to an interview under any circumstances. Registered are more willing to agree to interviews only under certain stipulations, specifically an agreement to speak anonymously. Registered Persons are around half as likely as someone in the Others category to agree to an interview without stipulations; Registered Persons are twice as likely than those in the Others category to speak anonymously to the media.

The mainstream media continues to run exposés similar to the aforementioned reports and reports akin to advertorials for the public registry. Just over three out of four ARAs believe the news media should not be allowed to cover “sex offenders in your community” reports, compared to just 7% who believe that they should. This is nearly universal except for those in the “Others” category, where 22.6% believe the media should be allowed to release such reports and only three out of five believe they should not.

SOCIAL MEDIA

“I don't believe apps like TikTok should be allowed to post shit about hunting sex offenders. Y'all say free speech it's an open threat nothing is done about. All scams on registered persons have no consequences I've called the sheriff several times when I have been threatened nothing they can do.” – One respondent to this survey

“Social Media such as Google is wrong to report - my son's coworkers have accessed this information. My autistic son, mentally ill, developmentally delayed son viewed child porn and it has ruined his life and our lives.” – Another respondent to this survey

Like it or not, social media has overtaken traditional media as a primary source of news for a growing number of Americans in recent years. According to a 2024 Pew Research survey of 10,658 people found that around 54% of Americans get at least some of their regular news from social media. Facebook and YouTube were the most commonly used social media outlets for news, with a third of respondents using each platform, followed by Instagram (20%) TikTok (17%), Twitter (12%) and Reddit (8%). News consumers who lean to the political right are more likely to use Facebook and YouTube, while those who lean to the political left are more likely to use Instagram, TikTok, and Reddit; an even amount of both political party adherents were using Twitter at the time of the survey.²³¹ However, following the 2024 election, many on the political left deleted their Twitter accounts (dubbed the “X-odus”, as Twitter was recently rebranded as X) and joined other social outlets like Threads (also owned by Facebook/Meta) and BlueSky (an open-source Twitter clone created by the original co-founders of Twitter).²³²

²³¹ “Social Media and News Fact Sheet” Pew Research, 17 Sept. 2024. Accessed 22 Nov 2024 at <https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/fact-sheet/social-media-and-news-fact-sheet/>

²³² Fiona McIntyre. “The X-odus: Why academics are leaving X for Bluesky.” Research Professional News. 20 Nov 2024. Accessed 22 Nov 2024 at <https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-uk-universities-2024-11-the-x-odus-why-academics-are-leaving-x-for-bluesky/>

By contrast, only 19% of ARAs in this survey use social media as a source of news, with 25% chose all options including social media. Of course, some social media outlets are extremely hostile towards Registered Persons. Meta, the social media conglomerate that owns Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger, among others, has a long history of discrimination against Registered Persons. Facebook's long history of animus towards people accused of convicted of sexual offenses is a microcosm of the overall problem with hatemongering that infests the social media platform.

Facebook has been accused of promoting hatred for profit more than any social media platform. The Wall Street Journal²³³ published a series of leaked documents by Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen in 2021. Haugen once worked as a product manager for Facebook's now-dissolved "Civic Integrity" group. In an interview with 60 Minutes, Haugen stated, "The thing I saw at Facebook over and over again was there were conflicts of interest between what was good for the public and what was good for Facebook. And Facebook, over and over again, chose to optimize for its own interests, like making more money... I've seen a bunch of social networks and it was substantially worse at Facebook than anything I'd seen before." As the 60 Minutes show added, "She secretly copied tens of thousands of pages of Facebook internal research. She says evidence shows that the company is lying to the public about making significant progress against hate, violence and misinformation. One study she found, from this year (2021), says, 'we estimate that we may action as little as 3-5% of hate and about 6-tenths of 1% of V & I [violence and incitement] on Facebook despite being the best in the world at it.'"²³⁴

Registered Persons have been specifically targeted by Facebook executives since the early days of the company.

In 2008, Attorneys General in 49 states worked with Facebook to implement a policy prohibiting Registered Persons from creating a Facebook profile.²³⁵ Facebook chief privacy officer Chris Kelly supported the "Keeping the Internet Devoid of Sexual Predators Act (KIDS)," a law requiring Registrants to register their Internet identities. In a company post later reported by CNet, Kelly stated, "The penalties and consequences for registrants violating KIDS' provisions are so severe, we hope they'll deter potential predators from coming online altogether. This is a vital step in protecting children online, and it is by no means the end of our efforts... At Facebook, we've long barred registered sex offenders from our service. Currently, we work cooperatively with individual states' attorneys general to check users against state-registered sex offender lists." Facebook and legal authorities "consistently find that these (state) registries lack the essential e-mail and IM data for comprehensive and rapid screening. The process is also less efficient and less effective than anyone, especially concerned parents, would like, which is why we're such ardent supporters of the KIDS Act Registry."²³⁶

²³³ See <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-facebook-files-11631713039>

²³⁴ Scott Pelley. "Whistleblower: Facebook is misleading the public on progress against hate speech, violence, misinformation." 60 Minutes / CBS. 4 Oct. 2021. Accessed 12 March 2022 at <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/facebook-whistleblower-frances-haugen-misinformation-public-60-minutes-2021-10-03/>

²³⁵ Erick Schonfeld. "Scoop: Facebook To Announce Safety And Privacy Deal With 49 States." Tech Crunch. 8 May 2008. Accessed 12 March 2022 at <https://techcrunch.com/2008/05/08/breaking-facebook-to-announce-safety-and-privacy-deal-with-49-states/>

²³⁶ Caroline McCarthy. "Facebook's safety chief responds to KIDS act." CNet. 14 Oct. 2008. Accessed 12 March 2022 at <https://www.cnet.com/culture/facebook-safety-chief-responds-to-kids-act/>

Chris Kelly would later run for California Attorney General, losing in the Democratic Primary to Kamala Harris.²³⁷

Facebook has gone beyond merely prohibiting banning Registered Persons, allowing hate speech to permeate the platform. A 2017 article by The Guardian contains training slides from “Facebook’s manual on credible threats of violence”; one training slide stated “advocating for cruel and unusual punishment for crimes FB recognizes” is not considered a credible threat. Another training slide included acceptable “non-threats” like “hang child molesters” and “pedophiles are going to experience the electric chair anyways. They Deserve it!”²³⁸

In 2019, the Washington Examiner reported that in the “Do not post” section on its website, Facebook changed its standards in a July 2019 update to allow an exception to its “Violence and Incitement” standard for individuals “described as having carried out violent crimes or sexual offenses, wherein criminal/predator status has been established by media reports, market knowledge of news event, etc.” Facebook eventually responded to the Washington Examiner, stating, “We don’t allow credible threats of violence against anyone. We do allow some speech that calls for certain forms of violence, such as calls for the death penalty for criminals or support for military action against terrorists. We have updated our Community Standards to be more clear about this.”²³⁹

Facebook said in an update to their “Violence and Incitement” community standards, “The language we previously used to describe our policies against violence and incitement was imprecise. We have since replaced it to more clearly explain the policy and underlying rationale... In some cases, we see aspirational or conditional threats directed at terrorists and other violent actors (e.g. Terrorists deserve to be killed), and we deem those non credible absent specific evidence to the contrary,” the company said.²⁴⁰

As of March 2022, that policy has not truly changed. On the Facebook/Meta “Transparency Center,” exclusions against hate speech are made “those who are considered non-protected groups described as having carried out violent crimes or sexual offenses or representing less than half of a group.” (This same page also states referring to certain protected groups as sexual deviants IS a violation of hate speech.)²⁴¹

As a result of Facebook’s policies, hate groups targeting Registered Persons have proliferated on social media platforms but it is particularly noticeable on Facebook. For example, one hate group called “No Peace For Predators” (NPFP) was formed on Facebook in August 2010 (but claims it was established in 2009) and works exclusively through Facebook. The stated “GOAL” of this group is, “That the Sexual Predator becomes Exposed, Exiled, and ultimately, Extinct.”²⁴² The group uses a brass knuckle as a symbol for the group (which has recently been modified to include a pair of assault rifles forming an X). Most posts are memes calling for the deaths of Registered Persons, referring to all Registrants as

²³⁷ “Chris Kelly (entrepreneur).” Ballotpedia. Accessed 12 March 2022 at [https://ballotpedia.org/Chris_Kelly_\(entrepreneur\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Chris_Kelly_(entrepreneur))

²³⁸ “Facebook’s manual on credible threats of violence.” The Guardian. 21 May 2017. Accessed 12 March 2022 at <https://www.theguardian.com/news/gallery/2017/may/21/facebook-s-manual-on-credible-threats-of-violence>

²³⁹ Ibid.

²⁴⁰ John Gage. “Facebook updates standards to allow death threats against alleged sexual offenders.” The Washington Examiner. 9 July 2019. Accessed 22 March 2022 at <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/facebook-updates-standards-to-allow-death-threats-against-alleged-sexual-offenders>

²⁴¹ “Hate Speech.” Meta Transparency Center. Facebook/Meta. Accessed 12 March 2022 at <https://transparency.fb.com/policies/community-standards/hate-speech/>

²⁴² See <https://www.facebook.com/NPFP1>

“pedophiles.” This group has also led harassment campaigns against anti-registry groups in the past. They have been reported multiple times over the years to no avail.

Another group called “Bikers Against Child Predators” uses a similar threatening slogan—“Hey All! This group to to stop/warn others about near by child predators. Post who ya got and let the bikers do there job!!”²⁴³ (Quote not edited for typos.)

In addition, vigilante “anti-predator” citizen sting groups like “Truckers Against Predators”²⁴⁴ post videos on people they accuse of being “pedophiles.” These groups may post a “call to action” to harass or otherwise disrupt the lives of the accused in some way. These groups may post a comment on the official business page they do not condone violence, but members of such groups will made comments calling for violence using their personal social media accounts. There are multiple Facebook groups using “Mothers Against Predator/ Pedophiles, or some variant of this phrase.

There are many individuals who engage in threatening behaviors on Facebook. Pastor Greg Locke of the “Global Vision Bible Church” in Juliet, TN, whose person Facebook page contains the slogan “BIBLICAL PREACHING EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY, RADICAL COMPASSION,” shows no compassion in a Facebook video posted on July 30, 2018. He begins the video with a warning the video will likely be removed (a clear sign that he should never have made the video) before going on a tirade claiming America is protecting “pedophiles” while bragging he would gladly “exercise my Second Amendment right to put a hole in you that big (holding hand in a C shape as large as he can) and I would not even think a second about it.” The pastor blamed homosexuality for what he believes is the movement to “protect pedophilia, because the LBGTQ whatever they are has opened a floodgate of perversity.”²⁴⁵

At least one online Facebook group was involved in a murder of a Person Forced to Register. On May 16th, 2020, James Fairbanks, armed with information from the public sex offense registry and a small Facebook vigilante group targeting a single Registrant²⁴⁶, committed the premeditated murder of Matteio Condoluci. Fairbanks later confessed to the crime on Facebook.²⁴⁷

James Fairbanks found encouragement and assistance though a small group on Facebook called “Matt Condoluci (Preditor).”²⁴⁸ After the murder, Fairbanks attempted to contact Laura Smith, the administrator of the “Preditor” (sic) group²⁴⁹ to let her know the deed was done. After celebrating the murder, Smith

²⁴³ See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/244752793703333/>

²⁴⁴ See <https://www.facebook.com/TAPExposures>

²⁴⁵ Pastor Greg Locke. “WHAT!!!! PROTECTION FOR PEDOPHILES? YA’LL ARE SICK IN THE HEAD. #PleaseShareThis.” Facebook Video. 30 July 2018. Accessed 12 March 2022 at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1899191796791362>

²⁴⁶ Nancy Gaarder , Kevin Cole , Alia Conley. “Authorities think man arrested in Omaha homicide wrote the email claiming responsibility.” Omaha World Herald. 19 May 2020. Accessed 12 March at https://omaha.com/news/crime/authorities-think-man-arrested-in-omaha-homicide-wrote-the-email-claiming-responsibility/article_d8f7b35e-3d1e-573e-b381-2414f2fd4c08.html

²⁴⁷ Omaha Scanner. “Man Arrested After Confessing To Homicide On Omaha Scanner Facebook Page.” Noss Media. 11 Sept. 2020. Accessed 12 March 2022 at <https://www.nossmedia.com/post/man-on-omaha-scanner-facebook-page-claims-to-be-killer-in-north-omaha-homicide>

²⁴⁸ Screenshots of activity from the Facebook group before the name change can be found at <http://absolutezerounites.blogspot.com/2020/05/did-online-facebook-group-stalking.html>

²⁴⁹ “Free James Fairbanks” vigilante group goes into hiding hours after admitting phone call with James Fairbanks. Absolute Zero Unites. 26 May 2020. Accessed 12 March 2022 at <http://absolutezerounites.blogspot.com/2020/05/free-james-fairbanks-vigilante-group.html>

changed the name of the vigilante group to “Free James Fairbanks” and created a GoFundMe page for Fairbanks. The group grew from a half-dozen members to over a thousand, and a few members began targeting individuals and groups who spoke out against the registry and condemned Fairbanks as a cold-blooded murderer.²⁵⁰

This should be a matter of great concern to social media platforms, especially given the fact that people often do not review the accusations, simply relying on a headline, a short video, or a social media post alone as the basis for attacking someone. In 2013, for example, Chad Lesko of Toledo, Ohio was falsely accused of child rape. An angry ex-girlfriend made a fake Facebook page out of spite and falsely claimed Lesko raped three girls and his son. Lesko was accosted by people at a public park and a church, and was even tackled by a law enforcement agent who believed the false Facebook post. The Facebook post received 30,000 “likes” before it was finally taken down.²⁵¹

While Registered Persons are not alone in experiencing cyberbullying and harassment, Facebook’s hateful stance on Registered Persons seems like the premier destination for vigilante groups and cyberbullies who seek an unpopular (and thus easy) target.

Despite all this, the majority of Anti-Registry Activists continue to utilize social media. In Once Fallen’s 2022 survey on social media use and harassment against ARAs, respondents reported that most commonly used social media outlet is Facebook (81.4%), YouTube (75%), and LinkedIn (55.1%); however, Facebook (69.1%), Twitter (21.2%) and YouTube (19.3%) were reported as having the highest levels of online harassment, with Facebook having more than three times the reported rate of any social media platform. But when dividing the number of users on each platform by the numbers reporting harassment on the same platform, Facebook (54.9%) still outpaced Twitter (28.5%) and Instagram (20.9%). LinkedIn users (5.8%) reported the least amount of harassment on the same platform.²⁵²

There is another key issue with the reliance of social media as a source of information. As noted by the American Psychological Association:

“According to behavioral models, exposure to misinformation increases the odds that people will believe it, which in turn increases the odds that they will spread it. At the same time, people do not necessarily need to believe misinformation in order to spread it; people may share information they know is false to signal their political affiliation, disparage perceived opponents, or accrue social rewards. Psychological factors contribute significantly to this process: People are more likely to share misinformation when it aligns with personal identity or social norms, when it is novel, and when it elicits strong emotions.”

“Misinformation spreads differently on social media than on legacy media such as television, radio, and newspapers. Mainstream news outlets tend to have robust safeguards in place to prevent and correct false claims, but several unique features of social media encourage viral content with low oversight. Rapid publication and peer-to-peer sharing allow ordinary users to distribute information quickly to large

²⁵⁰ “Facebook vigilante group used by murderer now stalking registered citizen activists.” Absolute Zero Unites. 22 May 2020. Accessed 12 March 2022 at <http://absolutezerounites.blogspot.com/2020/05/facebook-vigilante-group-used-by.html>

²⁵¹ Camille Dodero. “Viral Facebook Post Alleges Man Is a Wanted Rapist, But He’s Not.” Gawker. 24 May 2013. Accessed 12 March 2022 at <https://www.gawker.com/viral-facebook-post-alleges-man-is-a-wanted-rapist-but-509724902>

²⁵² Derek W. Logue. “CYBERBULLYING OF PERSONS FORCED TO REGISTER THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA.” OnceFallen.com. April 2022. Accessed 11 June 2025 at <https://oncefallen.com/cyberbullying-study-2022/>

audiences, so misinformation can be policed only after the fact (if at all). ‘Echo chambers’ bind and isolate online communities with similar views, which aids the spread of falsehoods and impedes the spread of factual corrections. This problem disproportionately affects individuals who consume content from conservative political sources.”

“Algorithms that track user engagement to prioritize what is shown tend to favor content that spurs negative emotions like anger and outrage. Overall, most online misinformation originates from a small minority of ‘superspreaders,’ but social media amplifies their reach and influence.”²⁵³

Social media routinely allows posts of personal information about Registered Persons. Many law enforcement agencies and vigilante groups post registry data on Facebook. Even when law enforcement is not allowed to post registry information that is not public, private citizens can obtain and post that info for personal gain. For example, a rather notorious vigilante obtained information of Level 1 registrants in Washington State; information on Level 1 Registrants are not posted publicly. This vigilante obtained the information and posted it publicly on a private website he created.²⁵⁴

When asked if there should be limits on posting information about *“sex offenders in your community”* on social media platforms, over four out of five ARAs stated that there should be a ban on posting registry data on social media, compared to 9% who believe registry data should be allowed on social media. Compared to the question regarding the posting of registry data by the mainstream media, respondents were more certain of their answers; while 15.7% of ARAs were not sure whether or not sex offense registry data should be broadcast by the mainstream media, only 7.5% were unsure if registry data should be posted on social media. Just as with the mainstream media, those in the ‘Others’ category are more open to allowing registry data on social media; just under one in five “Others” would be okay with allowing registry info on social media compared to just 8.6% of Registered Persons and 6.5% of Loved Ones. Politically, Libertarian voters (14.6%) and those Other Party voters (11.6%) are more willing to accept the posting of registry data than Democratic (7.6%) or Republican (8.3%) voters.

POLITICAL VIEWS AND TRUST

So far, there has been a trend in this section where Democratic voters have a significantly higher level of trust in the media than Republican voters, with Libertarians and other third-party or independent voters falling in between them. Many of us are also acutely aware that both mainstream/traditional media and social media have political slants. Fox News, for example is generally considered to be a conservative news outlet, while MSNBC is seen as appealing to liberals. For social media, Twitter has swung far to the right, and those in the left fled Twitter to a similarly designed platform, BlueSky.

In the “Politics and Voting” section of this survey, Anti-Registry Activists seem to agree that left-leaning politicians are more open to the message of the Anti-Registry Movement. This trend continues when asking if ARAs believe media outlets that cater to their political leanings are better suited to discussions about registry reforms. Nearly half of Democratic voters (46.2%) at least somewhat agree that media aligned with their beliefs are better suited to address registry reforms, compared to 23.6% of Libertarian voters, 19.4% of Other Party voters, and just 15% of Republican voters. Conversely, 26.4% of

²⁵³ “How and why does misinformation spread?” American Psychological Association. 29 Nov. 2023. Accessed 11 June 2025 at <https://www.apa.org/topics/journalism-facts/how-why-misinformation-spreads>

²⁵⁴ Alex Bruell. “Kelso man plans to publish names of Cowlitz level 1 sex offenders.” The Daily News. 7 Sept. 2018. Accessed 11 June 2025 at https://tdn.com/news/local/kelso-man-plans-to-publish-names-of-cowlitz-level-sex/article_06eacf7-e599-5843-82a4-5996c67c8c47.html

Republicans have at least some distrust with the media outlets that are aligned with their political views, compared to 20.9% of Other Party voters, 14.5% of Libertarian voters, and 10.4% of Democratic voters. This reflects the Pew article that found a political gap in trust in the media.

SUMMARY

“Mistrust of the news media has steadily increased for more than a half-century because of polarization, the proliferation of news sources in the internet age, and the industry’s retrenchment in the face of economic disruption.”²⁵⁵ The way Registered Persons have been portrayed by the media is a microcosm of the problems with the media in the first place. Overall, Anti-Registry Activists have little faith in both traditional forms of media and with social media. Political views do play at least some role in how we view the media. Even though Democratic voters and those in the “Others” category are more trusting of the media to discuss sex offense registry issues, the majority of Anti-Registry Activists have a pessimistic view of both mainstream and social media, and for good reason.

Still, we must rely on media to advance our own cause, making use of it a necessary evil. Thus, we agree to media interviews in hostile environments and establish social media accounts on hostile platforms in an attempt to promote anti-registry efforts, and it has at least led to modest success. After all, where would we be today if no one was aware anti-registry activism even exists in the first place?

More responses from ARAs:

- “I believe the only way to change the registry is to change public opinion and this requires public outreach. Many of the advocate organizations focus their efforts on conferences, speakers, trying to influence legislators, etc., and this does not change public opinion. Many legislators will not sponsor reforms until their constituents are behind the reforms.”
- All of these orgs need to get Lobbyists, write articles in newspapers & media companies nationwide, as well as get radio interviews, podcasts, and put up large billboards on the roads and highways just like other orgs do to raise awareness of corrupt politicians and to call to abolish death penalty in DC and in their state capitals, SCOTUS only respond when they are lobbied that's how this country works you want laws change lobby for them, everyone in DC want to get paid and look good doing it.”
- “I think 'sex' sells, so the press and the media LOVE salacious sexual material, the more 'down and dirty, disgusting and horrible, the better. People are sick!! Unless and until the public is EDUCATED as to who and what MOST of those on the registry are, nothing will ever change. Public opinion 'drives' politicians whose main job is to be re-elected at ANY cost to anybody or group of people. I feel that trained professionals who specialize in sexual predilections/dysfunction are the ONLY individuals who should determine a person's risk for reoffending, and even then, there needs to be periodic re-assessments during therapy. There ARE some dangerous predators and THAT is where the focus should be. Most dangerous predators live in the home with the child and are NEVER apprehended. A registry for TRULY dangerous predators (the few that there are) would be tolerable to me, however dangerous predators really need constant supervision and continued therapy. I have much more to express on this topic and I could go on and on, but I'll stop.”
- “I believe the public has no idea about the barbaric and life-destroying effects of the registry. There needs to be an informative piece on Netflix and other avenues to educate the public as to how the registry is like 16th Century shaming, banishment, and punishment all over again.”
- “I've often seen that a sympathetic "fiction based on reality" movie about a controversial topic deeply influences public opinion...”

²⁵⁵ Supra., Pew, “Media Mistrust”

- “Somehow, the public perception needs to be addressed, and then we can try to change the laws. A murderer is better viewed than a pedophile in the public eye, and mind.”

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS:ANATOMY OF THE ANTI-REGISTRY MOVEMENT

“The registry is a form of torture. I am financially successful right now but have been through hell to get here. My success can be taken from me in an instant with changes in laws or by having a neighbor find out about me and attack or kill me. I have lost jobs, housing and been harassed. This doesn’t only affect me. I am the sole provider for my family. If I have no home, my wife has no home. If I have no income or food, neither does my wife. I have been on the registry since 2000 and am stuck for the rest of my life even though I have become a productive member of society. I have not committed any crimes since being released from prison in 2008. I love my country. I support the police. I respect the law and help others when I can. But I am a second class citizen. I can’t travel or move to another state or city for that matter without having the risk of losing everything. Most people would like to see me die when they find out I’m on the registry. All registrants are in danger every day.” – One respondent that has found some successes in life despite inclusion on the registry

Throughout this survey and other writings, Once Fallen has attempted to establish an identity through the use of a common name—the Anti-Registry Movement—and have considered all efforts to organize a resistance to the sex offense registry and related efforts as anti-registry activism, and those who engage in such activities as “Anti-Registry Activists” (or ARAs for short) in this report. The movement referred to as the Anti-Registry Movement (ARM) in this report has a history spanning over a quarter of a century but in many ways, we’re still trying to find an identity. We cannot even agree on a name for our activist efforts, with only some activists even using the term Anti-Registry Movement. Thus, we do not have an identity in the way larger, more successful movements have like Black Lives Matter (BLM) or #MeToo.

All movements struggle over time to stay relevant. Many other large movements, like the 2011 “Occupy Wall Street” Movement, fell apart despite having a lot of momentum and the effects of corruption in our American Capitalist system. As noted by NBC in 2012, “Occupy Wall Street took center stage last fall, galvanizing thousands of people across the country to protest against the abuses of what they called the ‘one percent.’ But one year after the movement began, it has been reduced to a shadow of its former self: Occupy’s makeshift camps have been shuttered, its membership has dwindled amid internal squabbling and what critics called a lack of direction and goals, and its hopes for social change so far have been unrealized... As Occupy struggled to find its footing after being booted out of its camps, the New York flagship, in particular, wrangled with internal conflicts over financial transparency, leadership and tactics.”²⁵⁶

The foundations of anti-registry activism were laid before the turn of the 21st century and persist to this day, and we have peaked and dipped at various times throughout our nearly 30 year history. We are small and fragmented, yet the failure of larger movements like the Occupy Movement of 2011 show that it takes more than large numbers of angry people to keep a movement afloat.

In order to make our movement as efficient and powerful as possible with so few resources, we need the results of this survey to discover patterns and trends within the Anti-Registry Movement. There are a few prevailing themes that stand out throughout this survey:

²⁵⁶ Miranda Leitsinger. “One year later, what ever happened to Occupy Wall Street?” NBC. 16 Sept. 2012. Accessed 14 Dec. 2025 at <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/one-year-later-what-ever-happened-occupy-wall-street-flna1b5927957>

Most ARAs are older, while, male, highly educated, and forced to register: It is easy to conclude we simply need more “money and manpower,” but our shortcomings are a bit more complex. The Anti-Registry Movement is comprised primarily of Registered Persons (two out of three Anti-Registry Activists). One out of four ARAs are the loved ones, including Significant others, their families, and families of a Registered Person. Around one out of eleven ARAs are people who are not on the registry, but have taken up the mantle of anti-registry activism, including attorneys, civil rights activists, researchers, and others who believe the sex offense registry does more harm than good. In many ways, we are similar—most ARAs are white, older, and male, with high levels of education yet are more likely to be financially poor and more likely to experience disruptions in housing and employment. Because the Anti-Registry Movement consists primarily of older individuals that are more prone to have health issues, are less likely to keep up with exploiting the latest trends in technology and communication to spread the message of reform, and are simply more fearful overall of the negative consequences of speaking out on behalf of anti-registry activism.

We are almost evenly split on reform and abolition: In many ways, the ARM has suffered from hyperopia (far-sightedness). We are a deeply divided front. We have not yet agreed on an endgame; we are nearly evenly divided between reforming the sex offense registry and those who wish to see the SOR completely abolished. We are not in agreement over the means to achieve either goal. Those of us who don’t believe in the abolishment of post-release sanctions like the sex offense registry have the unenviable task of deciding who should be left to suffer under the draconian and oppressive laws we are fighting to abolish.

More talkers than activists: You cannot truly be an activist without action. Many Anti-Registry Activists are quick to tell others what they want the representatives of our small movement should be doing, but too few ARAs take action. And many who do anything at all feel safer doing the least labor-intensive actions like emails or signing online petitions. Fear and laziness do play a role in our struggle to motivate ARAs; however, lack of funds and having a movement primarily run by older people play a role in all of this. Activists are spread out across the US and many are unable (or unwilling) to travel beyond their own state to engage in any in-person activism. This is remedied to some extent through a state affiliate program, but participation remains small even on a state level.

Politics plays a bigger role in the Anti-Registry Movement than we care to admit: Throughout this survey, party affiliation and political alignment play a key role in shaping approach to anti-registry activism. At the least, more left-leaning and Democratic Party voters participated in this survey than right-leaning and Republican Party voters. There are simply more ARAs on the political left than the political right in this survey. Those on the political left were more likely to state they personally participated in activist activities. Those on the political right were less likely to get involved and more willing to admit they have personal or selfish reasons.

To be clear, the values and beliefs of Anti-Registry Activists are as diverse as the United States is diverse. We have different viewpoints on what it means to be an Anti-Registry Activist, what we are trying to achieve, and how to achieve it. It is admittedly hard to balance personal life and activism, especially while being of working age or having other issues in life such as family issues, health concerns, or even being targeted by hate groups or the law.

This survey was not intended to attack any particular viewpoint, nor does a majority agreeing on an issue mean it is more valid than the viewpoint of a smaller group of activists. This survey is merely an attempt to understand the beliefs, values, and opinions of ARAs to become a more effective front. In order to be more effective, we needed to look at the resources available, both in terms of money and manpower.

So, looking back at the results of this survey, how can we best utilize both our financial and human resources? Many people shared a number of ideas in addition to the actions already implemented by

activist groups. Anti-Registry Activists have already engaged in numerous actions, including involvement in litigation (lawsuits), influencing lawmakers, influencing the media, organizing and participating in public speaking events, organizing protests or “public awareness” events, gathering resources for Registrants in need (housing/employment/social services), and offering support Groups (in person and/or online). All of these actions have been the staples of the Anti-Registry Movement for years

Respondents to this survey feel we should be doing even more, including social media campaigns, developing registrant-supportive businesses, relational organizing & canvassing, directly engaging POTUS, writing Op-Eds, school assemblies to warn young men about the registry, debunking myths, eliminating background/registry checks, pushing for transparency of registry offices and registry supporters, helping RPs obtain pardons, zoom meeting, sponsor a lobbyist, legal defense funds, taking on TV shows publishing misleading info, educational videos, positive stories of RPs, support orgs open to assisting RPs, billboards, and working with various sex-positive organizations. This quite a long list of activities, and in order to do these things, we need people willing to Pushto accomplish these feats.

People are optimistic that we can change the course of post-conviction and post-release sex offense sanctions as a collective unit. Even though anti-registry groups have often worked competitively rather than cooperatively, the movement is viewed rather positively but most ARAs. But one important thing we must figure out is how to accomplish these goals from a “work-from-home” environment. A person living in a rural area is unlikely to have a way to meet a fellow activist. A person suffering from physical impairments or a sickness or without access to reliable transportation or cannot travel to meet fellow activists. A person who is not up-to-date with technology may not be able to make material that appeal to users of the latest social media websites.

While many readers can draw their own inferences from the data provided, I have my own wish list of improvements we could make to the existing Anti-Registry Movement far more effective:

Improve information gathering and sharing, and improve communication and networking among anti-registry groups: Because current groups lack effective communication with other groups or because some choose to act like information gathering is a competition, information can be forgotten because it is exclusive to a singular website that is not promoted by other websites. In addition, many anti-registry groups currently fail to offer resources to prisoners or those new to life on the sex offense registry. We do NOT have the benefit of having a large network, despite being spread out across the US. We could do a better job of finding local resources and sharing that information with the other groups for the benefit of prisoners and others new to sex offense legislation issues. These groups should also answer questions, including letters and emails from prisoners, or recommend someone who can answer their questions. Many groups are not receiving positive impressions from prisoners in particular because few activists will even help them by answering questions or providing some material for them.

Find new ways to get people involved and stop condemning anger: We have an aging activist population. While the average age of a Registered Person is believed to be around the mid-30s, but over 55% of Anti-Registry Activists are over age 55. This could explain why we have so few methods of getting people involved. For example, we don't have people regularly making video content for social media, nor are there in-person events in many locations. Our movement has coordinated many events but has chosen to “play it safe”, afraid to “rock the boat.” We are too concerned about the hurt feelings of those who hate us but have few qualms about hurting fellow activists. We're also afraid to get angry despite being abused by the law and those who enforce it. Furthermore, we have unknowingly encouraged people to be content with sending money for lawsuits, signing online petitions, and airing our grievances on dedicated forums for Registered Persons and their loved ones. This energy could be better spent on improving our current activist efforts.

We must provide activist training outside of an in-person conference: Once Fallen helped create the Anti-Registry Activist Manual in large part to offer some kind of guide for prisoners or others new to Anti-Registry Activism. Many groups offer no formal training program for new activists. Imagine going to work at a new job without any explanation as to what you must do, then having people angry with you for not understanding the assignment! This movement could create a series of training videos and make themselves available to advise others in how to be an effective activist. We must recognize that people with no prior activist experience may feel intimidated and concerned for their safety if they decide to speak out, or simply have no idea how to best serve our activist efforts.

If we could find ways to make the best use of our meager resources, we can greatly improve the efficacy of our movement. Simply put, we need confident, well-trained advocates who can bring new energy to an aging movement.

In recent years, it has felt at times that the Anti-Registry Movement has not adapted well to the changing social and political climate; although, in the interest of fairness, ARM is truly a grassroots campaign run by those with little to no expertise in frontline activism.

It feels at times like this movement is using the same playbook that brought us success in 2008 but is not offering as much success in 2025. Numerous issues still have yet to be addressed, such as taking on social media's promotion of vigilantes while silencing the voices of Registered Persons; Facebook also played a role in getting NARSOL's 2025 conference in Michigan cancelled by allowing vigilante groups to proliferate on the platform, making exceptions on terms of service bans for cyberbullying and doxing if the target is accused or convicted of a sex offense, and banning Registered Persons for utilizing the platform. States are bringing back death penalty for certain offenses, driver's license marks, and castration, and it seems this movement has largely failed to address this in any meaningful way.

However deficient we may perceive this movement to be, this movement is as ever-changing as American culture. There has been a changing of the guard at NARSOL. In recent months, NARSOL is taking a more active role in using their resources to fund and take an active role in litigation. Texas Voices and Florida Action Committee are organizing members to fight back against the passage of new legislation at the state and local level. These groups have also made statements that they now support abolishment of the registry, something they were seemingly unwilling to do in the past.

The Anti-Registry Movement may be bigger than ever, but the challenges are also getting bigger. This survey was created to look at trends in this movement so that we may best utilize the meager resources we have to be more effective. We have a massive challenge—an aging activist pool, the challenge of having activists gather when we are spread out across the nation, and disagreements over our goals and the means to achieve them are all things we must properly address in this movement.

LIMITATIONS OF THIS SURVEY

This was a 99-question survey created by a single person; it received 695 responses over a period of 4 months in the fall and winter months of 2022-2023. It was promoted through numerous anti-registry activist groups. For the few that made criticism about the survey and offered assistance to “improve” the survey, efforts were made to get feedback from others before the survey and no one bothered to assist in this endeavor. As with any survey, there was a purpose and goal for this survey; among them is inspiring others to create their own surveys. As with any new endeavor, there will always be growing pains and issues that are only found with the passage of time, and so I encourage others to improve upon this existing survey in future surveys of their own research and future surveys.

One key issue that stymies anti-registry efforts comes from the overwhelming negativity of our movement. Despite the stats showing there is overwhelming support and positive feelings for various anti-registry groups, the comments left by respondents seemingly betray the positivity results in this survey. Many quotes by survey respondents were overwhelmingly negative, and that was not by design. The respondent comments were not cherry-picked. This survey shared as many of the responses as possible aside from the responses thanking us for the survey or adding no comment or asking when the report will be released. It was difficult to incorporate relevant responses into a 99-question survey with 695 individual responses. Many were simply comments about the structure of the survey, thank you notes or notes proclaiming how much they hated the survey, a few insults, and those asking when the survey was to be published. This still left hundreds of comments that I did not publish in this survey.

Because this is a survey specifically targeting people who are actively engaged with various anti-registry activist movements, results may only be viable as a study on activists. While 2/3 of those who filled out this survey were Registered Persons, their responses may not represent the viewpoints or experiences of all persons who forced to register on the sex offense registry in the US. Generally, people seeking out anti-registry groups often do so because they are experiencing hardships related to sex offense laws, or are concerned about how new sanctions targeting persons forced to register may impact them.

The political landscape has changed drastically to the point I believe a similar survey may show different results due to the strong feelings people have in America regarding politics. This survey was first sent out to anti-registry groups just weeks before the 2022 mid-term elections, when we had a Democratic President, and in 2025 we have a Republican president. This survey has proven the political divide has impacted our very movement.

Admittedly some of the questions could have been reworded for better clarity, but in fairness, at the time, no one volunteered to proofread the survey. For example, a person who was convicted of a registerable offense but who is no longer required to register is technically not a Registered Person, though he or she may suffer other lingering effects of the registry. Also, future survey should use similar surveys from existing surveys such as those from Gallup or Pew to better compare ARAs to the general public.

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