

Terry Lenamon on the Death Penalty

Sidebar with a Board Certified Expert Criminal Trial Attorney



Terence M. Lenamon is a Florida Bar certified expert in the area of criminal trial law. With over 17 years experience he has built a reputation as one of Florida's most respected criminal defense lawyers. His defense has been sought by many high-profile clients and has led him through 20 first-degree murder trials and eight death penalty cases. That experience has brought him national recognition as a go-to commentator on death penalty issues. He is the force behind both deathpenaltyblog.com and Florida Capital Resource Center (floridacapitalresourcecenter.org), and can be reached at terry@lenamonlaw.com.

New Gallup Poll – 64% of Americans Approve of Death Penalty

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This week, the results of the latest [Gallup poll regarding capital punishment in the United States](#) were released, and can be read in their entirety over at [the Gallup site](#) (which includes nice visuals). Here are some of their 2001 – 2010 findings, in summary:

Asked if they were in favor of the death penalty or opposed capital punishment:

64% of Americans support death penalty for persons convicted of murder

29% of Americans oppose the death penalty for those convicted of murder.

[Note: in 1936, Gallup results showed 59% of Americans supported the death penalty here, and 38% opposed it.]

With the option to sentence someone convicted of murder to “life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole” instead of the death penalty:

49% chose the death penalty as the sentence for someone

convicted of murder

46% chose the life imprisonment option as the sentence for someone convicted of murder.

[Note: Gallup found that before 2000, there was a clear majority preferring the death sentence here.]

When considering how often the sentence of death is imposed in the United States, the results of the Gallup Poll reveal:

49% did not believe that the death penalty is imposed often enough

26% believed it to be “about the right amount”

18% found it imposed too often.

For more details on the findings and the Gallup Poll methodology, [check out the Gallup site](#).