

Cincinnati Voters on Police Stops

After years of documented racial disparities in Cincinnati police stops, Campaign Zero's analysis of Cincinnati Police Department contact cards reveals disparities at every stage of the stop process. A new July 2026 YouGov survey of 350 Hamilton County voters shows how voters view these disparities—and what they want to see change.

KEY FINDINGS



Cincinnati voters were unsurprised by the report finding racial disparities in police stops.

When told of an independent study that found Black people are 3.2x more likely to be stopped in a vehicle,

- 61% of Cincinnati voters responded, "These racial disparities match what I would expect here in Cincinnati."
- Only 14% responded that these results were surprising.

When told of an independent study that found Black people are 5.4x more likely to be stopped as a pedestrian,

- 59% of Cincinnati voters responded, "These racial disparities match what I would expect here in Cincinnati."
- Only 17% responded that these results were surprising.

When told of the City of Cincinnati's recent RFP for another independent study of contact card data,

- 75% of Cincinnati voters supported making the upcoming independent analysis of police stops available to the public.

When asked which is the primary solution for improving public safety,

- 60% of Cincinnati voters selected community investment – including jobs, housing, recreational centers, and treatment programs.
- Only 31% selected law enforcement.

Cincinnati voters support Campaign Zero's policy recommendations.

1. Re-establish the police stop analysis and early warning system.

- 70% of Cincinnati voters support bringing back the early warning system.

2. Revitalize The Community's Oversight Of Police Problem Solving.

- 69% of Cincinnati voters support expanding the authority of civilian oversight of policing in Cincinnati to monitor and discipline police who violate the law / department policy.

3. End Policing Of Misdemeanors That Do Not Impact Public Safety.

- 67% of Cincinnati voters say jaywalking does not impact public safety and should not be a criminal offense.
- 74% say that spitting in public does not impact public safety and should not be a criminal offense.

4. Amend Policy 15.101 - Bias Free Policing To Implement A Discipline Program For Officers And Supervisors With Racially Disparate Policing Records.

WHEN IT COMES TO OFFICERS WITH HIGH DISPARITY RATES:

- 74% of Cincinnati voters support investigations into the root cause of the disparity findings for each officer.
- 72% of Cincinnati voters support additional racial bias training for each officer.
- 55% of Cincinnati voters support suspension with pay and additional racial bias trainings
- 52% of Cincinnati voters support suspension without pay for these officers
- 45% of Cincinnati voters support terminating these officers.

5. Address Task Force Policing Disparities.

- 64% support a new policy requiring any specialized police unit focused on specific crimes to be reviewed to see whether they are stopping Black and White residents at different rates.

6. Develop A Clear Policy Permitting Anonymous Complaints Against Police Officers.

- 82% of Cincinnati voters support an anonymous complaints policy and state “anonymous complaints should be fully permissible.”

7. Contact Card Improvements - Make All Contact Card Data Available On The Public Portal.

- 67% of Cincinnati voters support making all contact card data public and up-to-date, including police officer names.

8. Remove Problematic Provisions From The Cincinnati Police Union Contract.

IN CINCINNATI, THERE ARE TWO MAJOR PROVISIONS IDENTIFIED AS BARRIERS TO ACCOUNTABILITY:

There are no records of discipline for police officers and/or supervisors that are permanently maintained in their employee file. At identified intervals, records of discipline are removed and/or destroyed.

- 65% of Cincinnati voters think records of police misconduct should be kept permanently in their employee file

There is a 3 year statute of limitations from the date of an incident that prevents the City from imposing discipline on an officer, even if the allegations are later found to be true.

- 66% of Cincinnati voters think there should be no time limit on discipline for proven misconduct

9. Implement All Use Of Force Policy Recommendations From 8 Can't Wait.

BAN NECK RESTRAINTS

- 63% of Cincinnati voters support banning both chokeholds and strangleholds.
- Only 16% think neck restraints should be allowed.

REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

- 75% support requiring CPD to log every time an officer uses force against a civilian, including pointing a firearm at someone, even if it is never fired.