



# Getting Right on Crime: Enhancing Public Safety and Redeeming Broken Lives



**Faith & Freedom Coalition Road to Majority Conference  
June 21, 2014**

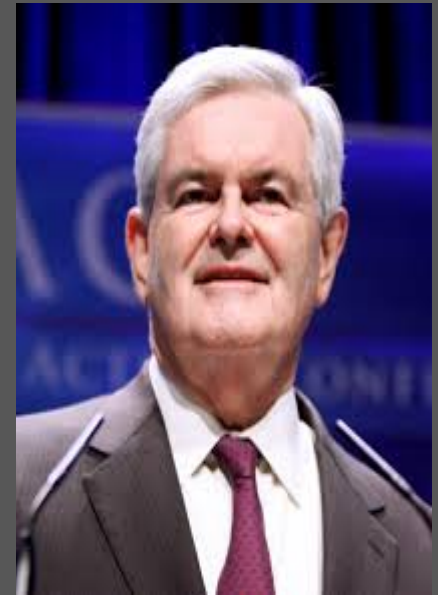
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# Introduction to the Texas Public Policy Foundation

- TPPF Mission: Individual Responsibility, Free Enterprise, Limited Government, Private Property Rights
- We apply these foundational principles to criminal justice, bringing together stakeholders and working with policymakers and allies across the spectrum.

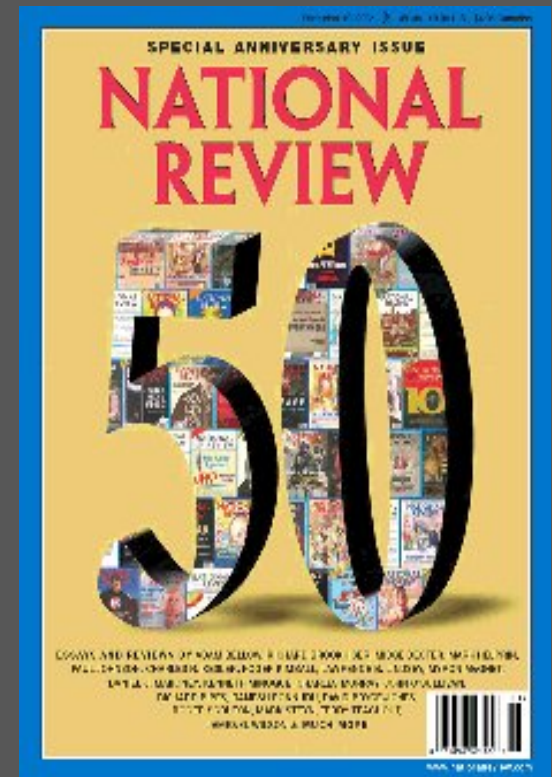
# Right on Crime Enters the Field

- Speaker Newt Gingrich, J. C. Watts, Ed Meese, Tony Perkins, Penny Nance, Ralph Reed, Bill Bennett, Rabbi Lapin, Grover Norquist, Ken Cuccinelli & Other Conservative Leaders Endorse Right on Crime Statement of Principles
- Statement Supports Restitution for Victims, Alternatives for Nonviolent Offenders Including Faith-Based Programs, Reining in Overcriminalization, & Strong Performance Measures.



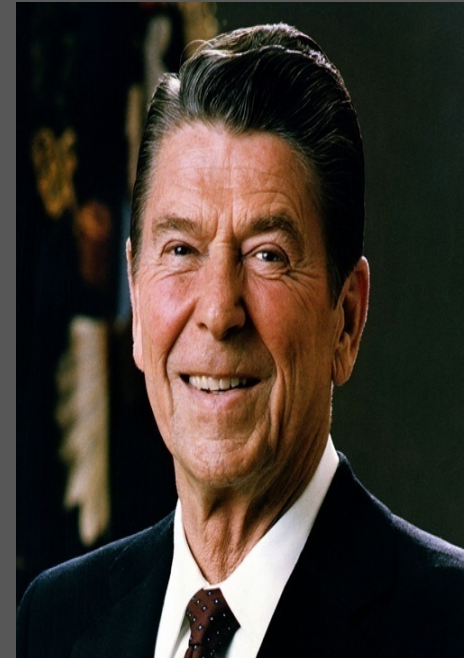


Favorably covered  
in numerous  
outlets such as:



# Getting Criminal Justice Right

- Gov. Reagan in 1971: “Our rehabilitation policies and improved parole system are attracting nationwide attention. Fewer parolees are being returned to prison than at any time in our history, and our prison population is lower than at any time since 1963.”



# Conservative Governors Take Lead

- LA: Gov. Jindal: “hammer away at dubious distinction of highest incarceration rate in the world” with day reporting centers & work release programs.
- TX: Gov. Perry: “rehabilitate nonviolent offenders, spend less locking them up again”
- Govs. Bryant, Daugaard, Deal & Corbett have spearheaded reforms.



*Gov. Bobby Jindal*



**While violent and dangerous criminals must be incarcerated, states like Texas are reducing both their crime and incarceration rates through alternatives that hold nonviolent offenders accountable in the community such as drug courts, probation with graduated sanctions and incentives, electronic monitoring, and requirements for holding a job and community service.**

# Texas Trend: Lower Incarceration *and* Crime Rates

Year	FBI Index Crime Rate	Incarceration Rate Per 100k
2005	4,857.1	681
2012	3,770.4	601
Percent Change	-22.4%	-11.7%

- ▣ Texas' crime rate has reached its lowest level since 1968.

*Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics and  
Texas Law Enforcement Agency Uniform Crime Reports*



# Making Victims Whole

- ▣ Probationers pay \$47 million in restitution (98 times more per offender than inmates) and do 9.7 million service hours.
- ▣ Victim mediation: Must be chosen by victim & offender. Proven to increase victim satisfaction as a result of apology and completion of restitution in 89% of cases. Most studies find less re-offending as well.

# The Victims' Perspective

## *Survey of Iowa Burglary Victims*

<b>Sanction</b>	<b>Percent Requesting</b>
<b>Restitution</b>	<b>81.4%</b>
<b>Community Service</b>	<b>75.7%</b>
<b>Pay Fine</b>	<b>74.3%</b>
<b>Regular Probation</b>	<b>68.6%</b>
<b>Treatment/Rehabilitation</b>	<b>53.5%</b>
<b>Intensive Probation</b>	<b>43.7%</b>
<b>Short Jail Term</b>	<b>41.4%</b>
<b>Boot Camp</b>	<b>40.0%</b>
<b>Work Release Facility</b>	<b>34.3%</b>
<b>Prison Sentence <math>\geq</math> Year</b>	<b>7.1%</b>

# Strengthening the Family

- ▣ Strong families = less crime, less government
- ▣ Juvenile justice programs that work best partner with family, rather than remove child
- ▣ Drug courts and prostitution courts effectively rehabilitate women who would leave an average of 2.3 kids behind if jailed
- ▣ Allow those who prove themselves crime-free to obtain occupational licenses and after several years to not disclose their offense so they get a job, support a family

# Unlocking the Power of Faith

- We must ensure that 7 million troubled Americans in the criminal justice system can pray, get spiritual guidance, and choose faith-based programs proven to work.
- In Texas, we restored the parole chaplains in 2007 to connect parolees with churches.
- Prison wardens should be evaluated partly based on how accessible they make their units to volunteers and mentors.

# Reining in Overcriminalization

- ▣ More than 4,500 federal offenses, not counting hundreds of thousands of regulatory offenses.
- ▣ EPA and other agencies are using obscure criminal laws no reasonable person would know about to criminalize capitalism.
- ▣ Rand Paul/Marsha Blackburn bill would repeal the Lacey Act provision that criminalizes conduct that violates laws of other countries, which led to the infamous Gibson Guitar raid.

# Key Resources

- ▣ Texas Public Policy Foundation  
[www.texaspolicy.com](http://www.texaspolicy.com)
  - ▣ Heritage Foundation  
[www.overcriminalized.com](http://www.overcriminalized.com)
  - ▣ Right on Crime  
[www.rightoncrime.com](http://www.rightoncrime.com)
- ▣ Pew Public Safety Performance Project  
[www.pewcenteronthestates.org](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org)
- ▣ Council of State Governments  
[www.csgjusticecenter.org](http://www.csgjusticecenter.org)
  - ▣ Justice Fellowship  
[www.justicefellowship.org](http://www.justicefellowship.org)