

# MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES  
FROM: ROBERT BLIZZARD  
DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2021  
RE: KENTUCKY POLL DATA



Public Opinion Strategies completed a statewide survey among N=600 registered voters ( $\pm$  4.0%), November 29-December 3, 2021. The purpose of this memo is to review key findings from that survey.

- Kentuckians overwhelmingly believe laws regarding animal cruelty and animal fighting, such as cockfighting, need to be stronger.**  
By a 59%-2% margin, voters across Kentucky believe laws regarding animal cruelty and animal fighting, such as cockfighting, need to be “stronger” rather than “weaker.” Republican voters (55%-2%), rural voters (61%-4%), and Trump '20 voters (55%-3%) all agree these laws need to be stronger.
- By a nearly unanimous margin, Kentucky voters support a proposal to strengthen law against animal cruelty and clarify language about cockfighting.**  
By an 89%-5% margin, voters support “strengthening Kentucky law against animal cruelty by clarifying that it is illegal to attend a cockfight, ban the sale and possession of roosters for fighting, ban fighting equipment used to train dogs and birds for fighting, and prohibit children from attending dogfights and cockfights.” Support for this proposal is significantly high among key GOP constituencies like Republican voters (86%-6%), very conservative voters (85%-7%), Trump '20 voters (86%-6%), suburban voters (90%-3%), rural voters (86%-8%), and those without a college degree (88%-6%). (Democratic voters also support this proposal by an equally high 90%-4%.)
- An elected official stands to gain votes in the next election by supporting this proposal.**  
Fully 58% of voters say would be “more likely” to elect a legislator who supported this proposal versus just 11% who say they would be “less likely.” There is little difference among Republican voters (59% more likely-8% less likely) and Democratic voters (58% more likely-13% less likely).
- Finally, after hearing from both sides, Kentuckians still side with those who want stronger laws against all animal fighting, including cockfighting, by an overwhelming margin.**

*Cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states, yet Kentucky has some of the weakest and confusing penalties for cockfighting in the country. Kentucky needs stronger laws against all animal fighting, including cockfighting, because it is animal cruelty and has been associated with illegal gambling and drug trafficking, as well as other illicit crimes.*

...or...

*Animal fighting, especially cockfighting, has been an important industry in Kentucky that provides critical financial support for many families. Politicians in Frankfort should have more important priorities to address than cracking down on a cultural tradition for generations of Kentuckians.*

