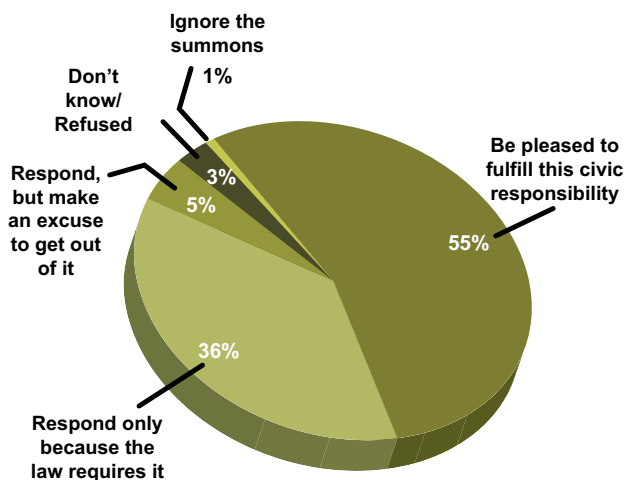


IndianaViews Survey Shows Most Hoosiers Report Positive Attitudes Toward Receiving a Jury Summons, but Many Do Not Know the Consequences of a Failure to Appear

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The IndianaViews Survey conducted by ThemeVision LLC and JEM Research asked Hoosiers what their most likely reaction would be if they received a summons in the mail to serve jury duty in an Indiana state court. The survey showed that 55% of those polled state-wide reported that they would be “pleased to fulfill this civic responsibility.” Thirty-six percent indicated they would respond to the summons only because the law requires them to. And, only 6% indicated that they would either ignore the summons or make up an excuse to get out of jury duty. These self-reported views of Hoosiers stand in stark contrast to the difficulties that Marion County, for example, has been experiencing in seating juries. It has been reported that, in 2007, only 40% of individuals called for jury service in Marion County showed up on the assigned day, down from a show rate of 47% in 2006. The result has been a crack-down on jury service no-shows. In January, for example, a Marion County judge issued warrants for 18 people who had failed to appear for jury duty.

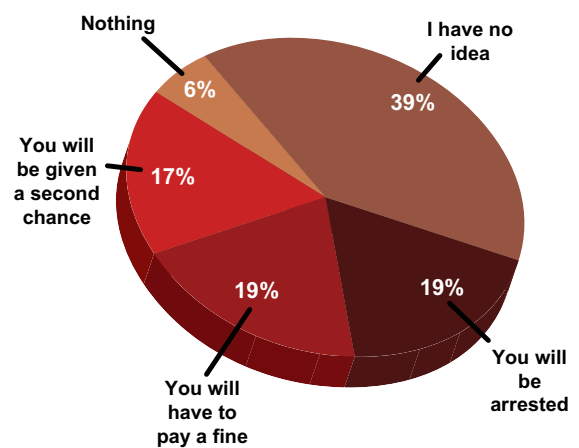
If you received a summons in the mail to serve jury duty in Indiana state court, would you:



By statute, a prospective Indiana juror who fails to respond to a jury summons without good cause may be found guilty of criminal contempt and fined up to \$100, imprisoned in a county jail for up to 3 days, or both. However, the exact penalty can vary. The IndianaViews survey asked Hoosiers what they believe is most likely to happen if a person fails to respond to a summons to serve jury duty in Indiana state court. The largest

percentage (39%) indicated that they “have no idea.” Nineteen percent responded “you will be arrested,” 19% responded “you will have to pay a fine,” 17% responded “you will be given a second chance,” and 6% responded that “nothing” will happen.

What do you believe happens if you fail to respond to a summons to serve jury duty?



Overall, the survey results show that, when asked in the abstract, Hoosiers report positive attitudes toward being summoned for jury duty. Dennis Stolle, President of ThemeVision LLC, says, “The key for policy makers and court administrators is to turn those initial positive attitudes into positive actions by increasing juror show-rates in counties such as Marion.” In addition to showing that 39% of Hoosiers have no idea what would happen if they failed to appear for jury duty, the survey shows that 23% believe that you would either be given a second chance or that there would be no consequence at all. These results suggest that 62% of Hoosiers could use further education regarding the consequences of failing to appear for jury duty, and those consequences need to be consistent and predictable. One effective approach to decreasing failure-to-appear rates in certain counties may be an increased public education effort to reinforce the positive views that many Hoosiers hold toward the civic responsibility of jury duty and to educate Hoosiers as to the consequences of failing to appear for jury duty.

Methodology: Results are based on telephone interviews with Indiana residents, aged 18 and older, conducted in March of 2008. Interviews were conducted state-wide with respondents from households with listed telephone numbers. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95 percent confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ±5 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.