

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

1.13.20

Topline Messages

Criminal justice reform has become a national, bi-partisan issue, with both federal and state-led initiatives in approximately 45 states to address rising prison populations, costs, and to avoid the massive costs of constructing new prison facilities, while also maintaining public safety.

Wisconsin communities need smart policies to address crime, expand alternative treatment opportunities and reduce recidivism rates.

Crime is best reduced when the community is brought together. In Milwaukee, [homicides are down for the second year in a row](#) because of that effort. Led by the Office of Violence Prevention, the city of Milwaukee is moving in the right direction. This was done at a fraction of the cost and without increased penalties or new prison spending.

Rep. Goyke Criminal Justice Reform Package (supported by Governor Evers)

Last week, Rep. Goyke introduced the Wisconsin Corrections Reform & Reinvestment Initiative. The reforms address:

- Non-criminal revocations
- Wisconsin's earned release system
- Changes to community supervision

These proposals provide a better alternative, to safely reduce the prison population and re-invest savings to reduce crime.

You can read more about these bills from this recent [State Journal article](#).

First Step Act

Last year, President Trump signed the “First Step Act”, legislation aimed at overhauling the criminal justice system in an effort to reduce the number of people in the nation’s prisons and help former inmates rejoin society.

The law would give more discretion to judges when sentencing people convicted of some federal drug crimes, boost rehabilitation efforts, and place prisoners closer to family in some cases. All intended to reduce recidivism rates.

Jared Kushner Visit

This week, Jared Kushner is speaking in Milwaukee. He will tout the First Step Act, signed by President Trump in 2018. The GOP bills go against the First Step Act.

- Louisiana: Dem Governor and GOP Legislature worked together to pass meaningful reforms.
- Maryland: GOP Governor worked with a Dem Legislature to do the same.

Under Wisconsin's divided government, this is the type of bi-partisan collaboration people want.