

**Manhattan Institute Chattanooga Crime Polling**

**Fieldwork dates: February 10 – 13 2024**

**Method: Live landline call (20%), live cell call (30%), SMS-to-web (50%)**

**Sample size: 550 Chattanooga residents**

**Margin of error: 4.2%**



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Q1. What is your age?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Under 18	0
18-29	17
30-39	22
40-49	15
50-64	20
65 or older	25
Refused	1

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Q2. Are you a resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Yes	100
No	0

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Q3. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
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Democrat	36
Republican	22
Unaffiliated/Independent	31
Some other political party	3
Not sure	8

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Q4. Thinking about your political beliefs overall, how would you describe yourself?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Very conservative	11
Somewhat conservative	19
Moderate	30
Somewhat liberal	18
Very Liberal	15
Not sure	7
CONSERVATIVE (NET)	30
LIBERAL (NET)	33

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Q5. Do you agree or disagree that people in your community are generally trustworthy?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Strongly agree	12
Somewhat agree	58
Somewhat disagree	15
Strongly disagree	6
Not sure	9

AGREE (NET)	70
DISAGREE (NET)	21

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Q6. Do you agree or disagree that people in your community are generally willing to help their neighbors?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Strongly agree	21
Somewhat agree	57
Somewhat disagree	14
Strongly disagree	4
Not sure	4
AGREE (NET)	77
DISAGREE (NET)	18

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Q7. Do you believe Chattanooga is cleaner or dirtier than it was before 2020?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Cleaner	28
Dirtier	26
The same	33
Not sure	13

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**Q8. Do you believe that there is more or less violent crime in Chattanooga than there was before 2020?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>More</b>	51
<b>Less</b>	10
<b>The same</b>	25
<b>Not sure</b>	14

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**Q9a. Would you say that crime and public safety are major issues across the United States?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	79
<b>No</b>	13
<b>Not sure</b>	8

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**Q9b. Would you say that crime and public safety are major issues across Tennessee?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	68
<b>No</b>	14
<b>Not sure</b>	18

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**Q9c. Would you say that crime and public safety are major issues in big cities?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9</b>

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**Q9d. Would you say that crime and public safety are major issues in Memphis?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>21</b>

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**Q9e. Would you say that crime and public safety are major issues in Chattanooga?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>8</b>

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Q10. Across the country generally, do you think we need more or fewer police officers?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
More	56
Fewer	12
Current number of police officers should be left as is	21
Not sure	11

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Q11. In Tennessee specifically, do you think we need more or fewer police officers?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
More	53
Fewer	12
Current number of police officers should be left as is	23
Not sure	12

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Q12. And even more specifically, here in Chattanooga, do you think we need more or fewer police officers?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
More	52
Fewer	11
Current number of police officers should be left as is	26
Not sure	11

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**Q13. How concerned are you, if at all, about public safety in Chattanooga?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very concerned	32
Somewhat concerned	44
Not very concerned	21
Not concerned at all	3
Not sure	0
<b>CONCERNED (NET)</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>NOT CONCERNED (NET)</b>	<b>24</b>

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**Q15. In which of these environments, if any, would you say that you often feel unsafe during the daytime?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Downtown	44
Where you go shopping	32
Your local park	21
Your neighborhood	15
Your place of work	13
Your home	7
Somewhere else	12
None of the above	35

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**Q16. And in which of these environments, if any, would you say that you often feel unsafe late at night?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Downtown</b>	60
<b>Your local park</b>	35
<b>Where you go shopping</b>	32
<b>Your neighborhood</b>	20
<b>Your place of work</b>	13
<b>Your home</b>	8
<b>Somewhere else</b>	11
<b>None of the above</b>	22

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**Q17\_1. The following actions are examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga. Do you believe that police should or should not arrest people for engaging in graffiti?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Should</b>	40
<b>Should not</b>	42
<b>Not sure</b>	18

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**Q17\_2. The following actions are examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga. Do you believe that police should or should not arrest people for engaging in public urination?**

**Total Respondents**



Response	Percent
Should	40
Should not	43
Not sure	17

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Q17\_3. The following actions are examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga. Do you believe that police should or should not arrest people for engaging in littering?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Should	26
Should not	63
Not sure	12

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Q17\_4. The following actions are examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga. Do you believe that police should or should not arrest people for engaging in setting up a homeless encampment in a public space, like a sidewalk or park?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Should	23
Should not	59
Not sure	18

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Q17\_5. The following actions are examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga. Do you believe that police should or should not arrest people for engaging in mugging someone?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Should	97
Should not	2
Not sure	1

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Q17\_6. The following actions are examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga. Do you believe that police should or should not arrest people for engaging in stealing from a store or business?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Should	89
Should not	7
Not sure	4

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Q17\_7. The following actions are examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga. Do you believe that police should or should not arrest people for engaging in stabbing someone?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Should	98
Should not	1

Not sure

1

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Q17\_8. The following actions are examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga. Do you believe that police should or should not arrest people for engaging in shooting someone?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Should	98
Should not	0
Not sure	1

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Q18. Now let's go through those examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga once more. After each, please tell me if you believe that illegal action is a very big issue, a big issue, a small issue, a very small issue, or not an issue in Chattanooga - Graffiti.

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Very big issue	7
Big issue	16
Small issue	36
Very small issue	21
Not an issue	14
Not sure	7
<b>BIG ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>SMALL ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>56</b>

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Q18. Now let's go through those examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga once more. After each, please tell me if you believe that illegal action is a very big issue, a big issue, a small issue, a very small issue, or not an issue in Chattanooga - Public urination.

**Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
Very big issue	6
Big issue	14
Small issue	33
Very small issue	16
Not an issue	17
Not sure	15
<b>BIG ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>SMALL ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>49</b>

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Q18. Now let's go through those examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga once more. After each, please tell me if you believe that illegal action is a very big issue, a big issue, a small issue, a very small issue, or not an issue in Chattanooga - Littering.

**Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
Very big issue	14
Big issue	28
Small issue	39
Very small issue	8
Not an issue	6
Not sure	4

<b>BIG ISSUE (NET)</b>	42
<b>SMALL ISSUE (NET)</b>	47

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**Q18. Now let's go through those examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga once more. After each, please tell me if you believe that illegal action is a very big issue, a big issue, a small issue, a very small issue, or not an issue in Chattanooga - Homeless encampments in public spaces, like a sidewalks or parks.**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Very big issue</b>	24
<b>Big issue</b>	33
<b>Small issue</b>	25
<b>Very small issue</b>	9
<b>Not an issue</b>	6
<b>Not sure</b>	4
<b>BIG ISSUE (NET)</b>	57
<b>SMALL ISSUE (NET)</b>	34

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**Q18. Now let's go through those examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga once more. After each, please tell me if you believe that illegal action is a very big issue, a big issue, a small issue, a very small issue, or not an issue in Chattanooga - Muggings.**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Very big issue</b>	24

Big issue	29
Small issue	25
Very small issue	7
Not an issue	3
Not sure	11
<b>BIG ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>SMALL ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>32</b>

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Q18. Now let's go through those examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga once more. After each, please tell me if you believe that illegal action is a very big issue, a big issue, a small issue, a very small issue, or not an issue in Chattanooga - Stealing from stores or businesses.

**Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
Very big issue	29
Big issue	31
Small issue	22
Very small issue	5
Not an issue	3
Not sure	9
<b>BIG ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>SMALL ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>28</b>

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Q18. Now let's go through those examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga once more. After each, please tell me if you believe that illegal action is a very big issue, a big issue, a small issue, a very small issue, or not an issue in Chattanooga - Stabbings.

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very big issue	30
Big issue	26
Small issue	23
Very small issue	5
Not an issue	4
Not sure	11
<b>BIG ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>SMALL ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>28</b>

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Q18. Now let's go through those examples of illegal activity in Chattanooga once more. After each, please tell me if you believe that illegal action is a very big issue, a big issue, a small issue, a very small issue, or not an issue in Chattanooga - Shootings.

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very big issue	52
Big issue	32
Small issue	11
Very small issue	2
Not an issue	0
Not sure	2
<b>BIG ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>SMALL ISSUE (NET)</b>	<b>13</b>

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**Q19. Which of the following is closer to your view on police enforcement against offenses like graffiti, public urination, littering, and homeless encampments?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>This kind of policing is good because it makes everyone, including those in disadvantaged communities, safer and more secure</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>This kind of policing is bad because it tends to unfairly punish people in disadvantaged communities</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>13</b>

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**Q20. In some cities and counties, self-described "progressive" prosecutors have been elected on platforms of prosecuting fewer drug, property, and weapons offenses, which they believe contribute to racial inequality. When thinking about these prosecutors, which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?**

**Total Respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>I oppose these prosecutors. The public trusts these people to prosecute crimes when they occur rather than letting their communities - including communities of color and poor communities - become hotbeds for unchecked violence and crime.</b>	<b>47</b>



I support these prosecutors. The American criminal justice system is too harsh on communities of color and poor communities and these prosecutors are taking the first step towards creating change. 38

Not sure 16

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Q21. Do you think that homeless people in Chattanooga should or should not be allowed to sleep on sidewalks, in parks, or in other public places instead of in homeless shelters?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Should not be allowed	54
Should be allowed	28
Not sure	18

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Q22. Do you agree or disagree that Tennessee needs tougher laws on the books with respect to how the state deals with offenders convicted of violent crimes?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Strongly agree	38
Somewhat agree	30
Somewhat disagree	11

Strongly disagree	5
Not sure	17
AGREE (NET)	68
DISAGREE (NET)	15

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**Q23. In 2022, Tennessee enacted a "truth in sentencing" law that requires many offenders to serve 100% of their prison sentences for certain violent crimes, including attempted murder, carjacking and especially aggravated burglary. A cluster of other crimes included in the law require a minimum of 85% of prison time served in order to be given parole. Previously, those violent offenders could get credits and pursue parole after serving a shorter portion of their sentences in prison. Do you support or oppose the new law?**

**Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
Strongly support	35
Somewhat support	30
Somewhat oppose	14
Strongly oppose	8
Not sure	12
AGREE (NET)	66
DISAGREE (NET)	23

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Q24. In 2023, Tennessee's legislature considered a "three strikes law" proposal that would require life sentences for two or more convictions of the most serious offenses, such as murder, rape, and kidnapping. This would go further than the existing three-strikes law in Tennessee which only mandates life imprisonment without parole for three or more convictions of the same offense. Do you support or oppose this proposed law?

**Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
Strongly support	45
Somewhat support	24
Somewhat oppose	12
Strongly oppose	10
Not sure	9
<b>AGREE (NET)</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>DISAGREE (NET)</b>	<b>21</b>

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Q25. What is your gender?

**Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
Man	47
Woman	53

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Q26. What is your racial or ethnic background?

**Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
White or Caucasian	58
Black or African-American	28
Hispanic	6
Asian	2
Other	3
Refused	3

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Q27. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Some high school or less	3
High school graduate	16
Some college	38
College graduate	17
Some graduate school	2
Graduate degree	15
Technical school	7
Refused	1

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Q28. Do you have a child under the age of 18 living at home?

Total Respondents

Response	Percent
Yes	29
No	70

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Not sure	1
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**Q29. What is your religion?**

**Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
Catholic	5
Protestant (includes Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and other)	49
Jewish	1
Atheist or Agnostic	8
Evangelical	4
Muslim	0
Other	15
None	16
Not sure	3

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**Q30. How often do you attend religious services?**

**Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
More than once a week	13
Once a week	23
A few times a month	9
A few times a year	23
Never	28
Not sure	4

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**Q31. Were you born in the United States or in another country?****Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
Born in U.S.	96
Born in another country	4
Not sure	0

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**Q32. Were either of your parents born in another country, or were both of your parents born in the United States?****Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
Born in U.S.	93
Born in another country	7
Not sure	0

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**Q33. Were any of your grandparents born in another country, or were all of your grandparents born in the United States?****Total Respondents**

Response	Percent
Born in U.S.	81
Born in another country	16
Not sure	3

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