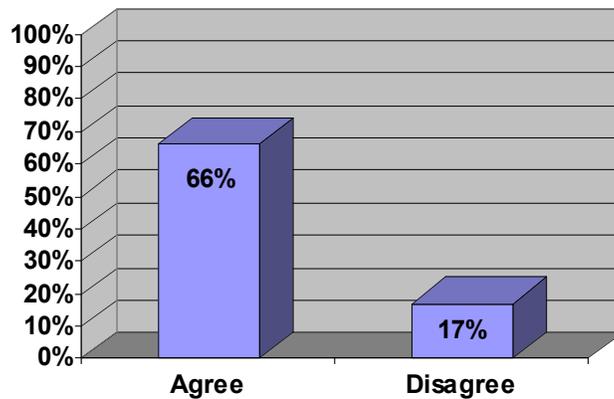


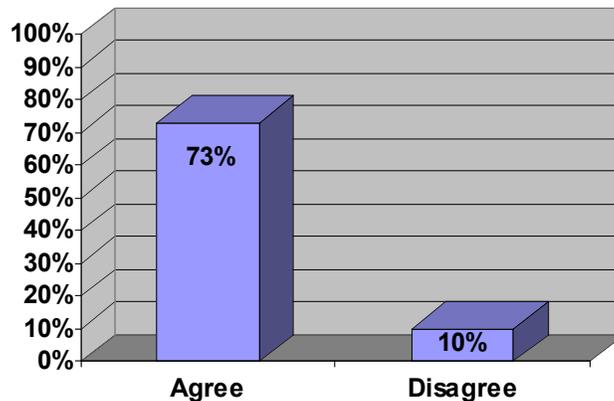
Public Opinion and Civil Forfeiture

In November 2010, as part of the Cooperative Congressional Election Study National Survey, the Institute for Justice asked a random sample of 1,000 participants nationwide whether they agree or disagree with various features of modern civil forfeiture laws. The results reported below show that the public overwhelmingly favors greater protections for property owners and removing financial incentives that encourage civil forfeiture. The margin of error on all questions is +/- 2 percent. Percentages do not sum to 100 due to non-responses.

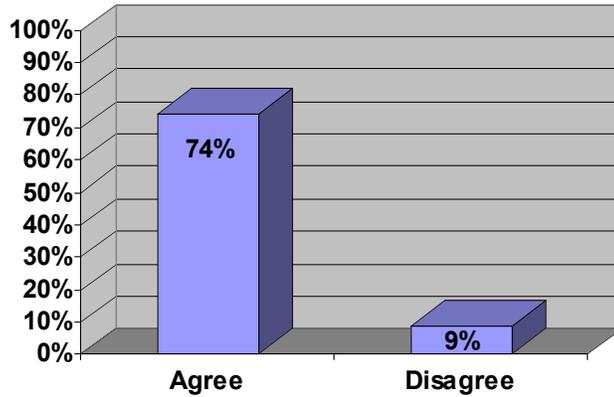
- 1) People should be convicted of a crime before law enforcement can take and keep their property.



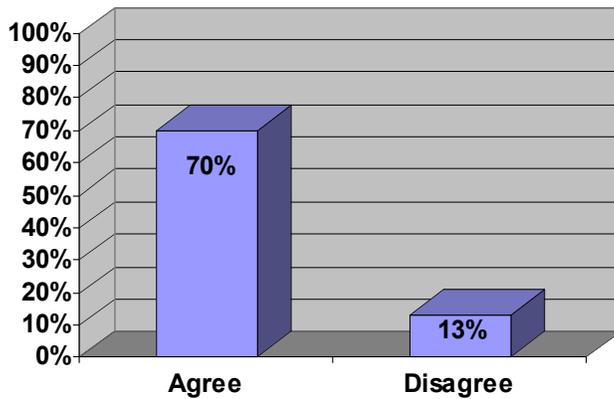
- 2) To seize and keep property under civil forfeiture, law enforcement should have to prove “beyond a reasonable doubt” that it was involved in criminal activity.



- 3) In civil forfeiture, property owners should be presumed innocent and the government should be responsible for proving the owner's guilt to take and keep property.



- 4) Law enforcement agencies should *not* be allowed to keep property they take for their own use. It should be placed in a state general fund or some other neutral account.



- 5) State and local agencies should *not* be allowed to take property under federal law to make civil forfeiture easier and receive more in proceeds than under state law.

