

— TOP TAKEAWAYS —

# Policing Reform Solutions

## INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BEAT COPS

- Police maintain public order and safety, enforce laws, and prevent and investigate crime. **Studies** show that the mere presence of additional officers in a neighborhood can reduce crime.
- Reducing the number of cops on the street and slashing police budgets will leave minorities, who are disproportionately victimized by violent crime, in an even more vulnerable position.
- Americans of all colors understand this and want more police officers, not fewer, in their neighborhoods.
- Police officers need better **training** and reforms that **reduce officer fatigue**.

## INCREASE POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- Reforming collective bargaining to eliminate the involvement of police unions in disciplinary matters can ensure that they do not shield bad officers from discipline or removal.
- The federal government can incentivize greater transparency about police misconduct.

## CONSIDER THE EFFECT OF OVERCRIMINALIZATION AND SEEK ALTERNATIVES TO JAIL

- Of the **10.5 million arrests**, the bulk are for crimes the FBI classifies as less serious including, but not limited to, drug-abuse offenses, disorderly conduct, loitering, fraud, violations of local ordinances, and civil violations.
- We can offer more effective punishments for low-level offenses.
- Citations for misdemeanors for those who are not a public safety or flight risk allow officers to dole out a punishment while allowing the violator to remain in the community, work or attend school, and take care of his family.

Protecting American citizens is a core function of government that we entrust to law enforcement. It begins with a stronger police presence and law enforcement forces that are accountable to the people they serve.

Click [here](#) to read the full policy focus and learn more about the need for policing reform.