



Exam

Public Management
3 July 2020

Prof. Reto Steiner

Read the following newspaper article

(Source: Economist, 18 June 2020)

Most Americans do not want to “defund” the police. But they support other reforms

“DEFUND THE POLICE”, a slogan that might once have appealed only to America’s left, has gone mainstream. Since George Floyd’s death on May 25th, protesters across the country have called for police departments to be “defunded”, or for a portion of funds to be diverted to social programmes. Others want departments abolished altogether. Some lawmakers appear to have listened. On June 7th Bill de Blasio, New York City's mayor, pledged to redirect some of the city’s \$6bn police budget to youth and social services. The same day members of the city council in Minneapolis, where Mr Floyd was killed, vowed to dismantle the city’s police department entirely. The Los Angeles City Council is also researching how to cut its police department’s budget by \$100m-150m.

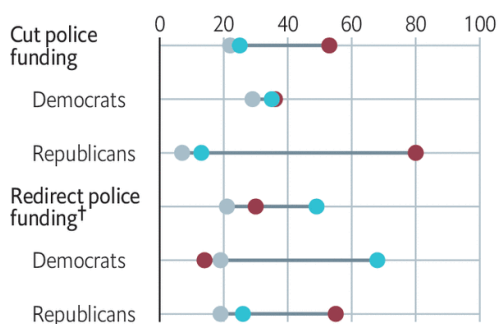
But the proposal has yet to win over a majority of voters. A recent survey by YouGov, a pollster, found that only a quarter of American adults are in favour of cutting funding for police departments outright. (When respondents are alerted to arguments from opponents of defunding that it might lead to a rise in crime, the proportion drops even lower.) A larger share favour redirecting funds from police to alternative first responders, such as social workers, drug counsellors and mental-health experts. Nearly half of Americans approve of this approach, though support is split along party lines with 68% of Democrats in favour, and 55% of Republicans opposed.

May the force be with us

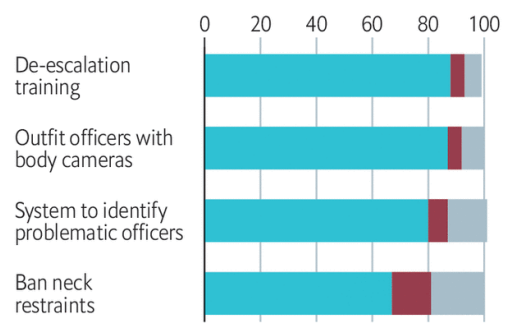
United States, % responding

● Favour ● Oppose ● Don't know

Measures to “defund” police*



Other police reforms‡



Source: Yahoo News/YouGov

*1,570 people polled June 9th-10th 2020

†1,060 people polled May 29th-30th 2020

‡To social workers and counsellors

The Economist

Other police reforms enjoy broader support. Another survey, also by YouGov, found that large majorities of Americans favour training police officers to de-escalate conflicts (88%), equipping them with body cameras (87%), identifying troublesome officers sooner (80%) and banning restraint of suspects' necks (67%; Mr Floyd was choked by an officer's knee). Two bills introduced by the House and Senate, on June 8th and June 17th, respectively, include all of these ideas in one form or another. The Senate bill encourages de-escalation training; the House bill boosts funding for investigations of police misconduct; both encourage the use of body cameras. The House bill bans chokeholds and neck restraints outright, whereas the Senate one discourages chokeholds by blocking federal grants if used.

Yet when it comes to reforming the police, congressional powers are limited. Most of America's 18,000 law-enforcement agencies are governed locally, so lawmakers in Washington can only regulate them in roundabout ways—for example by collecting data, prosecuting abuses of power or restricting access to federal grants. Some reforms passed in Congress could be ignored.

Things may not get that far. Democrats and Republicans in Congress struggle to pass controversial legislation even in amicable times, let alone during an election year. President Donald Trump, who recently signed an executive order creating a national database to track misbehaving police officers, could veto whatever legislators come up with. On the day the Democratic-led House unveiled its bill, Mr Trump tweeted his disapproval: "the Radical Left Democrats want to Defund and Abandon our Police. Sorry, I want LAW & ORDER!"

Assignment

Write an essay on the following topic:

Improving Quality of Public Administration – Shown Using the Example of Police

Your essay must include thoughts on the following subjects (you can choose the order):

- Input, Throughput, Output, Outcome, and Impact as Key Concepts of Steering Public Administration
- Quality Management with a Focus on the Common Assessment Framework
- Capacity Building
- Citizen Engagement
- Organizational Design of Agencies
- Decentralization and Local Governance – What Tier of Government Shall Provide Services?

Non-attending students must also include the following topic in their essay:

- Privatization of Police – Remedy or Curse?

Refer to the newspaper article in your essay and discuss and apply theories.

Rules (as communicated)

- The exam takes place on 3 July 2020, from 09.00 to 12.00, for attending students and from 09.00 to 13.00 for non-attending students.
- At the start of the exam, sit in front of your computer with Zoom switched on. Enter the following room: <https://zoom.us/my/aulagg2economics>. Once you have entered, you need to rename yourself using the following format: surname_first name_student enrollment number (e.g., Miller_John_1237654).
- Be ready to show your picture ID (personal or university-issued) to authenticate yourself through the ID you communicated when registering.
- The use of earphones, in-ear headphones, or similar devices is forbidden, and their use will lead to your exam being declared invalid.
- The webcam and the microphone must remain ON until the end of the exam. This will allow the examiner to monitor the behavior and the environment around you. The exam environment must be kept completely quiet.
- After the authentication of all students, the exam will be sent to you through the chat function of Zoom. Please download the PDF file.
- It is an open book exam. You can use the Internet, books, and all course material.
- You will receive one assignment and will have to write an essay about this topic. You will have to apply the theories discussed in the course.
- If you use direct quotations, add a footnote with the reference.
- The exam lasts for three hours (180 minutes). After that period, you will have to submit the essay by email to reto.steiner@zhaw.ch as a WORD file or PDF. Use your full name as a file name. You will immediately receive an email confirmation. Please wait in front of your computer until you receive this confirmation.
- Non-attending students (less than 80% presence in the virtual classroom) must answer one additional question in their essay. They have one additional hour (60 minutes) for this task.
- Students experiencing severe technical problems will be able to redo the exam in another session.
- Bathroom visits during the exam are not permitted.
- Once you have finished the exam, you must not leave the classroom, switch off the video, mute the microphone, or get up until the exam time is over. (The end of the exam will be announced by the examiner.)
- During the exam, problems related to the exam or other requests must be reported to the examiner using the chat function (send a PERSONAL message to Prof. Reto Steiner), by email to reto.steiner@zhaw.ch, or by phone to +41 79 690 16 71.
- All essays will be checked using antiplagiarism software.