

2019 Oklahoma Retail Theft Survey

- Was initiated because the popular narrative spread by outside interests and repeated *unquestioningly* in the media ran counter to what our retailers were seeing in their stores on a daily basis
- **OSBI Numbers:**
 - OSBI UCR numbers were examined, and de-averaged and applied context
 - There has been a reported 6% increase in case value and a 1.5% decrease in *cleared* cases 2016 vs 2017. Since 2015, there is a 14% increase in case value and a 5% decrease in case clearance
 - OKC/Tulsa MSA groups shows a 30% *increase* in larceny reports in the Tulsa area since 2015, and a 10% *decrease* in just the OKC area
 - There was a temporary decline in numbers in 2017, due to a shutting down of a \$3million/year stolen merchandise fencing operation in Oklahoma City in March of 2017 – **NOT** due to State Question 780, which didn't take effect until July of 2017!
 - That TEMPORARY decline in FILED reports has rebounded in 2018 in both Tulsa and OKC by an average of 7%
- **OKRCA Survey Numbers:**
 - First ever survey conducted from 11 national retailers, representing approximately 272 physical locations in Oklahoma (+/- 4% margin of error)
 - Compared 2016 (first criminal justice reforms took effect in November '16) to 2018 by the Oklahoma Retail Crime Association – OKRCA
 - Our retail partners report since 2016:
 - A **64% increase** in theft incidents in our stores
 - A **37% increase** in overall case values
 - A **53% increase** in average shoplift incident

Conclusion:

The effects of State Question 780 were both logical and predictable. As happened with its sister legislation in California (Prop 47), State Question 780 increased both the number and severity of thefts from our retailers. The idea that you can take away punishment for committing *more* crime, and expect *less* crime is insanity. These laws are being pushed by groups that not only pay no price for the negative effects of these laws – they benefit financially from them! If the pro-780 crowd wants to falsely take credit for the temporary decline in numbers in 2017, then they need to own the increase in 2018 too.

We have heard from our retail partners for years how bad the theft problems in their Oklahoma stores are. Oklahoma has an unfortunate reputation as a high theft place for retailers to do business – and that the problem is getting worse! We hear from the professional shoplifters themselves that State Question 780 is emboldening them to steal more.

Retailers are the experts on this subject. **WE** know more about *who* is stealing from our stores, *how often* and *why* – not the policy wonks that are opining on this subject without ever consulting us or seeing our internal numbers.

** Background information available for inspection by appointment**

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