

The Death Penalty in Dallas County

- With **108 total death sentences** since 1974, Dallas ranks second behind Harris County in use of the death penalty in Texas.
- Although it remains among Texas's top sentencing counties, Dallas County juries have imposed **just one death sentence** since 2013.
- Of the **11 individuals** currently on death row who were convicted in Dallas, **six are Black, one is Hispanic, and four are white**.
- Dallas voters strongly support alternatives to the death penalty, according to a poll conducted in June 2021 by the independent research firm Public Policy Polling. When asked which punishment they preferred for people convicted of first-degree murder, **75% of respondents opted for a sentence of life in prison with a possibility of parole after 20 or 40 years or life in prison without parole**. Only 14% of all respondents prefer the death penalty.
- The State of Texas has executed **595 people** since 1982. This includes **66 people** who were convicted in Dallas County, three of whom were put to death in 2023. Most recently, Texas executed Matthew Johnson on May 20, 2025.
- Since 1973, **200 individuals** – including 18 people in Texas – have been released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful conviction. **Randall Dale Adams** spent more than a decade in prison after he was wrongly convicted of killing a Dallas police officer.
- **More than 65 individuals in Dallas County** have been exonerated of serious crimes since 2001, largely on the basis of DNA evidence and/or mistaken eyewitness identification.
- **30 people** sentenced to death in Dallas County are no longer on death row; in most cases, their sentences were changed to life in prison or life in prison without parole or they died in custody of natural causes.
- Currently, there are 170 people on death row in Texas, including 7 women. Of this total population, **11 people were prosecuted and convicted in Dallas County**.

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