

Second Look

For conservative justice and cost-savings

The Issue

Texas has the harshest parole eligibility guidelines for juvenile offenders of any state, allowing some to be imprisoned without the possibility of parole for **40 years**. Even worse, many of these youth are convicted through the Law of Parties, meaning they were merely an accessory to the actual crime and never pulled the trigger. Science proves that continued brain development allows a healthy brain to mature and make more logical decisions far before someone completes a 40-year sentence, and recidivism rates for these offenders is extremely low.

The Solution

Second Look legislation would lower the time until parole eligibility for juvenile offenders from 40 years to 20 years. This change should also be retroactive, allowing adults currently serving time in prison for a crime committed as a juvenile to also have the opportunity for earlier parole. Proving to be little to no threat to public safety and simultaneously saving hundreds of thousands taxpayer dollars, Second Look legislation is a win-win reform.

Quick Facts

- > It costs \$25,000 a year to house each inmate.
- > As of 2020, over 1,400 individuals were serving life or a sentence of at least 40 years in Texas for a crime they committed while under the age of 18.
- > In states that have passed Second Look legislation, recidivism has been extremely low.

