LARRP March 2024 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!

THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL REENTRY PARTNERSHIP

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In this Issue

LARRP Committee Meetings* Elections 2024 * Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove presentation * LARRP News * Policy Updates * Partner Events * Featured Jobs and Opportunities * News * Reports *

This newsletter is packed with information. When you get to the place where it says "Message clipped" make sure to click "View entire message"

LARRP Meetings

Education Committee

March 7, 2024
3:30pm - 4:30pm

Register Education

Housing Committee

March 22, 2024
10:00am-11am

Register Housing

Community Safety Committee

March 13, 2024,
1:00-2:00 pm

Register Community Safety

Integrated Health Committee

April 1, 2024,
2:00 pm

Registar Integrated Health

LARRP GENERAL MEETING

March 21, 2024,
10:00 - 11:30 am

REGISTER - General Meeting

Employment Committee

April 17, 2024,
2:00pm-3:30pm

REGISTER Employment

March Spotlight Elections 2024

Are you ready for the March 5th Primary Election?

While many eyes are on the big ticket presidential election this year, it is important to engage in the many many local positions up for election this year, from City Council to Supervisors, Assemblymembers, Congressmeners, District Attorney and more. Currently, every resident of California should have received a mail-in ballot. Your ballot can be dropped off at ANY ***Voting Station*** or ANY post office and delivered for free. If you have not received your ballot, check the ***California Secretary of State website*** ward for your vote.

California's primary system is what's called a jungle primary, which means that the two candidates who receive the most votes will continue on to the general election in November. However, if one person gets more than 50% of the votes cast, they will automatically win the election and will not be on the ballot come November.

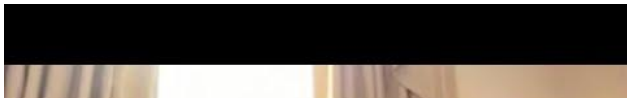
When you vote in this primary race for a Board Supervisor, you're voting on the representative who will help guide Los Angeles County jails and their priorities, including key issues such as ODR Funding or the Closure of MCJ. Voting in the primaries is historically a low-turnout event, but that means each vote is worth far more weight. It is so important, and we encourage everyone to vote, as your voice matters.

Please see the featured news articles below to read some of the articles that spell out just how impactful these elections will mean for our work!!!

LARRP General Meeting Presentation Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove

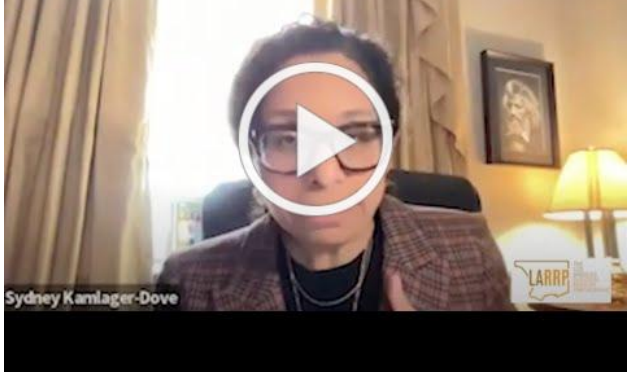
LARRP was thrilled and honored to have longtime ally in the justice work, Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, be our guest speaker for our February General Meeting. Kamlager-Dove previously served in the California State Assembly, and is now a strong advocate for CJ reform in the Federal government. She is working on a number of bills which address injustices in the criminal justice system, including:

- ***HR 982***, Pregnant Women in Custody Act, authored by Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove, seeks to enhance the services and programs provided to those who are pregnant while incarcerated. This would include limits on restrictive housing for those who are incarcerated or in postpartum recovery, prohibiting the use of solitary confinement for a pregnant individual in their third trimester, and requiring the Bureau of Prisons to annually report on the number of administrative claims and appeals filed by pregnant incarcerated individuals.



- ***HR 981,*** ***One-Stop Shop Community Reentry Program,*** *also authored by Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove, seeks to authorize support grants to community-based re-entry resources supporting those who are previously incarcerated when they return to the communities.*
- ***HR 4972,*** ***End Solitary Confinement Act,*** *authored by Congresswoman Cori Bush, seeks to limit the use of solitary confinement for those who are currently incarcerated. While there are certain cases where an individual who is incarcerated can request solitary confinement or be placed there for their safety, this bill seeks to limit its use as punishment or retribution from prison staff, and to limit how long an individual can be placed in this housing involuntarily.*
- ***HR 3220,*** ***Correctional Facilities Occupational Safety and Health Act,*** *authored by Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, seeks to extend Federal workplace safety and health protections to incarcerated workers. This would apply to any individual in federal, state, or local correctional facilities, or private institutions run under those*

jurisdictions. Currently, there are major shortcomings in the safety, protections, and workplace oversight for those who are employed while incarcerated, and this bill seeks to establish



new procedures and protections for the incarcerated workforce.

If you are interested in supporting any of these Federal bills, please reach out to ***Charles@lareentry.org*** and he can connect you with Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove's staff.

LARRP News



South by SouthwestFilm Festival

We are thrilled to announce that our Executive Director Troy Vaughn will be featured in a special session at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin Mar 9, 2024 from 4:00pm — 5:00pm.

2050: Reimagining Future Cities Without Homelessness at Hilton Austin

Troy Vaughn has garnered the reputation of being a change agent, and the respect of his peers. He has also been instrumental in the successful growth, innovation, branding and integration of key systems and program designs within the reentry, homeless and health sectors. Mr. Vaughn is active professionally in local, state and federal initiatives for profit and non-profit organizations providing services to disenfranchised populations, including programs on institutional community systems analysis, and community and public relations.

Read More Here

LARRP Executive Director Troy Vaughn tells his story on NBC





LARRP is still looking for a Network Development Manager

We are seeking a dynamic and highly motivated individual to join our team as a Full-Time Network Development Manager. In this role, you will play a pivotal role in organizing and strategizing communication channels within our network. The ideal candidate will have a strong understanding of LARRP and reentry network dynamics, excellent communication skills, and the ability to facilitate collaboration among various committees.

More Info
Apply

L.E.A.D.E.R.S
Leading, Engaging, Advocating, Demonstrating, Enhancing and Expanding Reentry Systems

We're thrilled to share some exciting updates with you! Last month, we had the pleasure of meeting with LEADERS in person, where we discussed their passions, priorities for the community.

Even more thrilling is that in the month of March we will begin our partnership with the ***LA Madia project*** with our LEADERS. Together, we'll be delving into crucial conversations surrounding mental health and its integral role in effective leadership. Our collaborative efforts aim to shed light on the significance of mental well-being for community leaders, fostering a culture of support and understanding.

The recent event served as a catalyst, laying a robust foundation for our joint endeavors. It has set the stage for transformative change, emphasizing empowerment through leadership and advocacy. We're truly excited about the potential for positive impact that lies ahead.



There are still a few Spots Left!!!



Community-based Public Safety Workshops

LARRP is proud to partner with our long-standing community-based organization, The Amity Foundation, in presenting a **8-week 2-hour long workshop training on Community-based Public Safety (CBPS).**

These workshops will inform and train partner organizations on what CBPS (Community based Public Safety) is, how to apply it to their respective work, and how to customize a community safety strategy that addresses the needs of their constituents. These workshops intend to promote the idea that criminal justice reform is a multi-pronged effort.

More Info

Register

Center For Living and Learning

Meet Donisha and Ryan from the heart of ***The Center for Living and Learning (CLL)***, **A LARRP PARTNER,** who are sharing their thoughts on generational wealth. CLL's mission is clear: to provide training and support for those facing employment obstacles and help them achieve self-sufficiency. CLL focuses on individuals with significant employment



LARRP's FORMER INTEGRATED HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIR, DR. ETSEMAYE AGONAFER APPOINTED!!!

Bass appoints LA's 1st deputy mayor of homelessness and community health

City News Service, February 14, 2024

LOS ANGELES (CNS) -- Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass announced the appointment of Dr. Etsemaye Agonafer as the city's first deputy mayor of homelessness and community health.

Watch

Policy Updates





Ballot Measure to expand homeless services funding in LA county

As we rapidly approach



Sacramento Legislation Updates

We are excited to share that LARRP co-sponsored legislation, ***Assembly Bill 1810*** by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee hearing on February 27th. **AB 1810 (Bryan) will enable easier access to menstrual products for those who are incarcerated and experience uterine or vaginal bleeding.** Anyone who has been incarcerated or who knows somebody who has been incarcerated will no doubt have stories as to how terrible access to vital goods such as tampons or menstrual pads can be. Destigmatizing this process and providing greater levels of access to hygienic supplies will not only help restore dignity to our communities behind bars, but will also ensure safer conditions, especially for people who experience heavier bleeds due to medical circumstances.

Next AB 1810 **(Bryan)** will be heard in the always tough Assembly Appropriations Committee, and we're always looking for folks to come out and support, with testimony, letters, legislative visits and more. To support this bill, please reach out to Charles at ***Charles@lareentry.org*** as soon as possible. We need as many letters of support as we can get from our vital community organizations. See the AB 1810 (Bryan) fact sheet ***here***, and a template support letter can be found ***here***.



the November election it is also vitally important to be aware of the pushes being made by local groups to get the signatures needed to place items on the November ballot. Folks who canvas for these measures and propositions can be seen across California working to gather signatures from voters to advance their causes.

Here in LA County, one such key voting drive surrounds a push to expand Measure H's sales tax and increase funding for those who are or are at risk of becoming unhoused.

This measure would expand homeless services by doubling Measure H's quarter-cent sales tax to a half-cent rate, and allocate billions for affordable housing to reduce how many people fall into homelessness in the first place. Advocates are actively working to collect the 400,000 necessary signatures by March 31st, but the volunteer drives to help gather these signatures are set to end on Monday, March 18.

Over the next four weeks, **we need you and anyone else you know who's a registered voter in LA County to add their signatures to the ballot petition.** It's a quick and easy process, but requires live signatures on pre-printed ballot petitions.

To find out where and how to get involved, you can reference the website for the motion ***here***. There is an in-person event to gather signitures on Saturday, March 9 from 9-1:30pm, hosted by HOPICS at 5849 Crocker Street in Downtown LA. For other information or to get connected to signing events, you can reach out to Katie Hill at ***khill@hopics.org***.

Partner Events





Amity Foundation's 2nd Annual Brunch

March 16, 2024, 11:00 AM

We are delighted to invite you to join us for Amity Foundation's 2nd Annual Brunch. This event promises to be a splendid day of endless fun and entertainment, featuring both live and silent auction with lots of exiting items available for bid. Come be a



Restorative Reentry, FREE Stakeholder Meeting

Various dates: 1/29 - 3/5

The FREE Initiative, a groundbreaking response to the pressing challenges of mass incarceration in the United States, invites key stakeholders to a focused meeting to gather valuable input and insights. This meeting aims to leverage the collective wisdom and perspectives of diverse stakeholders to refine and enhance the FREE program's effectiveness.

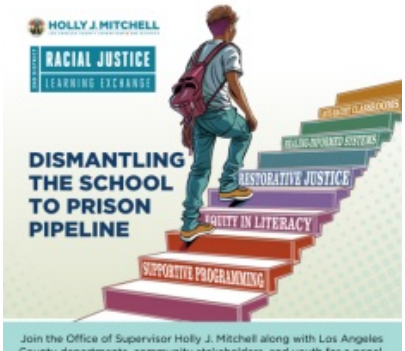
Register



Probation Oversight Commission Meeting Schedule

The Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission is a body that advises the Probation Department and the Board of Supervisors on progress towards systemic reform. Therefore, we encourage you as a member of the public to pre-register to attend our meetings by visiting our ***website***.
Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted and can be accessed ***here.***

March 14, 2024



part of this incredible celebration as we support Amity's mission of empowering underprivilege communities to improve health, and promote environmental, social and economic justice.

Sign up for the event and learn more.



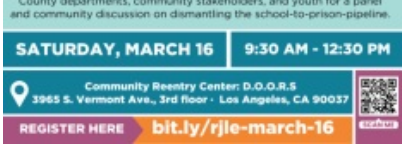
11th Annual Justice on Trial Film Festival!

April 6-7 11 am - 4 pm
Loyola Marymount University
A New Way of Life is proud to present the 11th Annual Justice on Trial Film Festival! Dedicated to exposing injustice and exploring solutions, the Justice on Trial Film Festival is the largest film festival dedicated to the interests and needs of incarcerated and formally incarcerated people and systems impacted communities.
Register Now



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for new Wellness Center

Paving the Way Foundation
April 25 10-AM- 12 PM
1729 W. Ave J Lancaster, CA, 93534



Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline

Saturday, March 16, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Community Reentry Center: D.O.O.R.S
3965 S. Vermont Ave., 3rd floor, LA, CA 90037
Join the Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell along with Los Angeles County departments, community stakeholders, and youth for a panel and community discussion on dismantling the school-to-prison-pipeline.
Register

Featured Jobs and Opportunities



Opportunities for success!

Are you justice-involved and between the ages of 18-24? Let us help you get back on track. The Growth Opportunity program is here to provide you with a pathway to a steady career!

For more information about this program, contact ***wdd-adult@coalitionrcd.org*** or call (213) 763-5951 or to ***APPLY***.

Cancel the Contact - Antelope Valley

Seeks a full time organizer to grow the CTC Coalition and coordinate the day to day work of the CTC Coalition and programs. This position requires exclusivity (cannot have other full time, part time, or contract positions). The position will serve as lead organizer and be responsible for growing the Coalition's membership, coordinating programming, and supporting CTC's communications and advocacy work. The Organizer will be expected to work in a fast-paced working environment where it is normal to be accessible "around the clock."
More info and apply

Center for Living and Learning Residential Aid

Under the leadership and supervision of the Project Manager of Interim Housing, the Residential Aid will ensure a safe and comfortable living environment by working with their project team to foster a safe and healthy community life for residents living in interim housing facilities.
Learn More and Apply

Featured News Article





This month we will feature some articles about the importance of the upcoming primary.



Voter Game Plan, PRIMARY 2024

The LAist, February 2024
Everything you need as you prep for the March 5 Primary Election.

Voting in California is actually easier than in many other states. Ballots magically land in our mailboxes. You can vote by mail or at any vote center in L.A. County.

But deciding how to vote? That's the hard part. And that's what LAist's Voter Game Plan is here for.

See the Guide

Voter guide to the 2024 California primary election

By Los Angeles Times Staff, Feb. 1, 2024

Read More

The Power of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors: A Voter's Guide

Westside Current, Feb 13, 2024

Tasked with the oversight of a $46.7 billion budget and the welfare of over 10 million residents, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors plays a pivotal role in regional administration. The Board's substantial sway over policy decisions touches every aspect of community life, from public safety and health to housing and beyond.

This election cycle is not merely about selecting officeholders; it's a decision on the future trajectory of Los Angeles County.

Read More

California State Senate

By CalMatters, Feb 6, 2024

Here's a look at some of the key L.A. and Orange County State Senates races on the March 5 ballot.

Read More

California's Primary Election: Some of the Races on Our Radar

California City News, Feb, 2024, Edmund T. Tuck and Brittany Maldonado contributed to this report

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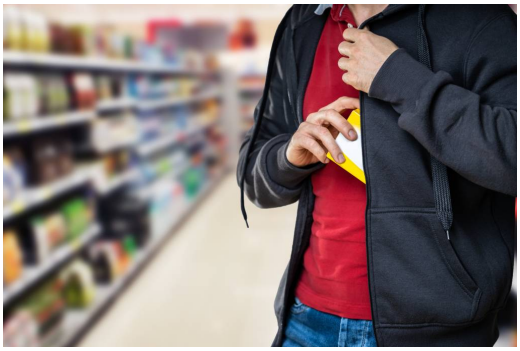
More News





How does LA County's new bail system work? And who gets released without having to pay?

Long Beach Post, by Jason Ruiz, Mar 2, 2024

These new so-called "Pre-Arraignment Release Protocols" (PARP) have been in place since October, and representatives from the court updated county agencies this week on the first few months of data, which they say is keeping people who are a risk of re-offending in custody while allowing lower-risk offenders to be released without bail.

Read More



Judgment day for LA's lightning rod politicians

Politico By Melanie Mason, Jeremy B. White, Dustin Gardiner And Lara Korte 03/01/2024

The Buzz — La La Land: (See what is making national news

- KDL's Redemption Tour
- Law And Order
- Ideological Tests

Read

Proposition 47's Impact on California's Criminal Justice System

KQED by Marisa Lagos, Feb 14

For the last decade, most Democrats have staunchly defended one of the state's biggest criminal justice reform measures: Proposition 47.

But in recent months, more and more state leaders are pushing some sort of overhaul of the 2014 ballot measure.

Read More



L.A. County legal spending skyrocketed to $1 billion last year, as Sheriff's Department settlements balloon

LA Times, By Rebecca Ellis, Keri Blakinger, Feb. 7, 2024

The costs to defend Los Angeles County — and its army of sheriff's deputies, firefighters, social workers and doctors — against lawsuits skyrocketed in the last fiscal year, according to twin reports released this week.

Read More



Defenders of Justice Urges Votes for Non-Prosecutors for Los Angeles Judge Seats

By The Vanguard Staff, February 29, 2024

LOS ANGELES, CA – A group here continues to try to convince voters to elect non-prosecutors to the bench as



An ex-NFL player died in custody. His grieving family demands to know what happened

March Primary Election winds down, noting 78 percent of judges now are former prosecutors.
A 2024 cohort of Defenders of Justice – public defenders claiming they are “seeking to create transformation within the LA Superior Court by ending the prosecutor-to-judge-pipeline” – said Angelenos will have their “final say regarding who they want to sit on the judicial bench for the next six years or more.”
Read More

LA Times, By Steve Henson, Feb. 6, 2024
Painstakingly, snippet by snippet, the parents of former NFL and Stanford football player Stanley Tobias Wilson Jr. collect information about the last day of their son’s life. It’s agonizing work. Wilson had been locked up for more than five months at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in downtown Los Angeles....
Read More



A Wave Of Departures Shakes Up LA’s Homeless Agency

The LAist, By Nick Gerda, Feb 28, 2024
Three top L.A. homelessness officials have left their jobs in recent weeks, LAist has learned. The exits at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) include the executives who oversaw finance and data. Public announcements were not made about most of the changes.
The departures are prompting questions about why people are leaving and whether there’s now a leadership vacuum that affects oversight of homeless services, according to interviews with city and county officials.
Read More



Justice Department proposes major changes to address disparities in state crime victim funds

AP News, By Claudia Lauer And Mike Catalini, February 5, 2024
The Justice Department proposed changes Monday to rules governing state-run programs that provide financial assistance to violent crime victims in order to address racial disparities and curb the number of subjective denials of compensation.
The proposal from the Justice Department’s Office for Victims of Crime, a major overhaul to how states across the U.S. currently handle victims compensation claims, comes less than a year after an Associated Press investigation exposed that Black victims were disproportionately denied in many states

Read More



LA County watchdog urges disbanding of sheriff's 'aggressive' Risk Management Bureau



Opinion: California has a $38-billion deficit. So why are we still paying for prisons we don’t need?

LA Times, By Brian Kaneda, Feb. 5, 2024
Facing a state budget deficit of at least $38 billion, Gov.

Los Angeles Times, by Keri Blakinger, Feb 28, 2024
Oversight officials this month urged the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to disband a specialized bureau they say is silencing whistleblowers, protecting favored employees and downplaying misconduct in the upper ranks.

Read More

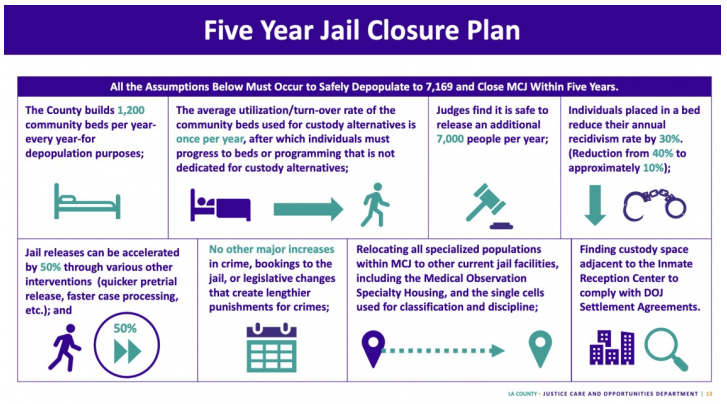


Gavin Newsom could save $1 billion by closing 5 California prisons, legislative analyst says

Sacramento Bee, By Maya Miller, February 27, 2024
California could save nearly $1 billion annually if it closed five more state prisons, according to a new report from the Legislative Analyst's Office. The nonpartisan analysts are once again urging Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration to cull the state's prison infrastructure as the number of inmates continues to decline. The savings could help Newsom shore up a projected $38 billion deficit

Read more

Gavin Newsom should be rethinking his expensive commitment to the state's traditional system of mass incarceration. While insisting he will create a kinder, gentler brand of California prison, the governor has authorized $1 billion in raises for corrections officers and hundreds of millions more for prison buildings despite a steady decline of the incarcerated population and skyrocketing costs.
Read More



A New 5-Year Plan For Closing Men's Central Jail

WitnessLA, February 5, 2024, by Taylor Walker
On January 30, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors received a new five-year plan for closing the dangerously decrepit Men's Central Jail without a replacement facility. This new plan isn't the county's first roadmap for shuttering the jail, nor is it the most expedient.
Read More

Reports



Electronic Monitoring Is an Extension of Mass Incarceration

Vera, by Nazish Dholakia Senior Writer, Jan 30, 2024
New Vera report finds that the use of electronic monitoring —which perpetuates many of the harms of mass incarceration—has exploded in recent years.
The number of people on electronic monitoring has



You Can Make Your Campus More Welcoming to Justice-Involved Students

Vera Report, Feb, 2004
Reinstating Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated students means that more than 760,000 people in prison will have an easier time affording college behind bars. However, the limited number of college-in-prison programs available means that many prospective students still cannot access

increased exponentially in recent years. A new Vera report estimates that, from 2005 to 2021, the number of people on electronic monitoring increased fivefold to more than 250,000. And, in 2022, nearly half a million people were on electronic monitoring—ten times the number of people on electronic monitoring in 2005.
“Unlike jail and prison data, there’s no federal effort to track even partial information on electronic monitoring,” said Jacob Kang-Brown, a senior research fellow at Vera and one of the report’s authors. “Many localities and states have no mechanism for reporting information out.”

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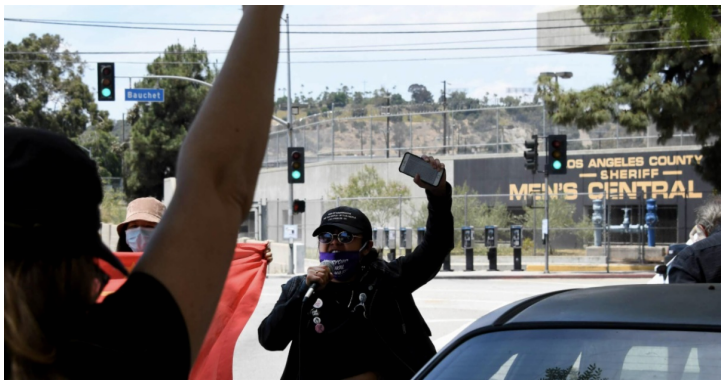

With Four Deaths in New Year Already, LA Jails Continue to Be Deadly in 2024

Vera, Sam McCann Senior Writer, Feb 07, 2024

Four people have died in Los Angeles County jails just over a month into the new year. Their deaths continue a deadly trend; 49 people have died in the system’s custody since the start of 2023.
What’s killing people in LA County jails?
Overcrowded facilities are the most significant single factor driving jail deaths in Los Angeles. The jail system has operated as high as 16.7 percent over capacity since

the start of last year. This means that not only are the facilities physically crowded, but resources are also being stretched beyond their breaking point.

Read More

How Mandatory Minimums Perpetuate Mass Incarceration and What to Do About It

The Sentencing Project Fact Sheet,By Ashley Nellis, Ph.D., February 14, 2024

Eliminating mandatory minimum sentencing laws is essential to creating a more just and equitable criminal justice system

Read More

it. In order to realize the full potential of this change, more schools across the United States must work toward creating college-in-prison programs and ensure that they are fostering supportive, welcoming environments for justice-involved students.
Read on to find five actions you can take to advocate for a more inclusive, equitable campus.
Read More
Download PDF Toolkit



Cheap Jail and Prison Food Is Making People Sick. It Doesn’t Have To.

Vera, by Elizabeth Allen Editorial Assistant, Feb 27, 2024

Penny-pinching on food services fleeces incarcerated people and their families and has adverse health impacts, all while lining the pockets of corporations. Better ways exist.
Read More



Private Prisons in the United States

The Sentencing Project, By Kristen M. Budd, Ph.D., February 21, 2024

Private for-profit prisons incarcerated 90,873 American residents in 2022, representing 8% of the total state and federal prison population. Since 2000, the number of people housed in private prisons has increased 5%.

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