LARRP August 2024 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



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LARRP Committee Meetings * Got Help? * Policy Updates * LARRP Programs * LARRP Member Spotlight *LARRP in July * Featured Jobs and Opportunities * Partner Events * Reports * News *

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

LARRP General Meeting
August 15, 2024
10:00 - 11:30am

Register General Meeting

Education Committee
September 5, 2024
3:30 - 4:30pm

Register Education

AV LARRP
August 20, 2024
11:00 - 12:00 pm

Join Meeting - AV LARRP

Housing Committee
September 27, 2024
10:00 - 11:00am

Register Housing

Employment Committee Meeting
August 21, 2024
2:00 - 3:30pm

Register Employment

Integrated Health Committee
AUGUST MEETING CANCELLED!
October 7, 2024, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Register Integrated Health

Got Help? YES WE DO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Over the past decade we have seen, and indeed we have helped to usher in, a massive network of resources and services for people returning from incarceration and living with criminal records---our beloved reentry community. For those who may be newer to this work and this movement, and for those who got released in this new era, it may be hard to imagine that less than 10 years ago the reentry sector was essentially nonexistent, and there were $0 dedicated reentry dollars or programs available form LA County departments. In the old days, there were a handful of austere funding contracts from CDCR for people on parole, they covered what we then called "3 hots and a cot," 3 meals a day and a place to sleep. Our reentry community was consistently discriminated against and excluded (legally and administratively) from accessing the broad array of human services they so desperately needed, like medical care, behavioral health, housing, employment support, education, life skills, etc.

What a new era we are in! Today LA County disperses millions of dollars, from their own coffers and state grants, directly to community based reentry service providers, along with the build out of their own reentry services infrastructure through new county departments like the ***Office of Diversion and Reentry***, as well as the new ***Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department***.

Today we have 1-800 numbers, drop in centers, sobering centers, reentry resources centers and an army of community health workers dedicated to connecting those exiting incarceration to services.

LARRP recently launched a new ***"Get Help"*** page to help our reentry community quickly find many of these resources and linkages in one place. Not to spoil your imminent browsing too much, here are a few highlights of what you can find at LARRP Get Help:

- **Dial "211"** to access their database of 50,000+ social and health services
- **Dial (833) 522-5263 (833-LAC-JCOD)** toll free 7 days a week 6am-11pm to be connected to resources and opportunities for justice involved individuals.
- **LA DOORS** Community Reentry Center, Drop in to see us at 3965 Vermont Ave or call 323-730-4442 for a phone intake session Mon-Thurs 8am-4pm, other times leave a message.
- **California ALL** - The CA State Government's new comprehensive website for opioids or other SUDs lists treatment centers by location and info lines for medical teams serving those in need, ***www.opioids.ca.gov.***

Did you know that since 2011 LARRP has been building a locally rooted reentry movement in Los Angeles? It is one that is deeply embedded in the community of formerly incarcerated people and the agencies that serve them, and truly unparalleled anywhere else in the country. ***Click here to download the LARRP Overview*** and see highlights from the past 13 years, along with our current programs and committees.

Policy Updates

Legislative Update: Sacramento on Recess



Bill 1810 info and Progress

AB 1810 (Bryan)

The California State Legislature is currently on its summer recess, giving lawmakers a chance to return to their districts and reconnect with their constituents. This pause also allows us at LARRP to strengthen our advocacy efforts and prepare for the legislative activities set to resume in August. Many of our priority bills are in their last committees, and some are awaiting a final floor vote. AB 1810 (Bryan) is currently awaiting a Senate Floor vote, its last stop before heading to Governor Newsom's desk.

California's legislators will be back in Sacramento on August 5, and have until August 31 to pass bills for this legislative year. Any bill which is passed by August 31st will have another month to be signed by the governor, with a final deadline of September 30. Once we know what bills have passed out of the legislature, we will turn our advocacy to Governor Newsom to ensure he signs the legislation we have all worked on this year into law.

As we approach the end of the legislative year in October, we will keep you updated on key bills and how you can help support crucial policies and continue to advocate for meaningful change together.

2024 Election: Ballot Measures and Voter Engagement



Navigating Criminal Justice Reform:

The Impact of Proposition 47 and the Challenge of Proposition 36

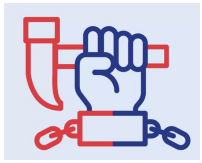
In the decade since California embraced Proposition 47, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, we've witnessed transformative changes within our communities. Proposition 47 has equipped the reentry community with crucial tools and resources to tackle the underlying causes of criminal behavior, leading to a notable decrease in violent crime and lower recidivism rates among program participants. These positive outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of Prop 47 in fostering safer communities and providing renewed opportunities for those impacted by the justice system.

However, despite these successes, the "tough-on-crime" narrative continues to challenge the progress made. Some critiques focus disproportionately on high-profile crimes, overshadowing the broader, statistically verified reduction in crime rates facilitated by the initiatives under Prop 47. This narrative often misses the holistic benefits of rehabilitation and community support that have been integral to the successes observed.

This November, the debate takes a new turn with ***Proposition 36*** on the ballot. This measure proposes significant changes to Prop 47, including the reclassification of certain drug-related misdemeanors as felonies and the introduction of harsher penalties for low-level theft. These rollbacks will reverse the essential criminal justice reforms of the past decade and return California to bloated prisons and policies that prioritize incarceration over rehabilitation.

As community members, it is essential to be well-informed about the stakes involved with Proposition 36. Educating ourselves on the impacts of these legislative changes is crucial for making informed decisions that uphold the principles of justice reform and support ongoing efforts to reduce recidivism and enhance community reintegration.

Let's continue to champion evidence-based approaches



Spotlight on Proposition 6: Understanding Involuntary Servitude

As part of our ongoing educational efforts, we highlight ***Proposition 6***, aimed at amending the California Constitution to ban involuntary servitude as punishment for crimes. Under the current language of both the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the California Constitution, involuntary servitude is permissible as a form of criminal punishment. This policy impacts many incarcerated individuals who are compelled to work, sometimes irrespective of their will, desire, or physical capabilities, and usually for mere pennies per hour.

Proposition 6, formally known as the Remove Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for Crime Amendment, proposes to change this, ensuring that no individual in state prisons is forced into labor. Understanding the implications of this amendment is crucial as it addresses significant issues surrounding human dignity and rights within the incarceration system. Educated voting is a powerful tool for community engagement and advocating for justice reform.

LA Times: Your guide to Proposition 6: Ending forced prison labor

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Vote to Voice: Amplifying Our Community's Impact

November Ballot - With the presidential race dominating the news, it's essential to remember that your ballot in November will include much more. Local and state elections, often referred to as "Down-Ballot" races, are equally crucial. These positions —ranging from city council members to state legislators and ballot propositions—have a direct impact on issues like affordable housing, community budgets, and the allocation of resources for reentry programs. Engaging in these races means making informed decisions that shape the landscape of your community. As the election draws near, anticipate a surge in campaign communications. It's a pivotal time to connect with candidates to understand their stance on issues critical to the reentry community. Researching endorsements and positions of trusted groups can also guide your voting decisions, ensuring they reflect your values and address your community's

needs.

Are You Registered to Vote? Are You Eligible to Vote?

that prioritize human dignity and community safety. Understanding the full scope of these propositions empowers us to advocate for policies that truly reflect the values of rehabilitation and reintegration.

LARRP has dedicated a new web page, ***Proposition 47 (2014): The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act*** to keeping track of this issue, where we will collect the various reports and news articles as the debate heats up.

Ensure your voice is heard by verifying your voter registration status ahead of November, especially if you are justice-impacted. Misunderstandings about voting eligibility with a felony record are common, but in California, nearly ALL in the reentry community are indeed eligible to vote. ***Confirm your status*** and ***register*** if needed to participate in the upcoming election.

The Importance of Voting for the Reentry Community. Every vote has the potential to be a step towards transformative policies that support reentry, rehabilitation, and justice reform. Voting empowers you to influence public policy that directly affects the reentry community. Active participation in elections helps safeguard the rights and needs of those impacted by the justice system. Your vote is more than a choice—it's a declaration of your voice and a commitment to shaping a just future for all.

LA Times 2024 California Propositions Voter Guide

LARRP Programs

The UCLA/UC Berkeley Research Project Update



LARRP is working on an exciting research project with a group of universities headed up by UCLA and UC Berkeley to help the reentry community and other at-risk groups access healthcare and support services. We are building an advisory board that you may be perfect for!

If you know anyone who is in San Bernardino who is interested in or works with reentry, HIV/STI, or LGBTQ groups, you can recommend them to this team for a paid advisory community spot.

We are also looking for an organization in San Bernardino who can be an organizational research partner. Ideally, these groups would have a significant presence in the community and a desire to help progress our understanding of how best to support the reentry, HIV/STI, and LGBTQ groups.

Let ***Charles Vignola*** LARRP's point of contact for this team.

Updates from THE LEADERS Training Academy!



Community-Based Safety and Violence Prevention Trainings



LARRP is proud to partner with The Amity Foundation to present an 8-week workshop on Community-based Public Safety (CBPS). This training aims to inform and equip partner organizations with the tools to apply CBPS to their work and develop customized community safety strategies. The workshops emphasize that criminal justice reform requires comprehensive efforts, including rehabilitative laws and support to address the root causes of violence. Join us to become agents of community peacebuilding and healing through robust preventative plans for violence.

Here's what our Cohort 1 participants from are saying:

"This was well done and participants had the opportunity to learn new facts and gain insight into the challenges African American have had to and are still facing as a result of cultural, structural, and systemic



LARRP is excited to announce the introduction of the TAY (Transitional Aged Youth) cohort at the LEADERS Training Academy. Our workshops now cover Soft Skills, Financial Literacy, Emotional Intelligence, and Building Healthy Relationships, equipping TAY participants with essential tools for success. We've paired experienced alumni mentors with our TAY members, creating a transformative mentorship program. These mentors share invaluable guidance and inspiration from their own journeys. This initiative fosters a supportive environment, empowering our young participants to thrive. We're excited to see the positive impact of these connections, reinforcing our commitment to nurturing future leaders.

Please contact ***Betty A. Mills*** our TAY program coordinator, with any questions and to get involved.

violence/racism in America. Participants engaged by bringing up more current incidents around each of the topics that jointly affect our communities of color--i.e. efforts to dismantle Re-entry services and how hard the fight is to get legislation passed and implemented."

"It was the perfect amount of interaction and lecture."

"These trainings are well rounded and additional info comes forth during discussion."

"I most enjoyed the pacing of the lessons. They felt like a natural progression of the material. As someone who is new to this field, I felt that it was very easy to follow the topics presented. I also liked the variety in being able to participate such as the jam board activity."

We have had the first few trainings, but there is still room to join us, enrollment is on an ongoing basis.

For all questions and more information, contact ***Megan@lareentry.org***

Join Us

LARRP member spotlight



Our LARRP Steering and Executive Committee member ***Chrysalis*** hosted an open house on July 24th at their Inland Empire office to foster collaboration with other organizations and individuals in our community. Since 1984, Chrysalis has transformed the lives of over 85,000 individuals by helping them overcome financial insecurity and housing instability. Through their tailored job-readiness programs, supportive services, and paid transitional employment, Chrysalis empowers clients to achieve stability, security, and fulfillment in their work and lives.

Where was LARRP in July?

Last month, LARRP staff took a tour around the County to visit LARRP Steering Cmte member orgs ***Paving the Way Foundation***, ***Chrysalis***, and the ***Center for Living and Learning***, along with other member agencies like ***Timelist Group***, where we conducted interviews and captured content to showcase the incredible work they do; we look forward to visiting more partners soon!



We were also at the monthly New Way of Life Legal Clinic at DOORS on 7/17 and the Chrysalis Open House 7/24.

Let us know if you want LARRP to attend one of your events ***Info@lareentry.org***



Featured Jobs and Opportunities

Grants



There are 5 open grants on our members only page.
Become a member to see them and be notified about new grants whenever we become aware of them.

We generally send out at least one "Members Only" email a month, with new funding opportunities

Funding Opportunities

Jobs

TPW

Membership Manager

Transformative Programming Works is a coalition of formerly incarcerated leaders and 96 community-based organizations (CBOs) that offer healing and restorative justice programs in California prisons.

More info

Social Justice Partners Los Angeles (SJPLA)

Community Events Coordinator

More Info and apply

More Jobs

Opportunities



Bilingual C4C

Application Deadline August 16, 2024
Classes Beginning 9/9/24 TO 10/30/24 Tuesday through Saturday 9:00am to 1:30pm

Careers For A Cause (C4C) is an 8-week pre-employment training program offered by East Los Angeles College to prepare East LA area residents to compete for careers in social services such as Community Health Workers and Peer Support Specialists. Participants selected for the program will receive case management and supportive services during training.

Apply

More Opportunities and Information

Don't miss out! August Events







Celebrate Community at the Annual Block Party and Resource Fair!

Saturday, August 3
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
500 Block of East Jackson St.

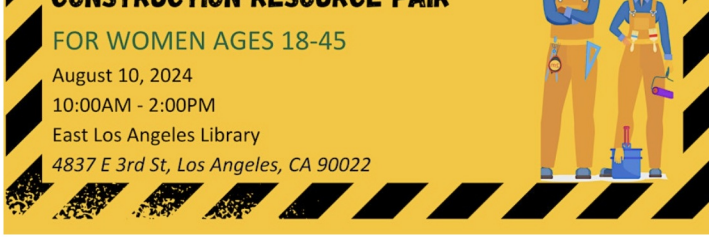
Join Assemblyman Chris Holden District 41



Summer Pad
Student and Family Resource Fair

August 3, 6:00 - 10:00 pm
Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park
905 E. El Segundo Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90059
Join the Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, LA County Parks Department, and community partners

RSVP



Building HER Future: Women in Construction Resource Fair

August 10, 2024, 10am - 2pm
East Los Angeles Library 4837 E 3rd St, Los Angeles, CA 90022

Join us for a day where women can learn about the building and construction trades as a career.

Register



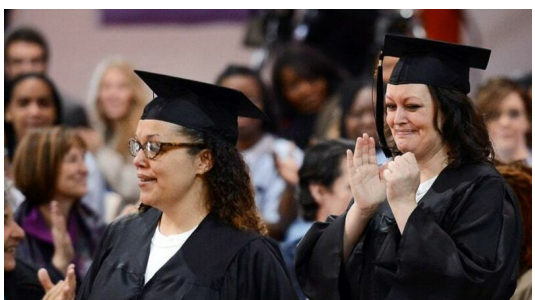
Mobilize Recovery 2024 Kick Off

September 20, 2024 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Dr, Los Angeles, CA

Live Performance by American Idol Winner Noah Thompson & Special Guest Danny Trejo!
Come join the launch of the Mobilize Recovery Across America 2024 Bus Tour, a nationwide movement to empower individuals, families, and communities affected by addiction and mental health challenges.
RSVP

Featured Reports





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Incarcerated Women and Girls

The Sentencing Project, By Kristen M. Budd, Ph.D.
July 24, 2024
Research on female incarceration is critical to understanding the full consequences of mass incarceration and to unraveling the policies and practices that lead to their criminalization. Today The Sentencing Project released an updated report documenting over a 585% increase in women's imprisonment in the United States between 1980 and 2022.

While more men are imprisoned than women, the rate of growth for female incarceration is twice as high as that of men since 1980. In 2022, over 975,000 women were under the supervision of the criminal legal system.

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The First Year of Pell Restoration
A Snapshot of Quality, Equity, and Scale in Prison Education Programs

Report, Vera Institute of Justice, June 2024, by Niloufer Taber Amanda Nowak, Maurice Smith Jennifer Yang Celia Strumph
Pell Grant restoration took effect on July 1, 2023, making incarcerated people in the United States eligible for need-based federal postsecondary financial aid for the first time in nearly 30 years. Since the launch of the Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites Initiative (SCP) in 2016, more than 45,000 incarcerated students have enrolled in SCP programs. Today, there are more than 750,000 people in prison eligible to enroll in a postsecondary program.

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In the News - June 2024

Featured News Article



Overdose deaths plateau
Greater availability of naloxone may be helping

LA Times, By Megan Botel, July 24, 2024
The numbers: This week, the county Department of Public Health announced a 4% decrease last year in the number of fatalities from drug overdoses or poisoning compared to the previous year. Those numbers were: 3,092 deaths in 2023; down from 3,220 in 2022.
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More News Stories





Inmates fight against working in extreme heat

Judge has challenged treatment of mostly Black prisoners at former plantation.

LA Times, By Margie Mason and Robin McDowell, July 28, 2024

Beneath the blazing summer sun on a former slave plantation, Lamont Gross and fellow prisoners stooped in long rows, picking vegetables by hand under the watchful eyes of armed guards on horseback. He said breaks were short and infrequent, with nothing to protect workers from the heat.

“I saw guys collapse,” Gross said of his days on the so-called farm line at Louisiana’s state penitentiary, where men work for pennies an hour or nothing at all and face punishment if they refuse.

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Guard at 'rape club' prison faces new charges of sexually abusing inmates

LA Times, by Richard Winton, July 26, 2024

A new indictment accuses a former correctional officer at a now-shuttered federal women's prison in California dubbed the "rape club" of abusing more female inmates. A federal grand jury issued a superseding indictment Thursday charging Darrell Wayne Smith with 15 counts of sexual abuse, including a civil rights violation, against five women who were incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, Calif., in the East Bay. Smith, known to detainees as "Dirty Dick," had previously been indicted of sexually abusing three female inmates. He is accused of sexually abusing the women in their cells and a laundry

facility between 2016 and 2021.

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Clear Encampments? Mind Your Own

Can chess games and toilet paper change prison culture? Inside San Quentin’s big experiment

By Hannah Wiley, Photography by Robert Gauthier, July 19, 2024

SAN QUENTIN — To someone living outside these dank walls, the changes might seem small.

A sergeant greets a prisoner with “good morning” rather than barking an order. Guards start calling the prisoners “residents.” They shake hands, exchange jokes.

The toilet paper locker gets replenished when it’s empty. The men don’t have to ask

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The crime wave is over but Republicans can’t let go

The GOP is still pretending that crime is spiraling out of control.

VOX, by Abdallah Fayyad, Jul 17, 2024

While there was indeed a rise in crime during the pandemic, recent data has shown that crime is declining nationwide. According to the FBI, murder is down 26 percent and robberies have declined by 18 percent in the first three months of 2024 compared to the same time last year. That didn’t stop Republican speakers throughout the night from singling out incidents of heinous crimes and drug overdoses to conjure up an image of lawlessness and disorder.

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Is it time for the feds to investigate wrongdoing in the LA County’s jails—again?

Witness LA, July 19, 2024 by Celeste Fremon

On December 9, 2013, slightly more than a decade from today, the The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California, filed five criminal cases for a total of 18 indictments against members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

It would be wonderful to think that the high-profile convictions would have a transformative effect on the culture of the world’s fourth largest jail system.

Yet, while some changes were made, a recent letter sent to Martin Estrada, the present U. S. Attorney of the Central District of California, suggests that the county has

Business, Los Angeles Says.

In California, Gov. Gavin Newsom's declaration urging cities to clear homeless camps met its strongest opposition in Los Angeles.

NYTimes, By Michael Corkery and Jill Cowan, July 26, 2024

Gov. Gavin Newsom appeared this week wearing work gloves and Ray-Ban sunglasses as he hauled a garbage bag from under a freeway overpass in California. His message was obvious: He wanted state and local officials to clear out homeless encampments, just as he was doing, and he had signed an executive order to spur them into action.

Hours later, the mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass, responded with her own set of visuals from a different encampment cleanup in the nation's second-largest city.

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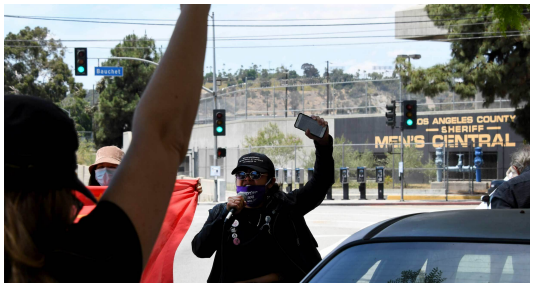

With 18 Deaths in 2024, LA Jails Continue Deadly Trend

Sixty-three people have died in LA County jails since the start of 2023.

Vera, Sam McCann, Jul 23, 2024

Another person has died in Los Angeles County jails, marking the 18th in-custody death so far this year and the 63rd since the start of 2023.

That staggering number far exceeds that of New York City Department of Correction facilities, where the rising number of deaths at the Rikers Island jail complex has led to a mounting crisis that has received nationwide attention.

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Why homelessness has more than

a painfully long way to go.

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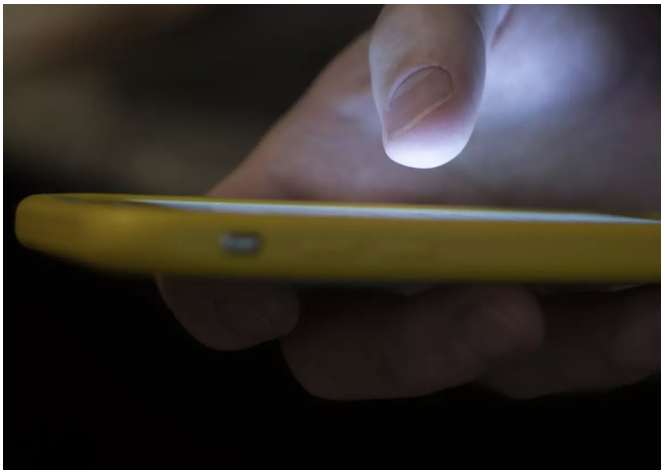

Opinion: The mental health crisis hotline is working. So why doesn't it get the funding it needs?

LA Times By Chuck Ingoglia, July 16, 2024

The 988 suicide and crisis lifeline remains one of the most significant, easily accessible resources ever created to help people in crisis. So two years after its launch, why aren't states investing more to meet the demand for its services?

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As inmates swelter, California prisons remain unprepared for extreme heat

LA Times, By Hayley Smith, July 13, 2024

doubled in LA County's once-affordable northern desert

The Antelope Valley has seen a worrisome rise in homelessness. Most are living unsheltered in inhospitable conditions.

The LAist, By David Wagner, Jul 22, 2024

When the results of Los Angeles County's most recent homeless count showed the number of unhoused people holding steady, elected leaders celebrated. The news brought some relief after years of increases. Lost amid the cheers were the much more dire numbers coming out of the Antelope Valley, where homelessness rose 42% in the last year alone.

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Prop 36: California's 2024 Ballot Proposition to Recall Prop 47 Explained

Vera, Jun 21, 2024

What is Proposition 47, and how does it relate to the upcoming ballot proposition, Proposition 36?

In the early 2010s, California's prison system was overfilled, dangerous, ineffective, and untenably expensive. The situation was so dire that the United States Supreme Court ordered California to take action. To comply with the U.S. Constitution, save money, and

improve the prison system without compromising public safety, Californians passed Prop 47 with an overwhelming majority of the vote. Prop 47 reclassified six minor felony offenses to misdemeanors, including shoplifting and simple drug possession, and it funneled costs savings into safety measures like drug and mental health treatment, homelessness prevention, and victim services centers. These changes aligned with research concluding that addressing these offenses with jail or prison time is both expensive and ineffective.

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The potential heat-related death of a prison inmate in California's Central Valley this week is focusing renewed attention on conditions within correctional institutions as extreme heat, wildfire smoke and flooding pose increasing threats to incarcerated people.

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LA County Probation Announces Significant Management Overhaul

POC Press Release, July 1, 2024

The Probation Oversight Commission acknowledges L.A. County Probation Chief Guillermo Viera Rosa's announcement last Friday of an unprecedented restructuring that eliminates an entire layer of management in the 6,600-person probation agency, the largest of its kind in the country, as a move forward toward reform efforts.

Viera Rosa said flattening the organization will make for quicker implementation of new policies, clearer lines of authority, better internal feedback, and greater transparency. It also pushes decision-making closer to personnel who interact with adult probationers, youth, their families, County partner agencies, and the public.

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