LARRP September 2024 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



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In this Issue

LARRP Committee Meetings * Celebrating Troy Vaughn * Membership Offer* Funding Opportunities * General meeting Update * Policy Updates * Voter Info * Prop 36 * LARRP Programs Pop Culture * LARRP Member Spotlight * LARRP in August * 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"*

Don't Miss these New Sections: Pop Culture, Member Spotlight, and our exciting Membership Offer

LARRP Meetings

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

Register Education

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

Register Housing

LARRP General Meeting
September 19, 2024
10:00 - 11:30am

Register General Meeting

Integrated Health Committee
October 7, 2024,
2:00 - 3:00 pm

Register Integrated Health

AV LARRP
September 17, 2024
11:00 - 12:00pm

Join Meeting - AV LARRP

Employment Committee Meeting
October 16, 2024
2:00 - 3:30pm

Register Employment

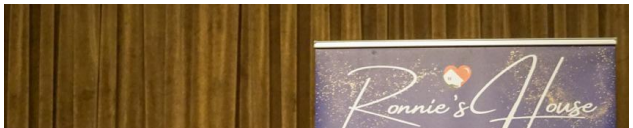
Leading with Vision:Celebrating LARRP Executive Director Troy Vaughn

We Are Steadfast And Unmovable



Receiving the Champion of Justice Award at the 4th Annual Reentry Summit hosted by Ronnie's House was truly an honor that made me reflect deeply on our journey with the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP). The event brought together so many incredible organizations, all working towards the same goal of justice and equity in our community. It was inspiring to have meaningful conversations and connect with others who share our commitment to reentry and reform. These moments remind us of the power of collaboration and the vital role that organizations like Ronnie's House play in advancing our mission.

Looking back on when we started the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP) network in September of 2011, there is one common theme that still holds true: our unwavering dedication to helping our returning citizens, their families, and our communities throughout the world. It is clear to me that our dedication to building capacity, constant investment in innovative solutions, and ongoing development of our people through our leadership academy and workshops have enabled us to achieve this consistency and commitment. Additionally, across the network, we uphold certain steadfast tenets that are worth repeating as we move forward to amplify our voices and strengthen our resolve to have a meaningful impact.



Third, while we don't run the network worrying about the wins in the short run, in the long run, we consider the value of our work and measure our progress over time. This progress is a function of continual investments in our people, systems, and products, in good and bad times, to build our capabilities. These important investments will also drive our network's prospects and position it to grow and prosper for decades. Measured by steady performance in impacting recidivism, our progress is exceptional.

Fourth, we are united behind basic principles and strategies that have helped build this network and made it thrive. These allow us to maintain a fortress balance perspective that keeps us anchored during changing times, constantly invest in and nurture talent through our leadership academy and workshops, and fully satisfy funders, partners, and affiliates. This philosophy is embedded in our culture and influences nearly everything we do.



Fifth, we strive to build enduring programs and projects that serve as a model across the nation, which rely on and benefit from one another, but we are not a conglomerate. This structure helps generate the value we have in the collective. Nonetheless, despite our best efforts, the walls that protect our network from people not willing to put the work in are not particularly high — and we face extraordinary competition and opposition. We recognize our strengths and vulnerabilities, and we play our hand as best we can.

Sixth, we must be a source of strength, particularly in tough times, for our people whom we serve and the communities in which we operate. We must take seriously our role as one of the guardians of the ever-changing reentry systems.

Seventh, we operate with a very important silent partner — our membership. Our network's success is predicated upon the extraordinary response to



First, our work has a very real human impact. This is because LARRP is not owned by any institution; it belongs to the people. In all cases where our work translates, the ultimate beneficiaries are individuals in our communities. According to the ***DOJ,*** over 10,000 people are released from America's state and federal prisons every week and arrive on the doorsteps of our nation's communities. More than ***600,000*** individuals are released from prison every year, and ***studies show*** that approximately two-thirds will likely be rearrested within three years of release. LARRP's work helps to interrupt this cycle. The high volume of returnees reflects the tremendous ***growth in the U.S. prison population during the past 30 years.*** We cannot and must not relent in our work. For the communities to which most of our brothers and sisters are returning home, we are the only thing that stands between the challenges opposing them and the second-chance opportunities awaiting them.

Second, second-chance value can be built only if we maintain a healthy and vibrant network, which means working together and doing a good job of taking care of our returning citizens, their families, and communities. Conversely, how can we have a healthy network if we neglect any of these stakeholders? As we have learned over the past few years, there are myriad ways compassion can be demonstrated. For us, it's remembering that we are all connected, and we are stronger together.

the conditions our country creates through the prison system. As I think about all that is at stake in the world this year, I just want to say thank you. LARRP is a healthy and thriving network, and we always want to be in a position to use our collective voices, gifts, and talents to have a lasting and positive impact. We put in our fair share of time advocating for our returning citizens — and we want it to be spent well and have the greatest impact.

Eighth and finally, we know the foundation of our success rests with our staff, volunteers, and membership. It is every one of you. You who are on the front line, both individually and as organizations, serving our people and communities, building the technology and programs, making strategic decisions, managing risks, determining our path forward, and driving innovation. However, you view the world and landscape of reentry — its complexity, risks, and opportunities — our network's prosperity requires a great team of people with guts, brains, integrity, enormous capabilities, and high standards of professional excellence to ensure its ongoing success.

I'm so proud to be in this work with every one of you. You are my heroes and sheroes. I look to you for strength and inspiration to stay in the fight.

In Service,

Pastor Troy F. Vaughn
Executive Director, LARRP

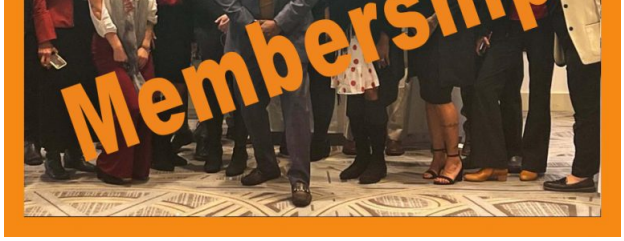
Membership Offer



Become a LARRP member within the next 30 days and enjoy a free one-year subscription to LinkedIn Premium (a $480 value)!

As a member, you'll gain access to exclusive capacity-building resources, funding opportunities, and a strong network of professionals committed to criminal justice reform. Don't miss this chance to grow your impact and advance your career with LARRP's invaluable support.

Offer ends October 1, 2024



Join Us Now

Funding Opportunities

These are a few of the funding opportunities which we sent out to members lately. More are available on our members only page

California Community Reinvestment Grants Program (Prop 64)

The first phase of the application process due no later than Monday, September 9, 2024, at 4:59 PM, PT

The CalCRG Online Application Portal will be available via: ***www.business.ca.gov/CalCRG***

HUD FY 2024 & 2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity Competition

CoC Submission Deadline: Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 5 PM PST

There is approximately $3.5 billion available nationally in the NOFO Competition. ***Please click here*** to view the notice from HUD and visit the LAHSA NOFO webpage ***here*** for ongoing information .

Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program Round 1 (2024): Request for Applications

Application due date December 13, 2024, at 5 PM, PT

Eligible entities may apply and receive funding support to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets in behavioral health settings that serve Medi-Cal members. DHCS will award up to $3.3 billion in grant funds ***More Info***

LARRP General Meeting Recap, August 2024

LARRP had another invaluable and informative General Meeting in August, featuring

- Maria Jose Vides of the Vera Institute of Justice with a ***presentation on Proposition 36***
- The team at ***Abundant Blessing*** explaining their B7 Housing Program.

You can find the Zoom recording of this meeting and all of our General Meetings ***HERE***

The meeting began as all of our meetings do with an impactful speaker to ground us in the space and inspire us anew to do the work we do.

Read the story of Andrew's journey. Or atch the entire video of his talk ***HERE***

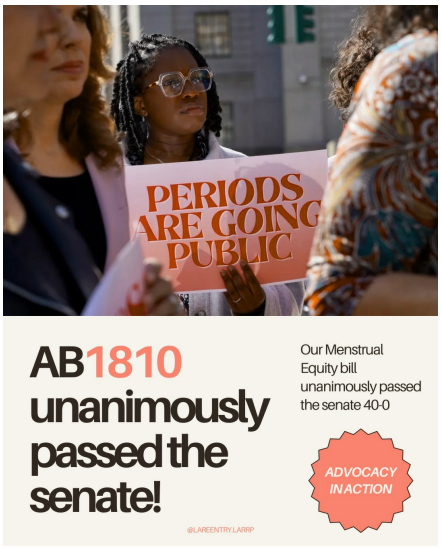
Andrew Gonzales, Grounding Us in the Space



"Everything was just starting to hit me, like all the pain, fear, and hurt that I imposed on people's lives was hitting me. I felt like every single person that I ever hurt in my life was right there in front of me, facing me."

Policy Updates

Legislative Victory! *AB 1810 (Bryan)*



LARRP is proud to announce that on 08/20/24, our co-sponsored bill, AB 1810 (Bryan), Menstrual Equity, passed through the California State Senate unanimously, meaning there were no “No” votes! This is a rare occurrence in the deeply divided capitol, and a confirmation of the necessity of this legislation that guarantees incarcerated people the right to free and accessible menstrual products. The bill is now waiting to be signed by Governor Gavin Newsom

As we approach the end of the legislative year in October, we will keep you updated on the outcomes of the key bills LARRP advocated for or against this year. In these final weeks of the Legislative Session we will let you know how you can help support crucial policies and continue to advocate for meaningful change together.

Guest Commentary: AB1810 Nears Passage – A Landmark Moment for Menstrual Equity in California Prisons

Davis Vanguard, by By Betty Mills, LARRP Program Coordinator, August 30, 2024



Recently, California took a significant step towards equity and humane treatment within its correctional facilities by passing Assembly Bill 1810 through the Senate. This groundbreaking legislation, co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP), addresses a fundamental yet often overlooked issue: access to menstrual products for incarcerated women.

But this bill is about more than just providing sanitary products; it’s about recognizing the dignity and basic human rights of incarcerated women. Historically, women in prison have faced significant barriers in accessing menstrual care, leading to distressing and unsanitary conditions. As a formerly incarcerated woman who experienced this firsthand, I can attest to the dehumanizing reality many women still face.

Read More

Make Your Voice Heard: VOTE!



Preparing for November Elections

While the presidential race may be grabbing headlines, don't overlook the significance of what’s on your local November ballot. Beyond the top-ticket race, there are local and state elections, commonly known as "down-ballot" contests, that are equally important. These elections—spanning from city council positions to state legislature seats and various ballot measures—directly

Check Your Voter Status

Are you registered to vote? Are you certain of your eligibility? With the November elections fast approaching, it's crucial to verify your voter registration status, especially if you have been affected by the justice system. There is often confusion around voting rights for those with felony records, but in California, most individuals within the reentry community retain their right to vote. *If you are not currently serving a sentence at a state or federal prison for a felony you CAN register to vote and vote.* Don’t miss your chance—verify your eligibility and register if necessary to make your voice heard.

Check your status here: ***https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/***

Why Voting Matters for the Reentry Community

Every ballot cast is a step towards meaningful policies that advocate for reentry support, rehabilitation, and

influence critical issues like affordable housing, local budget allocations, and funding for reentry initiatives. Participating in these races allows you to help shape the future of your community based on informed choices. With the election season ramping up, expect an increase in campaign outreach. This is a prime opportunity to engage with candidates and understand their positions on issues that matter most to the reentry community. Look into endorsements and analyses from reputable organizations to ensure your vote aligns with your values and the community's priorities.

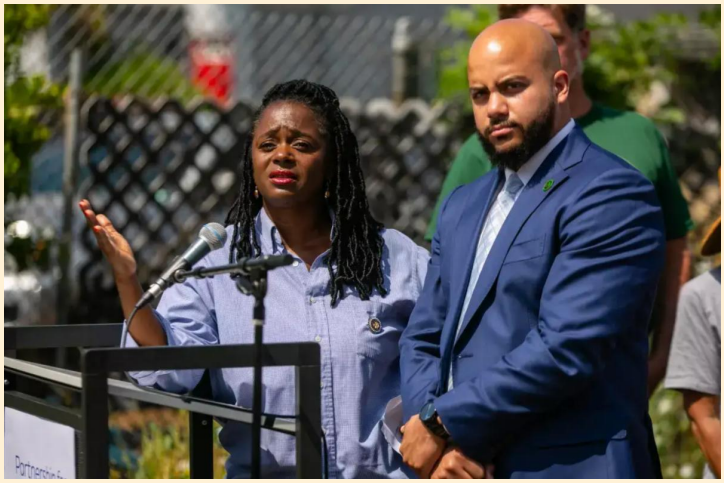
justice reform. Your vote empowers you to influence decisions that directly impact the reentry community. Engaging in the electoral process helps protect the interests and rights of those who have been through the justice system. Remember, voting is more than just casting a ballot—it's a powerful statement of your commitment to creating a fairer and more equitable society.

For more resources, go to ***LARRP's Voter Engagement page:***

Understanding Prop 36

One of the most important issues that Angelenos will vote on this November is Prop 36. It will have a direct impact on our Community. Information and misinformation is dizzying. Below you will find a guide to the issue

And keep checking our *website* for up-to-date articles and resouces



Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, seen in July with state Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, spoke at a news conference Monday, rallying with other progressive Democrats against Proposition 36. (Jason Armond / Los Angeles Times)

Vera Presentation at LARRP's General Meeting

What is Prop 36?
And Why is it so Important we Rally Against it? Explained by The Vera Institute

This year, special interest groups including large retail corporations like Walmart and Target as well as the California Correctional Peace Officers Association are funding Prop 36, a ballot initiative that once again seeks to roll back Prop 47. Although they describe Prop 36 as "The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act," none of its provisions directly address homelessness, and

What would Prop 36 do?

Prop 36 would both roll back Prop 47 and add new penalties for drug use and a broad range of theft offenses, as well as add new sentencing enhancements that would apply to any type of crime.

Drug use

Prop 36 increases prison time for those who use drugs, though ***evidence shows*** that imprisonment for drug crimes does not reduce drug use. While Prop 36 imposes mandated drug treatment in some cases, it will ***reduce funding*** for (and consequently, availability of) such treatment, and research ***casts doubt*** on the effectiveness of mandated drug and mental health treatment.

Read More detail

Theft

Prop 36 increases prison time for a range of theft offenses so broad that some provisions would even increase prison time for failing to return a rental car on time. However, studies ***show that increasing charges and punishments*** (including for repeat offenses) does not meaningfully deter crime. Neither does l***owering felony theft thresholds*** work.

Read More details

Sentencing enhancements

Sentencing enhancements require judges to add additional years of prison time on top of the sentence for the underlying crime. This means that the person is punished twice, once by the actual sentence associated with the crime and again by the extra time added by the enhancement. There is a ***broad consensus*** that longer sentences have little to no public safety value. Prop 36 adds sentencing enhancements that apply to any type of offense, and are not limited to drug or theft offenses.

Read More details

How would Prop 36 impact California?

it seeks to address substance use disorder and petty theft through longer sentences and enhanced punishments that evidence shows will only worsen these problems.

Read More

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

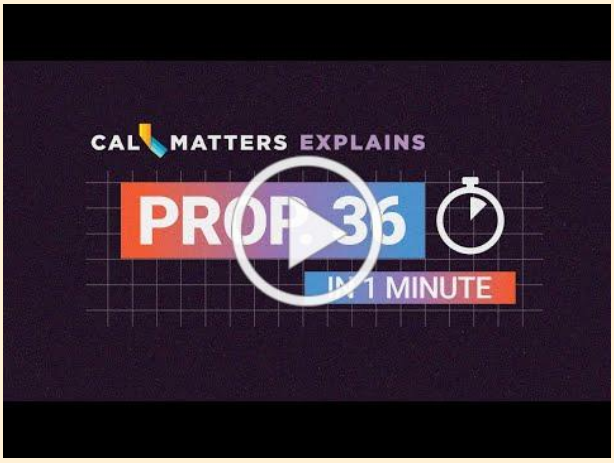
In the early 2010s, ***California's prison*** system was overfilled, dangerous, ineffective, and untenably expensive. The situation was so dire that the United States Supreme Court ***ordered*** California to take action. To comply with the U.S. Constitution, save money, and improve the prison system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

A decade of research has concluded that Prop 47 accomplished its goals. ***Studies have concluded*** that it reduced recidivism, saved the state more than $800 million, and reduced both the prison population and its ***racial disparities***. ***Multiple reports*** have shown that it did not increase violent crime (with disagreement on whether it had a modest effect on property crime). Much of its cost savings have gone towards programs that make the state safer, like mental health and drug treatment, diversion programs, housing, and victims' services.

This year, ***special interest groups*** including large retail corporations like Walmart and Target as well as the California Correctional Peace Officers Association are funding Prop 36, a ***ballot initiative*** that once again seeks to roll back Prop 47.

By rolling back Prop 47, this ballot initiative would return California to its worst days of ineffective and expensive mass incarceration and a time when we had fewer tools to keep our communities safe.

Read More details

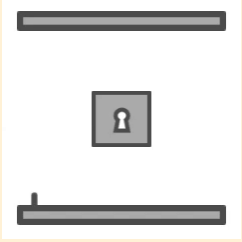


To Learn more attend the Prop 47 JLAC Quarterly Meeting

September 5, 2024, 9:30am-12pm.
3965 S Vermont Ave, South Los Angeles, CA 90037

The Joint Local Advisory Committee (JLAC) invites you to attend our stakeholder meeting. The meeting will be held in person with an option to join virtually via Zoom. A calendar invite will follow.

Sign Up



Where do YOU stand on Prop 36?

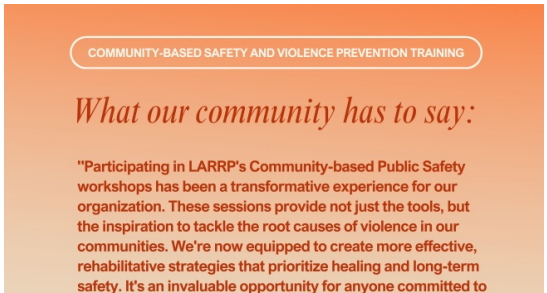
Take the ***CalMatters quiz***

LARRP Programs

The UCLA/UC Berkeley Research Project Update



Community-Based Safety and Violence Prevention Trainings



LARRP is currently partnering on a research initiative led by UCLA and UC Berkeley that focuses on enhancing access to healthcare and support services for the reentry community and other vulnerable groups.

We are in the process of forming an advisory board and are seeking qualified individuals and organizations to join us. There are two remaining spots available

If you know professionals based in San Bernardino with experience or interest in reentry, HIV/STI prevention, or LGBTQ advocacy, please consider referring them for a paid advisory position.

We are also looking for an organizational partner in San Bernardino to collaborate on this research effort. The ideal organization will have a strong community presence and a commitment to supporting reentry populations, as well as those affected by HIV/STIs and LGBTQ issues.
For more details or to express interest, please reach out to ***Charles Vignola***, LARRP's designated point of contact

Download the Flyer



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

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

Pop Culture

600x600bb image

'The Interview': Jelly Roll Cannot Believe How His Life Turned Out

Podcast: "The Daily" August 17, 2024

From jail and addiction to music stardom — the singer tells David Marchese he's living a "modern American fairy tale."

Listen to the podcast

LARRP member spotlight

Timelist Group

For this month's Member Spotlight, we are thrilled to feature ***Timelist Group***, an inspiring organization making a significant impact in our Antelope Valley community, and its dedicated founder, Yusef Andre Wiley. In addition to being the founder and CEO of Timelist, Yusef is a core member of AV-LARRP, the Antelope Valley regional chapter of LARRP, where he brings his passion and



Timelist Group has launched numerous programs aimed

experience to our collective efforts.

The Timelist Group provides essential support to individuals impacted by the criminal justice system. The organization's mission is to empower people to transform their lives, achieve personal growth, and reintegrate into society successfully.

After serving 22 years in prison, Yusef dedicated his life to creating positive change for those who, like him, needed guidance and support upon reentry. Yusef's personal experiences give him a unique perspective and deep empathy for those navigating the often overwhelming process of rebuilding their lives after incarceration.

Timelist Group has launched numerous programs aimed at providing critical support services. These include educational workshops, job training, mentorship opportunities, and community-building activities.

Thank you, Yusef, for your tireless dedication and inspiring leadership. Your work continues to make a profound difference in the lives of many, and we are grateful to have you as part of the LARRP family. For more information about Timelist Group and how you can support their mission, please find their contact information ***HERE*** and join the ***LARRP Antelope Valley chapter*** Together, we can continue to make a positive impact in our community.

Where was LARRP in August?

Chrysalis's Resource Fair



LARRP, In collaboration with the D.O.O.R.S.- LA Center, attended Chrysalis's internal resource fair to ensure their client services teams were aware of community resources for their clients in order to ensure they have wrap-around supportive services. LARRP came in to share the resources D.O.O.R.S. offers, such as housing, education, family supportive services, expungement support, and much more

Story Telling Project



LEADERS Academy Transitional Age Youth (TAY)



LEADERS Alumni Mentors have officially been paired with the new cohort of Transitional Age Youth (TAY) participants from Cohort 4. This mentorship program is a key component of the LEADERS initiative, fostering growth, learning, and community building among our young leaders.

In recent weeks, the Cohort 4 TAY participants have taken part in several valuable training sessions. These sessions included an Introduction to Soft Skills class, which focused on essential skills such as effective communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. Additionally, participants engaged in a Community Safety and Violence Prevention workshop, where they learned strategies to promote safety and reduce violence within their communities.

Employment Committee Meeting: Advancing Fair Chance Employment

fairchance

Last month, we hosted an engaging Employment Committee Meeting focused on Fair Chance Employment, led by the Center for

Anthony Garcia of LARRP is actively collaborating on the ***California Community Storytelling Project by Represent Justice***, an initiative designed to empower community organizations by equipping them with the necessary tools and resources to authentically share the lived experiences of individuals impacted by the legal system.

This project aims to dismantle harmful narratives and stereotypes by developing a storytelling curriculum that enables communities to produce and distribute compelling short films. which amplify the voices of those directly affected, fostering a deeper public understanding of the systemic issues within the legal system and driving meaningful change.

Through this collaboration, LARRP and its partners are laying the groundwork for a transformative shift in how stories of justice and reentry are told and received.

Employment Opportunities (CEO). Highlights from the event included:

- Indeed's "Fair Chance" Filter: This new feature on ***Indeed's job search platform*** helps job seekers with criminal records find opportunities that are committed to fair chance hiring practices.
- LinkedIn Learning's Groundbreaking Course: LinkedIn has introduced a pioneering course titled "***Job Seeking with a Criminal Record***," designed to support individuals navigating the job market with prior convictions.

For more information please reach out to: ***Genna Rimer*** or ***Inclusive Hiring***

Don't miss out! September Events



ANWOL Prop 6 Press Conference

September 3, 2024, 11 am

11720 Deputy Yamamototo Pl, Lynwood, CA 90262

More info



The Brothers Size @ the Geffen Playhouse

Prop 47 Joint Local Advisory Committee (JLAC) Quarterly Meeting

September 5, 2024, 9:30am-12pm.
3965 S Vermont Ave, South Los Angeles, CA 90037

The Joint Local Advisory Committee (JLAC) invites you to attend our stakeholder meeting. This meeting will include updates from Prop 47 JLAC Programs (R-ICMS, SECTOR, Project imPACT, LA DOOR) as well as a LAHSA facilitated training on the Coordinated Entry System (CES). The meeting will be held in person with an option to join virtually via Zoom. A calendar invite will follow.
Sign Up

TTCC
TARZANA TREATMENT CENTERS COLLEGE

Mastering De-escalation Techniques: Building Calm In Crisis**VIRTUAL TTC & TTC College Roundtable**

September 10, 2024, 10:00 am – 11:00am

Confirm by September 6th



Overview of Diversion Reentry Workgroup Recommendations

Closes September 8

Discount/free tickets as a system-impacted person, Drawing from the rich tradition of the Yoruba people of West Africa, The Brothers Size is a modern-day fable about two brothers in the Deep South. To request discount/free tickets as a system-impacted person, or to learn about their programs email ***dionnr@geffenplayhouse.org***, and please let her know Eli from Uncuffed sent you.

More info



CBO Relationships

Probation Oversight Commission Virtual Listening Session

Thursday, September 5th at 6:00 p.m.
How to Participate:

- ***Participate on Webex Platform:*** Press the "Hand" icon during the item you wish to discuss and the host will call on you.
- Written Public Comments: We want to hear from you! Written public comments and recommendations on this topic can be submitted electronically any time by sending an email to ***info@poc.lacounty.gov.***

Recommendations in CCJBH's 21st and 22nd Annual Legislative Reports

September 19, 2024, 12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m.

The recommendations will be presented by CCJBH Councilmember, Tracey Whitney, who is the Los Angeles County District Attorney Mental Health Liaison. Key themes for the Diversion and Reentry Workgroup recommendations include recent state investments and how they can be used to support systems' infrastructure, workforce expansion and development, the Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment (CARE) Act, California's Crisis Continuum of Care, housing/homelessness, data collection, analysis, and reporting, and much more!

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

In the News Last Month

Featured News Article

Contrary to the popular impression The LA District Attorney's office is doing more to combat petty crime and retail theft than his predecessors!



LA District Attorney Announces More Than 1,500 Organized Retail Theft Charges Since 2019

Davis Vanguard, By Darlin Navarrete, August 29, 2024

"As LA County continues to combat organized retail theft, LADA has filed nearly 500 charges in 2024 alone, resulting in an 89 percent conviction rate, a 25 percent increase in convictions since 2019," said LA District Attorney George Gascón's office recently. The 2019 conviction rate was just 64 percent of 135 cases, the DA Office said in a recent statement.

Read More

More News Stories

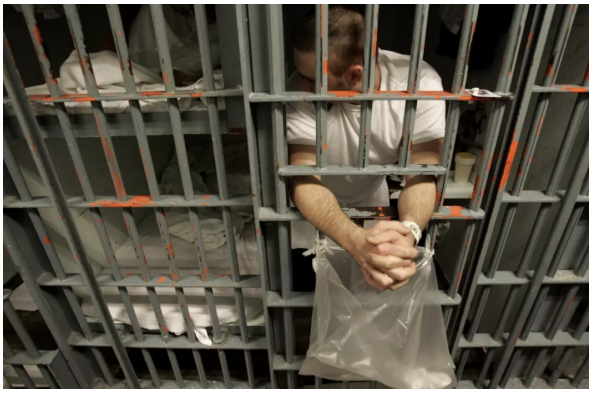


Editorial: Parole consideration for those sentenced to life behind bars 35 years ago? It's the right thing to do

LA Times, By The Times Editorial Board, Aug. 27, 2024

California's crime rate began a historic plunge in the early 1990s and has fallen ever since, except for some small spikes, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet it took more than a decade until legislation reflected the trend. Lawmakers continued to pass fear-driven tough-on-crime laws until 2011, based on the mistaken public mind-set that crime was higher than in the recent past.
That's the background of a heated debate over ***state Senate Bill 94,*** a worthy proposal by Sen. Dave Cortese (D-San José) to review sentences for several hundred aging California prisoners who were sent to prison for life without parole before June 5, 1990, in the pre-reform era.

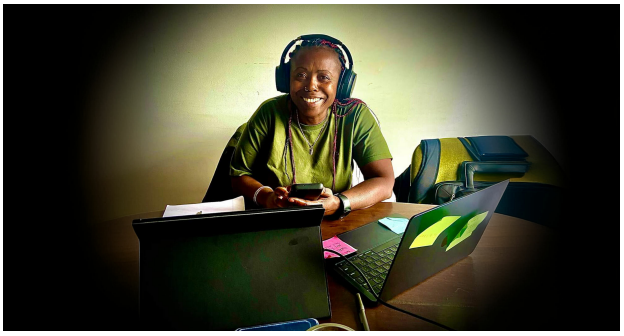
Read More



What exactly is Prop. 47? And how could California voters change it this year?

LA Times, By Anabel Sosa, Aug. 12, 2024

California voters face a decision about how the state should punish people who are repeatedly convicted of stealing, or of crimes involving the deadly drug fentanyl. Proposition 36 on the November ballot asks voters to change certain parts of Proposition 47, an initiative passed in 2014 that turned some nonviolent felonies into misdemeanors.
Read More



Investing in Care Has Kept Californians Safe and Out of Prison for 10 Years. Prop 36 Will Destroy That Progress.

Vera California by Sam McCann and Claire Simonich, Aug 22, 2024

Over the past decade, programs funded by Prop 47 have helped Californians thrive. But a new ballot measure would increase arrests and incarceration.

Read More



About that San Quentin prison project...

Politico California Playbook, By Lindsey Holden 08/06/2024

Gov. Gavin Newsom is for the first time using his new podcast to tout one of his pet political projects this week by showcasing a rehabilitation program at San Quentin state prison.
But it's a controversial program to feature — namely

Read More



How Prop 36 collided with a prison bill vote

Politico, California Playbook, By Lindsey Holden August 27, 2024

Empty Beds: Assemblymember Phil Ting's bill pushing the state to consolidate and ultimately close prisons squeaked off the Senate floor Monday night with just 22 'ayes' and five Democrats voting against it.

What's that, you say? You thought California was all for shrinking the prison population?

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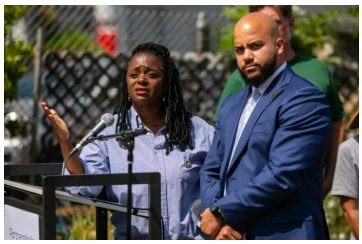

Progressive California lawmakers rally against Proposition 36

LA Times, By Anabel Sosa, Aug. 19, 2024

SACRAMENTO — A group of progressive state lawmakers on Monday rallied against Proposition 36, a ballot measure they are calling an "expensive" crime reform that will lead to the over-policing of underserved communities and incarcerate Californians at rates akin to the 1980s war on drugs.

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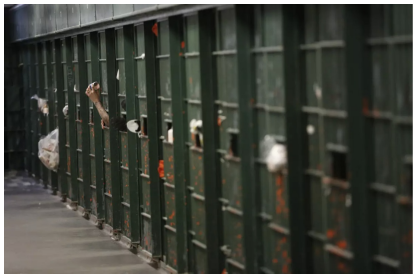

Editorial: A shiny new jail in L.A. is a bad idea, no matter what it's called

LA Times, By The Times Editorial Board, Aug. 16, 2024

because it's been a divisive spending choice from the start and has been scaled back in recent months.

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'Pendulum has swung': Supervisors signal shift on Men's Central Jail closure plan

LA Times, By Keri Blakinger and Rebecca Ellis, Aug. 5, 2024

In the summer of 2019, justice reformers celebrated because the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors scrapped a controversial $1.7-billion plan to replace the county's oldest lockup — the dungeon-like Men's Central Jail on Bauchet Street — with a jail-like mental health facility.

Five years later, there are roughly 5,000 fewer inmates — but Men's Central Jail is still open. And at the state level, the tides are changing, as voters are set to consider increasing the penalties for low-level theft and some drug crimes, both moves that could balloon the jail population.

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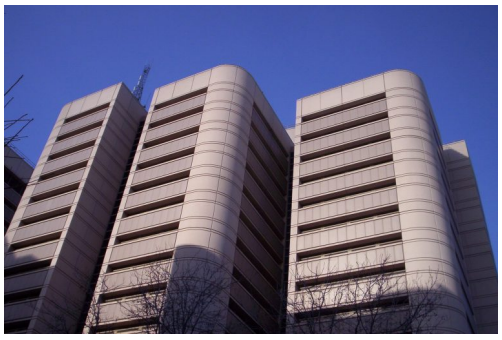

Jails in 'Crisis': Dead Bodies Pile Up in Sacramento County Jails – 5th Pretrial Death in Less Than 3 Months Sparks Calls for Independent Review

Davis Vanguard, By Cres Vellucci, August 5, 2024

SACRAMENTO, CA – As the dead bodies of those housed in Sacramento County jails pile up—five in less than three months since May, the latest in late July—advocates are charging the facilities are in "crisis."

The death of 40-year-old Asaiah Germone Washington July 26 was the fifth in-custody death in the last 12 weeks. Three other inmate deaths occurred May 5, May 12 and June 8 at the downtown facility; another man died June 28

2024

There is no disagreement over the proper fate of Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles. The decrepit facility must be torn down with all deliberate speed — just as soon as county leaders make alternative arrangements for the thousands of people housed there at any given time.

And there's the rub. What do we do with everybody, especially the enormous percentage of people who landed in jail in part because of psychiatric or drug problems?

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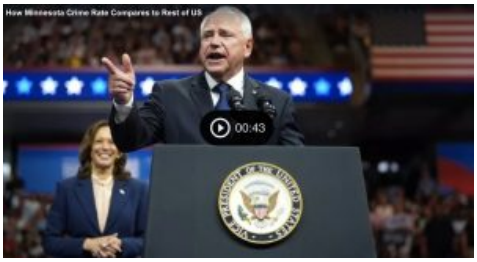

There's a Better Way To Reduce Crime Than Mass Incarceration | Opinion

Newsweek, by By Alex R. Piquero, Aug 12, 2024

What legislators call "tough-on-crime" policies—things like longer prison sentences, stricter parole boards, and mandatory minimum sentences—have been waxing and waning in fashion since the 1970s. The prevailing theory for many years was that increasing criminal penalties and raising incarceration levels would deter crime and keep lawbreakers off the streets.
One of the biggest problems with mass incarceration and

very lengthy sentences, however, is that they don't seem to actually reduce crime—at least not at the level people think. And as ***my own research with Bill Bales*** shows, short-term incarceration actually leads to more offending.

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at the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center near Elk Grove.
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Removing Barriers to Family Reunification in LA County

Witness LA, August 3, 2024 by Taylor Walker

On Tuesday, July 23, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion focused on removing barriers to family reunification for parents and their children in foster care.

The motion, by Supervisors Hilda Solis and Janice Hahn, focuses particularly on helping parents who are incarcerated and thus, unable to participate in court-ordered reunification programs. Parents in jail and prison are far more likely to lose their legal parental rights than their peers in the community.

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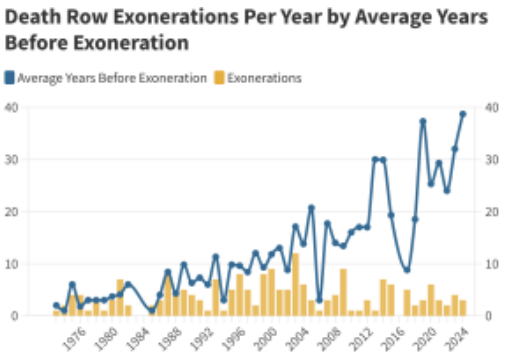

New Analysis: Innocent Death-Sentenced Prisoners Wait Longer than Ever for



Exoneration

Death Penalty Information Center, Aug 13, 2024
For innocent death-sentenced prisoners, the length of time between wrongful conviction and exoneration is increasing. In the past twenty years, the average length of time before exoneration has roughly tripled, and 2024 has the highest-ever average wait before exoneration, at 38.7 years. Our research suggests that two of the factors contributing to this phenomenon are procedural rules restricting prisoner appeals and resistance by state officials to credible claims of innocence.
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Still Cruel and Unusual: Extreme Sentences for Youth and Emerging Adults

The Sentencing Project,By Ashley Nellis, Ph.D. and Devyn Brown August 8, 2024

Despite a wave of reforms across America that reduce the use of juvenile life without parole sentences, thousands of youth and emerging adults have been left behind even though their sentences are essentially the same.

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