LARRP November 2024 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



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*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
November 7, 2024
3:30 - 4:30pm

Register Education

Housing Committee
November 22, 2024
10:00 - 11:00am

Register Housing

AV LARRP
November 19, 2024
11:00 - 12:00pm

Join Meeting - AV LARRP

Integrated Health Committee
December 2, 2024
2:00 - 3:00 pm

Register Integrated Health

LARRP General Meeting
November 21, 2024
10:00 - 11:30am

Register General Meeting

Employment Committee Meeting
December 18, 2024
2:00 - 3:30pm

Register Employment





Election 2024 Countdown to November 5, 2024



Election Day is Here!

If you have already submitted your ballot, congratulations and thank you for exercising your right to vote! If you have not voted yet, you can still fill out your mail-in ballot and put it on a post office box up to or before Tuesday, November 5th. We encourage you to submit your vote as early as possible, to ensure your vote is counted on time. If you wish to vote in person, or have lost or made a mistake on your mail-in ballot, you can use the **county** ***website*** to learn more, make a plan, and exercise your constitutional right to vote!

While we are all being inundated with hundreds of election ads from TV commercials to bus posters to mailers for candidates, it can be easy to lose sight of the major power we have to shape our government and the way it runs. It can feel overwhelming to open a ballot knowing who you will give your vote to for President, and then seeing the dozens of local elections and ballot measures, but these local races are extremely important to the day-to-day running of our society.

An often overlooked set of races we can vote for are **Superior Court Judges,** who serve as the referees and arbiters of the justice system. These candidates are usually listed at the bottom of the ballot and many voters leave these choices blank. Voting for judges who are sympathetic to diversion and alternatives to incarceration rather than hard on crime principles will directly impact the number of individuals who serve time in jails and prisons. Beyond criminal convictions, they can also sit in traffic court, family court, divorce court, and many other judicial proceedings. To many folks in our community, these may be the elected officials who have the greatest impact on our daily lives.

Tips for choosing a judge The LAist

LA Times Endorsement: These five candidates will make great Los Angeles County Superior Court judges

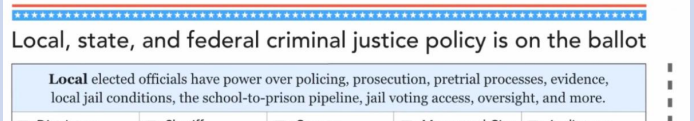
These races are not as straightforward to understand as the presidential race because they are non-partisan, meaning these judicial candidates do not run as Democrats or Republicans, but as individuals, further adding to the importance of researching individual candidates. You might consider their prior roles like “prosecutor” “public defender” or “activist” to help you decide which candidate aligns with your values. To learn more about who these candidates are, you can also review ***voter guides online*** that present a criminal justice reform position, and see if those guides make recommendations on judicial races.

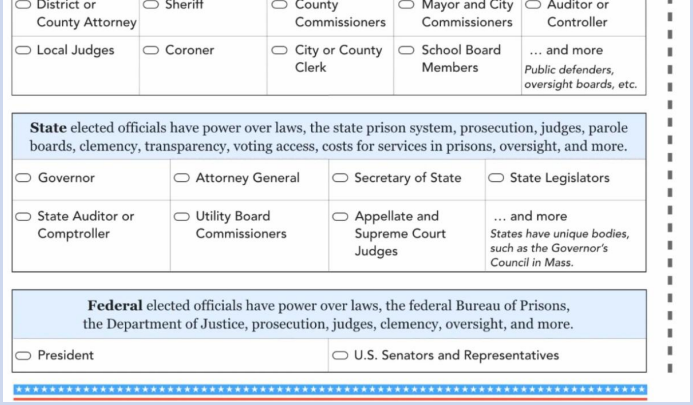
Now let’s get out and vote like our lives depend on it, because they do.

Report: Mass incarceration is on the ballot

Prison Policy Initiative, by Mike Wessler, September 11, 2024

A guide to how 19 offices you may be asked to vote on can help end mass incarceration in America.
For voters interested in ending mass incarceration, we’ve put together a guide to the most common offices for which they will cast their ballots this November. We also explore how those offices can make decisions to reduce the number of people behind bars, improve conditions in prisons and jails, and help turn the page on America’s failed experiment with mass incarceration.
Read More





Just the Facts:



CA Secretary of State Official Voters Guide

LAist Voter Game Plan

Courage California Progressive Voter Guide

LA Times 2024 PROPOSITIONS Voter Guide

CalMatters 2024 Voters Guide

ACLU Socal Ballot Guide



Voter Hub

Justice-Impacted Voters Voter Registration Hub

1. **Check your ELIGIBILITY**
2. **Check your REGISTRATION STATUS**
3. **Register to Vote (if needed)**
4. **Request Absentee Ballot (if desired)**
5. **See what's on your ballot**
6. **Find your polling location and make a plan to vote**

All on one super easy to use page!

Voter Hub

October General Meeting Recap

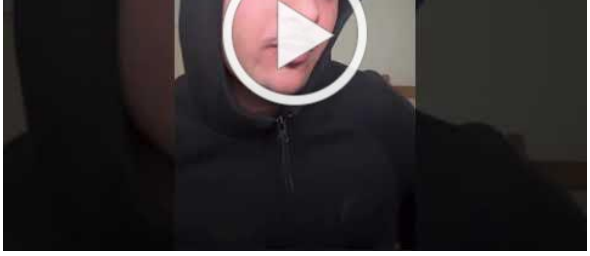
Grounding Us In Our Space

At LARRP's October General Meeting, we were moved by Jovanny Gadallah's powerful story of overcoming childhood trauma and systemic challenges.









At LARRP's October General Meeting **Jerry Jones from the Greater LA Coalition on Homelessness gave a *presentation* on Measure A**, which is on the November ballot. ***Measure A Facts***

And Shervin Aazami from ***Initiate Justice Action*** shared valuable insights on Proposition 36.

Mark your calendars! The final meeting of the year is on November 21st—*register here*. We look forward to seeing you there!

New Podcast - Homeland

Benjamin Kay, Associate Director for Access and Triage at longtime LARRP Member, and Steering Committee member, ***HOPICS***, has launched an exciting new podcast called Homeland. This series dives into one of the most pressing and misunderstood issues today—homelessness.

Homeland isn't just another podcast—it's a powerful tool that humanizes the crisis by sharing real stories from people who've experienced housing insecurity and the frontline workers trying to solve it. Benjamin has teamed up with over 50 organizations to make this project a reality, with the goal of raising awareness ahead of the November vote on Measure A. With guest appearances from HOPICS staff like Veronica Lewis, Katie Hill, Millie Lopez, and Oscar Arelleno, Homeland offers insightful conversations you won't want to miss. Be sure to tune in!

Listen and Subscribe!



LARRP News!

LARRP's CEO Troy Vaughn Featured on Spectrum News: LA Stories

We're proud to share that Troy Vaughn, LARRP's CEO and cofounder, was recently featured on LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez on Spectrum News 1. In the interview, Troy opens up about his personal journey from homelessness and addiction to becoming a leader in the fight for justice and housing reform. He discusses the transformative work of LARRP and his ongoing efforts to dismantle barriers for justice-involved individuals in Los Angeles. It's an inspiring conversation highlighting resilience, hope, and the power of community action.



WATCH the Interview HERE

Where was LARRP in October?

"Together We Thrive" JCOD Summit, November 17, 2024





"When I walk into a space like this, the confirmation of the lives that have been transformed is validation and love for the work, and it really resonates why our collective voices, the reason why you were brought home, the reason why I was brought home, the reason why I was brought up a cardboard box is to create capacity for other people. And so the reason why you being lifted up right now, Your voice is important, is because you get to create the change that you see." - *Troy Vaughn*

LARRP CEO and Cofounder, Troy Vaughn, spoke at the "Together We Thrive" summit and festival hosted by the Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department.

LARRP LEADER Takes the Initiative



LARRP LEADER Ferre Woodmore, from TAY Cohort 4, organized a powerful outreach event to feed those experiencing homelessness in her Los Angeles community. With support from LARRP Program Coordinator Betty Mills, a LEADERS Training Academy alum, Ferre's event successfully served meals to over 60 participants. This day exemplifies the commitment of our LEADERS program to empowering individuals to create positive change in the communities they are part of. We are incredibly proud of the leadership and compassion shown by Ferre and the team!



CHIRP/LA Resource Fair

In collaboration with the City of Compton and Council Member Andre Spicer, LARRP attended the Housing Resource Fair to share the array of resources we have with our collaboration with the D.O.O.R.S. LA Center.

TAY LEADERS visit and Five Keys in San Diego



Last week, LARRP team members Julyanna, Anthony, and Betty traveled to San Diego to meet with our LEADERS TAY mentor and long-time partner, Five Keys. During the visit, we had an insightful discussion over lunch, where we shared goals, exchanged valuable resources, and explored new opportunities for collaboration. It was a productive meeting, reinforcing our commitment to supporting transition-age youth and strengthening our partnership for future initiatives.

Hallelujah Harvest LA Mission

In collaboration with the Los Angeles Mission we helped celebrate Hallelujah with the community of Skid Row and provided the community with so many services to ensure

their paths to housing and other services are offered to them right away.

Member Spotlight: Five Keys



This month, we're thrilled to highlight ***Five Keys,*** a dedicated partner in the LARRP network that exemplifies responsive, impactful support for individuals reentering society.

Recently, when a participant in the LARRP Leaders Training Academy needed urgent assistance, Five Keys connected them with essential services within just an hour, demonstrating both the strength of our partnership and Five Keys' commitment to addressing reentry needs swiftly and effectively.

Founded to provide educational programs in California's state prisons, Five Keys offers a broad range of education and employment resources for individuals both inside and reentering. Special thanks to Aaron, the program manager, whose leadership within the San Diego team was instrumental in connecting our member with critical resources. Through their expertise and dedication, Five Keys exemplifies how the LARRP network reaches beyond Los Angeles to support individuals statewide. We're proud to collaborate with such a committed partner and look forward to our continued work together in transforming lives across California.

LARRP Programs

The UCLA/UC Berkeley Research Project



Our work with the California Mobile Enhances Prevention Support, or MEPS, Research Project is allowing us to build new connections with organizations around California and bring LARRP's unique strengths to university research partners. We have assembled a group of 9 diverse community members from around the state to serve on the Board of Advisory Stakeholders, or BASH, and have had 2 BASH meetings where these community leaders provide their expertise and unique knowledge to support the research team. We are working on securing a research partner in either San Diego or San Bernardino counties to uplift the work and help with on-the-ground research implementation, so if an organization you know may be a good fit, please reach out to Charles Vignola at ***Charles@lareentry.org*** to provide their contact information.

Download the Flyer

Community-Based Safety and Violence Prevention Trainings



In September, we completed the first session of the Community-Based Public Safety and Violence Prevention program, with strong participation and attendees actively sharing their lived experiences. The discussion focused on social determinants of health and their connection to community-based violence. Feedback from attendees highlighted key takeaways, including the recognition of systemic racism, the disparities across school districts, and the importance of self-expression. Participants valued learning about violence prevention, hearing diverse perspectives on community issues, and exploring ways to become better leaders with this important information.

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

Join Us

JOBS and Opportunities!

Greener Way Associates

WHAT'S GOOD SOUTH LA?



Greener Way job-training Earn and Learn!

Working-age youth, reentry, and system-impacted others can earn $20/hour + develop a job portfolio for very good paying jobs in the Regeneration Movement!
More info and apply

DHCS is hiring for its ***website***, auditing, health policy, information technology, and other teams. For more information, please visit the ***CalCareers*** website.



Learning 4 Equity and Rising Communities

A unique opportunity for young people in South LA to explore art, activism, and the impact of Proposition 64 (cannabis legalization) on our communities. We are seeking 25 youth, ages 14-19, who are passionate about art, social justice, and envisioning a brighter future for South LA.
Dates: January 25th – March 15th, 2025, Saturdays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
Hybrid (primarily virtual), Stipend: $1,000 for each participant.
Nomination & Application Deadline: Dec. 6th, 2024

Apply

Don’t miss out! November Events



Los Angeles Black Men's Wellness Day 2024

Saturday, November 2 · 7am - 12pm PDT
The AA Wellness 5K Walk and Run is now a WHOLE DAY! Black Men's Wellness Day has everything you love from the walk and more!

Register





City of Long beach Career Fair

November 13, 1pm -4 pm
Long Beach City College, Trades, Technology, and Learning Campus
Register





The Los Angeles City Mayor's Office Reentry Resource and Wellness Fair

November 6th, 2024, 10 AM - 2 PM

Los Angeles Trade-Technical College - 400 W Washington Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Join the Office of Mayor Karen Bass and Los Angeles Trade-Technical College for our Project imPACT Reentry Resource and Wellness Fair! We are bringing together many community-based organizations, service providers, and community members across Los Angeles for a day of resource connection, healing, and community building. This event will help meet the needs of Angeleno's navigating justice system involvement as we head into the holiday season.

Register

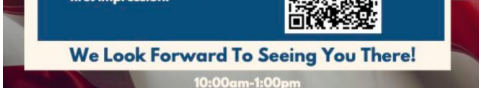


Community Mental Health Holiday Giveaway Event

Saturday November 9th 10am-1pm
Alondra Community Regional Park.

The MHSA Admin Team's Community Mental Health Holiday Giveaway event is aimed at providing resources and support to people experiencing homelessness.





We Support You Job & Resource Fair

Wednesday, November 13 · 10am - 1pm

Vernon-Central/LATTC WorkSource Center 400 W Washington Blvd, Culinary Arts Building E3 Los Angeles, CA 90015
Register



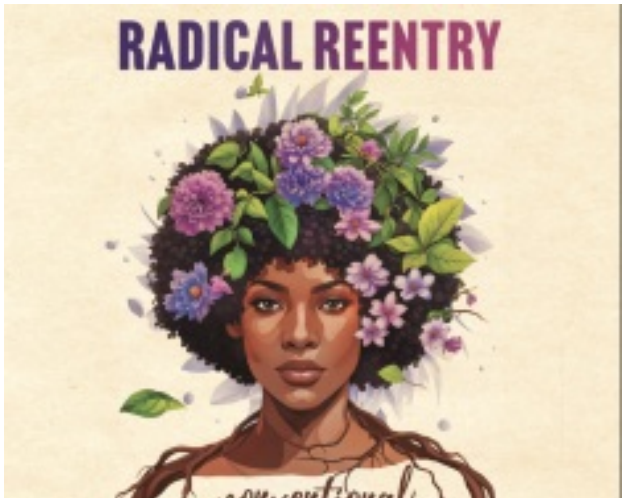
Annual CalNonprofits Policy Conference: Strong Nonprofits, Stronger California!

Wednesday, November 20th, 8:45am-5pm
Audrey Irmas Pavilion, Koreatown

Expect a day of inspiration, thought-provoking insights, and networking with your nonprofit peers. You can also look forward to:

- An analysis of what the election outcomes mean for our sector
- A state-of-the-state for California nonprofits
- A stellar slate of speakers & panelists
- Policy strategies for the year ahead

Leasrn More and Register





Office of Violence Prevention's Faith-Based Workshop Series

November 12th and November 19th
5:30pm – 7:30pm

This series is designed specifically for the faithbased community and will be held on the following dates:

Part 2: Grief-Informed Care, Understanding Grief and Loss -
Children's Institute 10200 Success Ave. LA, CA 90002

Register



A New Way of Life Reentry Project 2024 Annual Gala: Radical Reentry

December 8, 2024
We are delighted to invite you to join us at this year's Gala as we celebrate another year of impactful freedom work!
Tickets

In the News Last Month

Featured News Story

Also on the ballot!!

Those of you who have been active in LARRP's advocacy efforts will know how important the LA Board of Supervisors is in our efforts for criminal Justice reform. Here is another outcome of November 5th that will have a major impact on our community.



LA County's governing body is 172 years old. Is it time for change?

Politico, By Emily Schultheis, October22, 2024

Voters will decide this fall whether to reshape the powerful Board of Supervisors, which represents 10 million people across the Southern California metropolis.

LOS ANGELES — The most powerful elected body you've never heard of might be on the verge of a massive overhaul. Voters in the nation's most populous county will decide next month whether to reshape the five-member Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for the first time in 172 years, increasing its number of seats from five to nine and introducing an elected county executive role.

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More News Stories



14 sent to hospital after suspected overdoses at Men's Central Jail

LA Times, By Keri Blakinger and Rachel Uranga, Oct. 29, 2024
Three weeks after one man died from a suspected overdose at a downtown jail, authorities said another seven Men's Central Jail inmates were hospitalized early Tuesday morning following another potential drug exposure incident.
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Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón Announces First Women's Advisory Board in LADA History

Includes Priscilla Ocen, Wendelyn Julien, J.D. and Kathy Evans

Sierra Sun Times, October 29, 2024
Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced today the creation of the office's first-ever Women's Advisory Board, the seventh advisory george gasconboard established to foster open dialogue and build more inclusive, trusted, and secure relationships with communities across the county.

"Women encounter specific and deeply rooted challenges in our justice system—as victims, survivors, and sometimes as individuals navigating the justice system themselves," District Attorney Gascón said. "

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Why California voters aren't sold on a slavery ban

Politico, California Playbook, By Emily Schultheis And Will Mccarthy, October 28, 2024

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT — A ban on slavery and involuntary servitude seems like it should be an easy sell in a progressive state like California.
So why does it look like voters may reject Proposition 6 next week?

Read More



The LAist guide to LA and OC's many voting guides

The LAist, By Gina Pollack, Oct 25, 2024

As the Nov. 5 primary draws closer, many of us have yet to vote and are looking for some help. We hope you start with our Voter Game Plan. Since we don't do endorsements, we've also put together a list of other popular voting guides across the political spectrum.

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For The First Time, California To Provide Medi-Cal Services For People Returning Home After Incarceration

DHCS Press Release, October 9, 2024

SACRAMENTO — In a major step for health equity in California, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) announced that three California counties—Inyo, Santa Clara, and Yuba—were approved as of October 1 to begin delivering a targeted set of Medi-Cal services to people returning to communities after incarceration. All California



New California Laws Part 1: Governor Signs Bills Focused on Domestic Violence and Support for Victims

Witness LA, October 28, 2024 by Taylor Walker
In the weeks leading up to a September 30 deadline, California Governor Gavin Newsom made final decisions on more than 1,000 bills. As in previous years, we have put together a series of updates on some of the justice-related bills WitnessLA has been tracking this year, starting with bills addressing domestic violence and support for survivors.
Among the newly signed bills was AB 2432, a bill to bolster the California Crime Victims Fund, which has long struggled to stay afloat.

Read More

counties are required to implement this initiative before October 1, 2026.

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Community Leaders Call For an End to Slavery in California

Davis Vanguard, By David Greenwald, October 3, 2024

San Francisco, CA – Informing the public that "Our California constitution currently reads involuntary servitude is prohibited except to punish crime. What? That's still in there. We live in America." Leaders from the San Francisco community gathered Wednesday on the steps of City Hall to call for an end to slavery.
Few realize that the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution did not completely end slavery and involuntary servitude—it left open the exception for those convicted of a criminal offense.

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Reports

Ten Things a New President Can Do to Advance Safety, Accountability, and Justice

Vera Institute of Justice, October 29, 2024



While the United States has made real progress to reduce the number of people in jail and prison over the last 15 years, we have more work to do to end mass incarceration and build safe, thriving communities. We all deserve safety, accountability, and justice. The next president and their administration should commit to these 10 actions—some immediate, others over the course of a first term. While this is by no means an exhaustive list of what the president can and should do, it highlights areas where meaningful, actionable change is within reach.

Read more

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