NO on Prop 20:
Rolling Back Justice Reform
The Moment We Are In
The Twin Crises of 2020

**COVID**: Current criminal justice practices spread poor health

**Racial Justice Awakening**: Unprecedented recognition of racial bias in the justice system

Rolling back hard-won criminal justice reforms takes California backwards - and contributes to poor health and racial disparities.

Yet, that’s what Prop 20 will do.
Before COVID: Homelessness in CA

California homelessness this decade

Sources: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Mental health of Californians

Nearly one in six Californians experience some mental illness.

Source: California Health Care Foundation, Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Surveys, American Community Survey, charlesholzer.com
Continued Low Crime Rates in Justice Reform Era

Figure 1. Crime rate trends in California, 1985-2019

- Total Part I crime rate
- Violent crime rate
- Property crime rate

Key Events:
- Realignment
- Prop 47
- Prop 57

*Note: Data for 2019 is an estimate.
Prison Population vs. Prison Spending

State prison population
Since 2007, dropped by 40,000 (25,000 since Realignment)

127,709

State Prison Spending
Since 2010, increase by $13.08 Billion
What will Prop 20 Do?
No on Prop 20: The Big Picture

1. Increases Prison Spending
2. Increases Incarceration
3. Reduces Rehabilitation
4. Reduces Money for Victim Services
Prop 20 Policies at a Glance

1. Lower the felony threshold to $250 (second lowest in the country)

2. Mandate prison revocations for technical violations

3. Reduce incentives for rehabilitation and prevents parole consideration tens of thousands of people in prison

4. Mandate that anyone convicted of certain misdemeanors give law enforcement DNA (i.e. shoplifting)

5. As prison populations increase, annual funding reallocated to victim services, diversion and prevention will decline
Prop 20 will prohibit people in prison from rehabilitating themselves before release. It would make certain crimes ineligible for earned time credit towards parole consideration.

The vast majority of people in prison in California will be released back into the community. That's why rehabilitation matters.

California made major progress toward more rehabilitation with Proposition 57. That measure incentivizes people to participate in rehabilitative and educational programming while incarcerated.

Prop 20 takes that away.
No on Prop 20: Prop 47 Roll Back

**Prop 20** increases incarceration for people for the lowest-level offenses. It reduces California’s threshold for felony theft to one of the lowest in the nation.

**Proposition 47**—a measure that reclassified the lowest-level crimes from felonies to misdemeanors—have helped the state right-size the prison population and reallocate money to prevention and victim services.

**Prop 20** would reverse that. The measure would mean more jail for people convicted of petty theft and it would make such low-level crimes felonies, thus erecting a lifetime of barriers to stability on those convicted.
Table 1. Overview of annual cost estimates\(^4\) of the initiative based on number of 2018 misdemeanor theft-related arrests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimated Increase</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affected arrests(^5)</td>
<td>4,900 to 9,900</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony convictions(^6)</td>
<td>3,600 to 7,300</td>
<td>$15 million to $31 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation population(^7)</td>
<td>2,500 to 5,000</td>
<td>$70 million to $232 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jail population(^8)</td>
<td>2,700 to 5,400</td>
<td>$63 million to $181 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison population(^9)</td>
<td>600 to 1,200</td>
<td>$6 million to $12 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimated Cost</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$154 million to $457 million</strong></td>
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No on Prop 20: Summary

❌ WASTES YOUR MONEY The non-partisan Legislative Analyst says Prop 20 will cost, “tens of millions of dollars” every year which could force cuts to:

• Rehabilitation in prison for people getting out
• Mental health programs proven to reduce repeat crime
• Support for victims

❌ IS EXTREME: Prop 20 means petty theft – stealing a bike – could be charged as a felony. That’s extreme, out of line with other states, and means more teenagers and people of color could be locked up for years for low-level, non-violent crimes.

❌ ROLLS BACK PROGRESS: Californians are demanding change to the criminal justice system and have overwhelmingly voted to reduce wasteful prison spending. Rehabilitating people before prison release is the most effective way to improve public safety. Prop 20 could eliminate funding for what we know works.

Questions