

PROPOSITION 47: THE FACTS ABOUT THE LAW AND ITS IMPACT

WHAT IS PROPOSITION 47?

In November 2014, California voters passed Proposition 47, changing six low-level offenses from felonies to misdemeanors (simple drug possession and five petty-theft offenses under \$950). The millions of dollars that Proposition 47 is projected to save the state in reduced incarceration will be reallocated to local prevention and treatment programs.

WHY DID VOTERS PASS PROPOSITION 47?

For decades, California's overcrowded prisons drained taxpayers' dollars and law enforcement resources, incarcerating too many people for nonviolent offenses. Despite spending \$10 billion per year on our prisons, nearly six in 10 people released return within three years.

WHAT HAPPENS TO PROPOSITION 47'S SAVINGS?

Analysts project that Prop. 47 will save California \$100 million each year in reduced prison spending, which will be reallocated to mental health and drug treatment, services for victims and programs for at-risk youth. Prop. 47 is also projected to save California counties hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

HOW CAN LOCAL LEADERS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PROP. 47?

Prop. 47 maintains law enforcement's ability to arrest and detain people for misdemeanors (and jail them for up to one year, if convicted), if they believe that is necessary for public safety. The law, combined with other reforms, has created the opportunity to invest in more effective approaches for breaking the cycle of crime. Local officials can:

- Expand prevention, diversion and treatment programs
- Use "risk assessment" at every step of the justice process, so that decisions by police, sheriffs and judges are based on data and individual case circumstances to determine who is a risk to hurt other people and who is not, in order to prioritize law enforcement resources and more effectively address the drivers of crime
- Invest in community development and partnerships, specifically in places that experience the most crime
- Inform people that they can change their record, which can remove barriers to jobs, housing, education and stability

PROP. 47 IMPACTS

4,402 people resentenced and released from state prison as of August 31

THOUSANDS more released from county jails

California meets a federal population mandate **ONE YEAR** ahead of schedule

\$73 MILLION cut from corrections in California's current state budget

TENS OF THOUSANDS of people have changed felonies on their old criminal records



"Now that Prop. 47 is the law, doors are opened to me that previously would have been slammed in my face."

— TONI HUNTER, WHO CHANGED HER RECORD UNDER PROP. 47