



## Proposition 47: The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act of 2014

Proposition 47 is a voter initiative for the November 2014 California ballot. It changes some of the lowest-level petty crimes from felony/wobblers to misdemeanors and directs financial savings into crime prevention and school programs. It maintains current law for sex offenders and anyone with prior convictions for murder, rape or child molestation.

The proponents are former San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón and San Diego Police Chief William Lansdowne. In addition to law enforcement leaders, crime victims, rehabilitation experts, teachers, business and faith leaders across California support Prop 47.

### Details of the Act

- **Changes petty crimes to misdemeanors:** The reform changes six of the lowest level nonviolent crimes (simple drug possession, shoplifting under \$950, writing or forging a check under \$950, and petty theft or receipt of stolen property under \$950) from felony/wobblers to misdemeanors. This will reduce prison crowding, as well as felony caseloads in courts, and free up criminal justice resources to focus on more serious and violent crime.
- **Saves hundreds of millions annually:** The independent Legislative Analysts' Office estimates that California's 58 counties will save hundreds of millions annually, and the reductions in state prison costs will generate between \$150 million to \$250 million in savings per year on an ongoing basis.
- **Invests in mental health treatment and crime prevention:** Savings will be invested into mental health and drug treatment (65%), K-12 school programs for at-risk youth (25%), and trauma recovery services for crime victims (10%). Low-level criminal activity is often driven by addiction and mental health problems that law enforcement cannot solve alone, yet inadequate resources exist locally to address these problems. This reform invests in the treatment, diversion and prevention programs needed to enhance community corrections and stop the cycle of crime.
- **Protects public safety:** This does not apply to sex offenders or anyone with a prior violent felony conviction for crimes such as rape, murder, and child molestation. Inmates may only be released if they are no longer a threat to public safety.
- **Reduces the barriers to reentry for low-level nonviolent convictions:** The reform reduces the barriers that many with felony convictions for petty, nonviolent crimes face to becoming stable and productive citizens, such as employment, housing and access to assistance programs and professional trades.

[www.safetyandschools.com](http://www.safetyandschools.com)

For more info contact Becca at [Rebecca@safetyandschools.com](mailto:Rebecca@safetyandschools.com)