LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

The Work of the Committee on Revision of the Penal Code



2020 – 2026

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A Message from the Chair

In 2019, the Legislature and Governor created this Committee with an ambitious charge — one that had not been seriously undertaken since the 1960s: to take a comprehensive look at California's criminal laws and identify ways to make them more rational, more effective, and more just. We have spent the past six years developing reforms based on empirical research to improve public safety and reduce unnecessary and costly incarceration at the same time. Over twenty of our legislative recommendations have become law, and courts across California have relied on our research and analysis.

Crime rates in California continue to be at record lows. At the same time, our state's prison population has fallen by half from its peak in 2006. These gains demonstrate that public safety and a more proportionate system of punishment can go hand in hand. Yet more work remains. California must continue to develop evidence-based law enforcement policies that prevent crimes from happening in the first place. For example, California should continue to expand its reentry support networks for incarcerated people. We must also do a better job supporting crime victims, including strengthening our restitution system. Sentencing laws also need further reform, as too many people remain needlessly behind bars. And we must do more to address racial disparities that continue to plague our system of justice through better implementation of California's Racial Justice Act.

This report is both a record of the Committee's work and a resource for those who will help us carry it forward. I am deeply grateful to Governor Newsom for his leadership and our partners in the Legislature who continue to work for a safer and fairer California. I also want to thank my fellow Committee members, our outstanding staff, the California Policy Lab, and the many judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement leaders, crime victims, formerly incarcerated people, researchers, and other experts who have shared their time and insights with us. I hope this retrospective will help inform that work for years to come.



Michael S. Romano
Chair, Committee on Revision of the Penal Code

Introduction

The Committee on Revision of the Penal Code was established by the Legislature and the Governor to study all aspects of criminal law and procedure and to issue recommendations that simplify and rationalize the law. The Committee's work is guided by the goals of improving public safety, reducing unnecessary incarceration, improving equity, addressing racial disparities, and improving the system for crime victims.

This report takes stock of the Committee's first six years as Governor Newsom's tenure as governor comes to a close. Governor Newsom signed the legislation creating the Committee, appointed most of its members, and — as explored in detail below — approved numerous bills enacting its recommendations.

Since its first Annual Report, the Committee has issued more than 60 recommendations, ranging from traffic infractions to the death penalty. This retrospective gathers every recommendation from the Committee's six Annual Reports (2020 through 2025) and its Death Penalty Report (November 2021), organized by subject.

Of the recommendations the Committee has issued, 11 have been enacted or implemented in full and 8 in part, through 25 bills and budget measures and, in one case, Board of Parole Hearings regulations. See Appendix A. Three more have been implemented in part without legislation: by a 2026 California Supreme Court decision partially adopting the Committee's recommended framework for blanket disqualification challenges to judges, by a Court of Appeal decision holding that the Racial Justice Act reaches sentence enhancements, and by prosecutor-initiated resentencing of people on death row. Twenty-nine other bills to implement Committee recommendations have been introduced in the Legislature, but have not become law. See Appendix B.

In addition, California courts, including the California Supreme Court, often cite the Committee's work. See Appendix C.

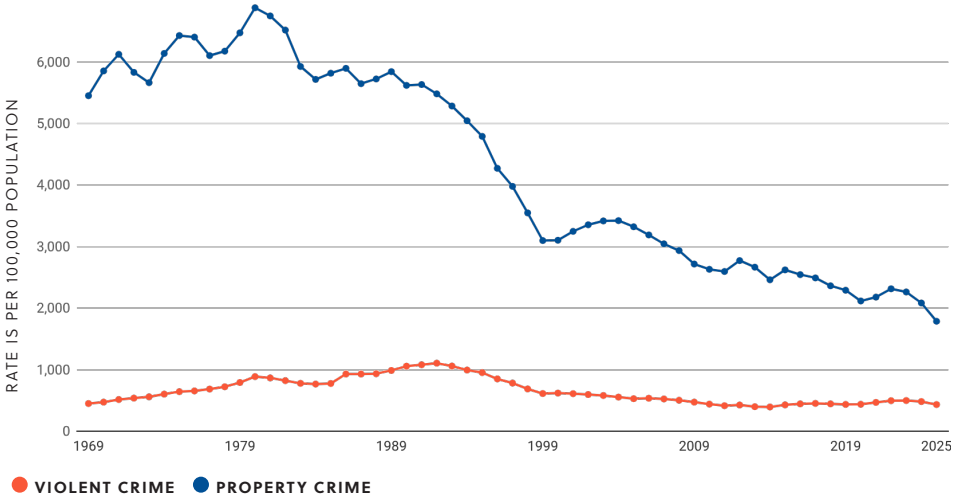
The Committee has placed data and empirical analysis at the center of its work. And as the Committee's Annual Reports alwasy do, this report begins with an overview of crime date, clearances by police, and prison and jail populations.

Data Overview

CRIME AND CLEARANCE RATES

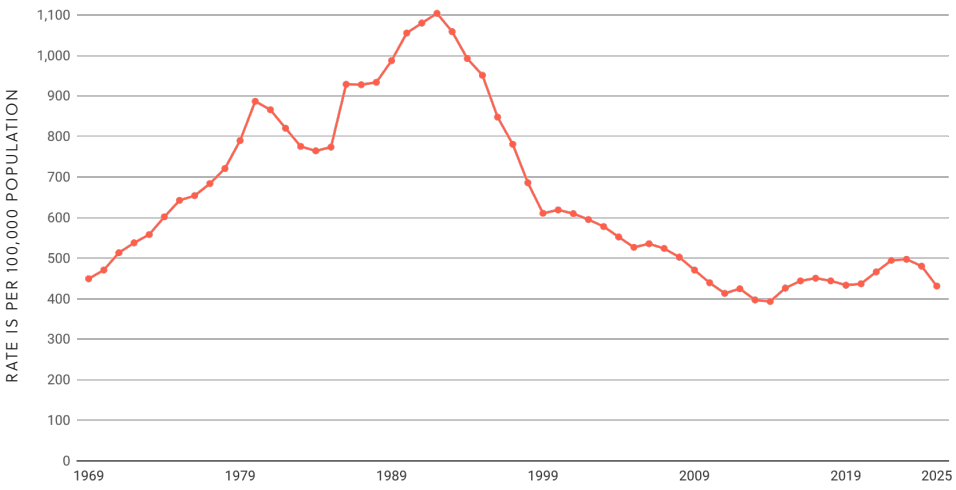
Crime in California reached historic lows in 2025, the most recent year with full data available from the California Department of Justice. The property crime rate was the lowest ever recorded in the data, which goes back to 1969. And the violent crime rate is among the lowest in the data, with both homicide and robbery (2 of the 4 offenses measured by the violent crime rate) rates being the lowest since at least 1966.

CALIFORNIA CRIME RATES, 1969–2025



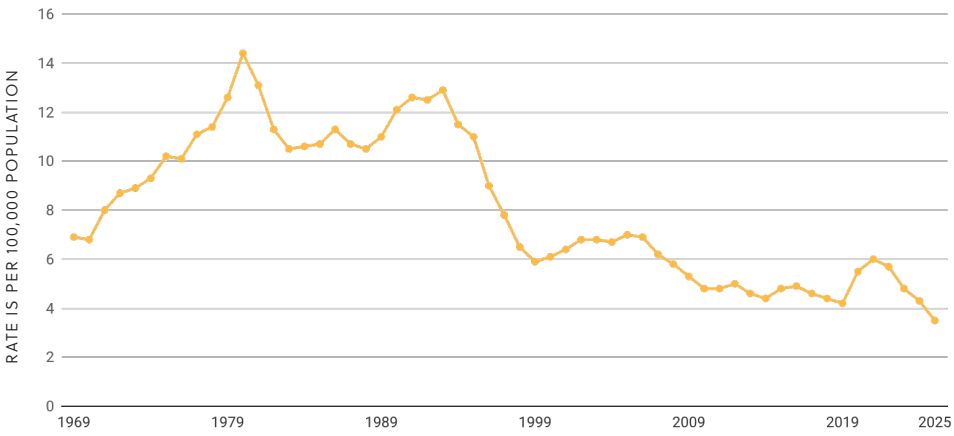
California Department of Justice, Crime in California 2025, Table 1

CALIFORNIA VIOLENT CRIME RATE, 1969–2025



California Department of Justice, Crime in California 2025, Table 1

CALIFORNIA HOMICIDE RATE, 1969–2025



California Department of Justice, Crime in California 2025, Table 1

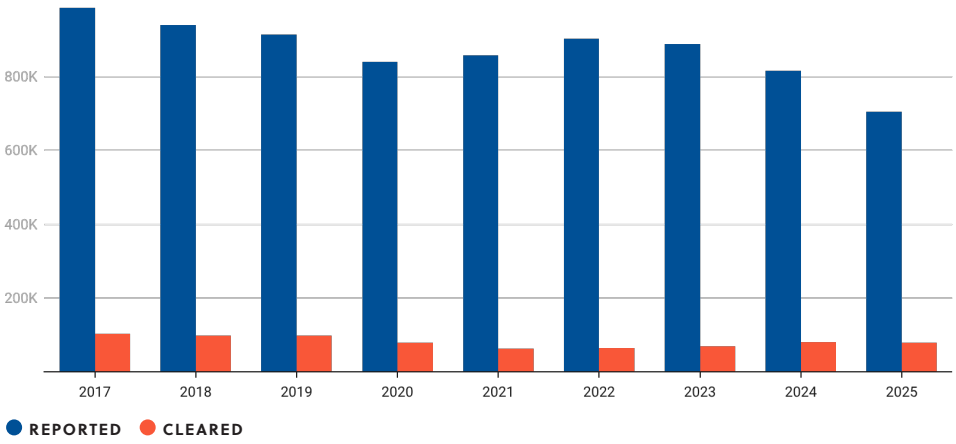
In addition, preliminary data from the FBI for 2026 shows that reported crime continues to decline across California and that this year is on track for new record lows in many categories. In data from police agencies covering about 90% of California's population, reports of property crime decreased 10% and violent crime reports decreased 4% in the first six months of 2026 compared to same time period in 2025. This information — including data from individual law enforcement agencies — can be found at the Committee's regularly-updated California Crime Data resource, available at californiacrimedata.org and produced with the California Policy Lab.

The Committee continues to caution that reported crime data do not capture the full range of harmful conduct because the reported data does not include many offenses, including simple assault, sexual violence, fraud, and wage theft, drug crimes, and others.

Clearance rates in 2025 — the percentage of reported offenses that result in an arrest — remained low: 46% for violent offenses and 11% for property offenses.

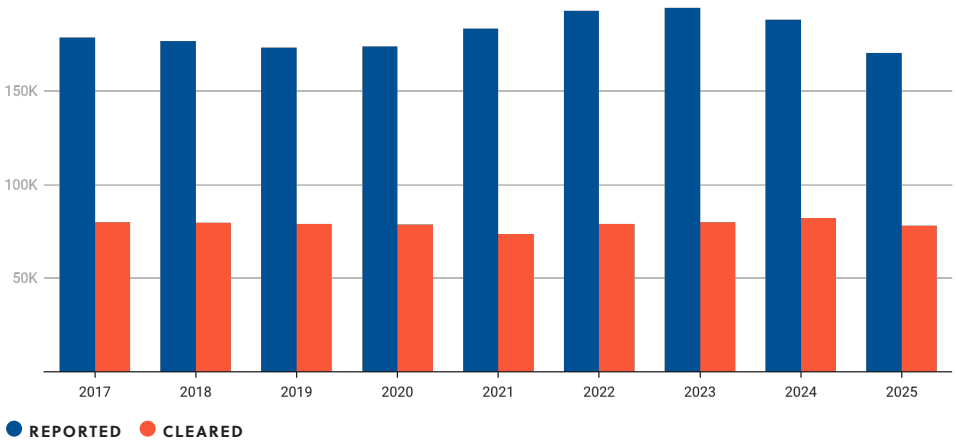
As the Committee has noted in prior reports, low clearance rates mean that most reported crimes — and nearly nine in ten property crimes — never result in an arrest, which limits the deterrent effect of criminal law, no matter how severe the available penalties are and leaves many crime victims without any resolution.

PROPERTY CRIME CLEARANCES, 2017–2025



California Department of Justice, Crime in California 2025, Table 15

VIOLENT CRIME CLEARANCES, 2017–2025



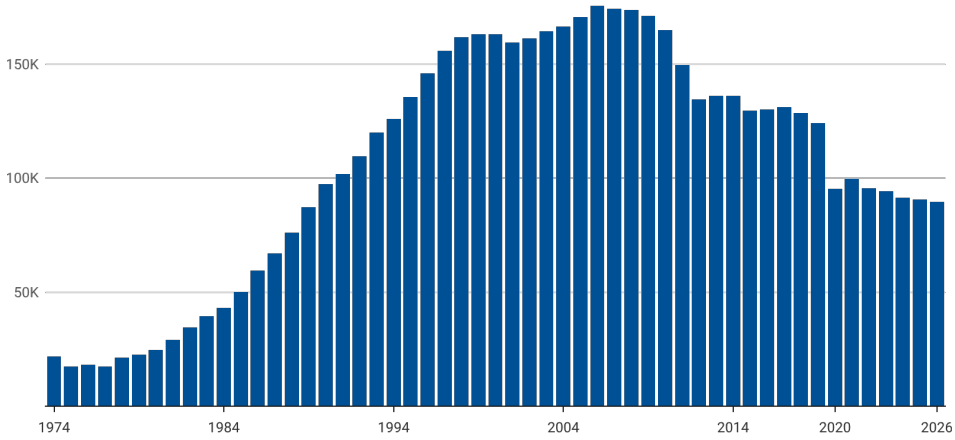
California Department of Justice, Crime in California 2025, Table 15

PRISON AND JAIL POPULATIONS

In addition to historically low crime rates, California's prison and jail populations have also seen significant and sustained population reductions. There are currently fewer than 90,000 people in California's prisons — an almost 50% reduction since the peak population of more than 170,000 people in 2006 and a reduction of 28% compared to the roughly 120,000 people in prison before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Detailed information on prison admissions, releases, and the current population — including county-level demographic and sentence length information — is available at the regularly-updated data resource provided by the Committee at californiaprisondata.org, produced with the California Policy Lab.

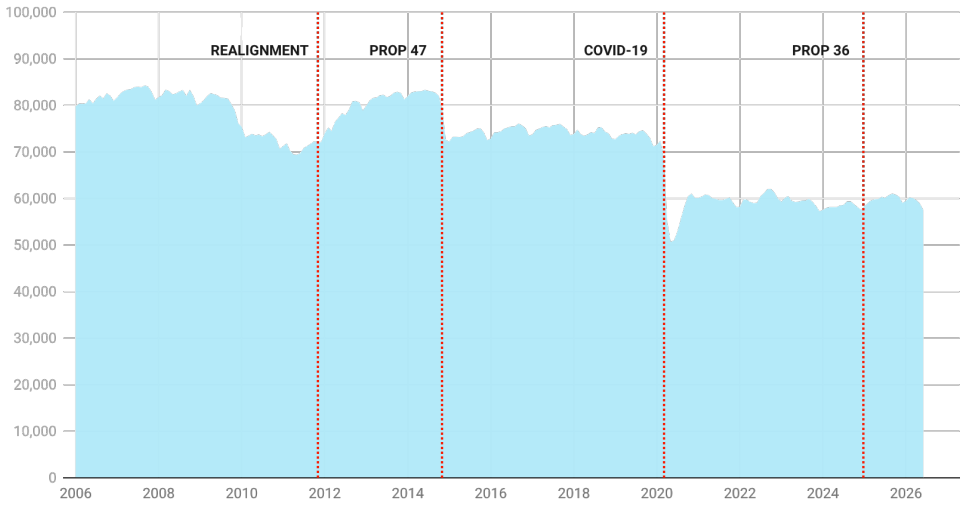
CALIFORNIA PRISON POPULATION, 1974–2026



Patrick A. Langan et al., Historical Statistics on Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions, Yearend 1925–86 (May 1988) (1974–1977); Bureau of Justice Statistics, Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT) Prisoners (1978–2018); CDCR Monthly & Weekly Population Reports (2019–2026). Population is at year-end; 2026 data is as of September 9, 2026.

California's county jail population has also decreased in recent years and currently holds an average daily population of approximately 60,000, compared to 70,000 people before the COVID-19 pandemic.

CALIFORNIA JAIL POPULATION, 2006–2026



Board of State and Community Corrections Jail Profile Survey. Data is monthly average daily population and ends June 2026. Realignment was a policy change in 2011 that required sentences for certain non-violent and non-serious felony offenses to be served in county jail, not state prison. Proposition 47 was a 2014 voter initiative that reclassified some felony or wobbler offenses to misdemeanors. Proposition 36 was a 2024 voter initiative that allowed felony charging for some drug and theft offenses.

How the Committee Works

The Committee on Revision of the Penal Code began on January 1, 2020 and operates under Government Code sections 8280–8298. Its mission, set by section 8290.5, is to study California's Penal Code and criminal justice system and to recommend statutory reforms to the Governor and the Legislature that simplify and rationalize the substance of criminal law and procedure, establish alternatives to incarceration that aid rehabilitation, and improve the systems of parole and probation.

MEMBERS

The Committee has seven members. Five are appointed by the Governor. The remaining two are a member of the California Assembly and a member of the California Senate. The Governor designates one member as Chairperson. (Government Code § 8281.5.) A roster of current and past members appears in Appendix E.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PANELISTS

The Committee holds public meetings every few months as an advisory body subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. In addition to staff presentations, the Committee has heard from more than 200 panelists and keynote speakers — judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, police chiefs, crime victims and survivors, formerly incarcerated people, corrections officials, and academic researchers. See Appendix F. The Committee also hears extensive public comment at its meetings.

STAFF MEMORANDA AND RESEARCH

Topics studied by the Committee are first developed in staff memorandums for each meeting. Committee staff research the governing law, gather data, survey approaches in other states, and set out preliminary recommendations. The Committee also works with the the California Policy Lab, a research institution based in the University of California system, to provide relevant empirical analysis and quantitative data. Funding for this research relationship is provided in the state budget.

ANNUAL REPORT

In December, the Committee produces an Annual Report to the Legislature and Governor which includes its final recommendations for that year. The recommendations are supported by legal analysis, empirical data and other supporting research. All recommendations from the Committee have been unanimous.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Each legislative session, recommendations from the Committee become the basis of bills considered by the Legislature. Committee staff provide technical assistance during this process, including drafting and reviewing bill language and amendments, testifying at committee hearings, and providing other analysis and data as requested by authors, other legislators, policy committee staff, advocates, the Governor's Office, and others involved in the legislative process. Introducing and passing bills is a collaborative effort and the Committee appreciates the tremendous amount of work, dedication, and patience of everyone involved.

Every Recommendation at a Glance

KEY TO STATUSES

- **Enacted or implemented**: the recommendation is law.
- **Partially enacted or partially implemented**: some but not all of the recommendation has been carried out, whether by legislation or by court decision, regulation, or other action.
- **Unsuccessful bill**: implementing legislation was introduced but did not pass or was vetoed.
- **Awaiting action**: no implementing bill has yet been introduced.

RECOMMENDATION	REPORT	STATUS
Victims' Rights and Services		
State-funded restitution system	2022	**Awaiting action**
Victim right to restorative justice	2022	**Partially enacted**
Expand victim right to civil compromise	2022	**Unsuccessful bill**
Victim right to be heard on criminal protective orders	2025	**Awaiting action**
Victims notified and heard before plea agreements	2025	**Awaiting action**
Countywide Child Advocacy Centers	2025	**Awaiting action**
Trauma-informed soft interview rooms	2025	**Awaiting action**
Sentence Enhancements		
Guidance for judges considering sentence enhancements	2020	**Enacted**
Clarify that § 1385 guidance applies to strikes	2023	**Awaiting action**
Limit gang enhancements to the most dangerous offenses	2020	**Enacted**
Retroactively apply repealed sentence enhancements	2020	**Enacted**
Limit firearm enhancements to people who used or were armed with a gun	2024	**Awaiting action**
Repeal the Three Strikes law	2021	**Unsuccessful bill**
Apply the nickel-prior reform retroactively	2023	**Awaiting action**
Second-Look Resentencing		
Judicial process for second-look resentencing	2020	**Enacted**
Person-initiated second-look requests	2023	**Unsuccessful bill**
General resentencing procedures	2023	**Enacted**
Review process for life without parole sentences	2021	**Implemented**
Serious and Violent Felony Lists		
Modify the serious and violent felony lists	2025	**Awaiting action**

RECOMMENDATION	REPORT	STATUS
Parole, Custody Credits, and Reentry		
Clarify parole suitability standards	2020	**Unsuccessful bill**
Equalize custody credits	2020	**Partially enacted**
Equalize parole eligibility for all offenses	2021	**Awaiting action**
Modernize the county parole system	2021	**Awaiting action**
Expand CDCR reentry programs	2021	**Partially enacted**
Apply Proposition 57 credits to indeterminate sentences	2024	**Unsuccessful bill**
Mental Health		
Strengthen the mental health diversion law	2021	**Enacted**
Modernize the competency to stand trial system	2022	**Partially enacted**
Data sharing to address frequent utilizers	2022	**Unsuccessful bill**
Diversion and Alternatives to Incarceration		
Encourage alternatives to incarceration	2021	**Partially enacted**
LEAD and pre-booking release	2023	**Partially enacted**
Prosecutor-led diversion for gun possession	2024	**Unsuccessful bill**
Driving Under the Influence		
Improve the approach to DUI offenses	2024	**Awaiting action**
Low-Level Offenses		
Low-value thefts without injury or weapon as misdemeanors	2020	**Unsuccessful bill**
Short prison sentences served in county jails	2020, 2023	**Unsuccessful bill**
Focus welfare fraud prosecutions on the most serious cases	2023	**Unsuccessful bill**
End mandatory minimums for nonviolent offenses	2020	**Partially enacted**
Eliminate incarceration and reduce fines for certain traffic offenses	2020	**Enacted**
Fines and Fees		
Reduce the scope of criminal fines and add-on fees	2023	**Partially enacted**
Policing, Traffic Stops, and Asset Forfeiture		
Prohibit stops for technical traffic infractions	2022	**Unsuccessful bill**
Limit consent searches during traffic stops	2022	**Unsuccessful bill**
Simplify civil asset forfeiture	2024	**Awaiting action**
Pretrial Justice		
Public defense counsel before arraignment	2022	**Unsuccessful bill**
Update pretrial procedures	2022	**Unsuccessful bill**
Codify *Humphrey*	2022	**Awaiting action**

RECOMMENDATION	REPORT	STATUS
Plea Bargaining		
Lessen unfair pressure to plead guilty	2023	Unsuccessful bill
Racial Disparities and the Racial Justice Act		
Make the Racial Justice Act retroactive	DPR	Enacted
Improve data access for the RJA	2023, 2025	Unsuccessful bill
Improve the Racial Justice Act	2025	Partially implemented by court decision
Death Penalty These recommendations appeared in the stand-alone Death Penalty Report released in 2021.		
Repeal the death penalty	DPR	Awaiting action
Reduce the size of death row through executive and prosecutorial action	DPR	Partially implemented by prosecutorial action
Limit the felony-murder special circumstance	DPR	Unsuccessful bill
Restore judicial discretion to dismiss special circumstances	DPR; 2021	Unsuccessful bill
Remove permanently incompetent people from death row	DPR	Enacted
Innocence and Post-Conviction Relief		
Harmonize post-conviction innocence standards	2024	Unsuccessful bill
Expand post-conviction discovery	2024	Enacted
Modernize compensation for innocent people	2024	Awaiting action
Murder Liability and Accomplice Doctrine		
Eliminate accomplice liability for implied malice murder	2024	Awaiting action
Prohibit felony murder in provocative-act cases	2024	Awaiting action
Gender Bias in Criminal Prosecutions		
Heightened scrutiny of gender-biased evidence	2025	Unsuccessful bill
Modernize self-defense for intimate partner violence survivors	2025	Awaiting action
Habeas relief for pre-Collins failure-to-protect murder	2025	Awaiting action
Judicial Disqualification		
Limit prosecutor blanket challenges under Code of Civil Procedure § 170.6	2025	Partially implemented by court decision

Correctional Cost Savings

California spends billions of dollars a year on its criminal legal system.

Enacted bills based on Committee recommendations have produced meaningful savings from lower correctional costs. The clearest case is SB 483 (Allen 2021), which required resentencing for people in jail and prison serving longer terms because of enhancements the Legislature had already repealed. According to analysis by the California Policy Lab, more than 3,000 people have been resentenced, each with at least one year taken off. The Legislative Analyst's Office puts the per capita cost of a year of prison incarceration at $127,788 and the marginal cost at $21,534. Using the marginal figure, and generally accounting for a credit-earning rate of 50%, a conservative estimate of savings to the state exceeds $30 million.

Other enacted Committee recommendations resulted in similar cost savings: SB 81 (Skinner 2021) encouraged judges to dismiss sentence enhancements where mitigating circumstances are present — enhancements that can add one, three, or five years, and in some cases create a life sentence. AB 333 (Kamlager 2021) narrowed the application of gang enhancements, which can add anywhere from two years to life to a sentence and which have been disproportionately imposed on people of color. SB 1223 (Becker 2022) and SB 1323 (Menjivar 2024) moved people with serious mental illness toward treatment and away from costly incarceration and state hospital commitment.

Recommendations Awaiting Further Action

Each item below is a Committee recommendation that has not yet been enacted and is backed by a fully developed proposal in prior Committee reports; details appear in the topic sections.

† = requires a two-thirds vote in the Legislature or voter initiative

VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND SERVICES

- State-funded restitution system
- Expand victim right to civil compromise
- Victim right to be heard on criminal protective orders
- Victims notified and heard before plea agreements
- Countywide Child Advocacy Centers
- Trauma-informed soft interview rooms
- Victim participation in restorative justice programs

SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS

- Repeal the Three Strikes law†
  Interim actions:
  - Five-year washout period for strikes†
  - Exclude juvenile adjudications†
  - End sentence-doubling when the new offense is not serious or violent†
- Apply the nickel-prior reform retroactively
- Clarify that § 1385 guidance applies to strikes
- Limit firearm enhancements to people who used or were armed with a gun

SECOND-LOOK RESENTENCING

- Person-initiated second-look requests after 15 years of incarceration

SERIOUS AND VIOLENT FELONY LISTS

- Modify the serious and violent felony lists†
  - Remove robbery involving only fear or minimal force, criminal threats, and grand theft involving a firearm
  - Add specified sexual assault offenses to the violent felony list
  - Add retaliation against victims/witnesses and abduction of a minor to the serious felony list

PAROLE, CUSTODY CREDITS, AND REENTRY

- Clarify parole suitability standards
- Equalize parole eligibility for all offenses
- Modernize the county parole system
- Apply Proposition 57 credits to indeterminate sentences
- Expand CDCR residential reentry programs and allow BPH to grant release to them
- Equalize custody credits across settings
  - Violent-felony credits remain capped at 15% in jail
  - Proposition 57 credits still do not advance youth offender or elderly parole dates

MENTAL HEALTH

- Data sharing to address frequent utilizers
- Complete competency reform
  - Require experts to complete competency evaluations within 30 days
  - Require courts to determine whether there is a substantial probability of attaining competency before initiating competency proceedings.

DIVERSION AND ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

- Re-establish law-enforcement aided diversion (LEAD) programs
- Prosecutor-led diversion for gun possession
- Presumption of alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenses

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

- Improve the approach to DUI offenses
  - Judicial diversion for first-time misdemeanor DUI absent aggravating factors
  - Statutory framework and funding for DUI collaborative courts
  - Streamlining duplicative administrative and criminal license suspensions

LOW-LEVEL OFFENSES

- Low-value thefts without injury or weapon as misdemeanors
- Short prison sentences served in county jails
- Focus welfare fraud prosecutions on the most serious cases
- End mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent offenses

FINES AND FEES

- Reduce the scope of criminal fines and add-on fees
  - Prohibit fines for people convicted of a misdemeanor or felony who are indigent
  - Require ability-to-pay determinations in all other cases to set fines
  - Eliminate add-on fees

POLICING, TRAFFIC STOPS, AND ASSET FORFEITURE

- Prohibit stops for technical traffic infractions
- Limit consent searches during traffic stops
- Simplify civil asset forfeiture

PRETRIAL JUSTICE

- Public defense counsel before arraignment
- Update pretrial procedures
  - First court appearance in 48 hours, without exception
  - Codify *County of Riverside v. McLaughlin* requirement of prompt judiical review of probable cause for adults and juveniles
- Codify *Humphrey*
- Allow courts to accept a refundable percentage of cash bail amounts

PLEA BARGAINING

- Lessen unfair pressure to plead guilty
  - Allow courts to revisit pretrial detention whenever a prosecutor makes a plea offer.
  - Prohibit the use of the same fact for conviction of the offense and sentence enhancement.
  - Add probation presumption to the default sentencing triad.
  - Allow juries to consider lesser-related offenses.

RACIAL DISPARITIES AND THE RACIAL JUSTICE ACT

- Improve data access for the RJA
- Strengthen appellate review of RJA claims
- Expand a court's power to appoint referees in RJA cases

DEATH PENALTY

- Repeal the death penalty†
- Reduce the size of death row through executive and prosecutorial action
- Limit the felony-murder special circumstance†
- Restore judicial discretion to dismiss special circumstances†

INNOCENCE AND POST-CONVICTION RELIEF

- Harmonize post-conviction innocence standards
- Modernize compensation for innocent people

MURDER LIABILITY AND ACCOMPLICE DOCTRINE

- Eliminate accomplice liability for implied malice murder
- Prohibit felony murder in provocative-act cases

GENDER BIAS IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS

- Heightened scrutiny of gender-biased evidence†
- Modernize self-defense for intimate partner violence survivors
- Habeas relief for pre-*Collins* failure-to-protect murder convictions

JUDICIAL DISQUALIFICATION

- Specify 170.6 procedures following *J.O.*

17 Victims' Rights and Services
18 Sentence Enhancements
20 Second-Look Resentencing
21 Serious and Violent Felony Lists
22 Parole, Custody Credits, and Reentry
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The Recommendations in Detail

The Recommendations in Detail

VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND SERVICES

Establish a state-funded restitution system for crime victims
(2022 Report, pp. 14–18)

Victims hold a constitutional right to restitution, but many orders go unpaid. The Committee recommended a state-funded system for immediate payment of restitution orders. This would allow crime victims to more quickly receive restitution and allow the state to decide how to best collect restitution it already paid.

Status: Awaiting action.

Create a victim right to restorative justice
(2022 Report, pp. 19–23)

Research shows that, in many cases, crime victims prefer an opportunity for restorative justice conferencing: mediations between crime victims and the person who caused them harm. Studies also show that these restorative justice interventions lower recidivism. Yet California law makes little provision for restorative justice processes in the adult criminal legal system. The Committee recommended a victims' right to be informed of and to participate in county-approved programs — administered by independent community-based organizations, held in confidential settings, available across a wide range of offenses, and resulting in dismissal or non-filing where the process succeeds for all parties.

Status: Partially enacted — AB 60 (Bryan 2023) implemented notice of restorative justice programs. The broader participation framework has not been adopted.

Expand victim right to civil compromise
(2022 Report, pp. 24–26)

Civil compromise lets courts dismiss certain misdemeanors when the victim reports having received "satisfaction." The Committee recommended extending it to nonviolent, non-sex-offense felonies, recognizing non-monetary satisfaction, and requiring victim notification of its availability.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 2456 (Jones-Sawyer 2024).

Establish a victim's right to be heard and notified regarding criminal protective orders
(2025 Report, pp. 25–27)

Existing law does not guarantee that victims are consulted or notified before criminal protective orders are issued, modified, or terminated. The Committee recommended a statutory right to be heard, notice requirements, and factors courts must consider before modifying an order.

Status: Awaiting action.

Ensure victims in serious and violent cases are notified and heard before acceptance of plea agreements
(2025 Report, pp. 28–30)

Victims' existing right to notice of and presence at plea proceedings is inconsistently realized. The Committee recommended requiring courts, before accepting a plea to a serious or violent felony, to confirm on the record from the prosecutor whether the victim requested notice, was notified, and wishes to be heard.

Status: Awaiting action.

Require countywide use of Child Advocacy Centers
(2025 Report, pp. 22–24)

Child Advocacy Centers provide trauma-informed, multidisciplinary services to child victims, but current law merely authorizes them. The Committee recommended requiring every county to establish or participate in a CAC and requiring forensic interviews of children to occur there.

Status: Awaiting action.

Expand access to trauma-informed "soft interview" rooms
(2025 Report, pp. 31–33)

Stark interview settings can retraumatize victims and impair recall. The Committee recommended a dedicated state funding program for creating, renovating, and maintaining "soft interview rooms" — warm lighting, comfortable seating, blankets, and calming sensory items in place of the windowless rooms often furnished for interrogation — for use by law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts. A survivor who has helped build several of them told the Committee that upgrading a single room costs roughly $4,000 and that access remains inconsistent across counties, particularly for adult victims.

Status: Awaiting action.

SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS

Provide guidance for judges considering sentence enhancements
(2020 Report, pp. 36–42)

Judges have long had authority to dismiss enhancements "in furtherance of justice" under Penal Code § 1385, but the standard was undefined and inconsistently applied. The Committee recommended statutory guidelines and presumptions favoring dismissal where, for example, the offense is nonviolent, connected to mental health issues or childhood trauma, or the enhancement rests on a conviction more than five years old.

Status: Enacted — SB 81 (Skinner 2021).

Clarify that SB 81's updates to Penal Code § 1385 apply to strikes
(2023 Report, pp. 36–38)

After SB 81 took effect, courts held that its mitigating-circumstances guidance does not reach people sentenced under the Three Strikes law, contrary to the Committee's original intent. The Committee recommended legislation clarifying that the § 1385 guidance applies to strikes.

Status: Awaiting action.

Limit gang enhancements to the most dangerous offenses
(2020 Report, pp. 43–47)

Finding that gang enhancements were applied inconsistently and disproportionately against people of color, the Committee recommended narrowing the definition of "criminal street gang," removing nonviolent property crimes from the predicate felony list, and barring use of the current offense to prove a pattern of gang activity.

Status: Enacted — AB 333 (Kamlager 2021).

Provide retroactive relief for repealed sentence enhancements
(2020 Report, pp. 48–51)

The Legislature eliminated enhancements for some prior convictions prospectively (SB 136 and SB 180), leaving thousands serving time under repealed provisions. The Committee recommended retroactive application with automatic removal and no reopening of plea bargains.

Status: Enacted — SB 483 (Allen 2021).

Limit firearm enhancements to people who used or were armed with a gun
(2024 Report, pp. 45–47)

The "armed" and "use" firearm enhancements can attach to accomplices who neither carried nor knew about a gun. The Committee recommended requiring personal arming for the armed enhancement and eliminating the gang-case exception to the personal-use requirement.

Status: Awaiting action.

Repeal the Three Strikes law
(2021 Report, pp. 40–48)

After extensive data analysis showing inconsistent application, stark racial disparities, and no benefit to public safety, the Committee unanimously recommended repeal. Recognizing the difficulty, it offered secondary reforms: a five-year washout period for strikes, excluding juvenile adjudications, and ending sentence-doubling when the new offense is not serious or violent.

Repealing the Three Strikes law, as well as the secondary reforms, would require a two-thirds vote in the Legislature or voter initiative.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 1279 (Sharp-Collins 2025) would have implemented one of the secondary reforms by eliminating the use of juvenile adjudications as strikes, but was not successful. The broader recommendation awaits action.

Apply the "nickel prior" reform retroactively
(2023 Report, pp. 27–30)

SB 1393 restored judicial discretion to dismiss the five-year serious-felony prior enhancement, but only prospectively. The Committee recommended letting people sentenced before 2019 petition for relief.

Status: Awaiting action.

SECOND-LOOK RESENTENCING

Establish a judicial process for "second look" resentencing
(2020 Report, pp. 64–68)

The Committee recommended formal procedures for recall and resentencing requests, a presumption of resentencing when law enforcement recommends it, and an avenue for incarcerated people to seek review of their own sentences after 15 years.

Status: Enacted — AB 1540 (Ting 2021) adopted procedural elements for law-enforcement-initiated resentencing, and AB 600 (Ting 2023) gave courts power to resentence when the law has changed. Person-initiated review is treated as a separate recommendation below, because the Committee reiterated it in 2023.

Expand second-look resentencing to person-initiated requests
(2023 Report, pp. 31–35; element of the 2020 Report recommendation, pp. 64–68)

The Committee reiterated its recommendation that anyone who has served more than 15 years be able to ask a court directly for resentencing.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 1245 (Cooley 2021); SB 898 (Skinner 2024).

Create general resentencing procedures
(2023 Report, pp. 22–26)

A decade of resentencing reforms each carried different or undefined procedural rules. The Committee recommended uniform procedures, including a process for obtaining records from CDCR.

Status: Enacted — AB 2483 (Ting 2024). The bill did not require the appointment of counsel; only that the court should consider appointing counsel.

Create a review process for life without parole sentences
(2021 Report, pp. 49–64)

Life without parole sentences have grown more common, alongside troubling racial disparities. The Committee recommended resentencing review after 25 years, restoring judicial authority to dismiss special circumstances in furtherance of justice, and requiring the Board of Parole Hearings to review people with life without parole sentences for clemency recommendations.

Board of Parole Hearings regulations — with some exceptions — now direct the Board to review the sentence of every person who has served 25 or more years for a possible clemency recommendation or sentence recall.

Status: Implemented — Board of Parole Hearings regulations creating the review process became effective October 1, 2026. (15 CCR §§ 2267, 2840–2859.) Litigation has been filed challenging the regulations. See *Chavez et al. v. Board of Parole Hearings*, Sacramento County Superior Court No. 26WM000178. In addition, two unsuccessful bills would also have implemented review of some life without parole sentences: SB 94 (Cortese 2023) and SB 672 (Rubio 2025).

SERIOUS AND VIOLENT FELONY LISTS

Modify the serious and violent felony lists
(2025 Report, pp. 45–49)

The serious and violent felony lists, originally aimed at a narrow set of offenses, have expanded dramatically and cover a wide range of conduct while some offenses of similar gravity are treated inconsistently. The Committee recommended both removing and adding offenses from these lists.

Removals: robbery when the offense involves only fear or minimal force and is not committed against a particularly vulnerable victim; criminal threats; and grand theft involving a firearm.

Additions to the violent list: specified sexual assault offenses where the victim is unconscious, lacks capacity to consent, or is intoxicated, or where consent is obtained by impersonation or threats to misuse official authority.

Additions to the serious list: retaliation or threats of retaliation against victims or witnesses, and abduction of a minor for purposes of prostitution.

Modifying these lists for all purposes would require a two-thirds vote in the Legislature or voter initiative.

Status: Awaiting action.

PAROLE, CUSTODY CREDITS, AND REENTRY

Clarify parole suitability standards
(2020 Report, pp. 56–63)

The statutes and regulations governing Board of Parole Hearings release decisions are internally inconsistent. The Committee recommended a number of changes to the parole review process, including updating the release standard for parole hearings to be an imminent risk that the candidate will commit a serious or violent felony if released, specifying presumptions for release, changing the standard of judicial review, and increasing the data that the Board of Parole Hearings releases to the public.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — SB 81 (Skinner 2023) would have changed the judicial standard of review for parole decisions but was vetoed.

Equalize custody credits
(2020 Report, pp. 52–55)

People with identical offenses and histories earn different good-conduct credits depending on whether they are in jail, prison, or a state hospital. The Committee recommended equalizing credits across settings and applying Proposition 57 credits retroactively and to youth offender and elderly parole hearing dates.

Status: Partially enacted — SB 317 (Stern 2021) addressed people in state hospitals and other mental health facilities, and May 2021 CDCR regulations (15 CCR § 3043.2(b)(3)) addressed disparities for people with prior strikes. There are still unequal credits for people in jail vs. prison for violent offenses. Compare 15 CCR § 3043.2 with Penal Code § 2933.1. AB 292 (Stone 2021) initially addressed prison credits but that portion was taken out of the bill before passage.

Equalize parole eligibility for all offenses
(2021 Report, pp. 31–34)

Proposition 57 created early parole consideration for nonviolent offenses. The Committee recommended extending parole review to people convicted of all offenses once they have served the term for their primary offense, with release only if the board finds no continuing threat to public safety.

Status: Awaiting action.

Modernize the county parole system
(2021 Report, pp. 35–39)

County parole review, an existing but little-used release mechanism for people in jail, should be required people who would be parole-eligible in prison.

Status: Awaiting action.

Expand CDCR's existing reentry programs
(2021 Report, pp. 26–30)

Community-based residential reentry programs (such as the Male Community Reentry Program) reduce recidivism and cost less than traditional incarceration. The Committee recommended expanding them so that eventually everyone due for release from prison serves up to their last two years in such programs, and allowing the parole board to grant release to a reentry program.

Status: Partially enacted — Some expansion was funded with three budget actions led by Senator Skinner: AB 178 (2022); SB 101 (2023); AB 107 (2024). The statutory expansion and parole-board release authority have not been adopted.

Specify that Proposition 57 credits apply to indeterminate sentences
(2024 Report, pp. 51–54)

Litigation currently prevents CDCR from releasing people with indeterminate sentences who had earned earlier parole dates through credits and been approved by the parole board. The Committee recommended codifying that Proposition 57 credits apply to minimum eligible parole dates to enable the release of people found by the Board of Parole Hearings to present low public safety risk. The issue is set to be resolved by the California Supreme Court in *Criminal Justice Legal Foundation et al. v. California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation et al.*, California Supreme Court Case No. S292887.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 622 (Kalra 2025).

MENTAL HEALTH

Strengthen the mental health diversion law
(2021 Report, pp. 12–18)

In 2018, California created a ground-breaking mental health diversion law that allowed many people charged with offenses to receive treatment instead of incarceration. The Committee recommended a presumption that a qualifying mental disorder was a significant factor in the offense, streamlining diversion in appropriate cases.

Status: Enacted — SB 1223 (Becker 2022). A recent successful bill, AB 46 (Nguyen 2026), made it easier for judges to deny requests for mental health diversion.

Modernize the competency to stand trial system
(2022 Report, pp. 47–55)

California's competency process is expensive and produces long delays often without improving underlying mental health issues or public safety. The Committee recommended interests-of-justice screening before a court ordered restoration to competency, faster evaluations, and a judge to determine at the outset of proceedings whether there was a substantial likelihood a defendant could be restored to competency.

Status: Partially enacted — SB 1323 (Menjivar 2024) enacted the core of the recommendation requiring a court to determine whether restoration to competency is in the interests of justice. The other two parts of the recommendation remain awaiting action. An earlier bill that was introduced but not enacted, AB 1584 (Weber 2023), would have enacted all three parts of the recommendation.

Encourage data sharing to address frequent utilizers
(2022 Report, pp. 56–58)

A small group of highly vulnerable people cycles repeatedly through jails, emergency rooms, and shelters. The Committee recommended cross-system county data collaboration with state-funded pilot projects.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 1499 (Bauer-Kahan 2023).

DIVERSION AND ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

Encourage alternatives to incarceration
(2021 Report, pp. 19–25)

The Penal Code lacked any statement of when incarceration is appropriate. The Committee recommended a least-restrictive-means parsimony principle for criminal dispositions and a default of non-incarceration alternatives in nonviolent cases.

Status: Partially enacted — AB 2167 (Kalra 2022) added a statement of parsimony to the Penal Code but did not create a presumption for non-incarceration.

Support Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and pre-booking release
(2023 Report, pp. 12–16)

LEAD pilots in San Francisco and Los Angeles significantly reduced recidivism before state funding lapsed. The Committee recommended re-establishing LEAD pilots with a broader offense list and updating Penal Code § 849 to allow officers to release people arrested for low-level offenses to community services instead of booking them.

Status: Partially enacted — AB 2215 (Bryan 2024) implemented pre-booking diversion by police officers. AB 2217 (Zbur 2026) would have re-established LEAD programs but was unsuccessful.

Establish prosecutor-led diversion for gun possession offenses
(2024 Report, pp. 37–39)

Judge-initiated diversion is unavailable for felonies, and prosecutors' authority to divert gun possession cases is not explicit in the Penal Code. The Committee recommended expressly authorizing prosecutor-led diversion for misdemeanor and felony gun possession.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 1231 (Elhawary 2025), a felony diversion bill that would have covered gun possession offenses.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Improve California's approach to DUI offenses
(2024 Report, pp. 25–33)

A three-part recommendation to improve road safety and improve how DUI offenses are addressed in criminal court: direct judges to grant diversion for first-time misdemeanor DUIs absent aggravating factors; create a statutory framework and funding for DUI collaborative courts; and streamline duplicative administrative and criminal license suspensions so a license is suspended only once.

Status: Awaiting action.

LOW-LEVEL OFFENSES

Establish that low-value thefts without serious injury or use of a weapon are misdemeanors
(2020 Report, pp. 30–35)

Thefts of property under $950 without serious bodily injury or a deadly weapon should be charged as petty theft, not robbery. Case law allows robbery to reach shoplifting in which the person uses even slight force to leave with the merchandise — the so-called Estes robbery, after *People v. Estes*, 147 Cal.App.3d 23 (1983) — and the Committee's recommendation would end that practice.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — SB 82 (Skinner 2021).

Require that short prison sentences be served in county jails
(2020 Report, pp. 19–25; renewed in the 2023 Report, pp. 58–63)

Nearly half of people released from CDCR each year have been in prison for less than a year. Research suggests better outcomes from local custody. The Committee recommended requiring (2020) or financially rewarding (2023) counties to keep custody of people who would serve under a year in prison.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 2168 (Kalra 2024).

Focus welfare fraud prosecutions on the most serious cases
(2023 Report, pp. 39–46)

Welfare fraud prosecutions show pronounced race and gender disparities, and an administrative process already exists to address these issues in most cases. The Committee recommended preserving criminal prosecution for serious categories (multi-county fraud, stolen identities, trafficking) while channeling other cases to the administrative process.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — SB 560 (Smallwood-Cuevas 2025).

End mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent offenses
(2020 Report, pp. 26–29)

Many nonviolent offenses, particularly drug crimes, required incarceration with no probation eligibility, while some violent crimes carried no mandatory minimum. The Committee recommended allowing probation or other alternatives for all nonviolent offenses.

Status: Partially enacted — SB 73 (Wiener 2021) covered drug offenses but not other nonviolent offenses.

Eliminate incarceration and reduce fines and fees for certain traffic offenses
(2020 Report, pp. 14–18)

Driving without a license and driving on a license suspended for failure to pay or appear could be charged as misdemeanors despite little connection to road safety. The Committee recommended making them infractions and reducing the associated fines, fees, and DMV points.

Status: Enacted — An initial bill, AB 907 (Santiago 2021), failed, but AB 2746 (Friedman 2022) repealed driver's license suspensions for failure to appear and eliminated misdemeanor charging for a first or second offense of driving without a license; AB 1125 (Hart 2023) eliminated judicial authority to restrict driver's licenses for failure to pay infraction bail installments; and AB 3278 (Transportation Committee 2024) carried the license-suspension clean-up further. The only element of the recommendation not implemented is that a third or subsequent offense of driving without a license may still be charged as a misdemeanor. (Vehicle Code § 12500).

FINES AND FEES

Reduce the scope of criminal fines and add-on fees
(2023 Report, pp. 47–51)

Fines and add-on fees attach to every conviction regardless of ability to pay. The Committee recommended prohibiting fines for indigent defendants, requiring ability-to-pay determinations in other cases, and eliminating add-on fees.

Status: Partially enacted — AB 1186 (Bonta 2024) eliminated the juvenile restitution fine and made adult restitution fines unenforceable after 10 years; AB 2428 (Celeste Rodriguez 2026) repeals authority to collect specified administrative fees. The larger reforms recommended by the Committee around prohibiting fines for indigent defendants, ability to pay determinations, and other add-on fees remain.

POLICING, TRAFFIC STOPS, AND ASSET FORFEITURE

Prohibit stops for technical traffic infractions
(2022 Report, pp. 27–34)

California officers make more than 3 million traffic stops a year, with stark racial disparities and low rates of weapon discovery. The Committee recommended barring stops for specified technical, non-safety-related offenses such as registration and equipment violations.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — SB 50 (Bradford 2023).

Limit consent searches during traffic stops
(2022 Report, pp. 35–39)

Consent searches during traffic stops rarely turn up evidence and fall disproportionately on people of color. The Committee recommended allowing officers to request consent only with reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a crime.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — SB 277 (Weber Pierson 2025); AB 93 (Bryan 2023).

Simplify civil asset forfeiture
(2024 Report, pp. 34–36)

California's asset forfeiture laws allow law enforcement to seize cash and property involved in a crime. A criminal conviction is required for cash or property valued under $40,000 in a drug case, but if the owner does not object prosecutors may seize property under $25,000 administratively. Because there is no minimum value, small amounts that are uneconomical to contest can be seized with no court involvement. The Committee recommended exempting cash and property totaling less than $10,000 from civil or administrative forfeiture — instead allowing only criminal forfeiture — and updating the distribution formula so that forfeiture proceeds can support crime victims.

Status: Awaiting action.

PRETRIAL JUSTICE

Ensure public defense counsel before arraignment
(2022 Report, pp. 40–46)

Only people who can afford counsel are guaranteed representation before their first court appearance. The Committee recommended appointment of counsel within 24 hours of booking or sufficiently before arraignment to provide meaningful representation.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 1209 (Jones-Sawyer 2023).

Update pretrial procedures
(2022 Report, pp. 59–62)

The Penal Code permits multi-day detention without arraignment over weekends and holidays and has never codified prompt judicial review of warrantless arrests. The Committee recommended a 48-hour first-appearance rule without exception and codified probable-cause review from *County of Riverside v. McLaughlin*, 500 U.S. 44 (1991), for adults and juveniles.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — SB 821 (Arreguin 2025) would have codified *McLaughlin* for adults and juveniles; AB 61 (Bryan 2023) would have required a first court appearance within 48 hours, without exception.

Codify *Humphrey's* elimination of wealth-based detention
(2022 Report, pp. 63–72)

Many trial courts had difficulty complying with the California Supreme Court's decision *In re Humphrey*, 11 Cal.5th 135 (2021), which held that people should not be kept in jail because they cannot afford to pay cash bail. The Committee recommended codifying and clarifying elements of the decision, including a presumption of release and rules for setting affordable bail, and allowing courts to accept a refundable percentage of bail.

Status: Awaiting action.

PLEA BARGAINING

Lessen unfair pressure to plead guilty
(2023 Report, pp. 52–57)

Because the threat of severe punishment can push people to plead guilty, the Committee recommended several law changes that would address that pressure: revisiting pretrial detention whenever a plea offer is made, banning dual use of the same fact for conviction and enhancement, allowing juries to consider lesser-related offenses, and adding a probation presumption to the sentencing triad.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — SB 1173 (Caballero 2026) would have allowed juries to consider lesser-related offenses but was vetoed. The other three elements remain awaiting action. SB 1133 (Becker 2024) as introduced would have allowed pretrial detention to be revisited when a plea offer is made; that provision was amended out and the bill was vetoed.

RACIAL DISPARITIES AND THE RACIAL JUSTICE ACT

Amend the Racial Justice Act to give it retroactive application
(Death Penalty Report (2021), pp. 5–7)

The RJA as enacted initially only applied prospectively. As one of its interim measures to reduce the size of death row, the Committee recommended making the RJA retroactive.

Status: Enacted — AB 256 (Kalra 2022).

Improve data access for the Racial Justice Act
(2023 Report, pp. 17–21; renewed in the 2025 Report, pp. 34–40)

Some RJA claims depend on statistical evidence that claimants often cannot obtain. The Committee recommended expanding existing CDCR, DOJ, and Judicial Council reports, increasing access to probation and police reports for RJA claims, and funding the Justice Data Accountability and Transparency Act.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 2065 (Kalra 2024).

Improve the Racial Justice Act
(2025 Report, pp. 34–40)

The Committee recommended an array of procedural changes to the Racial Justice Act: strengthening appellate review, clarifying that the law applies to sentence enhancements and abrogating a recent appellate decision concluding otherwise, and expanding a court's power to appoint referees.

Status: Partially implemented by court decision — on reconsideration, appellate court in *In re Huerta* (F088041) held in January 2026 that the RJA reaches enhancements. The other two elements remain awaiting action.

DEATH PENALTY

Repeal the death penalty
(Death Penalty Report (2021), pp. 3–7)

After concluding that the death penalty as created and enforced in California is arbitrary, discriminatory, enormously costly, and incapable of ensuring fairness, the Committee unanimously recommended repeal.

Status: Awaiting action.

Reduce the size of death row through executive and prosecutorial action
(Death Penalty Report (2021), pp. 5–7)

Three interim measures called for action by officials rather than the Legislature: gubernatorial clemency to commute death sentences, Attorney General settlement of pending post-conviction capital cases, and district attorney use of recall and resentencing under Penal Code § 1172.1 in capital cases.

Status: Partially implemented. Dozens of death sentences were resolved with prosecutor-initiated resentencings under Penal Code § 1172.1 in Los Angeles, Alameda, and Santa Clara Counties since the Committee's recommendation.

Limit the felony-murder special circumstance
(Death Penalty Report (2021), pp. 5–7)

Since Proposition 115 (1990), accomplices who neither killed nor intended to kill can face death or life without parole. The Committee recommended reforming the felony-murder special circumstance to restore the original intent requirement.

This reform would require a two-thirds vote in the Legislature or a voter initiative.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — SB 300 (Cortese 2022).

Restore judicial discretion to dismiss special circumstances
(Death Penalty Report (2021), pp. 5–7; also an element of the 2021 Report's life without parole recommendation, pp. 49–64)

Penal Code § 1385.1 bars judges from striking special circumstances in furtherance of justice. The Committee recommended restoring that discretion.

Restoring this discretion in all cases would require a two-thirds vote in the Legislature or voter initiative.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — SB 300 (Cortese 2022).

Remove permanently mentally incompetent people from death row
(Death Penalty Report (2021), pp. 5–7)

People who are permanently incompetent cannot be executed yet remain on death row. The Committee recommended a process to remove them.

Status: Enacted — AB 2657 (Stone 2022).

INNOCENCE AND POST-CONVICTION RELIEF

Harmonize and clarify the post-conviction processes for showing innocence and wrongful convictions
(2024 Report, pp. 11–16)

Repeated amendments to the primary statute addressing habeas corpus relief have left a tangle of standards. And procedural bars can keep courts from even hearing innocence claims. The Committee recommended a unified reasonable-probability standard, an innocence exemption from procedural bars, and a dismissal remedy that bars reprosecution.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 1595 (Schultz 2026) would have created a unified reasonable-probability standard but was vetoed. The recommendations around procedural bars and dismissal remain awaiting action.

Expand post-conviction discovery
(2024 Report, pp. 17–19)

Statutory post-conviction discovery was limited to people sentenced to 15 years or more. The Committee recommended a continuing duty to disclose favorable evidence discovered after conviction and broader file access for people sentenced to more than a year, as well as clearer access to investigative tools for prosecutor conviction integrity units.

Status: Enacted — AB 1036 (Schultz 2025); SB 1211 (Gonzalez 2026).

Modernize compensation for innocent people
(2024 Report, pp. 20–24)

California's compensation scheme lags behind other states. The Committee recommended redrafting the statute, extending the streamlined process to acquittals and reversals for insufficient evidence, inflation-adjusting the formula, allowing claims for individualized harms above the daily rate, and a one-time lookback period.

Status: Awaiting action.

MURDER LIABILITY AND ACCOMPLICE DOCTRINE

Eliminate accomplice liability for implied malice murder
(2024 Report, pp. 40–44)

SB 1437 narrowed accomplice murder liability to track personal culpability, but aiding-and-abetting implied malice murder emerged as an unforeseen theory allowing murder convictions for people who neither killed nor intended to kill. The Committee recommended eliminating it.

Status: Awaiting action.

Prohibit the felony-murder rule in provocative-act murders
(2024 Report, pp. 48–50)

Provocative-act murder already extends liability to deaths the defendant did not directly cause; layering the felony-murder rule on top can elevate those cases to first-degree murder. The Committee recommended prohibiting the elevation of those cases to first-degree murder.

Status: Awaiting action.

GENDER BIAS IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS

Require heightened judicial scrutiny of gender-biased evidence in criminal trials
(2025 Report, pp. 11–14)

Evidence and argument playing on gender stereotypes — about sexuality, motherhood, appearance, or a "woman's nature" — have contributed to wrongful convictions. The Committee recommended amending the Evidence Code to require heightened scrutiny before such material is admitted and allowing a habeas corpus cause of action for people to challenge old convictions.

Limiting gender-bias evidence in trials would require a two-thirds vote in the Legislature or voter initiative.

Status: Unsuccessful bill — AB 2014 (Elhawary 2026).

Modernize the statutory definition of self-defense in intimate partner violence cases
(2025 Report, pp. 18–21)

California's 150-year-old self-defense statute does not account for survivors facing ongoing, life-threatening abuse. The Committee recommended specifying that self-defense is lawful when used to prevent or escape such abuse, and converting the imminence and fear-alone requirements into jury factors rather than strict prerequisites.

Status: Awaiting action.

Allow habeas corpus relief for people convicted of failure-to-protect murder under pre-*Collins* standards
(2025 Report, pp. 15–17)

People v. Collins, 17 Cal.5th 293 (2025), clarified the standard for failure-to-protect murder, but its retroactive reach is uncertain. The Committee recommended amending Penal Code § 1473.5 to authorize habeas relief where a conviction would likely not be valid under *Collins*.

Status: Awaiting action.

JUDICIAL DISQUALIFICATION

Limit prosecutor blanket challenges of judges under Code of Civil Procedure § 170.6
(2025 Report, pp. 41–44)

Section 170.6 allows any party to disqualify a judge without alleging a factual basis, and both defense and prosecutor offices have used blanket challenges to remove judges from entire categories of cases. The Committee recommended a procedural framework that would limit blanket challenges made by prosecutors.

Status: Partially implemented by court decision — *J.O. v. Superior Court*, 19 Cal.5th 753 (2026) cited the Committee's work and adopted a framework for adjudicating blanket challenges — not just limited to prosecutors — that largely tracks the Committee's recommendation. Eliminating blanket challenges by prosecutors entirely and some procedural aspects of the Committee's recommendation remain awaiting action.

Further Information

This report was authored by the Committee's legal staff: Senior Staff Counsel Joy F. Haviland, Legal Director Thomas M. Nosewicz, and Senior Staff Counsel Rick Owen. Staff used AI tools to analyze prior Committee reports and assemble the information for this report. Committee staff thoroughly checked and revised the report to prepare it for publication. The report was designed by Taylor Le.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Bills Enacting Committee Recommendations

BILL	YEAR	AUTHOR	TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION IMPLEMENTED
SB 81	2021	Skinner	Sentence Enhancements	Guidance for judges considering sentence enhancements
AB 333	2021	Kamlager	Sentence Enhancements	Limit gang enhancements to the most dangerous offenses
SB 483	2021	Allen	Sentence Enhancements	Retroactively apply repealed sentence enhancements
SB 73	2021	Wiener	Low-Level Offenses	End mandatory minimums for nonviolent offenses (drug offenses)
SB 317	2021	Stern	Parole, Custody Credits, and Reentry	Equalize custody credits (in part)
AB 1540	2021	Ting	Second-Look Resentencing	Judicial process for second-look resentencing
SB 1223	2022	Becker	Mental Health	Strengthen the mental health diversion law
AB 2167	2022	Kalra	Diversion and Alternatives to Incarceration	Encourage alternatives to incarceration
AB 178	2022	Budget	Parole, Custody Credits, and Reentry	Expand CDCR reentry programs
AB 2657	2022	Stone	Death Penalty	Remove permanently incompetent people from death row
AB 256	2022	Kalra	Racial Disparities and the Racial Justice Act	Make the Racial Justice Act retroactive
AB 2746	2022	Friedman	Low-Level Offenses	Eliminate incarceration and reduce fines for certain traffic offenses
AB 600	2023	Ting	Second-Look Resentencing	Judicial power to resentence when the law has changed
AB 60	2023	Bryan	Victims' Rights and Services	Victim right to restorative justice (notice requirement)
SB 101	2023	Budget	Parole, Custody Credits, and Reentry	Continued funding to expand CDCR reentry programs
AB 1125	2023	Hart	Low-Level Offenses	Ended license restrictions for unpaid infraction bail installments (traffic offense reform)
AB 2215	2024	Bryan	Diversion and Alternatives to Incarceration	Pre-booking release
AB 2483	2024	Ting	Second-Look Resentencing	General resentencing procedures
SB 1323	2024	Menjivar	Mental Health	Modernize the competency to stand trial system
AB 107	2024	Budget	Parole, Custody Credits, and Reentry	Continued funding to expand CDCR reentry programs
AB 3278	2024	Transportation Committee	Low-Level Offenses	License suspension clean-up (traffic offense reform)
AB 1186	2024	Bonta	Fines and Fees	Restitution fines: juvenile fine eliminated; adult fines unenforceable after 10 years
AB 1036	2025	Schultz	Innocence and Post-Conviction Relief	Expand post-conviction discovery (for convicted people)
SB 1211	2026	Gonzalez	Innocence and Post-Conviction Relief	Expand post-conviction discovery (prosecutor conviction integrity unit discovery)
AB 2428	2026	Celeste Rodriguez	Fines and Fees	Reduce the scope of criminal fines and add-on fees

Appendix B: Bills Introduced But Not Enacted

BILL	YEAR	AUTHOR	TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION
AB 292	2021	Stone	Parole, Custody Credits, and Reentry	Equalize custody credits (credit provisions amended out; the bill was enacted without them)
AB 1245	2021	Cooley	Second-Look Resentencing	Expand second-look resentencing to person-initiated requests
AB 907	2021	Santiago	Low-Level Offenses	Eliminate incarceration and reduce fines and fees for certain traffic offenses
SB 82	2021	Skinner	Low-Level Offenses	Establish that low-value thefts without serious injury or use of a weapon are misdemeanors
SB 300	2022	Cortese	Death Penalty	Restore judicial discretion to dismiss special circumstances
				Limit the felony-murder special circumstance
SB 94	2023	Cortese	Second-Look Resentencing	Create a review process for life without parole sentences
AB 61	2023	Bryan	Pretrial Justice	Update pretrial procedures
AB 93	2023	Bryan	Policing, Traffic Stops, and Asset Forfeiture	Limit consent searches during traffic stops
AB 1209	2023	Jones-Sawyer	Pretrial Justice	Ensure public defense counsel before arraignment
AB 1499	2023	Bauer-Kahan	Mental Health	Encourage data sharing to address frequent utilizers
AB 1584	2023	Weber	Mental Health	Modernize the competency to stand trial system
SB 50	2023	Bradford	Policing, Traffic Stops, and Asset Forfeiture	Prohibit stops for technical traffic infractions
SB 81	2023	Skinner	Parole, Custody Credits, and Reentry	Clarify parole suitability standards
AB 2065	2024	Kalra	Racial Disparities and the Racial Justice Act	Improve data access for the Racial Justice Act
AB 2168	2024	Kalra	Low-Level Offenses	Require that short prison sentences be served in county jails
AB 2456	2024	Jones-Sawyer	Victims' Rights and Services	Expand victim right to civil compromise
SB 898	2024	Skinner	Second-Look Resentencing	Expand second-look resentencing to person-initiated requests
SB 1133	2024	Becker	Plea Bargaining	Lessen unfair pressure to plead guilty (amended out of final bill)
AB 1231	2025	Elhawary	Diversion and Alternatives to Incarceration	Establish prosecutor-led diversion for gun possession offenses
AB 1279	2025	Sharp-Collins	Sentence Enhancements	Repeal the Three Strikes law (juvenile adjudications as strikes)
AB 622	2025	Kalra	Parole, Custody Credits, and Reentry	Specify that Proposition 57 credits apply to indeterminate sentences
SB 277	2025	Weber Pierson	Policing, Traffic Stops, and Asset Forfeiture	Limit consent searches during traffic stops
SB 560	2025	Smallwood-Cuevas	Low-Level Offenses	Focus welfare fraud prosecutions on the most serious cases
SB 672	2025	Rubio	Second-Look Resentencing	Create a review process for life without parole sentences
SB 821	2025	Arreguin	Pretrial Justice	Update pretrial procedures
AB 2014	2026	Elhawary	Gender Bias in Criminal Prosecutions	Require heightened judicial scrutiny of gender-biased evidence in criminal trials
AB 2217	2026	Zbur	Diversion and Alternatives to Incarceration	Support Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)
AB 1595	2026	Schultz	Innocence and Post-Conviction Relief	Harmonize and clarify the post-conviction processes for showing innocence
SB 1173	2026	Caballero	Plea Bargaining	Lessen unfair pressure to plead guilty (lesser-related offenses)

Appendix C: Court Decisions Citing Committee Reports

California courts — including the California Supreme Court — have cited the Committee's work in cases involving gang enhancements, the dismissal of sentence enhancements, resentencing and recall procedures, mental health diversion, life without parole and youth offender parole, bail, the death penalty, the Racial Justice Act, and judicial disqualification. Some decisions have drawn on the Committee's analysis in interpreting a statute while others have relied on Committee research for background data. Selected decisions are listed below.

2022
People v. Butler, No. C090410 (3d Dist. Mar. 25, 2022) (unpublished)
People v. Moore, No. C091062 (3d Dist. Mar. 25, 2022) (unpublished)
People v. Burgos, 77 Cal.App.5th 550 (6th Dist. 2022) (dissenting opinion)
People v. Ramos, 77 Cal.App.5th 1116 (5th Dist. 2022)
People v. Montano, 80 Cal.App.5th 82 (5th Dist. 2022)
People v. Hardin, 84 Cal.App.5th 273, 290 (2d Dist. 2022)
People v. Lipscomb, 87 Cal.App.5th 9, 19 (1st Dist. 2022)

2023
People v. Burke, 89 Cal.App.5th 237 (3d Dist. 2023)
People v. Doron, 95 Cal.App.5th 1, 8 (4th Dist. 2023)
People v. Renteria, 96 Cal.App.5th 1276 (6th Dist. 2023)
People v. Rhodius, 97 Cal.App.5th 38 (4th Dist. 2023)
People v. Olay, 98 Cal.App.5th 60 (1st Dist. 2023)

2024
People v. Clark, 15 Cal.5th 743 (2024)
People v. McDowell, 99 Cal.App.5th 1147 (4th Dist. 2024)
People v. Hardin, 15 Cal.5th 834 (2024) (majority and dissenting opinions)
People v. Gray, 101 Cal.App.5th 148 (5th Dist. 2024)
People v. Burgos, 16 Cal.5th 1, 33–34 (2024) (Justice Evans dissenting opinion)
People v. Wilson, 16 Cal.5th 874 (2024) (Justice Evans dissenting opinion)
People v. Walker, 16 Cal.5th 1024, 1037 (2024)
People v. Nadey, S087560 (Sept. 16, 2024) (Justice Liu dissenting opinion)
People v. O'Bannon, 105 Cal.App.5th 974 (2d Dist. 2024)
In re Mendoza, S287251 (Dec. 18, 2024) (Justice Liu dissenting statement)

2025
In re Banks, No. S287476 (California Supreme Court) (Justice Liu dissenting statement)
People v. Quintana, No. E083225 (4th Dist. May 5, 2025) (unpublished)
McDaniel v. Superior Court, 111 Cal.App.5th 228 (1st Dist. 2025)

2026
In re Kowalczyk, 19 Cal.5th. 593 (2026) (Justice Groban concurring opinion)
J.O. v. Superior Court, 19 Cal.5th 753 (2026)

Appendix D: California Policy Lab Reports

The California Policy Lab serves as the Committee's research partner. The Committee has special data-gathering statutes that allow it to gather the data analyzed by the California Policy Lab. (Government Code sections 8286 & 8286.5.) Funding for the relationship is provided in the state budget. In addition to research and analysis appearing in staff memoranda and Committee reports, the following stand-alone data reports were produced through the partnership. All are available at capolicylab.org under the Committee's research-partner page.

2021
Crime in California during the COVID-19 Pandemic (September 2021)

2022
Three Strikes in California (August 2022)
An Overview of Sentencing in California (August 2022)

2023
Sentence Enhancements in California (March 2023)
COVID-19 and Incarceration: A California Overview (April 2023)
Racial and Gender Disparities in Police Stops: 2021 RIPA Data (May 2023)
Felony Offenses and Sentencing Triads in California (October 2023)
California's Nickel Prior Enhancement and Recent Reforms (December 2023)

2024
Consecutive Sentencing in California (February 2024)
The Short-Term Impacts of Bail Policy in Los Angeles (August 2024)
Short Stays in Prison (September 2024)
Who Benefits from Automatic Record Relief in California? (October 2024)
Record Relief Primer (October 2024)

2025
Women in California Prisons (July 2025)
Second Look Research Series: The Role of Second Look Policies in Reforming California's Approach to Incarceration (Sept. 2025)
Second-Look Series: CDCR-Initiated Resentencing (September 2025)
Second-Look Series: Felony-Murder Reform (September 2025)
Second-Look Series: Resentencing Under Proposition 47 (September 2025)
Second-Look Series: Retroactive Enhancement Resentencing Under Senate Bill 483 (September 2025)
Second-Look Series: Three Strikes Resentencing Under Proposition 36 (September 2025)

2026
Racial Disparities in Searches During Police Stops: Analysis of 2023 Racial Identity and Profiling Act Data (January 2026)
The Use of Gun Enhancements in California Before and After Senate Bill 620 (May 2026)
Domestic Violence in California (July 2026)
The Effects of California's Domestic Violence Pilot on Recidivism Outcomes (July 2026)
Trends in California's Application of Gang Enhancements (August 2026)

Ongoing data resources
California's Prison Population Dashboards — californiaprisondata.org
California Crime Data — californiacrimedata.org
Proposition 36 (2024) Monthly Analysis — tinyurl.com/prop36

Appendix E: Committee Members, 2020–2026

The Committee has seven members: five appointed by the Governor, one member of the Assembly, and one member of the Senate, with the Governor designating the Chairperson. (Gov. Code § 8281.5.)

CURRENT MEMBERS

MEMBER	ROLE	YEARS
Michael Romano	Chairperson appointed by Governor	2020–present
Hon. Sade Elhawary	Speaker of the Assembly appointment	2026–present
Hon. Scott Wiener	Senate Committee on Rules appointment	2025–present
Hon. Peter Espinoza	Gubernatorial appointment	2020–present
Mary Kennedy	Gubernatorial appointment	2025–present
Prof. Priscilla Ocen	Gubernatorial appointment	2021; 2023–present
Prof. Heidi Rummel	Gubernatorial appointment	2024–present

FORMER MEMBERS

MEMBER	ROLE	YEARS
Hon. Carlos Moreno	Gubernatorial appointment	2020–2024
Hon. Thelton Henderson	Gubernatorial appointment	2021–2023
Hon. John Burton	Gubernatorial appointment	2020–2021
L. Song Richardson	Gubernatorial appointment	2020
Hon. Nancy Skinner	Senate Committee on Rules appointment	2020–2024
Hon. Sydney Kamlager-Dove	Speaker of the Assembly appointment	2020–2021
Hon. Alex Lee	Speaker of the Assembly appointment	2021–2022
Hon. Isaac Bryan	Speaker of the Assembly appointment	2022–2025

Appendix F: Panelists and Keynote Speakers, 2020–2025

Individuals appear in alphabetical order. Inclusion in this list does not indicate any view on the Committee's recommendations. Titles are accurate as of the appearance before the Committee.

Jeffrey Aaron — Mendocino County Public Defender (2021)
Anthony Adams — Deputy Public Defender, Mendocino County (2020)
Judge Brett Alldredge — Tulare County Superior Court (2022)
Kathy Allison — Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (2021)
Matt Alsdorf — Associate Director, Center for Effective Public Policy (2022)
Judge Thomas M. Anderson — Nevada County Superior Court (2022)
David Andreasen — Staff Attorney, California Appellate Project (2025)
David Angel — Assistant District Attorney, Santa Clara County (2022)
Obie Anthony — Founder and Executive Director, Exonerated Nation (2024)
Bill Armstrong — President, California Bail Agents Association (2022)
Sandra L. Babcock — Clinical Professor, Cornell Law School; Faculty Director, Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide (2025)
sujatha baliga — Director, Restorative Justice Project, Impact Justice (2020)
W. David Ball — Professor of Law, Santa Clara University School of Law (2023)
Shima Baradaran Baughman — Professor of Law, Brigham Young University Law School (2023)
Jamie Beck — Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Expert Witness & Consultant (2025)
Xavier Becerra — Attorney General of California (2020)
Cathleen Beltz — Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County (2020)
Nina Salarno Besselman — President, Crime Victims United (2020)
Judge James N. Bianco — Los Angeles County Superior Court (2022)
Mia Bird — Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley (2020, 2023)
Hillary Blout — Executive Director, For the People (2020)
Doug Bond — Chief Executive Officer, Amity Foundation (2021, 2023)
Hon. Rob Bonta — Attorney General of California (2021)
Keely Bosler — Director, California Department of Finance (2020)
Kimberley Brauer — Section Chief, California Department of Social Services Data Stewardship and Integrity Bureau (2023)
Andrea Brayboy — Chief, CalFresh and Nutrition Branch, California Department of Social Services (2023)
Hon. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. — Former Governor of California (2020)
Hon. Lawrence Brown — Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento (2020, 2024)
Judge Dan Bunch — Circuit Court Judge, 13th Judicial District, Oregon Judicial Department (ret.) (2025)
Sue Burrell — Policy Director Emeritus, Pacific Juvenile Defender Center (2022)
Susan Burton — Founder and President, A New Way of Life (2021)
Susan Bustamante — California Coalition of Women Prisoners (2021)
Francine Byrne — Director of Criminal Justice Services, Judicial Council of California (2023)
Carissa Byrne Hessick — Professor of Law, University of North Carolina School of Law (2023)
Charles Callahan — California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (2020)
Bayliss Camp — Branch Chief, Research and Development, Department of Motor Vehicles (2024)
Stephanie Campos-Bui — Deputy Director, Policy Advocacy Clinic, UC Berkeley School of Law (2022)
Hon. Tani Cantil-Sakauye — Chief Justice of California (2021)
Joel Caplan — Professor, Rutgers School of Criminal Justice (2024)
Katie Cardenas — California Victim Compensation Board (2024)
Dr. Gena Castro Rodriguez — University of San Francisco; National Alliance for Trauma Recovery Centers (2022, 2024)
Matt Cate — President, Cate Consulting; Former Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (2021)
Bridget Cervelli — Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (2020)
Angela Chan — Policy Director and Senior Staff Attorney, Asian Americans Advancing Justice (2021)
Erwin Chemerinsky — Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law (2022)
Alex Chohlas-Wood — Executive Director, Computational Policy Lab (2023)
Jeff Chorney — Deputy Public Defender, Alameda County (2023)
Andrea N. Cimino — Research Director, The Regilla Project at the Stanford Criminal Justice Center (2025)
Jeff Clayton — Executive Director, American Bail Coalition (2022)
Gina Clayton-Johnson — Executive Director, Essie Justice Group (2022)
Hon. Scott Cooper — Orange County Superior Court (2024)
Steven Jesse Corral — Deputy District Attorney, Alameda County District Attorney's Office (2024)

Hon. J. Richard Couzens (ret.) — Superior Court of California, County of Placer (2020, 2022, 2025)
Ryan Couzens — Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney, Yolo County (2022)
Brendan Cox — Director of Policing Strategies, LEAD National Support Bureau (2023)
Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar — President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; former Associate Justice, California Supreme Court (2022)
Reygan Cunningham — Co-Director, California Partnership for Safe Communities (2024)
Lois M. Davis — Senior Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation (2023)
Geoffrey Deedrick — Captain, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (2023)
Dr. Annette Dekker — Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine (2024)
Justin Dews — Chair, New Jersey Clemency Advisory Board (2025)
Ralph Diaz — President & CEO, Stand Up for Victims (2022)
Katie Dixon — Community Rights Organizer, Legal Aid at Work (2020)
Leon Dixson — Managing Attorney and Acting Regional Counsel, Legal Services of Northern California (2023)
Jennifer Doleac — Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures (2023)
Dan Dow — District Attorney, San Luis Obispo County (2025)
Antionette Dozier — Senior Attorney, Western Center on Law and Poverty (2023)
Hon. Kristine Eagle — San Joaquin County Superior Court (2024)
Mariam El-Menshawi — Director, California Victims Legal Resource Center (2022)
Jon Eldan — Founder and Executive Director, After Innocence (2024)
Judge George Eskin (ret.) — Santa Barbara County Superior Court (2022)
James Fell — Principal Research Scientist, NORC at the University of Chicago (2024)
Amy Fettig — Executive Director, The Sentencing Project (2021)
Greg Fidell — Policy Director, Initiate Justice (2023)
Aaron Fischer — Disability Rights California (2020)
Holly Fleming — Program Coordinator, Children's Advocacy Centers of California (2025)
Neil Flood — Vice President, California Correctional Peace Officers Association (2020)
Lisa Foster — Director, Fines and Fees Justice Center (2023)
Ari Freilich — Director, Office of Gun Violence Prevention, California Department of Justice (2024)
Cymone Fuller — Co-Director, Impact Justice Restorative Justice Project (2022)
Sean Garcia-Leys — Civil Rights Attorney (2020)
George Gascón — District Attorney, Los Angeles County (2020)
Lynda Gledhill — Executive Officer, California Victim Compensation Board (2022, 2024)
Aditi Goel — Senior Program Manager, Sixth Amendment Center (2022)
Ian Goldstein — VP of Public Affairs, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (2024)
Obed Gonzalez — California City Correctional Facility (2020)
Professor Neil Gowensmith — University of Denver's Forensic Institute for Research, Service, and Training (2022)
Prof. Ryken Grattet — Chair, Department of Sociology, University of California, Davis (2020)
Matthew Greco — Deputy District Attorney, San Diego County (2022)
Brandon Greene — Director of Policy Advocacy, Western Center on Law and Poverty (2024)
Delaney Green — Clinical Teaching Fellow, UC Berkeley School of Law Policy Advocacy Clinic (2022)
Dean Growdon — Sheriff of Lassen County; First Vice President, California State Sheriffs' Association (2020)
Andrew Gulcher — Regional Supervising Investigator, California Department of Insurance (2022)
Kathleen Guneratne — Alameda County Public Defender's Office (2025)
Andrew Gutierrez — Supervising Deputy Public Defender, Santa Clara County (2023)
Michele Hanisee — President, Deputy District Attorney Association of Los Angeles County (2021)
Prof. Craig Haney — University of California, Santa Cruz (2020)
Jennifer Hansen — Office of the State Public Defender; California Appellate Project (2023, 2024)
Gay Hardwick — Co-Founder, Phyllis's Garden (2025)
Jarrett Harper — Ambassador, Represent Justice (2021)
Jasmin Harris — Director of Policy, The Innocence Center (2024)
Doug Haubert — Long Beach City Prosecutor (2023)
Paul Heaton — Professor of Law and Academic Director, Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice, Penn Law (2022)
Hon. Thelton E. Henderson — U.S. District Court, Northern District of California (2020)
Kamaria Henry — Managing Deputy District Attorney, Riverside County (2023)
Jeannie Ho — Section Chief, DUI Licensing Unit, California Department of Health Care Services (2024)
Tinisch Hollins — Executive Director, Californians for Safety and Justice (2025)
Kory L. Honea — Sheriff of Butte County; Second Vice President, California State Sheriffs' Association (2020)
Wendy Howard (2025)
Max Huntsman — Inspector General, Los Angeles County (2020)
Anne Irwin — Director, Smart Justice California (2020)
Janelle Ito-Orille — Division Chief, Licensing and Certification Division, Department of Health Care Services (2024)

Robin Johnson — Assistant Chief, California Highway Patrol (2024)
Jay Jordan — Executive Director, Californians for Safety and Justice (2020)
John Keene — Chief of Probation, San Mateo County; Secretary/Treasurer and Legislative Chair, Chief Probation Officers of California (2020)
Sean Kennedy — Executive Director, Center for Juvenile Law and Policy, Loyola Law School (2021 (DPR))
Alison Kephart — Chief Operating Officer, WEAVE (2025)
Adnan Khan — Executive Director, Re:Store Justice (2020)
James King — Ella Baker Center (2020)
Nicole Kirkaldy — Program Coordinator, Yolo County District Attorney's Neighborhood Court Program (2020)
Dr. Joshua Kleinfeld — Professor of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (2021)
Justice J. Anthony Kline — Presiding Justice, California First District Court of Appeal (2021)
Lauren Knoth-Peterson — Senior Research Scientist, Washington Public Safety and Policy Research Center (2024)
Chief Probation Officer David Koch — Sonoma County (2022)
Prof. Charis E. Kubrin — Department of Criminology, Law & Society, University of California, Irvine (2020)
Evan Kuluk — Deputy Public Defender, Alternate Defender Office, Contra Costa County (2023)
Ruy Laredo — Legislative Coordinator, Department of Health Care Services (2024)
Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes — Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office (2025)
Anita Lee — Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, California Legislative Analyst's Office (2023, 2024)
Judge Steven Leifman — Associate Administrative Judge, Miami-Dade County Court (2022)
Amy E. Lerman — Professor of Public Policy and Political Science, UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy (2023)
Chief Kathy Lester — Sacramento Police Department (2024)
Barbara R. Levine — Former Executive Director, Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending (Michigan) (2021)
Sam Lewis — Executive Director, Anti-Recidivism Coalition (2020)
Galit Lipa — Executive Director, Indigent Defense Improvement Division, Office of the State Public Defender (2022)
Hon. Daniel J. Lowenthal — Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles (2020)
Jared Lozano — California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (2020)
Judge Daniel P. Maguire — Yolo County Superior Court (2025)
Aili Malm — Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, California State University Long Beach (2023)
Hon. Stephen Manley — Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara (2020)
John Martire — President, California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association (2023)
Marisa McKeown — Deputy District Attorney, Santa Clara District Attorney's Office (2024)
Judge Juliet J. McKenna — Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia (2022)
Mike McLively — Policy Director, Giffords Center for Violence Intervention (2024)
Robert Mestman — Senior Assistant District Attorney, Orange County (2023)
Rachel Michelin — President & CEO, California Retailers Association (2022)
Nathaniel Miller — Attorney at Law (2024)
James Mink — Policy Lead, After Innocence (2024)
Kelly Mitchell — Chair, Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission; Executive Director, Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice (2021)
Kate Mogulescu — Professor of Clinical Law, Brooklyn Law School; Legal & Policy Director, Survivors Justice Project (2025)
Thomas Morgan — CDCR Victim-Offender Dialogue Participant (2022)
David Muhammad — Executive Director, National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (2024)
Debbie Mukamal — Executive Director, Stanford Criminal Justice Center (2025)
Professor Daniel Murrie — University of Virginia's Institute of Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy (2022)
Hon. Gavin Newsom — Governor of California (2020)
Annie Nichol — Survivors Advocate, Crime Survivors Speak (2025)
Jess Nichol — Survivors Advocate, Crime Survivors Speak (2025)
Eric Nuñez — Chief of Police, Los Alamitos; President, California Police Chiefs Association (2020)
Paul M. Nuñez — Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (2020)
Simon O'Connell — Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office (2025)
Hon. Nancy O'Malley — District Attorney, Alameda County; President, California District Attorneys Association (2020)
Caitlin O'Neil — Senior Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office (2020)
Aurélie Ouss — Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania (2023)
Michelle Parris — Program Director, Vera Institute of Justice (2022)
Theresa Pasquini — Co-author, Housing That Heals (2022)
Kim Pederson — Senior Attorney, Disability Rights California (2022)
Professor John Pfaff — Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law (2021)
Shanae Polk — Director of Operations, 2nd Call (2020)
Maria Ponomarenko — Co-Founder and Counsel, NYU Policing Project (2022)
Tracy Prior — Chief Deputy District Attorney, San Diego County (2025)

Manny Prunty — California Policy Lab (2025)
Chief Justice Stuart Rabner — New Jersey Supreme Court (2022)
Insha Rahman — Vice President, Advocacy & Partnerships, Vera Institute of Justice (2021, 2022)
Prof. Steven Raphael — Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley (2020, 2022, 2025)
Stephanie Regular — Chair, California Public Defender Association's Mental Health and Civil Commitment Committee (2022)
Jeff Reisig — District Attorney, Yolo County; Past-President, California District Attorneys Association (2022)
Mike Reynolds — Author, Three Strikes ballot initiative (2021)
Lizabeth Rhodes — Director, LAPD Office of Constitutional Policing (2022)
Judge Lisa Rodriguez — San Diego County Superior Court (2022)
Lisa Romo — Office of the State Public Defender (2020, 2025)
Kevin Rooney — Supervising Deputy District Attorney, San Joaquin County (2020)
Jeff Rosen — District Attorney, Santa Clara County (2020)
Allison Rosenmayer — Deputy Public Defender, San Joaquin County Public Defender's Office (2023)
Lisa Roth — Deputy Public Defender, Los Angeles County (2020)
Heidi Rummel — Director, Post-Conviction Justice Project, USC Gould School of Law (2020)
Crystal Sanchez — Branch Chief, Licensing and Certification Division, Department of Health Care Services (2024)
Dr. Christopher Seeds — Assistant Professor of Criminology and Law and Society, UC Irvine (2021)
Elisabeth Semel — Director, UC Berkeley Death Penalty Clinic (2021 (DPR))
Jennifer Shaffer — Executive Officer, Board of Parole Hearings (2020, 2021, 2024)
Nisha Shah — Deputy Director of Litigation, Habeas Corpus Resource Center (2024)
Alison Shames — Director, Center for Effective Public Policy (2022)
Steven Shatz — Professor Emeritus, University of San Francisco School of Law (2021 (DPR))
Elizabeth Sheehy — Professor Emerita of Law, University of Ottawa (2025)
Erica Shehane — Director for LEAD, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (2023)
Tarra Simmons — Washington State Representative (2023)
Alissa Skog — California Policy Lab (2025)
Bryan Slater — Supervising Deputy District Attorney, Gang Team, Santa Clara County (2023)
Chauncee Smith — Senior Manager of Criminal Justice, Catalyst California (2022)
Sandra Susan Smith — Daniel & Florence Guggenheim Professor of Criminal Justice, Harvard Kennedy School (2022)
Carol Steiker — Co-Director, Criminal Justice Policy Program, Harvard Law School (2021 (DPR))
Jordan Steiker — Director, Capital Punishment Center, University of Texas at Austin School of Law (2021 (DPR))
Bryan Sykes — Associate Professor of Criminology, University of California, Irvine (2023)
Tiffanie Synnott — Supervising Public Defender, Sacramento County (2022)
Dr. Breena Taira — Director of Social Medicine, Olive View-UCLA Medical Center (2024)
Diana Teran — Director of Prosecution Support Operations, Los Angeles County District Attorney (2023)
Dr. Sherod Thaxton — Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law (2021 (DPR))
Aswad Thomas — National Director, Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (2022)
Marshall Thompson — Vice-Chair, Utah Board of Pardons and Parole; Former Director, Utah Sentencing Commission (2021)
Professor Michael Tonry — Professor of Criminal Law and Policy, University of Minnesota Law School (2021)
Thomas Trainor — Deputy in Charge, Conviction Integrity Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney (2024)
Joseph Trigilio — Associate Clinical Professor and Executive Director, Loyola Project for the Innocent, Loyola Law School (2024)
Taina Vargas-Edmond — Executive Director, Initiate Justice (2020)
J. Vasquez — Participatory Defense & Policy Coordinator, Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (2020)
Michael Vidmar — Deputy District Attorney, Santa Clara District Attorney's Office (2024)
Irene Vidyanti — Principal Analyst, Los Angeles County Office of the Chief Information Officer (2022)
Hon. Richard A. Vlavianos — Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin (2020)
Stephen M. Wagstaffe — District Attorney, San Mateo County; Former President, California District Attorneys Association (2020)
Carlie Ware — PARR Team Supervisor, Santa Clara County Public Defender (2022)
Dr. Katherine Warburton — Statewide Medical Director, California Department of State Hospitals (2022)
Keith Wattley — Founder and Executive Director, UnCommon Law (2020)
Julia Weber — Consultant, Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence (2024)
Matthew Wechter — Supervising Attorney, San Diego County Public Defender (2023)
Kate Weisburd — Associate Professor of Law, The George Washington University Law School (2022)
Prof. Robert Weisberg — Stanford Law School; Co-Director, Stanford Criminal Justice Center (2020)
Dr. Garen J. Wintemute — Director, Violence Prevention Research Program, UC Davis (2024)

Dustin Woida — Sergeant, California Highway Patrol (2024)
Dr. George Woods — President, International Academy of Law and Mental Health (2021 (DPR))
Earlonne Woods — Producer, Co-Host, Co-Creator, Ear Hustle Podcast (2021)
Jordan Woods — Professor of Law, University of Arizona — James E. Rogers College of Law (2022)
Belle Yan — Assistant Professor and Supervising Attorney, University of San Francisco School of Law Racial Justice Clinic (2024)
Mike Young — Assistant Chief, CDCR Office of Victim and Survivor Rights & Services (2022)
Kendra Zoller — Deputy Legislative Director, California Department of Insurance (2022)


COMMITTEE ON
REVISION OF
THE
PENAL CODE