



Smash-and-Grab Thefts. Skyrocketing Drug Addiction. More Dangerous Communities.

Whether it's rampant retail theft causing neighborhood store closures and higher prices for working families, or the growing epidemic of fentanyl overdoses, Californians can't afford half-measures when it comes to addressing these pressing issues.

Passed in 2014, Prop 47 achieved notable success in making California's criminal justice system more equitable. However, it led to unintended consequences over the past decade — repeat and often organized retail theft, inner-city store closings, and difficulty convincing people to seek drug and mental health treatment — that can only be corrected by the voters at the ballot box with modest amendments to Prop 47.

It's time for meaningful reforms to our justice system, including to Prop 47, that ensure our communities are safe.

Initiative 23-0017A1, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act

Currently collecting signatures to qualify for the 2024 November General Election, this bi-partisan measure provides common sense, targeted reforms to Prop 47 that legislative proposals alone are unable to deliver.

Addresses Organized and Serial Retail Theft

Rampant retail theft is harming businesses and residents in California because those who commit these crimes know they'll get away with it, even if they're caught. This measure will hold repeat offenders accountable for the safety of our communities, rather than putting them back on the streets.

- Classifies repeated theft as a felony for individuals who steal less than \$950 if they have two or more prior theft-related convictions
- Allows stolen property values from multiple thefts to be combined so repeat offenders can be charged with a felony if the total exceeds \$950, countering tactics by career criminals to avoid harsher penalties
- Authorizes judges to impose an enhanced penalty when an offender steals, damages, or destroys property by participating in organized theft with two or more offenders or by causing losses of \$50,000 or more

Confronts the Fentanyl Crisis in Our Communities

The fentanyl crisis has reached alarming levels, and is now responsible for 20 percent of youth deaths in California. This measure will define fentanyl as a hard drug, hold individuals convicted of trafficking fentanyl accountable, and grant judges greater discretion in sentencing drug traffickers.

- Adds fentanyl to the list of hard drugs — such as heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine — that are illegal to possess with a firearm and authorizes greater consequences for selling deadly quantities
- Enables stricter penalties for dealers whose trafficking causes death or serious injury, and warns traffickers of potential murder charges if continued drug trafficking results in fatalities

Prioritizes Mental Health and Drug Treatment

Breaking the cycle of repeat offenders means addressing the many root causes of retail theft. This measure provides critical mental health, drug treatment services, and job training within our justice system for people who are homeless and suffering from mental illness or struggling with substance abuse.

- Enacts a new class of crime called a “treatment-mandated felony” where offenders with multiple hard drug possession convictions would be given the option of participating in drug and mental health treatment in lieu of incarceration
- Allows offenders who successfully complete drug and mental health treatment to avoid jail time and have the charge fully expunged

“The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act will make targeted but impactful changes to our laws around fentanyl and help us tackle the chronic retail theft that hurts our retailers, our workers, and our cities. I fully support this measure and know it will make a meaningful difference for cities across California.”

~ **Mayor London Breed, San Francisco**

“I am proud to lend my support to this public safety initiative that would make changes to Prop 47, which would address serious spikes to drug and theft crimes since the pandemic. Local law enforcement and my constituents are saying enough is enough. They want the state to address the increases we’re seeing in the homeless due to increased hard drug use, opioid-related overdoses, and escalating numbers of smash-and-grab and retail theft crimes.”

~ **Assemblymember James Ramos**

“We cannot be afraid to challenge the status quo when it is clearly not working for our residents. Prop 47 was well-intended but what really matters is its impact — and unfortunately, it’s hurting far too many families and small businesses across the state. We need reform that doesn’t take us back to the era of mass incarceration but allows judges to mandate treatment for those struggling with severe addiction, hold repeat offenders accountable, and treat fentanyl like the killer it is.”

~ **Mayor Matt Mahan, San Jose**

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