



50 Ways to Reduce the Number of People in Prison in California

SENTENCING:

1. Mandate parole, rather than prison, for people with sentences of 12 months or less.
2. Discharge people who have been civilly committed ("civil narcotic addicts").
3. Remove state prison as a sentencing option for driving under the influence, hashish possession, receiving stolen property, drug possession, vehicle theft and grand theft.
4. Repeal the Three Strikes Law.
5. Amend the Three Strikes law so that the third strike must also be classified as a "serious or violent felony".
6. Amend the Three Strikes law so that burglary does not constitute a strike.
7. Eliminate the disparity in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine by reducing sentence lengths for crack cocaine to the sentence lengths for powder cocaine.
8. Mandate treatment in non-CDCR facilities, rather than prison, for people convicted of controlled substances offenses.
9. Mandate alternatives to prison for people serving a sentence for possession of a controlled substance, petty theft with a prior or receiving stolen property.
10. Make petty theft with a prior a misdemeanor.
11. Establish community-based restorative and transformative justice programs as an alternative to prison.
12. Mandate probation, rather than prison, for anyone serving a sentence of 12 months or less.
13. Discharge all people determined to be mentally ill from prison to treatment programs.
14. Increase good time credits for those who wish to participate in programming or education.
15. Discharge women who fall under the definition of "battered women."
16. Provide alternatives to prison outside of CDCR custody for women who are pregnant.

PAROLE:

17. Enact and implement policies, such as intermediate sanctions, so that fewer people are sent back to prison for violations for parole.
18. Expand eligibility for intermediate sanctions so that fewer people are sent back to prison for violations for parole.
19. Abolish return-to-custody as a sanction for technical parole violations. This could result in anywhere between 15,000 and 55,000 fewer people being sent to prison every year.
20. Fully implement the remedies contained in *Valdivia v. Schwarzenegger* to "reduce the number of returns to prison for violation of parole by up to 10 percent in 2004" and "by up to 30 percent by 2006."
21. Discharge people from parole before their currently established discharge dates.
22. Legislatively mandate that California reduce its return to prison rate for violations of parole to the national average within the next 3 years.
23. Parole people serving indeterminate sentences who have reached their parole eligibility dates.
24. Directly discharge (eliminate parole supervision for) persons convicted of offenses classified as "non-serious" and "non-violent".
25. Reduce the time served for parole revocations by 140 days.

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PAROLE (continued):

26. Expedite parole revocation hearings, so that people are not imprisoned without a hearing.
27. Eliminate the Governor's discretion to veto parole recommendations.
28. Make providing services, rather than supervision, the primary function of parole.
29. Discharge people on parole who have served 12 months of parole without a violation.
30. Discharge to parole people over 60 years of age.
31. Discharge to parole people convicted of offenses classified as "non-serious" and "non-violent" 12 months before their currently established release dates.
32. Directly discharge people over 70 years of age.
33. Discharge people identified as terminally ill, permanently incapacitated, or having less than 1 year to live.
34. Discharge selected people from parole after 3 months of successful parole supervision.

50 Ways

REENTRY:

35. Provide every person with the opportunity to participate in education and/or job training while in prison.
36. Provide every person with the opportunity to participate in drug treatment.
37. Ban the box on employment applications that asks if the applicant has been convicted of a felony or has a criminal record.
38. Release from custody and provide non-CDCR operated transitional housing for people in prison six months prior to their release date.
39. Provide people coming home from prison with six months of housing.
40. Provide people coming home from prison with immediate access to identification documents.
41. Provide people coming home from prison with job training, drug & alcohol treatment, and public assistance.
42. Provide people coming home from prison with community college fee waivers.
43. Provide people coming home from prison with public transit vouchers.
44. Adopt the Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents so that parents and their children are better prepared to reunite.
45. Rescind the lifetime ban on receiving assistance from the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant programs for people convicted of possession, use, or distribution of controlled substances.

CAPACITY:

46. Establish and enforce a limit on the capacity of the state prison system and an official state policy of no new prison construction.
47. Enact a moratorium on new prison construction.
48. Commit to reducing the number of people in prison sufficiently to close two state prisons (one men's prison and one women's prison) within the next five years.
49. Close one men's prison within the next five years.
50. Close one women's prison within the next five years.

These proposals are drawn from the Legislative Analyst's Office, the Little Hoover Commission, the Governor's Corrections Independent Review Panel, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Inmate Population Management, measures taken by states across the country, and other experts. For more detailed analysis see also, "Lower Costs, Greater Safety" produced by the Coalition for Effective Public Safety (2004).



Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) is a broad based coalition of over 40 organizations. Our mission is to CURB prison spending by reducing the number of people in prison and the number of prisons in the state.