



Oakland Office:

1322 Webster St # 210 Oakland, CA 94612
510-435-1176 (c)
510-839-7615 (f)

Los Angeles Office:

1137 E. Redondo Blvd. Inglewood, CA
213-864-8931(c)
www.curbprisonspending.org

No New San Francisco Jail

A better San Francisco is possible for everyone

San Francisco already has too much jail space

- 50% of jail capacity is not currently in use. An entire jail (CJ 6) is sitting empty.
- Expanding pre-trial release would allow CJ 3 and CJ 4 to be closed without re-opening CJ 6.
- The county “leases” bed space to the federal government, and is discussing doing so for other counties. Our jail system should not be run as an income mechanism on the backs of African-American and poor and homeless Californians.

But isn't the Hall of Justice unsafe?

- Yes, the Hall of Justice, which includes CJ 3 and CJ 4 on its top two floors, is in disrepair and seismically unsafe, and should be closed immediately. The Supervisors could easily move forward on plans to replace the Hall of Justice without building a new jail.
- All jails are unsafe: imprisonment breaks up families and communities, causes people to lose their jobs and homes, and exacerbates mental and medical health problems. People in jails face regular harassment and are subject to violence from guards.

The San Francisco jail system targets people who are poor, marginalized, and suffering from mental illness

- African-Americans are approximately 6% of San Francisco's population and 56% of the city's jail population. San Francisco suffers from a serious lack in culturally appropriate services for its black community, both inside the jail and out.
- 85% of those in SF County Jails are awaiting trial, most of whom are imprisoned because they are too poor to post bail. With appropriate bail reform, *all* of these people could be released.
- 28% of the jail system has experienced homelessness. The city must provide stable and supportive housing and shelter beds, not beds in prisons.
- 14-17% of the population has severe mental illness. Jails are not places to support people with mental health needs; these needs must be met by community-based health and social services.
- Trans and gender non-conforming people, especially trans women of color, are disproportionately affected by policing and prisons. Almost 1 in 6 trans people has been locked up at some point during their lives, and 1 in 2 black trans people has been to prison or jail.

San Francisco can't afford a new jail

- The new jail would cost around \$290 million to build, creating 30 years of debt for taxpayers.
- Critical programs and social services, like permanent affordable housing and community-based re-entry services, continue to go unfunded. We agree with Sheriff Mirkarimi that California needs sentencing reform, but we disagree that San Francisco voters should pay hundreds of millions of dollars for a new jail due to legislative inaction and cowardice.



Californians United for a Responsible Budget

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A safer San Francisco needs real solutions

- Residential treatment programs and outpatient mental health and substance use treatment services are more effective and far less costly than programs run in jails.
- There are community-based programs that are highly successful in helping people with serious mental illness, including those with a history of arrest and incarceration, including supportive housing, supported employment, and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT).
- “Housing First” is San Francisco's stated framework for ending homelessness. With over 5,000 people sleeping on our city streets, we need to fund affordable and supportive housing developments, not a new jail.
- Strengthen communities: implement job training programs and a living wage, fully fund education, including City College, and provide quality health care for all San Francisco residents, regardless of immigration status.

What could we do with this money?

Our communities are suffering from lack of investment.

- \$10M would house 300 of our city's poorest families for a year in a subsidized apartment;
- \$5M would prevent homelessness for 6500 SF homes;
- \$27.8M would house over 1000 individuals in a market-rate apartment for a year;
- \$1.3M would provide after-school programming to 1,000 SF students for 1 year;
- \$100,000 would provide 1,000 HIV tests in community-based clinics.
- \$14M would cover the cut in employer contributions to SF Healthy San Francisco that are expected in 2014.

San Francisco can be a leader

- San Francisco has been forward thinking during California's public safety realignment by prioritizing community-based programming and supportive re-entry services. Building a new jail would be a significant step backwards.
- Realignment recognized that building more prisons produced more problems than it solved, and counties are better equipped to implement alternatives to incarceration.
- The Sheriff and Elected Officials need to focus on bail reform, sentencing reform, increased use of pre-trial alternatives, and treatment. These reforms will substantially reduce the need for jail beds and for building a “replacement” jail.

Learn more and get involved: www.nonewsforjail.wordpress.com

Email: nosforjail@curbprisonspending.org