

## WHAT YOU CAN DO...

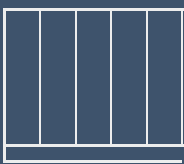
*Only the State can make the criminal justice system changes needed to ensure that violent and career criminals are kept off of our streets, and getting educated about the facts is the first thing that you can do to make a difference.*

Certainly, not every crime deserves punishment through jail time. However, the changes made by AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57 have allowed violent and career criminals the opportunity to avoid either jail time or rehabilitative programs.

Based on the provisions of AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57, the definition of what constitutes a violent crime has been eroded, and in California today, the following crimes are classified as "non-violent:"

- Domestic violence
- Corporal injury to a child
- Rape
- Hate crime causing physical injury
- Assault with a deadly weapon

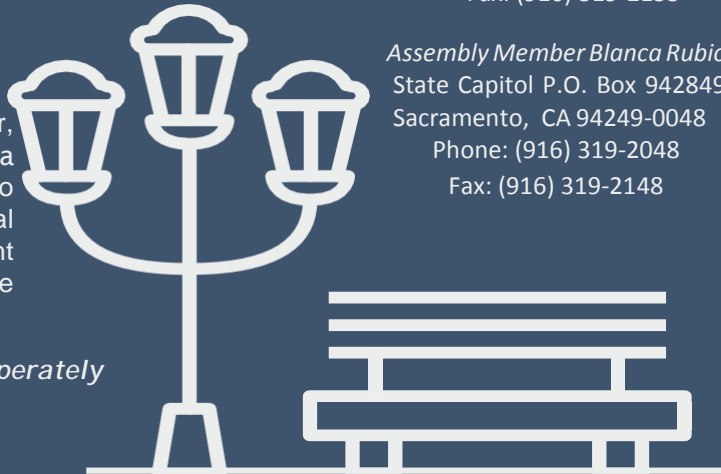
In addition, AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57 have created a criminal justice system that does not take into account an individual's criminal history, which has allowed career criminals the opportunity to avoid serving proper jail sentences.



*Violent and career criminals need to be held accountable and kept off our streets.*

To make our communities safer, the definition of what constitutes a violent crime in California needs to change. And an individual's criminal history should be taken into account when determining the appropriate punishment.

*But only the State can make these desperately needed changes.*



## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TODAY...

*Our State legislators can make the changes necessary to help protect our communities, and we need you to contact them to ask for their help in taking back our community!*

Visit the City's website today to find more facts about AB 109 / Prop 47 / Prop 57, letter templates, and additional information on the City's Taking Back our Community campaign.

Then, contact our State legislators and ask them to make the criminal justice system changes needed to ensure that violent and career criminals are kept out of our communities.

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# CITY OF WEST COVINA

# TAKING BACK OUR COMMUNITY



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## THE CHALLENGE

Increased crime has been attributed to State legislative changes enacted through AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT LIMITATIONS

AB 109, Prop 47, Prop 57, and other State-driven changes to our criminal justice system have placed limitations on law enforcement's ability to respond to increases in criminal activity.

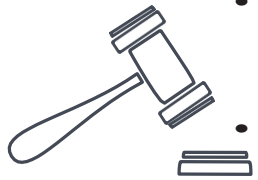
## THE EFFECT

Communities are less safe given the changes made by AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57, which is reflected by increases in crime rates throughout the State of California.

**AB 109** transferred the responsibility of housing 45,000 criminals from State prison to local jail facilities. In order to house the violent criminals being transferred, local jail facilities were forced to release tens of thousands of lower-level convicted criminals back into our community, which has had the effect of increasing crime.

**Prop 47** was approved by 60% of voters in 2014, and changed the following crimes from felonies to misdemeanors:

- Shoplifting, theft, forgery / fraud where the value of the crime does not exceed \$950
- Possession of illegal drugs, including cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine



Given the changes enacted by Prop 47, it is important to understand the difference between a misdemeanor and a felony.

### MISDEMEANOR

Misdemeanors are minor violations that must be observed by a law enforcement official in order for action to be taken.

Penalty is up to one year in jail, but most often results in probation with no jail time.

Criminals arrested for misdemeanor crime violations are typically released immediately with a citation to appear in court at a later date.



### FELONY

Felonies are the most serious kind of crime.

Penalty used to be jail time in State prison for more than one year.

Today, because of AB 109, some criminals with serious felony violations serve time in local jail facilities.

*Under AB 109...*

The responsibility of incarcerating criminals convicted of the certain serious felony violations was permanently transferred from State prisons to local jail facilities. And then, in order for local jails to make room to house the serious felons, lower-level criminals were released back into our communities.

*Under Prop 47...*

Crimes that were previously classified as felonies are now misdemeanors.

Today, possession of illegal drugs is considered a misdemeanor. Additionally, criminals can steal as many times as they want and as long as each occurrence does not exceed \$950, the crime is considered a misdemeanor.

*Under Prop 57...*

The State has been granted total authority to release anyone they want from prison, including those convicted of the following violent and serious crimes:

RAPE BY INTOXICATION  
RAPE OF AN UNCONSCIOUS PERSON

HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVOLVING SEX ACT WITH MINORS

DRIVE-BY SHOOTING

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

HATE CRIME CAUSING PHYSICAL INJURY

CORPORAL INJURY TO A CHILD

*The Result Has Been...*

The limitations that these State legislative changes have placed on law enforcement means that the rights of victims have been eroded as criminal rights have been expanded. Because of these changes, in California today, violent criminals are able to avoid appropriate prison sentences, career criminals are able to avoid jail time, and our police have fewer tools to combat crime.

In **West Covina**, there was a sharp **6.30%** increase in violent and property crimes in 2015 when compared against 2014 levels. The most significant increases were:



more robbery and attempted robbery incidents



more assaults



more thefts



more auto theft and attempted auto theft incidents

*All this resulted in...*

**193 MORE VICTIMS OF CRIME**

In **California**, crime rates have also sky-rocketed. A 2015 report released by former California Attorney General Kamala Harris depicted similar disturbing statistics of increasing crime in the State:

**166,588** victims of violent crimes.

*Violent crimes include homicide, rape, assault.*

*This represents a 10% increase (15,163 more victims) in violent crime.*

**1,023,828** victims of property crimes.

*Property crimes include burglary, car theft, and larceny.*

*This represents an 8.1% increase (77,146 more victims) in property crimes.*

It is clear that recent State legislative changes to our criminal justice system have resulted in the massive erosion of our ability to keep our communities safe.