

PUBLIC SAFETY:

TAKING BACK our COMMUNITY... Demand Change Through Legislation

From 2000 to 2014, there was a trend of decreasing crime in California that reversed sharply in 2015, when property crimes markedly increased. The increase in California's property crime rate stands in stark contrast with continuing decrease in the rest of the country. For the first time in 20 years, California's rate of property crime exceeds that of the rest of the country.

Only the State can make the criminal justice system changes needed to ensure that violent and career criminals are held accountable for their criminal behavior. 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. In California today, the following crimes are classified as "non-violent:"

- Domestic Violence
- Corporal Injury to a Child
- Rape of an Unconscious or Drugged Person
- Hate Crime Causing Physical Injury
- Assault with a Deadly Weapon
- First Degree Burglary
- Solicitation to Commit Murder

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 the streets. 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 Communities."

*****AB 109, Prop 47 and 57 Fact Sheet (hyper link) click here*****

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, Ca 95814
Phone: (916) 445-2841
Fax: (916) 558-3160
Email: governor@governor.ca.gov

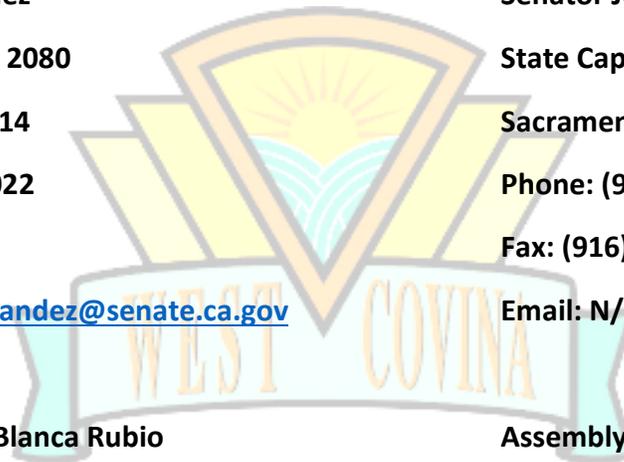
Senator Ed Hernandez
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, Ca 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4022
Fax: (916) 651-4922
Email: Senator.hernandez@senate.ca.gov

Senator Josh Newman
State Capitol, Room 4082
Sacramento, Ca 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4029
Fax: (916) 651-4929
Email: N/A

Assembly Member Blanca Rubio
State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, Ca 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2048
Fax: (916) 319-2148
Email: N/A

Assembly Member Phillip Chen
State Capitol, Suite 4177
Sacramento, Ca 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2055
Fax: (916) 319-2155

Email: assemblymember.chan@assembly.ca.gov





MARC TAYLOR
Chief of Police

The New Criminal Justice System In California AB 109 / Proposition 47 / Proposition 57 Fact Sheet

The City of West Covina joins Taking Back Our Community Coalition

In late 2017, the City Council voted to become a member of the “Taking Back Our Community,” a coalition of cities dedicated to educating the public and improving law enforcement’s ability to address the unintended consequences and public safety threats occurring due to new legislation, including Assembly Bill 109 and Propositions 47 and 57.

Assembly Bill 109

AB 109 transferred nearly 45,000 felons from the State prison system to County jail facilities. However, County jails were not designed to house criminals on a long-term basis. Rather, County facilities were intended to detain individuals on a short-term basis for minor infractions or while awaiting trial.

The approval of AB 109 has resulted in the ongoing transference of criminals that should be serving prison sentences in State prisons for felony convictions back to County jails. County jails were never designed to house violent criminals for extended periods of time and County jails were already overcrowded before AB 109 was approved. Therefore, AB 109 has required the release of tens of thousands of convicted criminals back into our community.

The following is a partial list of crimes that used to be punished through prison time in State prison, but now under AB 109 are eligible for early release:

- Attempted Murder
- Domestic Violence
- Rape
- Battery With Serious Bodily Injury
- Burglary
- Lewd And Lascivious Acts With A Minor
- Elder Abuse
- Terrorist Threats

Additionally, pursuant to AB 109, prior criminal histories are now disregarded when being considered for early release.

Proposition 47

Prop 47, called The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, was approved by 60% of California voters in 2014. However, instead of keeping our neighborhoods and schools safe, approval of Prop 47 actually served to reclassify and downgrade a number of serious crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.

Drug possession, repeated shoplifting, forging checks, gun theft, and possession of date-rape drugs – all of which were felonies before Prop 47 was approved – are now classified as misdemeanors. Misdemeanors are minor violations with a penalty up to one year in jail, but most often result in the issuance of a citation.

The effects of Prop 47 have been far reaching. Today, a criminal can steal as much and as many times as they like, and so long as the value of what is stolen during each theft is less than \$950, the violation is considered a misdemeanor. In addition, the possession of any illegal drug - including cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine – has been reclassified as a misdemeanor violation, which has decimated the legal system’s ability to compel addicts to enter drug rehabilitation programs.

POSSESSION OF DRUGS = MISDEMEANOR

- Possession of Methamphetamine
- Possession of Cocaine
- Possession of Heroin
- Possession of other opiates

\$950 OR LESS = MISDEMEANOR

- Theft
- Shoplifting
- Forgery / Fraud / Bad Checks
- Receiving Stolen Property

PROP 47 DOES NOT HOLD CRIMINALS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR CRIMES.

Proposition 57

Prop 57, called The Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act, was approved by 65% of California voters in 2016. According to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst Office, Prop 57 allows the State to provide for the early release of up to 30,000 criminals convicted of “non-violent” felonies. These individuals are released back into our communities, because their criminal offenses are now redefined from violent felonies to non-violent felonies for purposes of parole. Among the crimes that are classified by the State as “non-violent” include:

- Rape By Intoxication
- Rape Of An Unconscious Person
- Human Trafficking Involving Sex Act With Minors
- Drive-By-Shooting and Domestic violence
- Assault With A Deadly Weapon
- Hate Crime Causing Physical Injury
- Corporal Injury To A Child

Other adverse public safety impacts that were authorized by Proposition 57 include:

- The State Department of Corrections has been given the unlimited authority to grant credits to all criminals - regardless of the nature of their crime - which would facilitate any criminal’s early release from State prison.
- Criminals who commit multiple crimes against multiple victims will be eligible for release at the same time as offenders who only committed a single crime against a single victim.
- Repeat criminals will be eligible for release after the same period of incarceration as first time offenders.
- Juvenile criminals who commit violent crimes - including murder and rape - cannot be sentenced as an adult.

**CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR TODAY AND ASK FOR HELP TO
TAKE BACK OUR COMMUNITY**

Advocate for Change

Hiring more police will not solve the entire problem. The laws to keep criminal in jail or prison are no longer in place, and the only solution is to change the laws. In the coming months, the City will need the communities help to advocate for change in the law to address these deficiencies. If you vote, educate yourself. Research ballot initiatives before voting. Only voters can make changes to the criminal justice system to ensure that violent and career criminals are kept off our streets.

Please use the information below to send correspondence to State legislators. 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.

Governor Jerry Brown

State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-2841
Fax: (916) 558-3160
Email: governor@governor.ca.gov

Senator Ed Hernandez

State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4022
Fax: (916) 651-4922
Email: Senator.hernandez@senate.ca.gov

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State Capitol Room 4082
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Phone: (916) 651-4029
Fax: (916) 651-4929
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Assembly Member Blanca Rubio

State Capitol P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, Ca 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2048
Fax: (916) 319-2148
Email: N/A

Assembly Member Phillip Chen

State Capitol Suite 4177
Sacramento, Ca 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2055
Fax: (916) 319-2155
Email: assemblymemberc.chen@assembly.ca.gov