



## Cutting Past the Bone Will more revenue save social services and education?

Earlier this month the Legislature began taking up Governor Brown's proposed budget for the upcoming 2012-2013 fiscal year and gave him a resounding "no" on his proposed cuts to CalWORKS, which provides welfare-to-work benefits to our state's neediest residents.

While it appears that the slow economic recovery is finally taking hold in California, it has yet to produce sufficient tax revenues to adequately fund public services and the state's safety net.

### California's future threatened by tax cuts and declining revenue

The state's budget deficit is often framed as a spending problem. But no one before the Great Recession could have predicted how far revenues would plummet. Even the Legislative Analyst's Office, in its forecast made in 2007, projected that General Fund revenues would be \$47 billion higher in the coming fiscal year than what is now projected. Without additional revenues, the governor and the Legislature will face considerable pressure to further disinvest in our state's long-term future for the purpose of satisfying short-term budgetary considerations.

Ideally, in tough economic times with high levels of unemployment (California's official unemployment rate stands at 10.9 percent, well above the national average of 8.3 percent) and increasing demand for government services, government spending should rise to meet the demand. The Legislature's ability to react to economic crises is hampered by anti-government ideology and



the accompanying tax cuts that have occurred even in the depths of the Great Recession.

According to the California Budget Project, tax cuts granted by the Legislature since 1993 will cost the state in excess of \$13 billion in 2012-2013. Moreover, since the passage of Proposition 13 by the voters in 1978, the Legislature is hamstrung by a two-thirds, supermajority requirement to raise taxes. This anti-democratic provision essentially gives the minority party the constitutional authority to block tax increases.

### Revenue shortfalls trigger more cuts in Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Eliminating California's structural budget deficit remains a top priority of the Brown administration. Last year the governor proposed a budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012) that made deep spending cuts. In order to avoid making even deeper cuts, the Governor proposed asking the voters to extend taxes. However, the governor was unable to obtain the four Republican votes necessary to put the proposal on the ballot.

*(Continued on next page)*

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***“The Friends Committee  
on Legislation of California  
(FCLCA), guided by Quaker  
values, advocates for  
California state laws that  
are just, compassionate  
and respectful of the  
inherent worth of  
every person.”***

In order to avoid making deeper spending cuts, the Department of Finance upped its revenue forecasts by \$4 billion above the level that had been forecast in the governor’s May 2011 budget revision. To assuage Wall Street lenders, the revised budget for 2011-2012 that was signed into law included a provision requiring the governor to make additional spending cuts effective January 1, 2012 if the additional revenues did not materialize.

In December 2011, revised revenue estimates were \$1.8 billion above the May 2011 budget revision but well short of the anticipated \$4 billion increase. As a result, the governor made additional spending cuts of \$981 million. The bulk of the mid-year cuts came from K-12 public education, higher education, In-Home Supportive Services and the Department of Developmental Services.

**Budget for next fiscal year  
\$9 billion out of balance**

The governor is predicting a \$9.2 billion shortfall between now and June 30, 2013. To close the gap, the governor is proposing a roughly equal increase in new revenues and additional spending cuts for Fiscal Year 2012-2013, including deep cuts to CalWORKS and child-care. Rather than trying again to win Republican votes in the Legislature to put new revenues before the voters, the governor launched a signature drive to place an initiative on the ballot this November. If approved, the new revenues would increase spending for K-12 public education and also free up General Fund dollars to help close the shortfall.

**Compromise ballot initiative  
could increase revenue  
collections and reduce cuts**

Three initiatives to increase revenues for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 are circulating for signatures to appear on the November ballot, the governor’s proposal, the so-called “Millionaire’s Tax” backed by the California Federation of Teachers, and the Molly Munger initiative, which would raise nearly all personal income tax rates. As Governor Brown has stated to reporters “taxes are difficult on a good day,” and there has been widespread concern that if all three tax proposals made it to the ballot, voters would reject all of them.

Governor Brown has now announced a compromise with the California Federation of Teachers, who have agreed to drop their initiative. The new compromise initiative will have higher marginal tax rates for the wealthiest Californians and relies on a quarter-cent sales tax increase instead of half-cent as per Brown’s original proposal. The income tax hike, starting at \$250,000 for individual filers, would last for seven years instead of five. The Department of Finance estimates that the compromise measure would bring in additional \$2 billion annually above Brown’s initial proposal.

While the new compromise measure generates more revenue and is less regressive, and while having two tax measures on the ballot is preferable to three, it remains to be seen if the new proposal will entice organized opposition. The business community may oppose the new proposal over claims that it would hit small business owners

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harder. The Business Roundtable and the California Chamber of Commerce had not taken a position on Brown's original proposal. On the same day that Brown and backers of the Millionaire's Tax announced their compromise, Munger, the daughter of billionaire investor Charles Munger, donated \$1.4 million to her initiative's campaign, which has not been polling well.

The compromise measure also includes a constitutional amendment to guarantee that local governments continue to receive funding for programs that were realigned to local government. This realignment means that counties are now responsible for supervising persons convicted of non-serious, nonviolent and non-sex offenses and post-release community supervision (see "Can Realignment Set Us Straight? *FCLCA Newsletter*, December, 2011).

### **Legislature resisting cuts until revenue picture becomes clearer**

Even if voters approve the new revenues, the governor's budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 proposes some significant spending reductions to health and human service programs. Reductions will hit hard in our state where unemployment remains high and the poverty rate increased from 12.7 percent in 1963 to 16.3 percent in the last decade.

Governor Brown has proposed another \$946 million cut to CalWORKS. According to the Western Center on Law and Poverty, funding for the program has been reduced by \$3.5 billion since 2009. Last year, the Legislature cut grants by 8 percent and the adult lifetime limit was reduced from five years to four. For 2012-2013, the governor has proposed a new retroactive limit of two years. In 1994, California spent \$3.7 billion on welfare from the General Fund. Today that number is \$1.8

billion. The average monthly grant for recipient families is currently \$471 per month.

Fortunately, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, chaired by Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles), rejected the governor's proposed cuts to CalWORKS. Earlier this year, Senate President Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) said that the Senate would not proceed with the cuts to CalWORKS and child care in March. Instead, the Senate will wait until May, when the state has a better idea of what April tax returns will look like. Democratic legislators are hoping for an "April surprise" given the state's improving economy.

If passed by the voters in November, the new revenue compromise could significantly reduce the impact of the cuts by providing an additional \$2 billion above the governor's original tax proposal. But absent an April surprise followed with the passage of new revenues by voters in November, the Legislature will be under considerable pressure to again make deep cuts. In this worst case scenario, the governor proposes another \$5.4 billion in trigger cuts taking effect January 1, 2013, with \$4.8 billion coming out of funding for schools and community colleges. California currently ranks 47th in the nation in terms of per pupil education funding as a percentage of personal income, and school districts just sent out 20,000 teacher layoff notices.

### **Court-ordered reductions, realignment mean good news on corrections spending**

Some good news: thanks to a federal court order requiring the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to reduce the state's prison population to 137.5 percent of capacity and thanks to realignment, spending for corrections is slated to decline slightly next year and more in fu-

ture years, according to the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review's overview of the Governor's budget bill. Still, at \$8.7 billion dollars, it accounts for a staggering 9.4 percent of the state's General Fund, only slightly less than what the state spends for higher education. The importance of corrections spending becomes magnified when one considers that three of every four General Fund dollars goes directly to local communities, individuals, doctors, and nursing homes. The University of California, California State University and state prisons are the only major state-run, discretionary programs funded through the state's General Fund.

Although the prison population is declining, the Legislative Analyst's Office has suggested that the state will not meet its court-ordered target by June 2013 and may have to apply for an extension. While realignment will get the state close to the court-ordered reduction, the Legislature will likely have to consider other options.

### **Fighting for California's future**

Higher education is California's economic engine. Deeper cuts, resulting in increased fees, and cuts to the Cal Grant program will reduce access to our public universities. Disinvesting in CalWORKS and child care will make it more difficult for people to transition into the job market and become economically self-sufficient. And deeper cuts to K-12 education could make California 50th in funding per pupil rather than 47th, even though one in five California students does not graduate high school. Going backwards is not an option, and FCLCA welcomes recent indications of the Legislature's resolve. But even if voters fail to provide the additional revenues, our state's future is still worth fighting for. [FCLCA](#)

– Jim Lindburg  
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**Senate Bill 810, the California Universal Healthcare Act, by Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), came two votes short of passing the Senate and moving to the Assembly.** The bill is now dead for the current legislative session but would have created a single-payer, Medicare-for-all style health care program for all California residents.

Democrats Ron Calderon of Montebello and Lou Correa of Santa Ana voted against the bill and four other Democrats abstained. The loss of Democratic Senators Denise Ducheny (San Diego) and Dean Florez (Shafter) to term limits hurt the bill as they were replaced by moderate Democrats Juan Vargas and Michael Rubio. Senator Ron Calderon (D-Montebello) voted for the bill in 2010 but voted against it this time. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Los Angeles), who supported the bill in 2010, abstained. Several of the six Democrats who didn't support the bill have received considerable campaign contributions from the insurance industry and the pharmaceutical industry.

Senator Leno indicates that he plans to reintroduce the bill in 2013.

**Senate Bill 9, by Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), came within one vote of passing the full Assembly late last summer.** This legislation – which permits prisoners serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole for offenses committed as a minor to apply for a reduced 25-year-to-life sentence – is still on the Assembly Floor. It is still a couple votes short of passage and will be reconsidered when it is believed there are 41 votes to pass and send the bill to the governor.

**Assembly Bill 1648, by Julia Brownley (D-Santa Monica), is supported by FCLCA and other good government groups.** It amends the Political Reform Act of 1974 to require that the largest funders of political advertisements be clearly identified.

The need for full disclosure has increased in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens v. United*, which authorizes unlimited campaign spending. While there are limits on the amount of direct contributions candidates

may receive, campaign funders may bypass these limits by making unlimited contributions to candidates through independent expenditure committees designed to obscure which wealthy individuals and/or organizations are funding the political advertisements.

### **Other key bills that FCLCA is working on this year:**

- **AB 1270**, by Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco), requires the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to permit media representatives to interview prisoners in person and forbids retaliation against prisoners for participating in interviews or communicating with members of the media. **FCLCA SUPPORTS.**
- **AB 1528**, by Tim Donnelly (R-Hesperia), creates new felony penalties for peeping toms. **FCLCA OPPOSES.**
- **AB 1571**, by Tim Donnelly (R-Hesperia), expands the definition of human smuggling and creates new felony penalties. **FCLCA OPPOSES.**
- **AB 1577**, by Toni Atkins (D-Sacramento), requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and CDCR to enter into interagency agreements in order to assist prisoners in obtaining a valid California driver's license or identification card immediately upon their release from prison. CDCR could issue a parolee identification card which the DMV would honor for the purposes of applying for a driver's license or identification card. Having a valid identification card is necessary for applying for a job, establishing a checking account and obtaining housing. **FCLCA SUPPORTS.**
- **AB 1831**, by Roger Dickinson (D-Sacramento), prohibits local government agencies from asking about an applicant's criminal history on an employment application. Agencies could only inquire as to an applicant's criminal history after the agency has determined that the applicant meets the minimum requirements. **FCLCA SUPPORTS.**
- **AB 2469**, by Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield), requires CalWORKS applicants and recipients to undergo periodic drug testing

as a condition of eligibility.

#### **FCLCA OPPOSES.**

- **SB 983**, by Toni Strickland (R-Thousand Oaks), authorizes county boards of supervisors to contract with out-of-state correctional facilities to house local jail prisoners. **FCLCA OPPOSES.**
- **SB 1060**, by Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley), would end the lifetime ban on receiving CalWORKS benefits for persons with felony drug convictions. **FCLCA SUPPORTS.**
- **SB 1441**, by Bill Emmerson (R-Riverside), requires persons convicted of felonies otherwise punishable in a county jail who are sentenced to more than three years to serve their sentence in state prison. **FCLCA OPPOSES.**
- **SB 1506**, by Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), reduces simple drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor. **FCLCA SUPPORTS.**

To keep updated with Action Alerts as these bills progress through the Legislature, sign up for our Action Network at [www.fclca.org](http://www.fclca.org). **FCLCA**

## **Efforts to reform Three Strikes taking shape**

There are currently two proposals aimed at reforming California's Three Strikes law. Both proposals are narrower than Proposition 66, which would have allowed third strike convictions only for serious and violent felonies. Proposition 66 failed in the November 2004 election by a vote of 53 percent to 47 percent. Neither AB 327 nor the Three Strikes Reform Act of 2012 would apply to second strikers.

FCLCA is supporting Assembly Bill 327 by Mike Davis (D-Los Angeles.) This bill would require that the current conviction be for a serious or violent felony in order to qualify for a 25-year-to-life sentence. Exceptions are made if the current offense is for a sex offense, drug offenses involving large quantities of drugs, or if the defendant used a firearm or deadly weapon or intended to cause great bodily harm. AB 327 contains no provision for retroactive sentencing and would need approval from Governor Brown in order to appear on the November 2014 ballot. The bill passed the full Assembly and is now in the Senate, where it will be heard by the Public Safety Committee later this spring.

Several Stanford University professors have drafted the "Three Strikes Reform Act of 2012" initiative for the November 2012 ballot that would also limit third strike convictions to serious and violent felonies. Exceptions are made for people with prior convictions for rape, murder, or child molestation – they could still receive a 25-year-to-life sentence for any third felony conviction.

If passed, approximately 3,000 prisoners serving third strike convictions for non-serious, nonviolent felonies with no prior convictions for rape, murder or child molestation could apply for resentencing. The campaign has until May 14 to submit over 500,000 valid signatures and has received over \$1 million financial contributions, including \$500,000 from George Soros. **FCLCA**

– Jim Lindburg, <[JimL@fclca.org](mailto:JimL@fclca.org)>

## **A Bold New Bill Reaches the Senate: focus on SB 1506**

*FCLCA is supporting Senate Bill 1506, introduced by Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), which would change simple possession of an illegal drug from a felony to a misdemeanor. We reprint below a recent article from the Ella Baker Center's blog, [Ella's Voice](http://Ella'sVoice(ellabakercenter.org)) (ellabakercenter.org), outlining the rationale behind SB 1506.*

### **A simple solution to the serious problem of prison overcrowding**

*By Theshia Naidoo, Alice Huffman, Jakada Imani and Allen Hopper*

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing time and again, yet expecting a different outcome. California has done the same thing with drug users for decades, while wasting billions of dollars and wrecking lives in the process. Not only have we flooded our courts, jails and prisons with low-level drug users, we have made it near impossible for them to get their lives back on track.

Senate Bill 1506, Mark Leno, (D-San Francisco), changes that. **SB 1506 makes simple drug possession a misdemeanor, reducing the maximum sentence from three years in state prison to one year in county jail.**

This simple, yet bold bill is a sharp break from the policies that helped create California's prison overcrowding crisis. Prosecuting simple possession of drugs as a felony subjects thousands of low-level offenders to lengthy sentences. This bill recognizes that this approach simply does not work.

Federal law, the District of Columbia, and at least 13 other states all penalize personal possession of controlled substances as a misdemeanor. This change will align California with federal law and a growing number of other states.

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## FCLCA's Recommendations for the June 2012 Ballot Propositions

**Proposition 28. Limits on Legislator's Terms in Office.** This initiative amends the California Constitution to reduce the numbers of years that a future legislator may serve in office from 14 to 12, but would allow future legislators to serve the entire 12 years in one house.

Currently, a lawmaker cannot serve more than eight years in the State Senate and six years in the State Assembly. These limitations often require individual lawmakers to be advanced to positions of leadership before their skills have been tested. Important reforms may take years to accomplish, and powerful special interests can "run out the clock" until a legislator is termed-out, especially in the State Assembly.

Allowing lawmakers to serve their entire terms in one house would create more institutional stability and allow for more institutional memory. As a result, the democratic process would be strengthened. **FCLCA SUPPORTS.**



**Proposition 29. Imposes Additional Tax on Cigarettes for Cancer Research.** Opponents, led by the big tobacco companies, are deceptively framing their opposition to Proposition 29 as concern over the state's budgetary problems. Meanwhile proponents are framing the debate as an either/or proposition: either one supports their initiative, or one is aligned with the interests of big tobacco companies.

This initiative would place an additional excise tax of \$1 on every pack of cigarettes on top of the current \$.87 excise tax (the federal government also imposes an excise tax of \$1.02 per pack). The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that the additional tax would bring in \$835 million per year. The proceeds would primarily fund medical research into diseases caused by smoking tobacco. There is no requirement that the new funds be spent in California.

While the American Lung Association, a primary supporter of Proposition 29, gives California an "F" for its smoking prevention programs, the Centers for Disease Control indicates that since California began the nation's longest-running tobacco control program in 1988, our state's adult smoking rate has declined by nearly 50 percent. The rate of smoking among California adults is estimated at 12.1 percent, the lowest in nation except for Utah.

FCLCA has become increasingly skeptical of ballot box budgeting where voters, at the behest of a powerful interest, are asked to make budgetary decisions in a vacuum and earmark funds for a narrow (however noble) purpose, with no legislative accountability. Conversely, in the legislative process, lawmakers must weigh competing priorities and make choices for which they can be held accountable. California's General Fund is currently in severe need of additional revenues if deep cuts are to be avoided to public education, higher education and the state's safety net (see "Cutting Past the Bone" on page 1).

Setting aside the hyperbole and the emotional arguments, in considering Proposition 29 we asked ourselves if, in the midst of a fiscal crisis, it makes sense for the State of California to undertake a new program which will benefit the entire nation or the world at large. If so, then is it appropriate to fund it with a regressive tax that falls hardest on the educationally and economically disadvantaged? Clearly the answer to both questions is NO.

**FCLCA OPPOSES.** [FCLCA](#)

Imposing felony sentences for simple drug possession is overkill. Furthermore, it is not a deterrent, and like so many of the facts of our correction system, these felonies disproportionately impact communities of color.

The current classification of these offenses as felonies places enormous burdens on individuals, families, communities, and the state as a whole. And the burden falls most heavily on low-income people of color. Study after study has found that there are far more White Americans using drugs on any given day, but our courts, jails and prisons are crowded primarily with Black and Latino Americans busted for drugs.

There is no evidence that lock-ups reduce recidivism for drug offenders. In fact, researchers have linked harsher penalties such as incarceration with higher recidivism rates as opposed to alternatives like probation. There is similarly no evidence that harsh penalties for drug possession have any effect on rates of drug use or dependency. Several of the states that changed simple possession to a misdemeanor have lower rates of past-month illicit drug use than California.

Lengthy felony drug sentences are a significant issue for California's counties, which are currently confronting jail capacity problems. Many counties are contemplating out-of-county transfer of inmates or even new jail constructions (which our State cannot afford) to address possible overcrowding. Changing drug possession offenses to misdemeanors will not only reduce the length of time a person will be incarcerated in county jails, it will also give counties more flexibility in responding to these offenses. It will make implementing realignment more affordable for the counties, freeing up money for rehabilitation, drug treatment, and other proven strategies for reducing crime and improving public safety and health.

A felony conviction haunts someone for the rest of their life. Such convictions exact a devastating cost beyond the formal sentence, many lasting a lifetime, including barriers to employment, housing, voting, education, and public benefits needed to get back on your feet. Meaning that people convicted of a felony will have a difficult time finding a job or a place to live. Tens of thousands of people have already found themselves branded as "felon" simply because of minor drug offenses, which by definition are nonviolent and non-serious. Treating such minor offenses

as felonies does not serve the interests of justice and does not serve the interest of the people of this state. Reducing felony drug possession to a misdemeanor will remove barriers to reentry that people with prior felony convictions now face, allowing thousands of Californians to fully contribute to family and community life through, among other things, employment and taxes.

Senator Leno's bill is publicly supported. According to a 2011 Lake Research survey, 72% of voters from  
*(Continued on back page)*



## WE DID IT....

### Thanks to all of you who gathered signatures!

FCLCA supporters and Friends were a vital presence among the over 5,000 volunteers who helped the SAFE California campaign submit 800,000 signatures on March 1, 2012 to the Secretary of State.

We are confident that far more than the required 504,000 will be valid, and our initiative to replace the Death Penalty will qualify to be on the November ballot. It will be assigned an initiative number in early July.

### In the meantime: There's still lots to do!

For the next few months, SAFE California is concentrating on organizing house parties.

- You can host a party at your house, your church, or a local community center. Help us spread the word about ending death sentences and raising the funds necessary to have a persuasive advertisement campaign next fall. To schedule, **reach a campaign organizer directly at (415) 293-6355.**
- If you belong to any community organization, ask them to endorse the initiative.
- And be sure to add your email address to the campaign list at [www.safecalifornia.org](http://www.safecalifornia.org) to hear about events or speakers in your area. **FCLCA**

## Realignment in your County: Pass or Fail?

*FCLCA is a member of CURB, Californians United for a Responsible Budget, a broad-based coalition of over 40 organizations seeking to curb prison spending by reducing the number of people in prison and the number of prisons in the state.*

*As we reported in the December 2011 issue of our Newsletter, in the fall of 2011 California implemented a major shift in criminal justice – realignment – which shifted responsibility for those convicted of nonviolent, non-serious and non-sexual offenses from state prisons to counties.*

*In this issue, we present CURB’s analysis of the implementation of realignment in counties throughout California.*

CURB has reviewed the realignment plans of thirteen key counties in California. We selected the following counties because they imprison the largest number of people in our state, send the largest share of people to state prison or are counties within which the majority of CURB members live and work. We originally reviewed these counties realignment plans in October, 2011. The first report card can be viewed at our website <http://curbprisonspending.org>. In that assessment, we looked at the balance between community-based alternatives and plans to expand jail capacity.

The second edition of the Realignment Report Card highlights the number of counties in California that are pursuing the same mistaken policies the state of California has pursued for decades: the expansion of cages. Not only are community-based alternatives more effective, they are less costly. Throughout California, counties are replicating the state’s bad policy and budget choices. Of the

five counties that received “Incompletes” in our last report card, only one of them has upgraded to “Pass.” None of the counties that received “Fail” in our last assessment have addressed our concerns, and some have only worsened. To capture this, we divided the Fail category into two tiers. One tier of county programs, indicated in orange on the chart (opposite), are re-opening beds that were previously closed. These counties can significantly improve their realignment plans if they halt their plans to re-open the beds. The other tier of programs, indicated in dark blue on the chart, are moving ahead

with economically and socially disastrous construction of all new jail cells. These counties must develop an entirely new approach to realignment that prioritizes community-based alternatives to incarceration if they are to succeed.

Like many other Californians, CURB believes that simply shifting people from state prison to county jail is a false solution to our prison and budget crisis. Realignment can most

safely and effectively be implemented by using alternative sentencing and community-based reentry services instead of costly and ineffective jail expansion. Realignment should not be used as an excuse to expand policing, probation or jails. Realignment should not be used to push forward AB 900, the largest prison construction scheme in human history. AB 900 authorized \$7.4 billion in lease revenue bonds for the construction or expansion of California’s prisons, jails and re-entry centers. If realignment is to be successful, it must move away from financially and socially disastrous expansion plans and invest in supporting people returning to our communities. **FCLCA**



# Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB)

## Realignment Report Card — Second Edition - March 2012

COUNTY PASS/FAIL	ALTERNATIVES to INCARCERATION	THREAT OF JAIL EXPANSION	NOTES FOR IMPROVEMENT
San Francisco Pass	Alternatives include electronic monitoring, home detention, residential treatment, restorative justice classes, substance abuse services, parenting classes, employment counseling and services, and transitional housing	County jail 6 in San Bruno with 360 beds is currently closed and the County is prioritizing alternatives instead of reopening the closed jail.	Continue to expand community-based alternatives instead of expanding the Sheriff's authority in the use of home detention and electronic monitoring.
Santa Cruz Pass	Decreased jail population by 20% since June 2011 through work release and electronic monitoring programs	County leaders are using evidence-based programs to reduce the rate of recidivism rather than add beds to the jail system.	Continue to expand community-based alternatives instead of expanding the Sheriff's authority.
Santa Clara Pass	Dedicated \$3.6 million or 25% of the \$15 million received this year to treatment programs.	There are over 1,000 empty jail beds. County made bold move by deciding not to apply for AB 900 funds.	Continue to expand community-based alternatives instead of expanding the Sheriff and Probation Department.
Alameda Pass	25% of funding is going to community-based organizations or agencies for alternative programs.	None	Continue to expand community-based alternatives instead of expanding the Sheriff and Probation Department.
Contra Costa Fail	Nearly \$900,000 to expand drug and alcohol treatment programs, mental health services and temporary housing.	While the county was not invited to apply for AB900 phase II funding, it reopened a long-closed portion of the West County Detention Center.	Seek to reduce the jail population and expand community-based treatment options, especially for those with high mental health needs.
Sacramento Fail	There is a home detention and pre-trial release program.	Re-opening 275 jail beds at the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center.	Immediately halt jail expansion plans. Reallocate funding away from Sheriff's department and towards community-based services.
Fresno Fail	Some evidence based reentry programming.	County Sheriff re-opened 432 closed beds last fall. The county plans to reopen another floor of the jail in April at a cost of about \$4 million.	Instead of expanding jail capacity invest in community-based alternatives.
San Mateo Fail	Investing in employment, training and work opportunities, wellness and recovery, supports for reentry, and family re-integration for people coming home from prison and jail. Expanding programming in jail.	While San Mateo County was not invited to apply for phase II AB900 money, Sheriff Munks is still planning to go ahead with jail expansion, and may be pushing for AB900 phase III money to go to counties.	Implement jail population reduction measures and continue to expand community-based alternatives instead of seeking money for a new jail.
Riverside Fail	Some alternative sentencing programs, such as home detention. Allocating between \$4 and \$8 million for mental health services.	The county received \$100 million in AB900 funds towards its \$300 million dollar jail expansion plan.	Reject AB900 funds and halt jail expansion plans immediately. Stop schemes that charge prisoners \$142 a day for their imprisonment.
Kern Fail	Some inclusion of education and other service provision programs.	County is opening 263 jail beds and received \$100 million AB 900 to construct additional 790 beds.	Cancel costly jail construction and expand community-based alternatives.
San Bernardino Fail	Opening day reporting centers at three locations in the county, each with "one stop" assistance for treatment of substance abuse, health issues, and finding work, among other services.	County in the process of building a \$120 million AB 900 funded, 1368 bed expansion to the Adelanto Detention Center.	Cancel costly jail construction and continue to expand community-based alternatives.
San Diego Fail	County is working on a Community Transition Center Considering and some alternatives to reduce jail overcrowding including lowering bail, offering pretrial plea deals faster, and allowing GPS monitoring and house arrest.	County to receive \$100 million under AB 900 to go towards a \$221.3 million dollar 1,216 bed women's jail construction project to 'replace' the Las Colinas Detention Facility in Santee. The County is planning to develop an extra 400 beds at the East Mesa jail.	Cancel costly jail construction and expand community-based alternatives.
Los Angeles Fail	The county plans to provide some substance abuse and mental health programs, and has minimally included community based organizations as service providers.	County Sheriff Lee Baca submitted a plan for a \$1.4 billion jail that would cost \$2.66 billion after debt. Though he has pulled the plan after mass public pressure, LA received \$100 million in AB900 phase II money and is looking for other jail expansion options.	Reject AB900 phase II money. Implement jail population reduction measures that have been successful in other counties. Improve brutal conditions inside LA county jails by dramatically reducing the population.



**Friends Committee on  
Legislation of California**

*Conscience meets politics.*

## 60More Campaign

It started in the darkest days of the McCarthy era. In 1952, six courageous Quakers met in San Francisco to found an organization that would stand up to fear and become one of the first public interest lobbies in California.

This year Friends Committee on Legislation of California celebrates 60 years of advocacy based on Friends testimonies. For six decades, our lobbyists and activists have brought a voice of conscience to California politics.

We take a moment to pause and reflect – to thank and appreciate all our current supporters and activists and to remember with gratitude all those who have gone before.

**The next 60 years start now.** And the **60More Campaign** is our answer to the question: What's next?

In this changing world – in these difficult times for our state – how can FCLCA stay relevant and effective and remain true to the vision of its founders?

For the past two years we have been engaged in a process of reflection and strategic planning. Very generous bequests have allowed us to expand our staff and our outreach. We realize that we must maintain our momentum – and grow – if we are to continue for 60 more years and beyond.

Over the next five years, we are resolved:

- **To build our grassroots activism:** expanding our online Action Network from 600 to several thousand and growing our volunteer base around California. The more activists we have, the more effective our Sacramento lobbying.
- **To expand our influence with legislators and the public by working “smart”** – continuing our work in coalition with other organizations. We get the benefit of their size and diverse membership – they get the benefit of our unique perspective and reputation. Many of our partners also appreciate that our experienced lobbyist offers them an “inside” presence at the Capitol.
- **To continue to oppose harmful legislation** and ballot measures and **to promote initiatives and bills** that build respect for the worth of every person.
- **To continue to be flexible and focused** in our approach to the issues. Criminal justice reform will be our key focus, but we will be flexible enough to deal with important issues such as health care reform, taxes, the budget, good governance and militarism.

- **To refine our message, reaching out beyond our current supporters to a broader audience.** This goal will be critical to our sustainability for the next 60.

## What you can do

Our agenda is ambitious. To achieve it we need strong support from people like you.

### **Help us build our Action Network.**

We invite you to sign up at [fclca.org](http://fclca.org) to take action on crucial bills. Explore our Action Center and let all your friends know about us. We need you to help us reach out to organizations and individuals who care about social justice, both Quakers and non-Quakers.

### **Help us build a sustainable organization that is capable of supporting our current staff and program through annual fundraising.**

Rather than spending all of the proceeds from bequests we receive, our goal is to maintain a “sustainability fund” – a reserve fund of at least 1 year’s operating expenses that can be invested for additional income every year.

To put it plainly, that means we need to raise more money.

So over the next five years, we will be building our funding three ways:

#### **Expanding our Annual Fund Drive. You can help:**

- Give a newsletter or donation envelope to a friend and introduce them to FCLCA.
- Increase your annual gifts in spring and fall. Give a little more than this year – perhaps \$60 in honor of our 60th anniversary instead of \$35 or \$50; or \$200 instead of \$100. Your investment now will make a difference.
- Become a sustainer – for \$10 or \$15 a month you can support a voice of conscience in Sacramento. Or maybe \$60/month – one dollar for each year of FCLCA!

#### **Expanding our major donor program.**

We need supporters at all levels. For those of you who have the capacity, please consider giving \$1,000; \$2,500 or \$5,000 a year.

#### **Forming our Legacy Circle.**

Generous bequests have benefited FCLCA and FCL Education Fund immeasurably in the past. We’ve started a Legacy Circle for those who have made a planned gift (a bequest, charitable gift annuity or pooled income fund).

- Please let us know if we’re in your will. You can choose to list your name in the Legacy Circle or remain anonymous.
- Consider leaving a legacy: bequests are the most common, but we also have planned gifts that can benefit you during your lifetime, including the Pooled Income Fund and Charitable Gift Annuities.
- For more information on the Legacy Circle or making a donation, contact Kevan Insko at [Kevan@fclca.org](mailto:Kevan@fclca.org).

And thank you – with your help **60More years** are within reach! **FCLCA**

**FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON  
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## *FCLCA Your Voice, Your Values*

*(continued from page 7)*

all regions, ethnic groups and political affiliations support reducing the penalties for nonviolent drug possession offenses. **This bill would not only align California law with the will of the people, it is a common-sense measure and a recognition that it is time to turn away from policies that are unjust, unreasonably expensive, and ineffective.**

With this simple of a solution to our over-crowded prisons and jails, California has every reason to embrace SB 1506.

*Theshia Naidoo is staff attorney with the Drug Policy Alliance; Alice A. Huffman is president of the California Hawaii State NAACP; Jakada Imani is executive director at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights; and Allen Hopper is Criminal Justice and Drug Policy director at the ACLU of California. [FCLCA](#)*

**PHOTO CREDITS:**

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The Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) includes Friends and like-minded persons, a majority of whom are appointed by Monthly Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends in California.

Expressions of views in this newsletter are guided by Statements of Policy prepared and approved by the FCLCA Committees. Seeking to follow the leadings of the Spirit, the FCLCA speaks for itself and for like-minded Friends. No organization can speak officially for the Religious Society of Friends.

While we strive above all for correctness and probity, we are quick to recognize that to err is human. We therefore solicit and welcome comments and corrections from our readers.