

Miriam Lens

From: Sherman Lewis
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2014 4:45 PM
To: Francisco Zermeno - Forward; CityClerk; Al Mendall; Greg Jones; Barbara Halliday; Fran David; Elisa Marquez; Sara Lamnin; Marvin Peixoto
Subject: Consent Agenda 3. Prop. 47
Attachments: Nov 2014 Churches PropChart.pdf

Prop 47 is supported by The California Council of Churches, League of Women Voters, Lutheran Office of Public Policy, Green Party, Democratic Party, and CA Labor Federation.

Why?

From The California Council of Churches:

PROPOSITION 47: Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute.

Recommendation: SUPPORT

This is perhaps the single biggest opportunity to end the 'cradle to prison' pipeline and the horrific increase in our prison population.

This proposition converts all non-violent offenses specified (shoplifting, low-level drug possession, petty theft, etc.) to misdemeanors rather than felonies. It assures that anyone convicted of violent crimes such as murder, rape, child molestation, will not be included in this alteration of sentencing.

Sentences of those convicted of misdemeanors will serve time in county jails rather than prisons with money from the prison system directed to those jails.

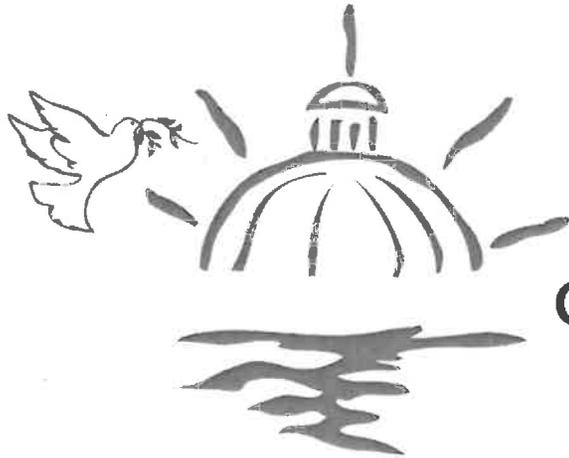
This is consistent with our support of changes in the 'three strikes' law; it upholds the intent of Prop. 36 drug diversion courts, and is a sensible alternative to the prison industry that has grown out of all proportion over the past 40 years. It would level the incarceration discrepancies between races by keeping all such offenses for non-violent offenders as misdemeanors rather than subjecting people of color to the kinds of discretionary sentences for minor crimes that lead to long felony records.

The proposition also creates the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund by diverting existing funds in the Department of Education and mental health funds toward crime prevention and victim support programs all of which has been long needed. This may be the alteration in justice we have long awaited. It has the support of many organizations including those in criminal justice systems and virtually no opposition.

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Sherman Lewis
Professor Emeritus, Cal State Hayward
President, Hayward Area Planning Association

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California Council of Churches **IMPACT**

Recommendations for the November 4, 2014 California General Election

	Prop 1	Prop 2	Prop 45	Prop 46	Prop 47	Prop 48
CA Church IMPACT	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
CA League of Women Voters		Yes			Yes	
CA League of Conservation Voters	Yes					
Lutheran Office of Public Policy	Yes				Yes	
CA Republican Party	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	
CA Green Party	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
CA Democratic Party	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
CA Labor Federation	Yes				Yes	Yes