

## **How Proposition 47 has Affected Law Enforcement Prosecution**

The Contra Costa County DA's office has had many challenges since Diana Becton became DA. Activities previously authorized for the DA's office have been "redirected" which has resulted in much less focus on charging and prosecuting criminals. **Why?** A very major turning point for an explosion of crime was the passage of Prop. 47. This Act was very deceptively called the "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act." The ballot description was equally deceptive. Prop. 47 reduced many crimes to misdemeanors. For example, Prop. 47 raised the level of theft for felony charges to \$950. After its passage, no action was taken below this level of crime. Multiple petty thefts were no longer aggregated as before. The charge enhancement of "Petty with a Prior" for multiple offences was eliminated.

Another deceptively worded measure that passed was Prop. 57, that caused the early release of about 77,000 felons. AB 109 also caused the early release of many convicted of serious felonies. Another change was that sex trafficking was no longer a serious felony. Billionaire George Soros, among other donors, has been funding enactment of laws and pro-criminal policies that have resulted in criminal activities of a higher magnitude than ever anticipated, e.g. "smash and grab" and criminal conspiracies. The unintended consequences are wrong and the prosecution of the progressive policies of the Los Angeles County DA and the DAs of Contra Costa County and Alameda County are not working.

Accordingly, several ballot measure petitions are out for signature to qualify for the November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, ballot. These efforts will fix Prop 47 with provisions that correct many of the problems resulting from Prop. 47.

**(23-0017A1) Felony Charges and increased sentences for certain Drug and Theft Crimes** (546,651 signatures required – 25% reached 1/24/2024) Allows Felony charges for possessing certain drugs, including fentanyl, and for thefts under \$950 (currently chargeable as misdemeanors) and will allow two prior drug or two prior theft convictions (petty with a prior) that were not dismissed to be charged.

**(23-0023A1) Increased Prison Sentences and warning requirements** (546,651 signatures required) which imposes Mandatory minimum 10–12-year prison sentences for distributing opiates that cause a user's death and enhanced penalties under Three Strikes Law. Increased sentences for specified drug and theft crime are subject to Warning Notices to convicted drug offenders of certain drug offenses to utilize the enhanced penalties.

Hopefully, these measures will be on the ballot in November and will be passed. The costs of injury to employees and customers through the loss of businesses and thefts far outweigh the cost of prisons to house repeat offenders.

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*Contributions from Mark Fernwood*

<https://www.kcra.com/article/california-proposition-47-crime-misdemeanors-petition/46556860>