



PRESS RELEASE

SUBJECT: THE THREE STRIKES REFORM ACT OF 2016

FROM: CHOOSE1

CONTACT: JULIE PICCOLOTTI

PHONE: 650.520.0461

EMAIL: www.choose1initiative@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.choose1.org

For more than two decades, California's Three Strikes Law has been criticized for being unfair, excessively punitive, and in many ways strikingly irrational. There have been several measures implemented by Californians to fix this law. In 2012 and 2014 meager steps were taken addressing some people sentenced under Three Strikes, but it still remains unfair and excessive. Now, California voters have a chance to bring fairness to criminal justice policy along with making some common sense investments towards our future with The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2016.

A Brief Statement of Common Sense

We've all made mistakes that have resulted from poor personal choices and many people who made bad decisions have ended up in prison. What's common amongst a lot of these bad decision makers; not taking advantage of educational opportunities, and for one reason or the other, dropped out of school. This is a vicious cycle of bad choices and imprisonment, all of which fuels mass incarceration. This cycle of mass incarceration can be reversed by The Reform Act's common sense approach at stopping the problems before it starts.

Just The Facts

Recent studies conducted by Wallets Hub and Education Week rank California's school system amongst the lowest in the nation. The poor ranking is in part due to spending priorities; more on jails and prisons than primary schools, colleges and universities. Inadequate funding for high poverty school districts and sky rocketing college tuitions are at the core of the problem. Despite several misleading political efforts aimed at reducing California's overcrowded prisons, funding for jails and prisons remain strikingly high, while public schools

take a back seat. The state's persistent legislative gridlock and political dysfunction is a call for California voters to effectuate change.

The Reform Act allows the re-sentencing of non-dangerous strikers whose prior convictions occurred prior to 1994 (the enactment of the three strikes law); as well as eliminating criminal threats as a strike. The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2016 preserves public safety by excluding those who are currently convicted of child molestation, rape, and murder. Inmates who qualify under The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2016 are at least 37 years old, while most are in their 50's and 60's, have served a significant amount of time and made substantial strides towards rehabilitation.

With the passage of The Act, each fiscal year beginning in 2017, the Controller shall disperse the identified savings from passing the law as follows:

- 1) 25% to high poverty middle and high schools in California.
- 2) 25% to the California Community Colleges to offset tuition.
- 3) 25% to the Universities of California to offset tuition.
- 4) 25% towards prison rehabilitation programs.

Political Will Verse People Power

It's no secret an educated person who graduates from high school and go on to college is far less likely to succumb to pitfalls that leads to incarceration. Unfortunately, politicians refuse to take any real initiative to alleviate policies that interfere with this process. The current state of the law, particularly, the Three Strikes law, intentionally or not, plays into diverting precious resources from the Public Educational Process to the Prison Industrial Complex . The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2016 corrects this problem with sentencing reforms that redirects hundreds of millions of dollars back to the Public Educational Process and away from the Prison Industrial Complex.

To be placed on the November ballot The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2016 initiative needs 365,880 signatures from registered voters by June 1st.

To make donations to The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2016, via the gofundme account or by mail, go to www.choose1.org. All donations will be used to finance the signature gathering process. You can volunteer your time and support for The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2016 by emailing us at choose1initiative@gmail.com.