

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: July 23, 2014

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2014-173, A Resolution in Opposition to proposition 47 The "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act"

RECOMMENDED MOTION:


That the Board of Supervisors approve the attached Resolution No. 2014-173.

BACKGROUND:

Proposition 47 if approved by California's voters would reduce the penalty for most nonviolent crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor. The measure would reduce the sentencing of felonies to simple misdemeanors for crimes such as shoplifting, theft, forgery, fraud, possession of a narcotic drug; and possession of concentrated cannabis.

The initiative would permit resentencing for anyone currently serving a prison sentence for any of the offenses that are being reclassified. About 10,000 inmates would be eligible for resentencing.

This poorly written initiative is an invitation for disaster!



Jeff Stone, Chairman Board of Supervisors
Third District Supervisor

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-173

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO

PROPOSITION NO. 47

The "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act"

WHEREAS, California Proposition 47 has qualified for the November 4, 2014 ballot, and

WHEREAS, Proposition 47, if approved by California's voters, would reduce the penalty for most nonviolent crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor. The measure would reduce the sentencing of felonies to simple misdemeanors for the following crimes:

Shoplifting; clothes, electronics, drugs and medications, jewelry, etc., anything where the value of the shoplifted property does not exceed \$950

Theft; tools, precious metals, hand guns, etc., anything where the value of the stolen property does not exceed \$950

Forgery; where the value of the forged check, bond or bill does not exceed \$950

Fraud; identity theft and scamming, etc., where the value of the fraud, scam, bad check, draft or order does not exceed \$950

Possession of a narcotic drug; even the possession of illegal "date-rape" drugs will be a "slap on the wrist" misdemeanor

Possession of concentrated cannabis, and

WHEREAS, the initiative would permit re-sentencing for anyone currently serving a prison sentence for any of the offenses that the initiative would re-classify as misdemeanors. About 10,000 inmates would be eligible for re-sentencing, according to Lenore Anderson of Californians for Safety and Justice. One easy way to reduce California's prison population is to re-classify and re-categorize

1 violent and offensive felony crimes down to a lesser misdemeanor status with little or no consequence
2 to the perpetrator. This would send a terrible message to criminals and produce a disastrous
3 consequence for society, and

4 **WHEREAS**, the initiative would require a "thorough review" of the criminal history and risk
5 assessment of any inmates before re-sentencing to ensure that they do not pose a risk to the public,
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, Proposition 47 would create a "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund." The fund
8 would receive appropriations based on savings accrued by the state during the fiscal year, as
9 compared to the previous fiscal year, due to the initiative's implementation. Estimates range from
10 \$150 million to \$250 million per year, and

11 **WHEREAS**, Proposition 47 proposes to distribute funds from the "Safe Neighborhoods and
12 Schools Fund" as follows: 25 percent to the Department of Education, 10 percent to the Victim
13 Compensation and Government Claims Board and 65 percent to the Board of State and Community
14 Corrections, and

15 **WHEREAS**, California Retailers Association President Bill Dombrowski says "reducing penalties
16 for theft, receiving stolen property and forgery could cost retailers and consumers millions of dollars,
17 and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, Prosecutors and those concerned about protecting the innocent from violent sexual
20 abuse, identity theft and other serious crimes overwhelmingly oppose Prop. 47. Some of these
21 opponents include:
22

- 23 • California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- 24 • California District Attorneys Association
- 25 • California Peace Officers Association
- 26 • California Police Chiefs Association
- 27
- 28

- California Retailers Association
- California State Sheriffs' Association
- Crime Victim Action Alliance
- Crime Victims United of California
- California Fraternal Order of Police, and

WHEREAS, this isn't just a poorly written initiative, it is an invitation for disaster.

There are no "petty" criminals in our prisons anymore and many first time, low level drug offenders are already sent to diversion programs instead of prison; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside assembled in regular session on July 29, 2014 that we hereby **OPPOSE PROPOSITION 47** and encourage California's voters to reject this attempt to weaken and further render impotent the state's criminal justice system. We will convey our opposition to the Governor, the California Legislature, and all California Counties.