

A photograph of the California State Capitol building, showing its iconic dome and classical architecture. The building is white with a dark dome and is set against a clear blue sky. The image is partially obscured by a large, curved white graphic element that sweeps across the page from the top right towards the bottom left.

PROPOSITION 47 PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY



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Proposition 47: 2015 and 2016 Public Comment

Executive Summary

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) hosted a series of regional meetings in response to widespread interest in how expected state savings might be invested to reduce recidivism among those impacted by Proposition 47. This is a summary of the public comment provided at the regional meetings and through other means. It is presented to the Proposition 47 Executive Steering Committee (ESC) for consideration as it develops the Proposition 47 Request for Proposals (RFP).

At these regional meetings, the public provided its comments on how the expected state savings should be prioritized. The five highest priorities identified from these public comments are:

- Community-based services
- Mental health and substance use disorder treatment
- Housing
- Re-entry services
- Diversion

These priorities mirror the mandates and top priorities of Proposition 47 and Assembly Bill 1056 (Statutes of 2015, Chapter 438).

Proposition 47 Regional Meetings

The BSCC hosted six regional meetings throughout California in response to widespread interest in how expected state savings might be invested to reduce recidivism among the state's formerly incarcerated populations. These meetings were intended for the public to speak directly to the BSCC about its priorities for the investment of the savings. The regional meetings were held in the following locations on the following dates:

October 28, 2015	Oakland
January 25, 2016	Fresno
January 26, 2016	Highland (San Bernardino County)
January 27, 2016	Los Angeles
January 28, 2016	San Diego
June 23, 2016	Sacramento

At each meeting, the BSCC convened a panel that included Board Chair Linda Penner and Executive Director Katie Howard. The panel included other Board members when possible, including Police Chief David Bejarano of Chula Vista at the San Diego meeting, Chief Probation Officer of San Bernardino County Michelle Scray Brown at the Oakland and Highland meetings, Kern County Supervisor and Co-Chair of the Proposition 47 ESC Leticia Perez at the Oakland, Fresno, and San Diego meetings and The Anti-Recidivism Coalition founder and Co-Chair of the Proposition 47 ESC Scott Budnick at the Highland and Los Angeles meetings. The panel also included special guests Elizabeth Siggins of Californians for Safety and at the Oakland meeting and Assembly Member Atkin's Policy Staff Ken Spence at all of the meetings except San Diego. The panel provided information to the public about Proposition 47 and Assembly Bill 1056, and the BSCC's responsibilities to administer the grant program. The BSCC then opened each meeting to public comment and discussion, which is summarized in this report.

To accommodate those who could not participate in person, the regional meetings were also live-streamed on the BSCC's YouTube Channel and are posted on the BSCC website for viewing at http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_bsccprop47.php.

The BSCC received public comments from over 200 people. The five highest priorities are described in more detail on page 4. The remaining public comments ranged widely over a variety of topics and represents many hours of discussion. You can view and listen to the regional meeting videos at the hyperlink above.

Proposition 47 Methodology

In the administration of its responsibilities under Proposition 47 and Assembly Bill 1056, the BSCC is committed to continuously seeking input from a broad range of stakeholders to inform its work. Toward that end, the BSCC has focused on gathering a range of perspectives on how the expected state savings from Proposition 47 should be invested to help inform the development of the grant program. The BSCC has been collecting and compiling public comment so that it may be evaluated and shared with the Proposition 47 ESC and the BSCC Board. The BSCC established several ways for the public to contribute comments and questions.

- 1) The BSCC created and maintains a dedicated webpage that provides regularly updated information on the BSCC's grant development activities and opportunities for public interactions.
- 2) The BSCC created and maintains an email address dedicated to receiving public comment and questions.
- 3) The BSCC created and monitors the BSCC's social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.
- 4) The BSCC recognized that internet and email might not be accessible to all members of the public and wanted to hear directly from the public in an interactive setting. The BSCC organized and facilitated six statewide regional meetings dedicated to engaging the public in a discussion of what should be Proposition 47 grant administration and funding priorities. The final regional meeting included members of the Proposition 47 ESC. Members of the public were able to engage personally and individually with members of the BSCC Board and BSCC staff.
- 5) Public comment was also provided at the Proposition 47 ESC meetings held on June 23 and June 24, 2016. Please note that opportunity for public comment will be on the agenda at all upcoming ESC meetings.
- 6) The BSCC releases periodic press releases announcing significant events.

At all of these public events to date, BSCC staff distributed and collected Public Comment cards. Members of the public then introduced themselves, their organization or affiliation, and shared perspectives on how Proposition 47 impacts them or how they believe the grant funds should be allocated.

Public comment concerning Proposition 47 remains open and on-going.

Proposition 47 Public Comment Priorities

The five highest priorities identified from these public comments are:

- *Mental health and substance use disorder treatment*
The public's top priority is a call for Proposition 47 funds to be invested in mental health and substance-use disorder treatment in the community and not in a jail setting. Many speakers stated the need for such treatment and spoke about the many needs within this wide field, such as the need for dual diagnosis treatment and trauma recovery services.
- *Community-based services*
The public also consistently voiced a strong preference that the funds flow directly into community-based services and organizations. Members of the public emphasized the essential role of community-based organizations that provide direct services to the communities they serve and that have built trust and strong relationships.
- *Re-entry Services*
The public stressed the importance of investing in re-entry services and provided BSCC Board and staff with specific examples, such as offering life-skills training, addressing transportation concerns, obtaining rap sheets at no cost, providing legal services, and helping to reunify families.
- *Housing*
The public described housing as the foundation for successful reintegration and rehabilitation and explained that without an array of housing services, including transitional housing, the ability of a person to stabilize his or her life is greatly hindered.
- *Diversion*
The public identified the need for investment in comprehensive diversion programs, which allow individuals to receive the help and support that they need rather than being arrested or subjected to criminal charges, trials convictions, or criminal records.

In addition to public comment, the Proposition 47 ESC must consider the mandates included in Proposition 47 and Assembly Bill 1056 and the array of essential considerations that each Subject Matter Expert member brings to the ESC.

Appendix A

Public Comment Synopsis