



SAFE California Campaign
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For Immediate Release

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Press Release

SAFE CA ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO REPLACE CA DEATH PENALTY

The SAFE California Campaign announced today a ballot initiative for the 2012 general elections to replace California's death penalty with life in prison with no possibility of parole.

The initiative would convert death penalty sentences to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

"The death penalty system in California is broken and there is growing support for this change including from law enforcement," said Jeanne Woodford, former Warden of San Quentin State Prison who oversaw four executions during her tenure. "Over a hundred current and former law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges and corrections officers have already signed in support of replacing the death penalty with an effective alternative."

More information on the campaign can be found at www.taxpayersforjustice.org

Gil Garcetti, former Los Angeles District Attorney, also attended in support of the initiative launch. "The death penalty in California is broken and unfixable. How many of our citizens know that California has an unsolved murder rate of 46% and an unsolved rape rate of 56%? The SAFE CA Act will prevent crimes. It will make our families safer than they are today."

The SAFE California Act takes \$30 million of the dollars save per year for three years and puts it into a special fund that will be used to solve more murder and rape cases.

According to a June report by Federal Judge Arthur Alarcon and professor Paula Mitchell, California has spent \$4 Billion on the death penalty since it was reinstated in 1978. Former prosecutor and the original author of the Briggs Initiative to reinstate the death penalty, Don Heller, also spoke at the press conference.

"Thirty-three years ago I made a mistake. Now we have the opportunity to fix that mistake and improve public safety.," Heller added.

A statewide poll on the initiative conducted by Binder and Associates in July found that 54% of voters favored replacing the death penalty with life without parole.

The initiative was submitted to the Attorney General for title and summary late Friday.

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