Community Safety?

- Crime Rates?
- Trauma?
- Health?
- Well-being?
- Feel Safe?
Violence and Property Crime Rates at Historical Lows

Source: “Crime Trends in CA” Public Policy Institute of California, August 2016
Rates of Victimization

• People across all demographics experience crime BUT....

Some communities more vulnerable than others.

Low-income communities

Communities of color

Undocumented immigrants

Young people

Most likely to experience violent crime and repeated crime
1000+ New Laws
Longer Sentences
Parole Violators
Latinos 2X
African Americans 8X

5.6X as many people in state prison in 2012 than in 1962 (crime rate was similar)
Crime survivors
Unaddressed trauma
Community Safety

- Criminalization of mental illness and drug addiction
- Significantly disparate rates of incarceration
- Everyone is not safer
- Low-level crimes ignored
- Victims’ needs not addressed
- Culture of punishment leaked into schools
- Not enough funding for alternatives
- Loss of trust
- Collateral consequences of a criminal justice conviction

Community Safety?
Best Practices?
Ideas?
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There is too much money spent on prisons
Incarceration is used for too many non-serious non-violent offenders
People with mental health problems get worse in prison when they could get better in treatment
Too many low risk people are crowding jails waiting for trial because they cannot afford bail
There are not enough rehabilitation programs to help people become productive
California’s criminal justice system does not adequately help crime victims recover
There is not enough focus on violent crime
Judges have to follow fixed sentences and cannot consider circumstances when sentencing offenders
Too many sick and elderly people are in prison who are no longer a risk to public safety
California’s criminal laws are outdated and ineffective

Which problems do you think are most important to address in California’s justice system?
Elevating A New Victims’ Voice

• More victims say that we send “too many” people to prison than “too few.”

• Victims want probation and rehabilitation by a two-to-one margin over prisons.

• Victims prefer investments in mental health and drug treatment by a seven-to-one margin over incarceration.