

County Jail System (Brief statement of Position)

Support for reducing overcrowding in the county jail system by improving jail computer systems, routing prisoners more efficiently, expediting pre-trial case management, and studying criminalization standards for possible modification. Oppose using private jails. Support for a variety of sentencing options for low-risk offenders. Support for providing comprehensive health care services for emergency, urgent, and on-going health problems, physical and mental, for all inmates; support for segregating mentally ill inmates. Support for offering basic educational and vocational training programs and social rehabilitation and re-entry programs to all inmates. Support for providing adequate public funding to maintain state standards. Support for effective, continual internal and external oversight of jail conditions and practices and for safe release practices.

County Jail System (Elaborated Position)

Support for the following measures:

- Reducing overcrowding in the County jails through justice-system-wide improvements such as updating jail computer systems to achieve compatibility with the court system, more efficient routing of prisoners, expediting pre-trial case movement through the courts, and studying criminalization standards for possible modification; however, the League opposes using private jails.
- Sentencing offenders convicted of non-violent crimes with no violent or no very serious convictions in their criminal histories to well monitored rehabilitation programs outside the public jail system [e.g., using drug courts and drug rehabilitation centers] or to probation, electronic monitoring, or work furlough programs with security arrangements for non-working periods.
- Early release of inmates convicted of non-violent crimes with no violent or no very serious convictions in their criminal histories.
- Providing appropriate medical services to all inmates in the county jail system, not only for emergency and urgent medical conditions, but also for non-urgent physical problems, including prompt evaluation and, when indicated, prompt resumption of prescription medication regimes in place prior to incarceration; hospitalization when medically necessary; prenatal care; arrangement for abortion when requested by an inmate; reasonable diagnostic procedures; and use of up-to-date technology to facilitate appropriate medical care.
- For inmates with severe mental illness, providing prompt evaluation and, when indicated, legally prescribed pharmacological treatment, case supervision, and group therapy provided by psychologists or other appropriately licensed therapists, and segregation in separate mental health units to prevent victimization.
- Offering inmates voluntary academic and/or vocational education programs, including basic skills [e.g., reading, writing, arithmetic], English language acquisition, secondary level courses leading to a high school diploma or a General Education Development [GED] certificate, vocational courses and certificates, and health education courses.
- Offering inmates social rehabilitation programs, including self-care and social skills, psychological help [e.g., therapy groups], parent education, substance-abuse rehabilitation, anger management and domestic violence rehabilitation, and other rehabilitation programs with demonstrable effectiveness.
- Offering all inmates re-entry or post-release planning services.
- Releasing inmates only during day-time hours unless arrangements adequately assuring safety have been made.
- Providing adequate public funding to maintain state standards for jail systems. Identifying sources of supplementary funding, such as taxes and philanthropic grants for special programs, in addition to maintaining state standards.
- Effective and on-going internal and external oversight of the jail system by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff's Department, federal-court-appointed monitors, and reputable and experienced independent assessment agencies.