



# California Police Chiefs Association

*Serving as the voice of and resource of choice for  
California's municipal police chiefs*

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## **California Police Chiefs Association**

### *2020 Legislative Priorities*

#### **Overview of Legislative Priorities**

California law enforcement agencies face ongoing challenges heading into 2020, making for another difficult legislative session. Perennial issues involving homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health remain at the top of the state's public safety concerns this year. Continuing to protect enforcement powers and funding to law enforcement programs geared towards addressing the public safety and health consequences of growing homeless populations will be central the CPCA's involvement in efforts to mitigate our community's concerns. Additionally, human trafficking and the illicit cannabis markets continue to grow as organized crime and transnational cartels take advantage of our state and economy. Organized crime also has played an insidious role in exacerbating shoplifting and theft crimes throughout various regions. Finally, CPCA has prioritized officer wellness thru and effort to expand programs designed to combat depressions, PTSD, and other mental health impacts officers face as a consequence of the inherently volatile and traumatic nature of the profession. These issues are broken into detailed categories below:

#### **Homelessness**

CPCA continues to support the development of housing and additional resources to help move individuals out of homelessness. In addition, CPCA will defend against any attempts to limit law enforcement's ability to utilize police powers to combat the quality of life issues negatively impacting our communities.

#### **Substance Abuse**

CPCA will support efforts to mandate drug treatment for individuals suffering from substance abuse disorders. The reduction in penalties for personal drug use and possession has resulted in fewer individuals entering our drug courts, which has led to fewer treatments. CPCA will look for opportunities to develop more avenues into treatment for those deserving and in need.

#### **Mental Health**

Peace officers are increasingly being called to handle safety issues related to individuals with mental health disorders. Unfortunately, our system of care for those suffering from these afflictions are imperfect at best. CPCA will support efforts to increase outreach and services identifying and triaging those with severe mental health issues and providing them access to care. Additionally, CPCA will continue to partner with behavioral health experts to address issues arising from California conservatorship and 5150 statutes.

## **Officer Wellness**

Officers face innumerable physical and mental challenges in the scope and course of their work that often result in severe stress and trauma. As a result, peace officer stress results in higher rates of heart disease, divorce, sick days taken, alcohol abuse, and major psychological illnesses such as acute stress disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety disorders. Together, these conditions have resulted in a suicide rate amongst peace officers that studies show may be as high as three times the rate of the general public. CPCA is prioritized funding for programs and best practices in place than have been effective in improving officer resiliency and health.

## **Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is still one of the top organized criminal activities in the state, despite ongoing efforts to target the individuals and associations committing these horrendous acts. CPCA will support and defend institutional programs that have been proven effective in combatting this illicit trade.

## **Cannabis**

The illicit cannabis market continues to thrive, despite our legal and regulatory structure, due in large part insufficient penalties and statewide coordination, and lack of resources for enforcement. CPCA will support efforts to address these limitations with the goal of reducing the illicit market.

## **Keeping California Safe Act**

Over the last 4-5 years, major reform policy has dramatically altered our criminal justice system. Although some areas have improved, there have also been significant negative consequences as a result. The Keeping California Safe Act, and initiative set to be voted on in 2020, seeks to undo some of the most insidious impacts that have led to increased shoplifting, limited DNA evidence collection, and the early release of dangerous individuals. CPCA will make maximize our effort to educate voters about the impacts of these changes and solutions contained within the initiative.