

CALIFORNIA COMEBACK PLAN

GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S RECENT INVESTMENTS AND ACTIONS TO FIGHT AND PREVENT CRIME IN CALIFORNIA

- **Over the past three decades, crime rates in CA have dropped dramatically. Prior to the pandemic, violent crime and property crime rates were among the lowest ever recorded. Although crime rates have remained relatively steady, the latest data shows that we have experienced an increase in homicides, mirroring a similar national trend.**
 - **Governor Newsom is joining with local governments to launch new partnerships with the California Highway Patrol and reinstate the statewide Retail Taskforce to fight and prevent crime**
 - **Governor Newsom's recent investments are focused on 4 key priorities to reduce gun violence and keep our streets safe: 1) investing in communities, 2) preventing crime before it happens, 3) investigating crimes and focusing on enforcement, and 4) getting guns off our streets.**
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California's recovery is underway, with the state reopened after achieving the most vaccinations in the entire country, and now we're [leading the nation's economic recovery](#). But we still have a long way to go and can't be satisfied with just returning to the way things were. **Governor Newsom's \$100 billion California Comeback Plan is the comprehensive strategy needed to address the state's most persistent challenges and have California come roaring back from this pandemic.**

Among the most basic needs for all Californians is to feel safe at home, at the park, or walking to school. While long-term crime trends in California are down in almost every category, states across America have seen a recent uptick in some violent crimes, particularly those involving a firearm. Governor Newsom believes we must invest in public safety while, at the same time, tackling the root causes of these increases.

Billions have been spent over decades on incarcerating those who perpetrate crime in our communities. But punishment cannot be the only answer. As we pursue nation-leading criminal justice reforms – all with an eye to making our communities safer – a more holistic approach is called for. Governor Newsom's recent investments to prevent and deter crime are focused on **4 key priorities:**

- 1. Investing in our communities**
- 2. Preventing crime before it happens**
- 3. Investigating crimes and focusing on enforcement**
- 4. Getting guns off our streets**

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

- **ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ON OUR STREETS:** It's time to stop asking law enforcement and first responders to be social workers. Governor Newsom is focused on helping back-up law enforcement by approaching mental health as the crisis that it is and providing more behavioral health housing, social workers and mental health experts on calls involving psychiatric crises, homelessness and drug abuse.
 - Investing **\$12 billion in homeless housing and services**, with a particular emphasis on a \$3 billion behavioral health housing initiative to create tens of thousands of new treatment beds for people with serious mental illness.
 - Pushing communities across California to adopt programs like **Laura's Law and conservatorships** to help people with mental health issues.
 - Investing in new first responder models like the **Oakland MACRO program** that supports trained civilians to respond to non-violent emergency calls.
- **ADDRESSING POVERTY AND LACK OF OPPORTUNITY:** Many first-time offenders grow up in poverty and lack opportunity. No administration has invested more in that space. Research shows that education and rehabilitation efforts as well as community-based programs reduce repeat offenses. Governor Newsom is doubling down on initiatives such as:
 - **\$4 billion for universal behavioral health for young people**
 - **Expanding before and after-school programs**
 - **Expanding summer job opportunities like Clean Up California**
- **HELPING FORMERLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE MORE SUCCESSFULLY RE-ENTER SOCIETY:** Governor Newsom is investing in programs to reduce crime by fully funding the Adult Reentry Grant Program to make sure people have the supports they need to leave incarceration and be contributing members of society again.
- **FOCUSING ON REHABILITATION TO PREVENT RECIDIVISM:** The best way to prevent recidivism is to focus on rehabilitation before people are released from prison. Governor Newsom is working to continue effective interventions, including:
 - **Expanded substance use disorder programs** in prison, including integrating medically assisted treatment and reentry services as appropriate.
 - **Expanded re-entry facilities** and investments in rehabilitative programs in prison and the development of therapeutic communities within youth facilities.
 - **Greatly expanded access to college courses** within institutions.
 - **Expanded restorative justice programs such as victim-offender dialogues.**
 - Supported literacy for incarcerated adult students through a **statewide literacy mentorship program** and **assistance to formerly incarcerated individuals seeking to enroll at CSU campuses.**

PREVENTING CRIME BEFORE IT HAPPENS

- **COMMUNITY POLICING:** Governor Newsom believes law enforcement is critical to ensuring public safety, and there is no more important goal than **building trust**

between police officers and the neighborhoods they serve. Community policing – bringing law enforcement and communities together – is the path to accomplishing both. Accountability is critical – but it just can't be an accountability conversation. Law enforcement training and trust are ingredients to ensuring public safety for all our communities.

- **NEW CHP PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT:** Working with local governments, the California Highway Patrol will help to saturate areas with high incidents of violence with in-view patrol to help **prevent crime and increase flexibility and response time should a crime occur.**
- **EXPANDING THE HIGHWAY VIOLENCE TASKFORCE:** HVT was established to enhance public safety by mitigating the upward trend of violent crimes occurring upon California highways. CHP will expand the current taskforce located in the Richmond/Pittsburg corridor to other areas with high numbers of freeway shootings or highway violence. The HVT implements strategies directed at **reducing the frequency of shootings, homicides, assaults, and other violent crimes.**
- **INVESTING MORE THAN EVER IN VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS:** Governor Newsom is investing a **historic \$200 million to expand the CalVIP program** which provides matching grants to community-based violence intervention efforts in communities impacted by group-related shootings and homicides. These programs have become a national model and were most recently lifted up by President Biden in his gun violence prevention plan.

INVESTIGATING AND ENFORCING WHEN CRIME CANNOT BE PREVENTED

- **NEW CHP PARTNERSHIP TO INCREASE PATROLS:** The California Highway Patrol will proactively monitor crime trends using the best available real-time data, and in response, will strategically deploy patrols, regional investigative teams, multi-agency task forces (local and federal), state security program and K-9 officers.
- **RETAIL TASKFORCE TO HELP PREVENT RETAIL THEFT:** Governor Newsom is extending the successful retail task force that helps enforce organized retail theft laws. CHP's Organized Retail Crime Task Force will be extended to January 1, 2026. This will allow CHP to strategically deploy regional teams of investigators who specialize in the investigation of organized retail crime. Specifically, they will:
 - Collaborate with allied law enforcement agencies and district attorneys to **identify and prosecute organized theft rings, recover lost merchandise, and reduce associated crime.**
 - Collaborate with the retail industry to **reduce incidents of theft and strengthen locational safety for shoppers.**
 - Launch a web-based portal for the public and California Retailers to **report tips** directly to the CHP.
 - Continue to partner with allied agencies to offer **specialized training** and general law enforcement assistance related to auto theft and organized retail crimes.
- **SUPPORTING PRE-TRIAL JUSTICE AND SAFETY:** Governor Newsom has invested **\$140 million to promote the safe, efficient, fair, and timely pretrial release of individuals booked into jail**, to provide courts with information and resources to support judicial officers in making pretrial release decisions that impose the least restrictive conditions to address public safety and return to court; and implementation of appropriate monitoring practices and provision of services for released individuals.

GETTING GUNS OFF OUR STREETS

- **KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF DANGEROUS PEOPLE:** Governor Newsom is investing in programs with proven success rates to make sure guns stay out of the hands of violent people.
 - The **Armed and Prohibited Persons Systems (APPS)** database helps keep guns out of the hands of people who are legally prohibited from having them. As of January 1, 2021, the APPS database had 23,598 armed and prohibited persons.
 - **\$10,300,000 is being invested into the Gun Violence Reduction Program** to support county sheriff's departments conducting activities related to the seizure of weapons and ammunition from persons who are prohibited from possessing them, including efforts based upon entries in APPS
- **STRENGTHENING GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS:** Governor Newsom is working to make sure California's nation-leading gun laws -- especially our **Red Flag Law** -- get put to use to protect our communities from dangerous, violent people. This includes:
 - Extending the duration of a gun violence restraining order to a maximum of five years.
 - Expanding the list of individuals eligible to request a gun violence restraining order, including coworkers, and teachers, among others.
 - Holds any person subject to a valid restraining order, injunction, or protective order issued out of state to the same restrictions on buying or possessing firearms in California.
 - Investing \$5 million in the "See Something, Say Something" **red-flag law public awareness campaign**, and advising the public on when and how to seek restraining orders).
 - Increased funding for statewide training programs for all levels of law enforcement on the use of California's red flag laws.
- **REGULATING FIREARM SALES:** Governor Newsom knows that in the absence of Congressional action, California must do more to strengthen regulations around the sale of firearms in California. That's why Governor Newsom has taken action to:
 - **Prohibit the sale of a semiautomatic centerfire rifle** to any person under 21 years of age.
 - **Prevent individuals from selling a large number of firearms without a license.**
 - Accelerate **funding and implement restrictions on the sale of ghost guns.**
- **DEFENDING CALIFORNIA'S ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN:** Governor Newsom continues to support California's ban on assault weapons, established in 1989 after the horrific shooting at Cleveland Elementary, which took the lives of five children. Recently, this law has been challenged in our courts. Despite these challenges, the Governor remains committed to keeping assault style weapons off our streets and has advocated for an assault weapons ban at the national level.
- **REGULATING AMMUNITION SALES:** Governor Newsom has worked hard to ensure that California has some of the nation's strongest laws regulating the sale of ammunition. In 2019, California became the first state in the nation to require point-of-sale background checks to buy ammunition. Although this law is being challenged in court, Governor Newsom is committed to keeping ammunition out of the hands of those who should not have it.