



California Police Chiefs Association

2021 Legislative Priorities

CA Leading the Way



Overview of Legislative Priorities

CPCA will continue to focus on turning our June 2020 **CPCA Platform: CA Leading the Way**, into policy as the main focus of our legislative priorities for the year. We support efforts that will help resolve the socio-economic and racial divides in our country using a holistic approach that incorporates equal education, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, rehabilitation and re-entry services, housing, and vocational opportunities that must be adopted in tandem.

We will also be sponsoring legislative that will create a framework for changing California's approach to recruiting and educating the next generation of peace officers.

Recruitment and Education

Sponsor legislation jointly with PORAC that will:

- Recruit intelligent, measured and diverse officers who are representative of their local communities.
- Prepare the next generation of public safety professionals to meet the needs, requirements and expectations of modern policing.
- Provide a pathway to higher education for qualified candidates who commit to serving their communities as law enforcement professionals.

Protests and First Amendment Protections

CPCA supports the development of policies to facilitate free and lawful expression, de-escalate violence and resolve conflict peacefully with the overall goal of ensuring public safety and protecting First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly.

Officer Decertification and Officer Accountability

CPCA supports officer decertification under specific conditions that will improve the ability for California to ensure that bad cops can no longer work in law enforcement and will work with our partners to promote legislation in this area.

CPCA supports tracking information related to officers that resign in lieu of discipline or termination, or those with multiple sustained complaints/violations.

Officer Involved Shooting Criminal Investigations

CPCA supports creating statewide standards for conducting criminal investigations into OIS incidents that include creating MOU's with neighboring agencies or the District Attorney's office, county wide task force models, and other requirements should the employing agency choose to conduct the investigation.

Transparency

CPCA continues to support the public release of police personnel files for serious use of force resulting in death or great bodily injury, sexual assault, and job-related dishonesty. Expansion of existing law should be balanced with consideration for the economic crisis cities are facing today and should avoid creating new civil fines that unfairly penalize local governments.

Peace Officer Mental Health and Wellness:

CPCA supports funding for programs to improve peace officers' mental health and wellness and supports regular mandatory mental health and wellness checks for peace officers. CPCA also supports prioritizing funding for programs and best practices that have been effective in improving officer resiliency and health.

Training

CPCA supports mandated and regular implicit and racial bias training for all law enforcement, de-escalation training that focuses on alternatives to deadly force and changes in overall training that focus more on cultural and community awareness.

Mental Health

CPCA supports improving law enforcement response to those in crisis – individuals with severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Police are not always the appropriate response and CPCA supports having police look to service providers in many of these cases or respond using highly trained co-deployment teams with capabilities that match the need.

Substance Abuse:

CPCA supports efforts to mandate drug treatment for individuals suffering from substance abuse disorders. CPCA also supports rehabilitative and re-entry programs.

Education:

CPCA supports efforts to close educational achievement gaps by increasing resources to areas historically disadvantaged and increase access to vocational training and job opportunities, including careers in public safety.

Housing:

CPCA supports access to fair housing, which will create core stability for those in need and help reduce the homeless population.