



Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform

The Florida Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform (CCJR) is a nonpartisan coalition dedicated to smart solutions that end over-criminalization, over-incarceration, and racial disparities in Florida without ever compromising public safety. We advocate for proven approaches that will save taxpayer money and keep our communities safer by prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment. Other states have shown that it is possible to reduce incarceration levels, reduce crime rates, and save taxpayers millions of dollars – all at the same time. It’s time for Florida to do justice better.

Why does Florida need the Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform?

For decades, Florida has relied primarily on incarceration as the solution to criminal justice issues, resulting in an extraordinarily harsh system that drives too many people into jails and prisons, costing taxpayers millions without meaningfully increasing public safety. While harsher sentencing was once considered being “tough on crime,” these costly policies have proven ineffective at best, and counterproductive at worst. For example:

- Florida spends more than \$2.4 billion a year to incarcerate nearly 100,000 people – the third-largest state prison population in the U.S.¹
- One in every 132 Floridians is currently locked up in jail or in prison.²
- More children are sent to adult court and prison in Florida than any other state.³
- Florida’s population roughly tripled between 1970 and 2014, but its prison population increased by more than 1,000 percent.⁴
- Florida’s sentence lengths increased 166 percent from 1990 to 2009 – more than any other state.⁵
- Since 2007, 33 states have implemented comprehensive criminal justice reforms. Florida is not one of them.⁶
- Seventy-two percent of Floridians agree that it is important to reform the state’s criminal justice system.⁷
- Florida has the third-lowest monetary threshold for felonies in the country.⁸

Most other states have recognized that mass incarceration is not the best solution to making communities safer. It is time for Florida to become the latest state to implement proven, 21st century solutions by enacting comprehensive criminal justice reforms that improve public safety, save taxpayers’ money, and give Floridians the fair and just criminal justice system they deserve.

60%

of Floridians believe the primary purpose of the criminal justice system is to rehabilitate, not punish.

Join the Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform

Sign up at www.BetterJusticeFL.com
CCJR will send you information about ways to participate in local and statewide coalition efforts.

General requests can be made at contact@betterjusticefl.com

Media requests can be made at media@betterjusticefl.com

¹http://www.dc.state.fl.us/pub/annual/1516/FDC_AR2015-16.pdf

²<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus15.pdf>; <http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/2015/12/22/florida-population-tops-20-million-census-report-says/77739200/>

³<https://www.jamesmadison.org/Library/docLib/2016-Juvenile-Justice-Policy-Brief-21.pdf>

⁴http://reason.org/files/florida_prison_reform.pdf

⁵http://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/legacy/uploadedfiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/reports/sentencing_and_corrections/prisontimeservedpdf.pdf

⁶<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2016/11/33-states-reform-criminal-justice-policies-through-justice-reinvestment>

⁷<http://sunshinestatenews.com/story/strong-majority-floridians-want-criminal-justice-reform-now>

⁸ <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2017/08/09/what-s-the-punishment-for-theft-depends-on-what-state-you-re-in>

FLORIDA CAMPAIGN FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

What can Florida do to improve its criminal justice system?

1. Create safety valves that allow judges sentencing discretion on mandatory minimums. // SB 694, HB 481
2. Raise the monetary threshold for grand theft felony so that it is consistent with other southern states. // SB 928, HB 713
3. Eliminate driver's license suspensions as a form of punishment for non-driving offenses.
4. Reform the money bail system so that people do not sit in jail simply because they are poor and cannot afford bail.
5. Encourage the statewide use of adult civil citation and pre-arrest diversion programs for first-time, low-level misdemeanor offenses.

How can you help us reform Florida's criminal justice system?

Passing comprehensive criminal justice reforms is not an easy task. We need your help. Be vocal and visible. Show your support for criminal justice reform. Whether you post online about your own experiences, advocate for reforms, contact your legislators, or join us at the Capitol, the more vocal and visible you are about your support for change, the more likely we are to pass comprehensive reforms in Florida.