



**BAY AREA** 

# Serial Bay Area shoplifter arrested 90 times

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# THE HOMELESSNESS, DRUG ADDICTION, AND THEFT REDUCTION ACT



#### The Problem

- Since the passage of Proposition 47 in 2014:
  - Reported retail and cargo theft has exploded
  - Homelessness has increased 51% in California
    - Down 11% in rest of country
  - Drug addiction has become a humanitarian crisis
- The consequences are impacting public safety and the quality of life for all Californians
- Cannot fix Prop 47 without going back to ballot



# The Retail and Cargo Theft Problem

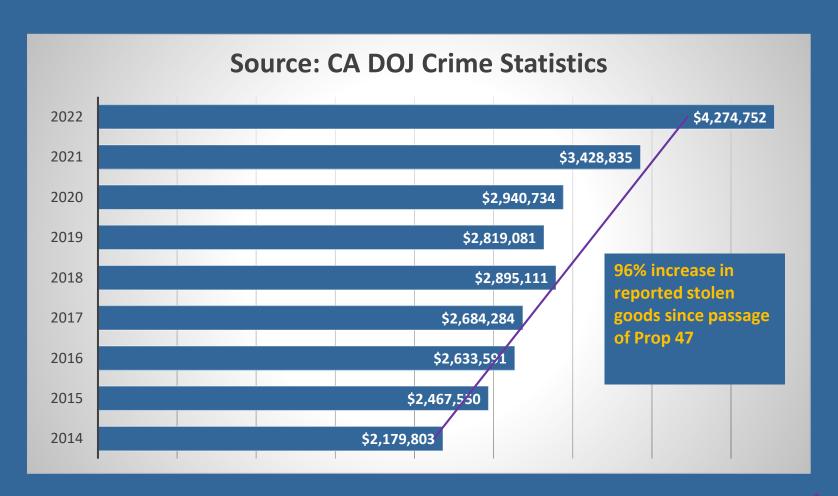


**Sept. 2023** 

- No accountability or deterrence
- Repeat offenders treated as misdemeanors
- Cannot aggregate crimes
- Misdemeanors are low priority
- Only ticket offenses; not booked or are immediately released



# Value of Reported Stolen Goods





### The Risks and Threats for the Retail Industry

Figure 1. Risks and Threats		
Response	<b>2023</b> (more of a priority vs. <u>one</u> year ago)	
Organized retail crime	78.1%	
Violence during a criminal act	72.3%	
Homelessness concerns	72.3%	
External theft (non-ORC related)	68.8%	

<sup>\* 2023</sup> Retail Security Survey-National Retail Federation

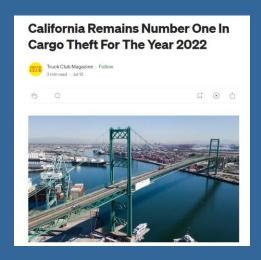
## The Consequences for the Retail Industry

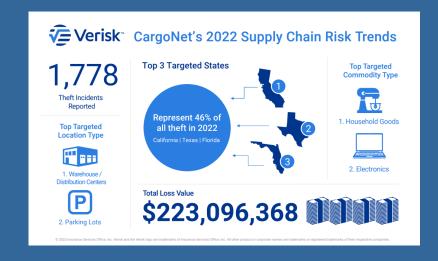
- 45.3% reduced specific store(s) operating hours
- 29.7% reduced or altered in-store product selection(s)
- 28.1% of respondents reported closing specific store location(s)\*

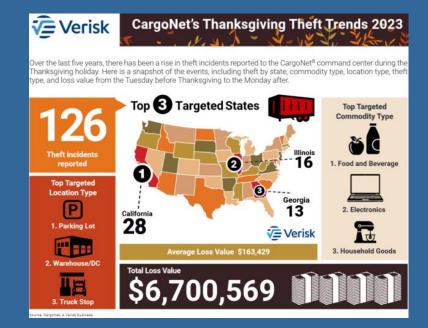
Retailers are seeing unprecedented levels of theft coupled with rampant crime in their stores, and the situation is only becoming more dire. Far beyond the financial impact of these crimes, the violence and concerns over safety continue to be the priority for all retailers, regardless of size or category.

David Johnston,
 National Retail Federation

## The Cargo Theft Problem







56% of strategic cargo thefts took place in CA - LA, San Bernardino, OC and Riverside



#### The Solution

# THE HOMELESSNESS, DRUG ADDICTION, AND THEFT REDUCTION ACT BALLOT INITIATIVE

- Reclassify retail theft with 2 or more prior convictions as a felony
- After 2 hard drug convictions, discretion to charge 3rd hard drug possession as treatment mandated felony
- Address fentanyl crisis by going after fentanyl drug dealers



#### High Voter support

- Fentanyl: 92% believe Fentanyl is a major threat to public safety
- Theft: 84% believe theft is rampant
- Homelessness/Criminal Activity: 82% believe homelessness is rampant and driving criminal behavior



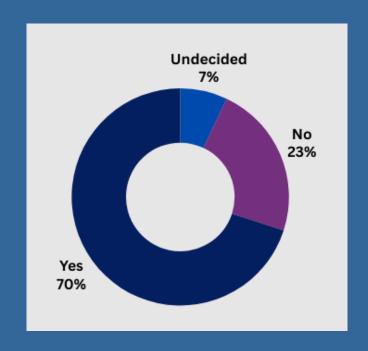


#### **Ballot Title and Summary and Polling**

Please read the **full ballot label** below for this initiative and mark how you would vote if the election were held today:

ALLOWS FELONY CHARGES AND INCREASES SENTENCES FOR CERTAIN DRUG AND THEFT CRIMES. Allows felony charges for possessing certain drugs, including fentanyl, and for thefts under \$950 for defendant with two prior drug or two prior theft convictions, as applicable. Increases sentences for other specified drug and theft crimes. FISCAL NOTE: Increased state and local government costs potentially in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually, offset with potential reductions in state spending for other programs.

After reading the ballot label, please respond if you would vote YES or vote NO on this initiative.



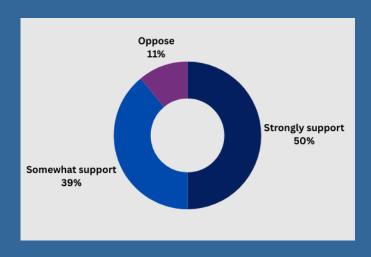
Yes: 70% (32% definitely Yes) No: 23% (9% definitely No)

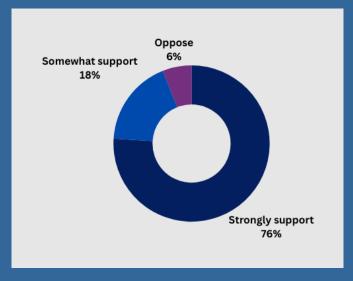
Undecided: 7%



Polling data further indicates 89% of voters support changes to Proposition 47 to allow for stronger penalties for those engaged in the trafficking of hard drugs or for repeat offenders of retail theft.

94% of voters polled overwhelmingly support the addition of fentanyl to existing laws that prohibit the trafficking of large quantities of hard drug the proposed in The Homelessness, Drug Addiction and Theft Reduction Act.



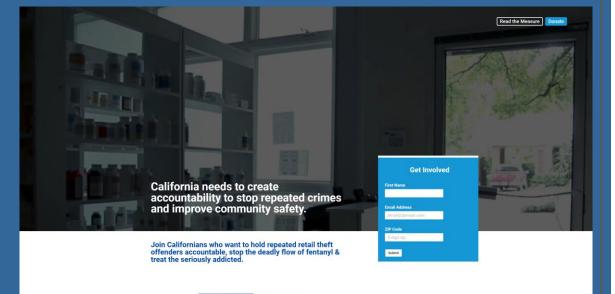


- Two Phases
  - Qualification
  - Campaign
- Qualification Phase: Now-April 30, 2024
  - Need 546,651 valid signatures (950,000 total)
  - Estimated Costs for Qualification: \$7-8 million
- Campaign
  - Estimated Budget: \$5-10 million\*
    - High voter support lowers budget



#### **How to Contribute**

#### https://casafecommunities.com/



#### CALIFORNIANS TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS, DRUG ADDICTION, AND THEFT, sponsored by Golden State Communities and California Retailers Association Secretary of State ID# Pending | EIN 88-3541142

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