



August 18, 2016

Californians to Mend, Not End, the Death Penalty
520 Capitol Mall, Ste. 630
Sacramento, CA 95814
ATTN: Jessica Sweeten, Campaign Coordinator

RE: CPOA POSITIONS ON PROP 62 and PROP 66

Dear Ms. Sweeten,

On behalf of the California Peace Officers' Association (CPOA) and the Board of Directors who earlier this year decided to support the *Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016*, we are pleased to convey our positions on the now ballot-qualified Proposition 62 and Proposition 66.

- Proposition 62, Repeal of California's Death Penalty-**Oppose**
- Proposition 66, Common Sense Reforms to California's Death Penalty-**Support**

CPOA provides progressive leadership for California peace officers of every rank and agency through training, networking, technology advancement, and public policy advocacy. Boasting a membership of several thousand officers and a Board of Directors made up of Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and other law enforcement leaders, this issue is of extreme importance to our membership and to the entire law enforcement profession in California who have taken an honorable oath to protect our streets from violent criminals.

Our association identifies, however, that capital punishment is an extremely sensitive and often personal issue and that sensible arguments of good faith can be made on both sides. It is a system that provides accountability and maintains due process for offenders of the most violent and horrendous crimes in California. The public and law enforcement recognize that the process makes our communities safer by acting as a deterrent and ensures that the most violent criminals will never be released into our communities again. It is for this reason that voters passed Proposition 17 in 1972, which reinstated the death penalty in California.

CPOA also recognizes that proper reforms to the process, such as those outlined in Prop 66, would provide for protections to public safety by ensuring that the worst killers in California receive the proper sentencing, while simultaneously noting that offenders will not spend 30 or more years on death row at the taxpayers' expense. By ensuring that Prop 66 makes null and void any other voter approved measures related to the death penalty, our positions reflect CPOA's desire to keep in place the voter's preference to not lose it as a sentence, while acknowledging that reforms that are sorely needed.

For these reasons, CPOA conveys its positions on these propositions on the attached form. Please let us know if our association can be of any further assistance.

Cordially,

Sheriff Scott Jones
President, California Peace Officers' Association
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department