

# 2019 Legislative Platform & Priorities

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The California Peace Officers' Association (CPOA) is a membership of over 32,000 law enforcement professionals of all jurisdictional levels, representing sworn personnel of all ranks, professional staff and retired peace officers. It is a profession dedicated to maintaining safe and thriving communities across California. In addition to implementing the most innovative and relevant training and leadership development for law enforcement anywhere in the world, our responsibility to the profession means that we have a very large bill load and participate in many legislative issues.

Grouped alphabetically by category, the topics below represent the primary interests of CPOA's advocacy efforts for the 2019 legislative year:

## BEHAVIORAL/MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE

- **Support legislation that expands the treatment of and response to mentally ill persons and inform the Legislature and Governor on the effective mental and behavioral health practices currently being used by law enforcement in California.**
- **Educate the Legislature and Governor on the growing issues associated with the mentally ill, and the increased demand placed on law enforcement to respond to these issues, which include: homelessness, substance abuse and dependency, and unpredictable and potentially harmful behavior towards the public and peace officers.**

## CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- **Inform the Legislature on growing national and local trends related to substance abuse and its correlations to increased homelessness, transiency, and erratic behavior against peace officers and peers.**
- **Oppose legislation that decriminalizes repeated substance use and inform and engage the Legislature and Governor on the public safety impacts of medicinal and recreational cannabis legalization in California.**
- **Oppose legislation that would expunge or otherwise reduce sentences for the most dangerous cannabis crimes, including sales to minors, commercial drug trafficking and driving under the influence of drugs (DUID).**

## CRIMES & CRIMINAL REFORM

- **Oppose any efforts to further decriminalize existing crimes in California or lessen the sentences of any offenses that would result in the early release of serious criminals who could further harm the safety of the public and law enforcement personnel.**
- **Support legislation that combats the growing crime of human trafficking and provide to the legislature details and figures to further understand the scope of human trafficking in California.**
- **Educate and inform the Legislature and Governor on the continuing trend of property crimes that have occurred in the wake of recent criminal justice reforms.**

## DATA REPORTING

- **Engage the Legislature, Governor and California Department of Justice on effective and relevant reporting of local agency data and ensure that any disclosed data be fair and balanced and protects the safety of officers and the public they serve.**

## FUNDING & LOCAL BUDGET CONTROL

- **Support funding initiatives for POST and other law enforcement support organizations.** We will work with Legislative Budget Committees, POST and the Governor's office to ensure ongoing funding is addressed and achieved.
- **Support and encourage legislation and budget negotiations that retain funding for State and local law enforcement agencies to effectively serve their communities.** These needs include behavioral health treatment, local California Public Records Act (CPRA)

processing, development and funding of federal, state and local drug and major crimes task forces, crisis intervention teams, and adequate patrol staffing.

- **Identify opportunities for reimbursements to supplement increased custodial and supervision costs resulting from prison realignment.**
- **Oppose legislation with mandates for local agency adherence to operations and programs that may not be reimbursable by State budget funds.**

## **LEGAL USE OF FORCE**

- **Support evidence-based studies that seek to improve law enforcement tactics and non-lethal force options that ensure both the safety of the public and peace officers.**
- **Work collectively with the office of the California Attorney General to maintain transparency concerning lethal force encounters while concurrently retaining local control of investigations of such incidents.**
- **Oppose legislation that would challenge the use of force standards which are enshrined by federal and state statute and Case Law (e.g. *Graham v. Connor*, *Tennessee v. Garner*, etc.).**

## **LOCAL OPERATIONS**

- **CPOA supports the deployment and research of new and emerging technologies that provide law enforcement with the tools to provide the highest level of service to our communities.**
  - **9-1-1 & Communications**-CPOA supports the development and deployment of enhanced 911 services to allow first responders the ability to respond quickly to the needs of the people of California.
  - **Digital Evidence**-CPOA will engage with the Legislature and Governor on the extreme need for local funding to collect, store and retain large amounts of digital evidence.
  - **Forensics Analysis**-CPOA will engage with the Legislature, Governor and Department of Justice on the critical need to fund and expand forensic laboratory analysis by rape kit, ballistic, latent print and other trace evidence submitted by local agencies, especially those without current forensic analysis capabilities.
  - **Mobile & Body Worn Cameras**-CPOA supports the funding and deployment of mobile cameras in vehicles and for personal wear, funding for the use of secure cloud storage for law enforcement and the development of policies to protect the privacy of the children, students, patients, the innocent, victims and peace officers.
    - Support any body worn camera measures that provide for local agency discretion in the use of equipment and policy and deployment decisions that best serve individual communities and their department.
    - Given the size and diversity of jurisdictions and law enforcement operations in California, CPOA is concerned about any effort to legislative “one-size-fits-all” policies concerning deployment of body worn cameras, and the review, storage, and release of video footage.
    - Support efforts that provide local agencies with the ability to engage with their communities, local district attorneys, and other stakeholders to determine if/when body worn camera video may be released, while preserving privacy rights of Californians and ensuring integrity and due process in the criminal justice system.
  - **New Generation Investigative Technology**-CPOA supports the deployment of new and emerging investigation technology, including unmanned aircraft, and the development of local policies that provides the tools to save abducted children; collect DNA, prevent the exploitation of children and vulnerable adults and prosecute those who violate the rights of any person.
- **CPOA supports transparent government and the role of the California Public Records Act while simultaneously observing and protecting the current Rule of Law in California.**

## **ROLE OF THE PROFESSION**

- **Engage with the Legislature and Governor on proposals that maintain and strengthen the integrity and effectiveness of public safety in California, and oppose any measures intending to weaken the same.**
- **While CPOA recognizes that the law enforcement professional is rapidly changing, CPOA will engage with the Legislature and Governor on, and oppose any legislation that seeks to incorrectly portray, by statute and/or rhetoric, the duties and focuses of California peace officers.**
- **CPOA supports and will educate the Legislature and Governor on evidence and fact-based programs and approaches to public safety policy.**