



2021 Legislative Platform & Priorities

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The California Peace Officers' Association (CPOA) is a non-union organization of more than 22,000 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 2021 legislative year:

BEHAVIORAL/MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE

- Support legislation that expands the treatment of mentally ill persons and inform and educate the Legislature and Governor on the effective mental and behavioral health responses and practices currently being used by law enforcement in California.
- Promote policies and funding to alleviate the serious mental health care challenges in county jails by expediting competency hearings and the placement of mentally ill inmates in mental health care facilities.

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 would expunge or otherwise reduce sentences for the most dangerous **drug** 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 interconnectivity of crimes that have occurred in the wake of recent criminal justice reforms, and dispel any confusion between sentencing impacts and law enforcement's sworn duty to respond to pre-trial violations of the law.

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, **CalOES**, the **California Highway Patrol**, the **Department of Fish & Wildlife**, **DMV**, and other law enforcement support organizations. We will work with Legislative Budget Committees and the Governor's office to ensure ongoing funding is addressed and achieved.
- Support and propose funding for officer wellness initiatives and programs, which ensure that California public safety personnel are well equipped to overcome the stresses and aftermath of their duties and calls for service in their communities.

- **Support funding for agency access to professional defensive tactics and practices, which better ensure the safety of public safety personnel and the public they swore an oath to protect from violent and unpredictable situations.**
- **Ensure local funding for agency compliance on any NLETS, CLETS, 9-1-1, or data tracking mandates.**
- **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, and oppose any efforts to challenge any force that is reasonably necessary given the totality of circumstances known to or perceived by officers at the time the force is applied.**
- **Work collectively with the office of the California Attorney General to maintain transparency concerning lethal force encounters while concurrently retaining local control of initial investigations of such incidents.**

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 as well as secure appropriate legal access to such 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.
 - Expand availability and funding for rapid DNA analyses for mass casualty incidents and to help resolve cold cases and major crime investigations.
 - **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, training and effectiveness of public safety in California, and oppose any measures intending to weaken the same or equate it to incident responses outside of California.**
- **While CPOA recognizes that the law enforcement profession 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.**