



It's Time to End the Death Penalty in Santa Clara County

What you don't know about the death penalty may surprise you.

Most people are surprised to learn that sentencing someone to execution costs a county far more than permanent incarceration. A recent report found that a trial seeking execution in California costs at least \$1.1 million *more* than a trial seeking permanent imprisonment, also called “life without parole.”¹

- Many people are also unaware that the death penalty costs the state millions more than permanent imprisonment. The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice found that housing and processing appeals for all those on death row costs California taxpayers \$137 million each year. If all 680 inmates were sentenced to permanent imprisonment instead of execution, it would only cost \$11 million each year, a savings of \$128 million.
- Some people are also surprised to learn that since 1973, 135 people have been freed from death row in this country based on evidence that they were in fact innocent. The conviction of innocent people and other problems with the death penalty have led a majority of nations, most major religions, and now 15 states in the U.S. to reject the death penalty.² The District Attorney in San Francisco has rejected the death penalty in favor of other alternatives, allowing her to invest in proven violence prevention programs.

Now that we know, what should we do? Pass a Resolution!

The Santa Clara County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty asks organizations, religious congregations and community groups to adopt a resolution calling for:

- 1) The District Attorney of Santa Clara County to pursue alternatives to the death penalty; and
- 2) The District Attorney and the Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara County to reprioritize the use of their limited resources in order to solve homicides, prevent violence and implement effective public safety programs.

Attached is a draft resolution, which will also be published on the website. The reasons for adopting the resolution may vary for each group. Thus, groups may modify the preamble (“whereas” statements). We ask that each resolution call for the two solutions stated above.

The Coalition will gather these resolutions to present to county officials. By adopting a resolution, you will be adding your group's voice to the call for change in policy on this critical issue.

The Coalition can provide speakers to address your group, as well as additional fact sheets and background information. For more information, please contact Monique Pham at ACLU of Northern CA, scccadp@aclunc.org, (408) 282-8970.

¹ See The Hidden Death Tax, a Report by the ACLU-NC, available at http://www.aclunc.org/docs/criminal_justice/death_penalty/The_Hidden_Death_Tax.pdf

² See Death Penalty Information Center, www.deathpenaltyinfo.org (innocence, religion, world views).



Resolution for an End to Death Sentences in Santa Clara County

Whereas government spending is being cut, and school and public safety budgets are being slashed;

Whereas the death penalty costs much more than the alternative of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole;

Whereas there is a risk of executing an innocent person; and

Whereas the death penalty is applied unfairly.

Believing that it is time for public safety priorities to change in Santa Clara County, we
_____ **(insert organization name), therefore call on:**

- 1) The District Attorney of Santa Clara County to pursue alternatives to the death penalty; and
- 2) The District Attorney and the Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara County to reprioritize the use of their limited resources in order to solve homicides, prevent violence and implement effective public safety programs.

Organization:

Contact Person:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone & Email:

Date:

Please send completed resolutions to:

**Santa Clara County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (SCCCADP)
111 N. Market Street, Suite 940
San Jose, CA 95113**

Contact: Monique Pham, scccadp@aclunc.org, 408-282-8970