

**Peripheral California Positions
Analysis of Gaps re: Criminal Justice**

The California League does not have a comprehensive position on Criminal Justice and instead relies on the list of peripheral positions below for action on legislative reforms.

In order to shape a proposal for concurrence at the 2019 state convention, our task force is compiling all League positions and study materials on Criminal Justice Reforms such as: use of force, police-community relations, bail, prosecution, sentencing, prisons, reentry programs, and felon voting rights. It is equally important for our task force to consider where the current positions that California has come to rely on for action fall short, so that our pending proposal may adequately address these concerns.

This document is intended to record information on where California's existing positions create gaps for League action on Criminal Justice Reforms. In other words, in what circumstances do the positions below fail to apply to the broader application of criminal justice reform?

(S) = State

(N) = National

Issue:	Analysis of Gaps:	Summary:	Joanne & Helen Notes:
<p>Juvenile Justice (S) https://lwvc.org/position/juvenile-justice-and-dependency</p>	<p>Framework position for our proposal.</p> <p>This fails to address equity of justice for adults; no focus incarcerated women/family issues; or re-entry.</p>	<p>Support a juvenile justice/dependency system that works to prevent abuse, neglect and delinquency, that serves foster children and their families, and that rehabilitates offenders...</p>	
<p>Individual Liberties (N) https://lwvc.org/position/individual-liberties</p>	<p>Can this be applied to Criminal Justice and where are the limitations: use of force; bail reform; re-entry?</p>	<p>Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.</p>	<p>This could potentially be used for use of force and bail reform; maybe for re-entry -- but not sure (Helen)</p>

<p>Intergovernmental Relations (S) https://lwvc.org/position/intergovernmental-relationships</p>	<p>Can this be applied to Criminal Justice and where are the limitations: Right to know when deadly force is used; police abuse as public record; accountability at all levels of prosecution; statewide/national database for DNA?</p>	<p>Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public.</p>	<p>Probably not applicable; this position has to do with coordinating work between levels of government -- city/county/regional/state/national -- more than applied at a specific level (Helen)</p>
<p>Children and Family Issues Action Policy (S) https://lwvc.org/position/children-and-family-issues-action-policy</p>	<p>Can this be applied to Criminal Justice and where are the limitations: Women's incarceration when they are the primary caregiver, visitation access, re-entry</p>	<p>Support policies and programs that promote the well being, development and safety of all children.</p>	<p>This is a potential use -- to ensure that the children of the incarcerated are taken care of in a safe, nurturing environment (Helen)</p>
<p>Equality of Opportunity (N) https://lwvc.org/position/equality-opportunity</p>	<p>Can this be applied to Criminal Justice and where are the limitations: bail reform; women's health?</p>	<p>Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. Education, Employment and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment and housing.</p>	<p>Probably not applicable: this position deals with employment, education, and housing (Helen)</p> <p>Maybe re-entry when there is employment or housing discrimination. (J)</p>

<p>Immigration (N) https://lwvc.org/position/immigration</p>	<p>Can this be applied to Criminal Justice and where are the limitations: Use of Force; sanctuary state issues; Re-directing state resources for federal prosecution?</p>	<p>Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.</p>	<p>Yes; the immigration position is definitely one we can use (Helen)</p>
<p>Meeting Basic Human Need (N) https://lwvc.org/position/meeting-basic-human-needs</p>	<p>Can this be applied to Criminal Justice and where are the limitations: women's health in prisons; use of force when disability/mental health issues; Right to qualified Counsel for poor?</p>	<p>Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.</p>	<p>The only part that I see that applies is access to health care (Helen) Maybe basic/remedial education and job training as part of re-entry services. (J)</p>
<p>Sentencing Policy (N) https://lwvc.org/position/sentencing-policy</p>	<p>Can this be applied to Criminal Justice and where are the limitations: Non-violent crimes, alternatives to incarceration</p>	<p>The League of Women Voters believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the</p>	<p>Narrow focus on drug sentencing and does not apply to criminal justice prosecution in broader sense. It possibly could be</p>

		<p>circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.</p>	<p>reworded to apply to all sentencing and then adopted as a California position (Helen)</p>
<p>Urban Policy (N) https://lwvc.org/position/urban-policy</p>	<p>Can this be applied to Criminal Justice and where are the limitations: Mass incarceration, Re-entry</p>	<p>Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.</p>	<p>Probably not applicable; position is about federal aid to cities (Helen)</p>
<p>Violence Prevention (N) https://lwvc.org/position/violence-prevention</p>	<p>Can this be applied to Criminal Justice and where are the limitations: Use of force, hate crimes, bias policing, prison solitary, gangs in prison, mental health rehabilitation,</p>	<p>Support violence prevention programs in communities.</p>	<p>I think it is applicable (Helen)</p> <p>I would say used carefully. Hate crimes, bias, gangs probably. (J)</p>
<p>Military Policy and Defense Spending (N) https://lwvc.org/position/military-policy-and-defense-spending</p>	<p>Can this be applied to Criminal Justice and where are the limitations: Local police purchase/use of military grade weapons</p>	<p>Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.</p>	<p>The position is really aimed at the federal government. We'd have to ask whether we could apply it to local purchases of military weapons & equipment (Helen)</p> <p>Needs a national position, some local policies were overridden (J)</p>

<p>Health care (N) https://lwvc.org/position/health-care</p>		<p>Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.</p>	<p>This can be used to support access to basic health care for everyone (Helen)</p>
<p>Mental health care (S) https://lwvc.org/position/mental-health-care</p>		<p>Support an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management.</p>	<p>This can be used to support comprehensive mental health care, including preventative care and comprehensive case management (Helen)</p>