



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
11.		Favor	Alexandra Trantham	
			Chad Navarro	I am writing in favor of this motion because I received a LARRP action alert and I learned about what this bill would do and I totally support it. Jails are cruel and backwards and sending fewer people to jails and prisons would be a huge win for us! Strongly support this bill and the motion for LA to work on it.
			Charles Vignola	<p>Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>My name is Charles Vignola, and I am reaching out to signal the support of Item 11 by the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership, LARRP. I am writing to support the board's motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program, and directing the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento.</p> <p>LARRP is a proud co-sponsor of AB 1231, and as the largest network of reentry services providers in LA, we are proud to stand alongside our community to advocate for and support the push for expanded and statewide diversion services.</p> <p>Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies that invest in people and pathways to stability, not solely punishment and incarceration. AB 1231 will give judges the option to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care while the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program will resource these local services that build people up, producing better outcomes than incarceration.</p> <p>Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability. In California, participating in diversion programs and services has been shown to help reduce recidivism when compared to people leaving state prisons. This is especially true for people engaging in job training services.</p> <p>In Los Angeles, service providers are facing critical workforce shortages. The "Jails to Jobs" pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address this challenge by training the next generation of community health workers .</p> <p>At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in the wake of the January fires, "Jails to Jobs" can also connect participants to</p>



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	<p>specialized training in areas such as fire recovery navigation and construction trades ensuring that we have the workforce to rebuild our communities</p> <p>The Board of Supervisors has made important commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a "care first" vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a "care first" approach.</p> <p>We therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote "YES" to support this motion and direct county resources to ensure AB 1231 and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot's success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Should you have any questions please reach out at troyvaughn@lareentry.org.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Troy Vaughn Co-Founder & Executive Director, Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership</p>
Emily Caesar	
Eric Salow	LARRP and my organization, Santa Clarita Youth Voters, support this bill and work!
Fatima Malik	
helen eigenberg	
Kristian M Huling	Please see attached letter on behalf of SEIU 721 President and Executive Director David Green
Maria Casillas	
Maria Jose Vides	
Meredith Gallen	
Norma Palacios	<p>Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>On behalf of the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), I write in support of Agenda Item 11: Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary).</p> <p>We are a proud co-sponsor and supporter of Assembly Bill (AB) 1231, authored by Assemblymember Sade Elhawary, which would allow judges to consider offering diversion programs to people charged with low-level felonies tailored programs that address their underlying needs - substance use disorders, mental health challenges, and poverty.</p>



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DPA is the leading organization in the U.S. working to address the harms of drug use and drug criminalization. We advocate for a holistic approach to drugs that prioritizes health, equity, social supports and community wellbeing. Rather than punitive responses to drug use, the state should invest in evidence-based health interventions for people who use drugs, their families, and their communities.

Diversion is far more effective than criminalization and incarceration and provides meaningful opportunities to obtain beneficial services. It is effective because diversion can provide access to programs designed according to individualized needs through case management, outpatient behavioral and healthcare services, substance use disorder treatment, and vocational training. This tool also helps avoid the harmful consequences of criminal records, which make it significantly more difficult to obtain or keep stable employment and housing, and stable relationships with family. In the case of immigrants, pre-plea diversion can help avoid the devastating consequences of deportation and permanent family separation.

Los Angeles County's jail system is the largest in the nation and houses a large number of people with behavioral health needs. Once incarcerated, individuals have little access to evidence-based treatment and their health may be worsened by a jail setting. Exposing people who are struggling with substance use to jail even for short periods of time can be deadly, and disrupt their health and social supports. An investigating report in 2024 revealed that drug overdoses are among the top three causes of death in California Jails and it's estimated that more than 2,700 people have died in jails from 2005 to 2023. AB 1231 would provide a pathway through which people can access substance use services and improve their stability, instead of being trapped in a jail cell without adequate resources.

Specifically, under the bill, after consulting with prosecutors and other key stakeholders, judges may approve a diversion plan crafted in conjunction with defense counsel, a social worker, or other service providers, and the court would review regular reports from the entity managing the program or treatment. Judges are instructed to prioritize people over the age of 55 and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, since they are groups that merit particular consideration. These populations make up all too high a proportion of the jail populations and have low risks of reoffending with appropriate services.

AB 1231 (Elhawary) includes important safeguards, particularly by ensuring that the proposed diversion plan mitigates any unreasonable risk of danger to the community. The pre-plea diversion is limited to lower level, non-violent felony charges including felony vandalism, some financial fraud offenses, unlicensed contractor offenses, and low-level theft and drug charges. AB 1231 targets offenses which are served in county jail, the vast majority of which face sentences for no more than three years. Offering pre-trial diversion programs and services will mitigate social and financial harms for those incarcerated and their families and save taxpayer dollars for criminal



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and correctional system expenditures.

The bill also would also ensure accountability by requiring compliance with conditions set by the court and flexibility by authorizing the court to design the plan in accordance with the strength and needs of the person and based on recommendations curated by the individual themselves, a social worker, behavioral health workers, or healthcare professional. This bill keeps communities safe, gets Californians back into the workforce or connected with needed behavioral health services, and lowers costs to the state.

We therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote "YES" and support Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the budget request to fund the "Jails to Jobs" employment training and case management pilot program in Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

Norma Palacios
Policy Coordinator
Drug Policy Alliance

Norma Palacios

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

I write on behalf of the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) in support of Agenda Item 11: Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary).

We are a proud co-sponsor and supporter of Assembly Bill (AB) 1231, authored by Assemblymember Sade Elhawary, which would allow judges to consider offering diversion programs to people charged with low-level felonies tailored programs that address their underlying needs - substance use disorders, mental health challenges, and poverty.

DPA is the leading organization in the U.S. working to address the harms of drug use and drug criminalization. We advocate for a holistic approach to drugs that prioritizes health, equity, social supports and community wellbeing. Rather than punitive responses to drug use, the state should invest in evidence-based health interventions for people who use drugs, their families, and their communities.

Diversion is far more effective than criminalization and incarceration and provides meaningful opportunities to obtain beneficial services. It is effective because diversion can provide access to programs designed according to individualized needs through case management, outpatient behavioral and healthcare services, substance use disorder treatment, and vocational training. This tool also helps avoid the harmful consequences of criminal records, which make it significantly more difficult to obtain or keep stable employment and housing, and stable relationships with family. In the case of immigrants, pre-plea diversion can help avoid the devastating consequences of deportation and permanent family separation.



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AB 1231 (Elhawary) includes important safeguards, particularly by ensuring that the proposed diversion plan mitigates any unreasonable risk of danger to the community. The pre-plea diversion is limited to lower level, non-violent felony charges including felony vandalism, some financial fraud offenses, unlicensed contractor offenses, and low-level theft and drug charges. AB 1231 targets offenses which are served in county jail, the vast majority of which face sentences for no more than three years. Offering pre-trial diversion programs and services will mitigate social and financial harms for those incarcerated and their families and save taxpayer dollars for criminal and correctional system expenditures.

The bill also would also ensure accountability by requiring compliance with conditions set by the court and flexibility by authorizing the court to design the plan in accordance with the strength and needs of the person and based on recommendations curated by the individual themselves, a social worker, behavioral health workers, or healthcare professional. This bill keeps communities safe, gets Californians back into the workforce or connected with needed behavioral health services, and lowers costs to the state.

We therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote "YES" and support Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the budget request to fund the "Jails to Jobs" employment training and case management pilot program in Los Angeles County.

Thank you for your consideration.

				Sincerely, Norma Palacios Policy Coordinator Drug Policy Alliance
			Stacey Byrnes	Please pass this important pro-community bill, aimed at rehabilitation and anti-recidivism
			Tyrique Shipp	<p>My name is Tyrique Shipp, and I serve as a Probation Oversight Commissioner, but today I am speaking in my capacity as the Advocacy Associate at the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. I strongly support the motion to advocate for Assembly Bill 1231 and the funding request for the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program.</p> <p>Expanding diversion opportunities for individuals charged with low-level, non-violent offenses is a necessary step toward reducing recidivism and ensuring that people have access to the resources they need to succeed. Evidence shows that diversion programs—especially those that provide job training, education, and behavioral health services—are far more effective at preventing reoffending than incarceration. By keeping individuals out of jails and connecting them with services in their communities, we are not only improving their chances of success but also strengthening public safety.</p> <p>With Proposition 36 increasing the number of people facing felony convictions and potential jail time, it is more critical than ever to provide alternatives that align with the County's "Care First, Jails Last" commitment. The "Jails to Jobs" pilot program will create essential employment opportunities for justice-involved individuals while also addressing community needs, such as disaster relief and infrastructure support. This is a smart investment in both public safety and economic stability.</p> <p>I urge the Board to support this motion and ensure that Los Angeles County leads the way in creating pathways to rehabilitation, employment, and community reintegration. Thank you.</p>
			Yesenia Padilla	
		Item Total	16	
Grand Total			16	

March 18, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:
Supervisor Mitchell
Supervisor Solis
Supervisor Horvath
Supervisor Hahn
Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Agenda Item 11: Motion, Entitled, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Maria Jose (MJ) Vides. I am a senior program associate with Vera California, a local initiative of the Vera Institute of Justice, which is a national organization working to end mass incarceration, protect immigrants’ rights, and build safe, thriving communities. I am also a resident of District 2. **I am writing to support the board’s motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program.**

Vera California has participated in numerous county workgroups to build safety, accountability and justice in Los Angeles, including the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Workgroup, the Men’s Central Jail (MCJ) Closure Workgroup, and the Jail Population Review Council. In those roles, we have seen firsthand the need for Los Angeles County to remain committed to the “care first, jails last” vision as our north star so that we invest in alternatives to incarceration and in ensuring that every Angeleno has the safety they deserve and access to the services they need.

Both AB 1231 (Elhawary) and the Jails to Jobs pilot program offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing our reliance on incarceration, while strengthening the workforce, boosting the local economy, and enhancing community safety.¹ AB 1231 (Elhawary) will give judges new tools to offer people charged with nonviolent, low-level offenses the opportunity for pretrial diversion, which can include job skills training or community-based behavioral healthcare services.² Additionally, as more permanent residents and DACA recipients face deportation for minor felonies as a result of an extreme federal anti-immigrant agenda, judicial diversion offers people a second chance rather than punishing them with removal to potentially life threatening conditions, keeping families and communities together without compromising safety.

In tandem with AB 1231, the “Jails to Jobs” pilot would employ social workers within the Public Defender’s Office and case managers and healthcare workers through the Department of Economic Opportunity to connect people eligible for diversion to comprehensive job training in healthcare and disaster recovery, including construction trades.

Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system.³ Research shows that diversion programs that incorporate job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral

healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability for individuals and their families.⁴ It is also cost-effective compared to the astronomical cost of jails in Los Angeles.⁵

At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in behavioral health and construction trades.⁶ In the wake of the January fires, these trained professionals are exactly who we need to help rebuild Los Angeles— skilled construction workers, debris removal crews, and behavioral health providers for fire survivors. The “Jails to Jobs” program can address this shortage by training participants in specialized fields and ensuring that we have the workforce to we need rebuild our communities and a more resilient Los Angeles. If we fund rebuilding without investing in our own workforce, we will be forced to hire workers from out of town and out of state at a great cost.

For safety, justice, and the prosperity of Los Angeles, we therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote “YES” to support this motion, which will help ensure AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot’s success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Vera’s experts and researchers would be glad to provide more information or answer questions about AB 1231 or the “Jails to Jobs” legislative budget request—you can contact me at mvides@vera.org.

Sincerely,



Maria Jose (MJ) Vides
Senior Program Associate
Vera California

¹ On the benefits of diversion broadly, see Akhi Johnson and Mustafa Ali-Smith, “Diversion Programs, Explained,” Vera Institute of Justice, April 28, 2022, <https://www.vera.org/diversion-programs-explained>.

² California State Assembly, “AB-1231 Criminal procedure: felony diversion,” 2025-2026 session, https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1231.

³ Leah Wang and Wanda Bertram, “New data on formerly incarcerated people’s employment reveal labor market injustices.” Prison Policy Initiative, February 8, 2022, <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2022/02/08/employment>; and Erica Bryant, “The United States Criminalizes People Who Need Health Care and Housing,” Vera, October 17, 2023, <https://www.vera.org/news/the-united-states-criminalizes-people-who-need-health-care-and-housing>.

⁴ Tianyin Yu, “Employment and Recidivism: Continued Evidence-Based Education,” EBP Society, January 30, 2018, <https://www.ebpsociety.org/blog/education/297-employment-recidivism>; and Aaron Yelowitz and Christopher Bollinger, Prison-To-Work The Benefits of Intensive Job-Search Assistance for Former Inmates (New York: Manhattan Institute, 2015), <https://manhattan.institute/article/new-report-enhanced-job-placement-programs-reduce-recidivism-rates-among-non-violent-offenders>. **Further, highly promising data out of California shows that the recidivism rate is substantially higher for people leaving state prison (41.9 percent) than for people who participate instead in diversion programs and services (15.3 percent).** See California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), *Recidivism Report for Individuals Released From The California Department Of Corrections And Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2018-19* (Sacramento, CA: CDCR, 2024), 7, <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2024/02/Statewide-Recidivism-Report-for-Individuals-Released-in-Fiscal-Year-2018-19.pdf>; and State Of California Board Of State And Community Corrections (BSCC), *Proposition 47 Cohort II Statewide Evaluation* (Sacramento, CA: BSCC, 2024), <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Attachment-D-2-Proposition-47-Cohort-2-Final-Evaluation-Report-FINAL.pdf>.

⁵ Vera Institute of Justice, *Care First: Ending Mass Incarceration in L.A.* (New York: Vera, 2021), <https://vera-advocacy-and-partnerships.s3.amazonaws.com/ca/Care%20First%20LA.pdf>.

⁶ Jaclyn Cosgrove, “To address homelessness crisis, L.A. County needs mental health workers, fast,” Los Angeles Times, Oct. 28, 2023, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-10-28/la-county-mental-health-jobs-hiring>. Shannon Sedgwick, Juan Madrigal, Eric Hayes, et al. *The Construction Industry in the Los Angeles Basin: An Industry with Growing “Middle-Skill” Workforce Shortages* (California: Center For A Competitive Workforce, 2020), https://ccw.losangelescsc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CCW-Construction_Full_Report_FINAL2.pdf.



1200 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 600, Los Angeles, CA 90017

February 18, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

Supervisor Mitchell

Supervisor Solis

Supervisor Horvath

Supervisor Hahn

Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Agenda Item 11: Motion, Entitled, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Yesenia Padilla, I am a resident of Supervisorial District 5. I am the communications director of LA Voice. I am writing to support the board’s motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program, and directing the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento.

LA Voice is a multi-racial, multi-faith community organization that awakens people to their own power, training them to speak, act, and work together to transform our County into one that reflects the dignity of all people. As such, we believe that our justice system should focus on prevention and rehabilitation, not the punitive policies of punishment and incarceration we know do not work.

As people of faith, our many traditions call on us to honor each person’s innate dignity, and to work for justice and peace. Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies that invest in people and pathways to stability, not solely punishment and incarceration. AB 1231 will give judges the option to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care while the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program will resource these local services that build people up, producing better outcomes than incarceration.

Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability. In California, participating in diversion programs and services has been shown to [help](#)

[reduce recidivism](#) when [compared to people leaving state prisons](#). This is especially true for people engaging in job training services.

In Los Angeles, service providers are facing critical workforce shortages. The “Jails to Jobs” pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address this challenge by training the next generation of community health workers .

At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in the wake of the January fires, “Jails to Jobs” can also connect participants to specialized training in areas such as fire recovery navigation and construction trades ensuring that we have the workforce to rebuild our communities

The Board of Supervisors has made important commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a “care first” vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a “care first” approach.

We therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote “YES” to support this motion and direct county resources to ensure AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot’s success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Should you have any questions please reach out at Yesenia@lavoice.org.

Sincerely,

Yesenia Padilla
Communications Director
LA Voice



An Inter-League organization: • Beach Cities • East San Gabriel Valley • Long Beach Area • Greater Los Angeles • Mt. Baldy Area • Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier

March 17, 2025

Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: Agenda Item 11 – Motion to Support Assembly Bill 1231 and Jails to Jobs Pilot Program: "Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies"

Dear Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County (LWVLAC), we are writing to express our strong support for Item 11 on your March 18, 2025, agenda, urging advocacy in favor of Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the Jails to Jobs pilot program. We commend Supervisors Hahn and Horvath for bringing this motion forward and urge the Board to adopt it.

Our support joins a broad coalition of community organizations committed to advancing Los Angeles County's Care First, Jails Last vision. Together, we can continue reducing reliance on incarceration while strengthening our local economy and workforce.

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County aligns with the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) and the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) in supporting reforms that promote a just, effective, and equitable criminal justice system, one that eliminates systemic bias and invests in community-based alternatives to incarceration.

1. Criminal Justice Reform & Community-Based Alternatives

AB 1231 offers judges the ability to divert people charged with low-level, non-violent felonies to community-based programs that focus on job skills training and behavioral healthcare. The Jails to Jobs pilot complements this effort by creating pathways to employment in critical industries such as healthcare, disaster recovery, and construction trades.

This approach aligns with the LWVC's Criminal Justice Reform position, which supports alternatives to incarceration and programs that promote rehabilitation and reentry.

2. Reducing Recidivism & Promoting Economic Equity

The League supports policies that reduce recidivism and promote self-sufficiency. Both AB 1231 and the Jails to Jobs pilot program address barriers to employment for system-

impacted individuals, consistent with LWVUS' Meeting Basic Human Needs and Equality of Opportunity positions.


3. **Advancing the County's "Care First, Jails Last" Vision**

The Board of Supervisors has committed to a Care First, Jails Last vision for Los Angeles County. AB 1231 and the Jails to Jobs pilot are crucial to realizing that vision by reducing reliance on incarceration and providing meaningful opportunities for rehabilitation and economic stability.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt Item 11, support AB 1231, and champion the Jails to Jobs pilot program through the legislative process in Sacramento. These efforts will create a stronger, safer, and more equitable Los Angeles County.

Thank you for your leadership on these critical issues. We are available to provide additional information or support as needed.

Sincerely,



Margo A. Reeg, President
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

cc: Fatima Malik, Vice President, Action and Advocacy Chair, LWV Los Angeles County



P.O. Box 862007
Los Angeles, CA 90086
lapubdefunion@gmail.com
Local148.org

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:
Supervisor Mitchell
Supervisor Solis
Supervisor Horvath
Supervisor Hahn
Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Agenda Item 11: Motion, Entitled, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Local 148, residents of each and every district in LA County, we are writing to support the board’s motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program, and directing the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento.

Local 148 is a union representing over 600 attorneys at the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office. Our members proudly represent people accused of crimes in the 26 criminal courthouses throughout Los Angeles County.

Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies that invest in people and pathways to stability, not solely punishment and incarceration. AB 1231 will give judges the option to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care while the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program will resource these local services that build people up, producing better outcomes than incarceration.

Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability. In California, participating in diversion programs and services has been shown to [help reduce recidivism](#) when [compared to people leaving state prisons](#). This is especially true for people engaging in job training services.

President
Brooke Longuevan
Vice President
Ruby Mejia
Second Vice President
Alex Trantham

Treasurer
Lydia Marquez
Secretary
Zoë Juarez
DPD IV Director
Karl Fenske

DPD III Director
Jessica Arteaga
DPD II Director
Michal David
DPD I Director
Ambrose Sheela

At-Large Member
Avneet Chattha
At-Large Member
Eric Lofgren



P.O. Box 862007

Los Angeles, CA 90086

lapubdefunion@gmail.com

Local148.org

In Los Angeles, service providers are facing critical workforce shortages. The “Jails to Jobs” pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address this challenge by training the next generation of community health workers .

At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in the wake of the January fires, “Jails to Jobs” can also connect participants to specialized training in areas such as fire recovery navigation and construction trades ensuring that we have the workforce to rebuild our communities

The Board of Supervisors has made important commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a “care first” vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a “care first” approach.

We therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote “YES” to support this motion and direct county resources to ensure AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot’s success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Should you have any questions please reach out at alex.trantham@local148.org.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Trantham
Vice President
Local 148

President
Brooke Longuevan

Vice President
Ruby Mejia

Second Vice President
Alex Trantham

Treasurer
Lydia Marquez

Secretary
Zoë Juarez

DPD IV Director
Karl Fenske

DPD III Director
Jessica Arteaga

DPD II Director
Michal David

DPD I Director
Ambrose Sheela

At-Large Member
Avneet Chattha

At-Large Member
Eric Lofgren



March 17, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

Supervisor Mitchell

Supervisor Solis

Supervisor Horvath

Supervisor Hahn

Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Agenda Item 11: Motion, Entitled, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Reentry Health Advisory Collaborative (RHAC), I am writing in support of the board’s motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program and directing the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento. The RHAC represents 4 out of 5 Supervisorial Districts and has served as a formal committee representing the voices and leadership of formerly incarcerated individuals and their communities within county systems and justice programming.

Systemic violence, generational trauma, financial insecurity, chronic disease, mental illness, and substance use dependencies are some of the issues that impact the justice-involved population, which reflects the intersectional complex health and social needs of communities across the County of Los Angeles, the state, and the nation. Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies investing in people and pathways to stability, not just punishment and incarceration. AB 1231 will allow judges to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care. The “Jails to Jobs” pilot program will resource these local services that build people up, producing better outcomes than incarceration.

Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability. In California, participating in diversion programs and services has been shown to [help reduce recidivism](#) when [compared to people leaving state prisons](#). This is especially true for people engaging in job training services.



In Los Angeles, service providers are facing critical workforce shortages. The “Jails to Jobs” pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address this challenge by training the next generation of community health workers.

At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in the wake of the January fires, “Jails to Jobs” can also connect participants to specialized training in areas such as fire recovery navigation and construction trades, ensuring that we have the workforce to rebuild our communities.

The Board of Supervisors has made significant commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a “care first” vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a “care first” approach.

The RHAC, therefore, urges the Board of Supervisors to vote “YES” to support this motion and direct county resources to ensure AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot’s success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Should you have any questions, please reach out at larhac@googlegroups.com.

Sincerely,

Maria Casillas
RHAC Chair
Los Angeles Reentry Health Advisory Collaborative



March 18, 2025

Via email

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: In Support of Board Agenda Item 11, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We write in support of the revised motion by Supervisors Hahn and Horvath, which, if passed, will direct the CEO’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of AB 1231 and the related budget request for the “Jails to Jobs” pilot.

LA County Needs More Opportunities for Diversion

The LA County jails are overcrowded. As the Office of the Inspector General wrote in the most recent quarterly report, “Overcrowding in the Los Angeles County Jails continues to jeopardize the ability of the Sheriff’s Department to provide humane conditions of confinement as required by the Eighth and Fourteenth amendments to the U.S. Constitution.”¹ The County, Correctional Health Services, and the Los Angeles County Sheriffs’ Department (LASD) remain out of compliance with a multitude of court orders in the County Jails. Litigation costs continue to climb, with the County paying out just under \$100 million in litigation expenses related to suits against LASD in 2024. LA County needs help, and AB 1231 will offer the courts another avenue to divert people out of jail and into programs that have a chance at reducing recidivism and getting people housing and help with mental health needs.

The County is in its tenth year of attempted compliance with the U.S. Department of Justice Consent Decree.² The ACLU of Southern California (ACLU SoCal) serves as class counsel in suits against the County, CHS, and LASD that have been post-judgment or settlement for over ten years (*Johnson*³ and *Rosas*⁴) and over 40 years (*Rutherford v. Luna*⁵). The County will not be able to achieve compliance with the orders in these cases without reducing the population of the LA County Jail. If compliance could be achieved at the present population level, the County would have done it already. There are simply too many people in jail for medical staff to treat, psychiatric staff to evaluate and medicate, deputies to supervise effectively, and to house in areas appropriate for accommodating disabilities, classification levels, and even – when it comes to MCJ – holding people in dorms and cells fit for human habitation.

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CHAIRS EMERITI Michele Goodwin Marla Stone Shari Leinwand Stephen Rohde Danny Goldberg Allan K. Jonas* Burt Lancaster* Irving Lichtenstein, MD* Jarl Mohn Laurie Ostrow* Stanley K. Sheinbaum*

*deceased

While we believe the County must do more to provide opportunities for diversion under existing law, we wholeheartedly support AB 1231. Allowing courts to divert more people with low-level felony offenses to community-based care aligns with the County's commitment to a "Care First, Jails Last" approach to people who come into contact with the criminal and carceral system.

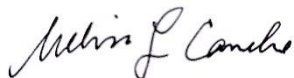
More diversion is also a necessary component of the County's effort to close MCJ. Today, the jails hold 12,794 people. The MCJ closure workgroup determined that the County needed to reduce the jail population to between 8,200 and 8,500 in order to close MCJ. The County needs help, and AB 1231 will provide additional avenues for depopulation and alternatives to incarceration.

Jails to Jobs

We know that our communities require the assistance and expertise of social workers, case managers, and healthcare workers to facilitate and sustain decarceral solutions like diversion. We also know that people involved in the criminal legal system charged with low-level, nonviolent felonies often lack the opportunities and training needed to secure stable employment and rebuild their lives. The "Jails to Jobs" pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help to simultaneously address these challenges by providing an opportunity for system-impacted people to train as the next generation of community health workers.

The "Jails to Jobs" pilot would employ social workers within the Public Defender's Office and case managers and healthcare workers in the Department of Economic Opportunity. These professionals would, in turn, connect people eligible for diversion to comprehensive job training that will enable them to fill vacancies in California's healthcare sectors. This pilot program has the potential to greatly expand the capacity for the provision of vital services in Los Angeles in a moment when our communities are experiencing unprecedented needs. We strongly feel that the innovative "Jails to Jobs" pilot embodies the kind of non-carceral care the County needs to invest in if it truly hopes to fulfill the promises of its commitments to a "Care First, Jails Last" future.

Sincerely,



Melissa L. Camacho
Senior Staff Attorney



Meredith Gallen
Senior Staff Attorney



March 18, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

Supervisor Mitchell

Supervisor Solis

Supervisor Horvath

Supervisor Hahn

Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Agenda Item 11: Motion, Entitled, "Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies"

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Emily Caesar, I am a resident of Supervisorial District 1 and a proud member of Bend the Arc: Jewish Action California. I am writing on behalf of Bend the Arc to support the board's motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program, and directing the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento.

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action is the only national Jewish organization focused exclusively on progressive social change in the U.S. We have a significant base of leaders throughout California, with thousands of members in Los Angeles County. Bend the Arc organizes Jews of all identities to work in partnership with our allies to build an inclusive, multi-racial democracy that lives up to our values of justice and equity for all. Our leaders - clergy and laypeople alike - pursue economic and racial justice as an expression of Jewish values. We have been working to transform the criminal legal system in California for over ten years.

Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies that invest in people and pathways to stability, not solely punishment and incarceration. AB 1231 will give

judges the option to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care while the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program will resource these local services that build people up, producing better outcomes than incarceration.

Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability. In California, participating in diversion programs and services has been shown to [help reduce recidivism](#) when [compared to people leaving state prisons](#). This is especially true for people engaging in job training services.

In Los Angeles, service providers are facing critical workforce shortages. The “Jails to Jobs” pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address this challenge by training the next generation of community health workers .

At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in the wake of the January fires, “Jails to Jobs” can also connect participants to specialized training in areas such as fire recovery navigation and construction trades ensuring that we have the workforce to rebuild our communities

The Board of Supervisors has made important commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a “care first” vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a “care first” approach.

We therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote “YES” to support this motion and direct county resources to ensure AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot’s success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Should you have any questions please reach out at ecaesar@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Emily Caesar
Lay Leader, Chapter Steering Committee
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action California



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March 18, 2025

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District
Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District
Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Third District
Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Fourth District
Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Fifth District

Re: Agenda Item 11: Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies

Honorable Supervisors,

On behalf of over 100,000 SEIU 721 represented public sector and special district workers, we stand in solidarity with the board's motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program. Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies that invest in people and pathways to stability, not solely punishment and incarceration.

AB 1231 will give judges the option to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care while the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program will resource these local services that restore people, producing better outcomes than incarceration. Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and reduce recidivism, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability. The "Jails to Jobs" pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address workforce shortages and vacancies by creating a pathway into good union county jobs. We look forward to partnering in advocacy through the state legislative process.

Sincerely,

David Green
President-Executive Director
SEIU Local 721

<http://www.seiu721.org>

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6177 River Crest Dr Ste B • Riverside CA 92507-0786 • Tel (951) 877-9339
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An Inter-League organization: • Beach Cities • East San Gabriel Valley • Long Beach Area • Greater Los Angeles • Mt. Baldy Area • Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier

March 17, 2025

Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: Agenda Item 11 – Motion to Support Assembly Bill 1231 and Jails to Jobs Pilot Program: "Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies"

Dear Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County (LWVLAC), we are writing to express our strong support for Item 11 on your March 18, 2025, agenda, urging advocacy in favor of Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the Jails to Jobs pilot program. We commend Supervisors Hahn and Horvath for bringing this motion forward and urge the Board to adopt it.

Our support joins a broad coalition of community organizations committed to advancing Los Angeles County's Care First, Jails Last vision. Together, we can continue reducing reliance on incarceration while strengthening our local economy and workforce.

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County aligns with the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) and the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) in supporting reforms that promote a just, effective, and equitable criminal justice system, one that eliminates systemic bias and invests in community-based alternatives to incarceration.

1. Criminal Justice Reform & Community-Based Alternatives

AB 1231 offers judges the ability to divert people charged with low-level, non-violent felonies to community-based programs that focus on job skills training and behavioral healthcare. The Jails to Jobs pilot complements this effort by creating pathways to employment in critical industries such as healthcare, disaster recovery, and construction trades.

This approach aligns with the LWVC's Criminal Justice Reform position, which supports alternatives to incarceration and programs that promote rehabilitation and reentry.

2. Reducing Recidivism & Promoting Economic Equity

The League supports policies that reduce recidivism and promote self-sufficiency. Both AB 1231 and the Jails to Jobs pilot program address barriers to employment for system-

impacted individuals, consistent with LWVUS' Meeting Basic Human Needs and Equality of Opportunity positions.

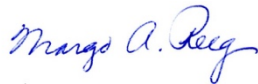
3. **Advancing the County's "Care First, Jails Last" Vision**

The Board of Supervisors has committed to a Care First, Jails Last vision for Los Angeles County. AB 1231 and the Jails to Jobs pilot are crucial to realizing that vision by reducing reliance on incarceration and providing meaningful opportunities for rehabilitation and economic stability.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt Item 11, support AB 1231, and champion the Jails to Jobs pilot program through the legislative process in Sacramento. These efforts will create a stronger, safer, and more equitable Los Angeles County.

Thank you for your leadership on these critical issues. We are available to provide additional information or support as needed.

Sincerely,



Margo A. Reeg, President
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

cc: Fatima Malik, Vice President, Action and Advocacy Chair, LWV Los Angeles County