

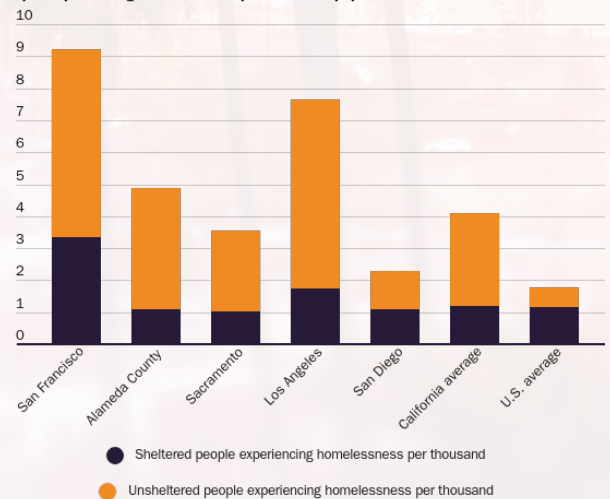
Cato's Project on Poverty and Inequality in California

Our recommendations for California's leaders

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

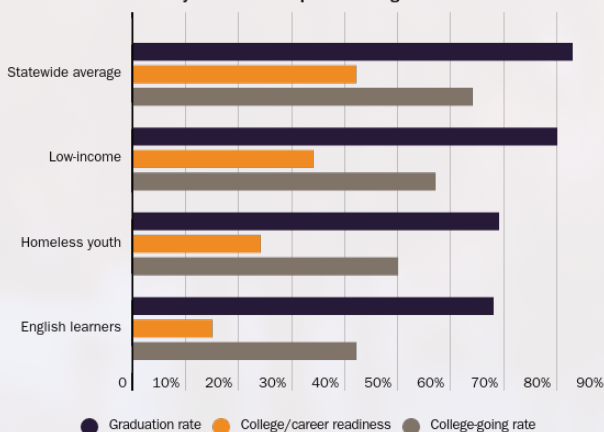
- End exclusionary zoning
- Move to a ministerial approval process
- Restructure the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Standardize and cap building fees
- Reduce the power of local agency formation commissions
- Reverse efforts to criminalize homelessness
- Strengthen California's conservatorship laws
- Expand CEQA exemptions for homeless housing/shelter projects

Figure 1
People experiencing homelessness per thousand population



Sources: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and California Department of Finance.
Note: California's rate of unsheltered homelessness is four times the national average.

Figure 2
California's educational system has failed poor and marginalized communities



Source: California Legislative Analyst's Office.

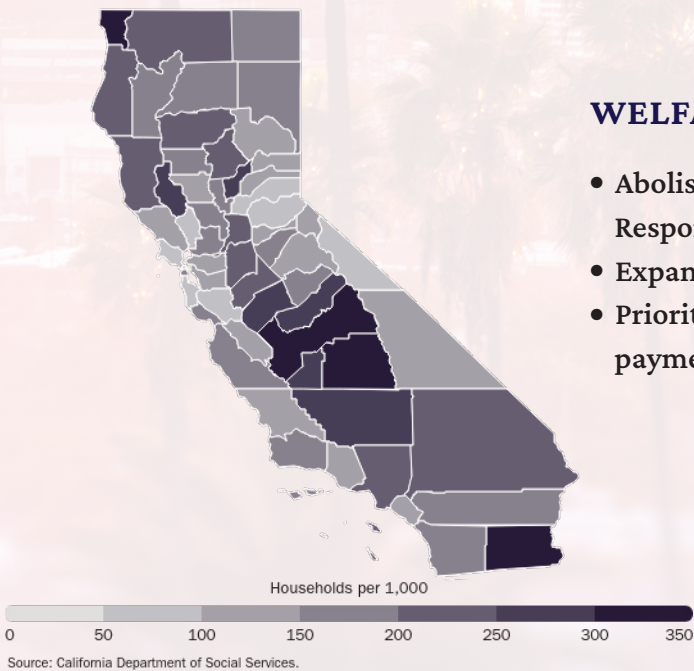
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

- Remove barriers to the growth of charter schools and other alternatives
- Establish a tuition tax credit program
- Restructure future pension obligations
- Increase emphasis on vocational and technical education

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Resist any effort to roll back recent criminal justice reforms
- Reduce overcriminalization; decriminalize victimless crimes
- Curtail the use of fines and fees as punishment
- Establish a mechanism to automatically expunge criminal records
- Upgrade rehabilitation programs within the prison system

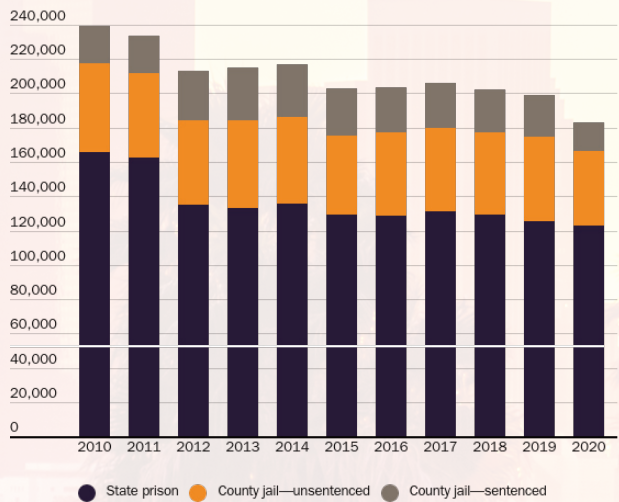
Figure 4
California households receiving CalFresh, by county



ECONOMIC INCLUSION

- Repeal unnecessary occupational licensing laws
- Rethink occupational zoning
- Deregulate childcare
- Reduce barriers to entrepreneurship

Figure 3
California's prison and jail population by year

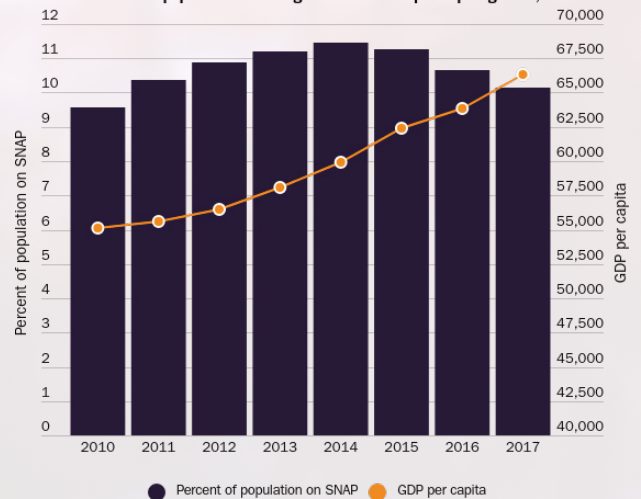


Sources: California Board of State and Community Corrections and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
Note: In recent years, California has made steps forward in the effort to lock up fewer people, but its incarceration rate is still several times higher than the average of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries.

WELFARE REFORM

- Abolish asset tests for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids, or CalWORKs, and other programs
- Expand welfare diversion programs
- Prioritize cash payments over in-kind benefits and indirect payments

Figure 5
Percent of California population receiving SNAP and GDP per capita growth, 2010–2017



Sources: FRED Economic Data, 2010–2018 and Statista.
Notes: SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; GDP = gross domestic product.