

# YES ON 62

## Diverse Perspectives Support Yes on 62

*"California's death penalty system is a long, agonizing ordeal for our family. My sister's killer confessed to his crime, but because the district attorney insists on seeking the death penalty, we are stuck in the penalty phase of a trial that keeps our wounds open. The death penalty is an empty promise of justice. Life without parole would stop the endless court dates and let the healing begin."*

**- Beth Webb, sister of a victim in the 2011 Seal Beach hair salon mass shooting**

*"I led the campaign to bring the death penalty back to California in 1978. It was a costly mistake. Now I know we just hurt the victims' families we were trying to help and wasted taxpayer dollars. The death penalty cannot be fixed. We need to replace it, lock up murderers for good, make them work, and move on."*

**- Ron Briggs, led the 1978 campaign that brought the death penalty to California**

*"When I was the District Attorney, I supported the death penalty. But I've reversed my position because I believe it's a total waste of money. It's of no useful purpose, it's not a deterrent, and you can better spend that money addressing bigger issues rather than housing people on death row in California. Prop 62 is the only real solution to a failed death penalty system."*

**- Gil Garcetti, former Los Angeles County District Attorney**

*"I prosecuted killers using California's death penalty law, but the high costs, endless delays and total ineffectiveness in deterring crime convinced me we need to replace the death penalty system with life in prison without parole."*

**- John Van de Kamp, former Los Angeles District Attorney and former California Attorney General**

*"I am asking mothers and families to vote for the law that will end the death penalty. Most people who receive this punishment are low-income residents who do not have the resources to defend themselves, and many are innocent. We can change this. Vote to end the death penalty."*

**- Dolores Huerta, labor and civil rights leader**

*"Whether you look at the death penalty from a taxpayer, a criminal justice or a civil rights perspective, what is clear is that it fails in every respect. We have to do better in California."*

**- Mike Farrell, Yes on Prop 62 proponent**

*"I call on all Californians to support Prop 62. We must take action to ensure that justice is served, society is protected and victims receive restitution whenever possible. When society undertakes to impose the ultimate sentence on its citizens it must meet the most stringent standards of fairness and due process."*

**- Loretta Sanchez, U.S. Congresswoman**

*"I am living proof that our justice system sometimes gets it wrong. I was wrongly accused of murder and spent 20 years in prison for a crime I did not commit. After a long legal battle – where witnesses recanted and new evidence came to light - I was exonerated and given my freedom back. If I had been sentenced to death instead of life in prison, this might have been a different story. I lost 20 good years, but not my life. We're seeing almost daily in the news that our criminal justice system is not always just, fair, or blind. It makes mistakes. Passing Prop 62 is the only way to make sure we never execute an innocent person. It's time to end the death penalty in California."*

**- Franky Carrillo, wrongly convicted, released after 20 years in prison**

*"Prop 62 will replace the death penalty in California with life in prison without parole, saving California hundreds of millions of dollars every year and abolishing a system that is administered with troubling racial disparities. I realize that this is a controversial issue that raises deeply-felt passions on all sides. But I also believe that decades from now, like with so many other once-contentious issues, America will look back at the death penalty as an archaic mistake. On issues such as this, elected leaders owe it to themselves and to their constituents to speak up and speak out - regardless of political consequences."*

**- Gavin Newsom, Lieutenant Governor of California**

*"The Catholic Bishops of California support Proposition 62, which would end the use of the death penalty in California. Capital punishment has repeatedly been shown to be severely and irrevocably flawed in its application. In the long – but absolutely necessary – process of ensuring an innocent person is not put to death, we have seen many accused persons being exonerated as new forms of forensic investigation have enabled us to better scrutinize evidence."*

**- Catholic Bishops of California**

### Additional endorsements include:

- California Democratic Party
- California Labor Federation
- Service Employees International Union
- California Federation of Teachers
- Exonerated Nation
- The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Rainbow Push Coalition
- The California NAACP
- Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
- The California Catholic Conference
- The League of Women Voters of California