

# EDUCATION NOT INCARCERATION

A Report Prepared by Education Not Incarceration --  
A Coalition of Teachers, Students, Parents and Concerned Californians

# Education Not Incarceration

A Report Prepared by Education Not Incarceration --  
Coalition of Teachers, Students, Parents and Concerned Californians

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EDUCATION

- California faces an historically unprecedented budget crisis. By conservative estimates, the General Fund's shortfall over the next year and a half will top \$34 billion.
- Spending on education in California has not kept pace with the national average
- California ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on per pupil spending
- Throughout the current budget crisis, the Governor has proposed drastic cuts to Education while sparing or actually increasing prison spending.
- The Governor's 2003-04 budget proposed cutting K-14 education by 11 billion. This means up to 50,000 teachers could receive pink slips, class size reduction programs are on the chopping block and as just one example, San Francisco has already cancelled all summer school for elementary school students.
- Three recent statewide polls have all found that voters favor cuts to the state's prison budget over any other state program and preservation of spending on education.

### PRISONS

- Only one area of spending is slated for an increase in the Governor's 2003-04 proposed budget: Spending on Prisons.
- The Governor proposed increasing the prison budget by \$40 million; Continuing with plans to build a \$595 million prison at Delano; building 965 new death row cells at a cost of \$220 million, while Cutting Academic and Vocational training for prisoners
- States across the country are reducing spending on prisons by reducing the number of people in prison and the number of prisons.
- States are reducing their prison budgets by canceling new prison construction, paroling people already scheduled for parole just a few weeks earlier at a savings of millions of dollars, and reforming sentencing by for example, eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for certain offenses or providing treatment rather than prison for those convicted of drug offenses.

# THE PROBLEM:

California faces an historically unprecedented budget crisis. By conservative estimates, the General Fund's structural multi-billion-dollar deficit will last for the better part of a decade, with the shortfall over the next year and a half topping \$34 billion. The Governor's proposed \$11 Billion cut in K-14 education will mean: up to 50,000 teachers laid off, 500,000 Californians losing medical coverage, over 300,000 Community College students leaving school.

California has dropped to #32 in the nation in spending per pupil -- #48th if regional living costs are factored in -- while the state has more prisoners than any other state.

At the same time, the Governor moves ahead with plans to build a new \$595 Million prison in Delano.

The Governor proposes building a new expanded Death Row in San Quentin for \$220 Million.

The state's prison guards get a 7% pay hike and the Legislature is considering hiring another 800 guards this year and thousands more in the next two years.

**WHERE**

**ARE**

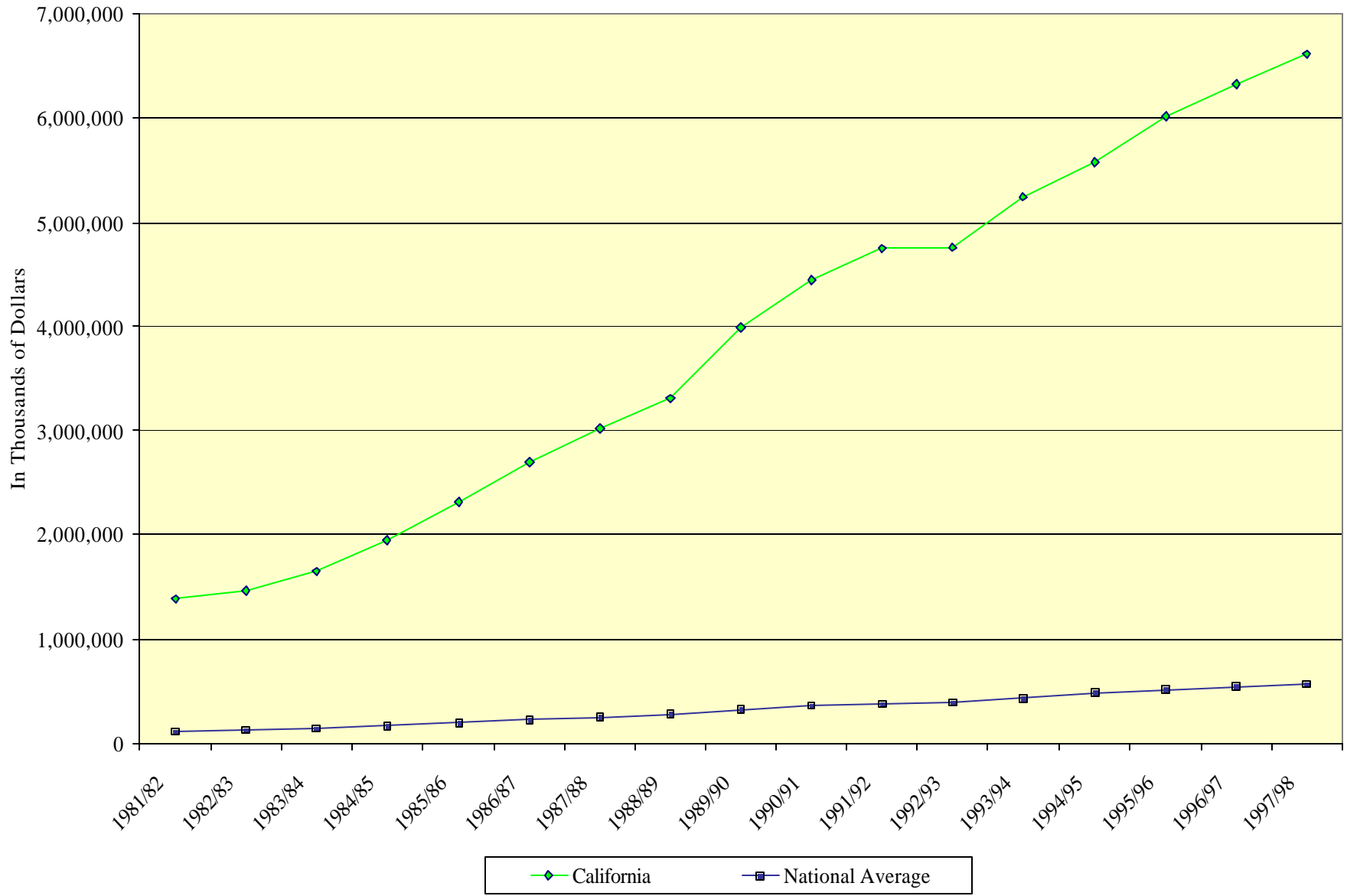
**OUR**

**PRIORITIES?**

# From the top to the bottom

- In 1964, California ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation in per-pupil spending.
- Today, California ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation in per-pupil spending and 48<sup>th</sup> when adjusted for regional cost of living differences.
- California spends about \$1,363 per-pupil less than the national average and \$3,400 less than New York.
- California ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in percent of total taxable resources (just 3%) spent on education.

**FROM NEAR THE BOTTOM TO THE TOP**  
**California vs. U.S. Average Corrections Spending**  
**FY1981/82-FY1997/98**

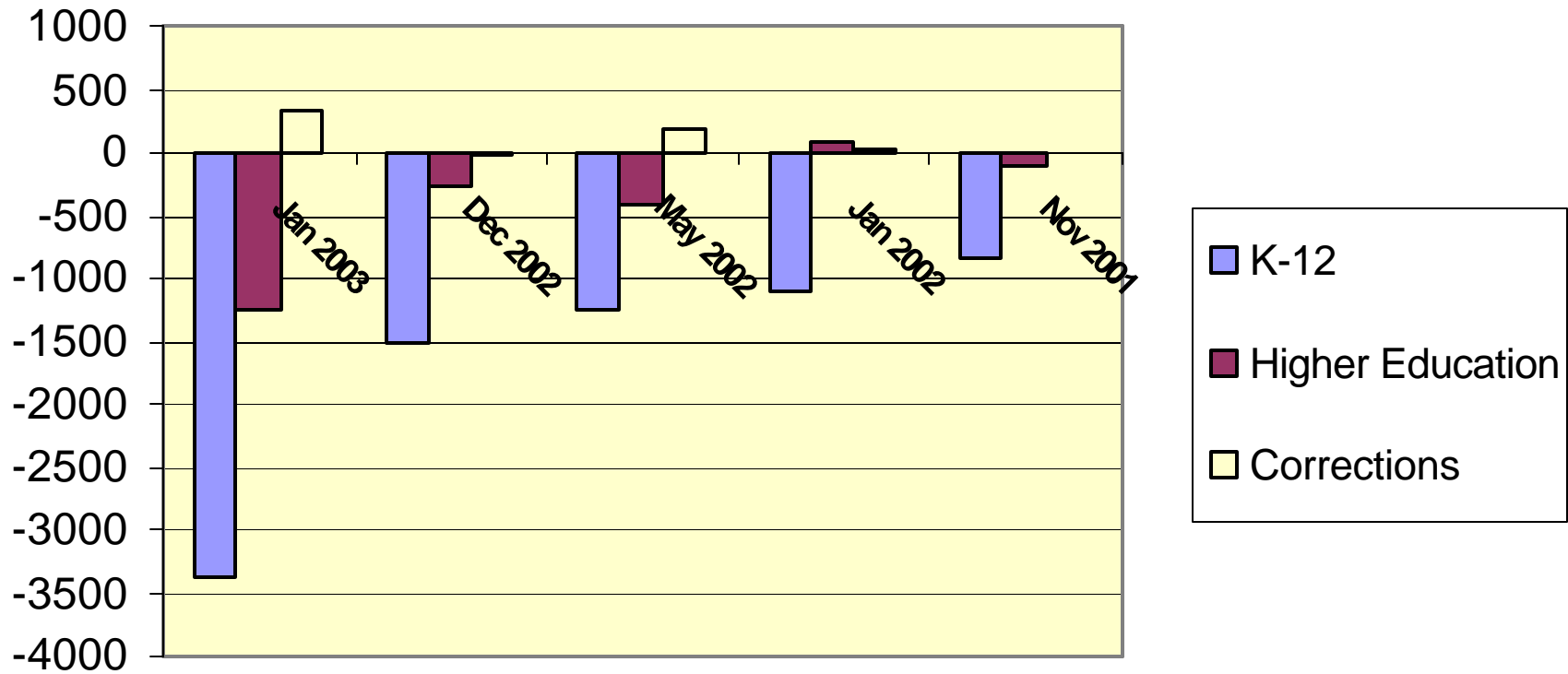


Throughout the current budget crisis, the Governor has proposed drastic cuts to Education while sparing -- or actually increasing -- prison spending.

## THE "EDUCATION" GOVERNOR'S LAST FIVE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

(From November 2001 through January 2003 in Millions of Dollars)

SOURCE: Department of Finance



# THE GOVERNOR'S 2003-04 BUDGET PROPOSED *CUTTING...*

\$11 billion from K-14 education and \$239 million from Public Universities

## THESE CUTS WOULD MEAN...

- Up to 50,000 K-12 teachers could be laid off. Already about 30,000 teachers have received pink slips; Oakland alone sent out 1,056 layoff warnings, Fresno sent out 800, and the Richmond School District is considering laying off nearly 400.
- The elimination of class size reduction programs across the state. These programs provided a 20 to 1 student – teacher ratio. Only Utah and Arizona currently have more students per teacher than California.
- The San Francisco School District has cancelled summer school for all elementary school students.
- The Clovis School District will cancel 135 school bus routes.
- Tuition at our community colleges would double and over 300,000 (over 10%) Community College students could not afford to return to school.
- 9% of Community College classes will be cut.

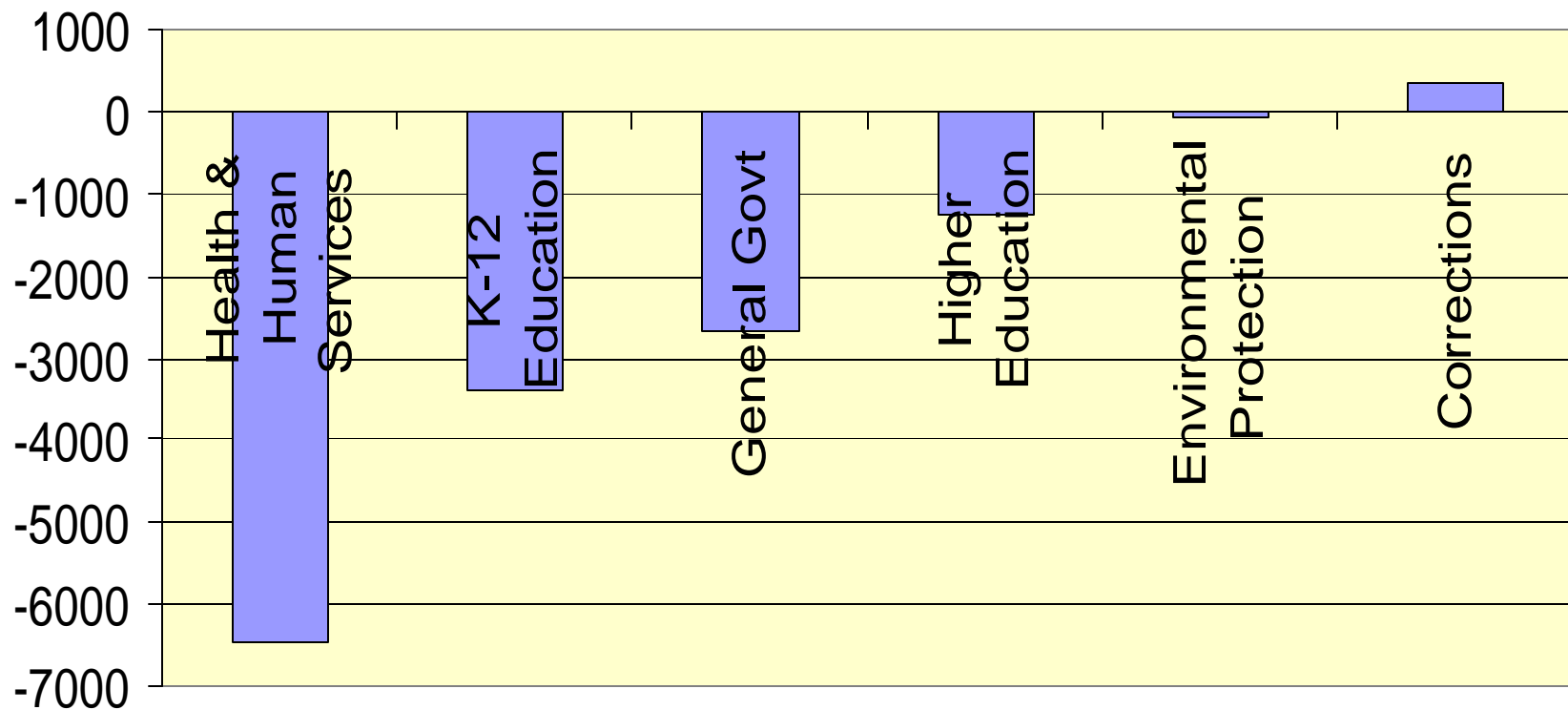
## MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNOR'S 2003-04 PRISON BUDGET PROPOSED...

- *Increasing* prison spending by \$40 million
- Continuing with plans to build a \$595 million prison at Delano
- Building 965 new death row cells at a cost of \$220 million
- Drastically Cutting Academic and Vocational training for prisoners



# ONLY CORRECTIONS RECEIVED AN INCREASE IN GOVERNOR DAVIS' 2003-04 PROPOSED BUDGET

(Proposed Cuts and Increases in Millions of Dollars)

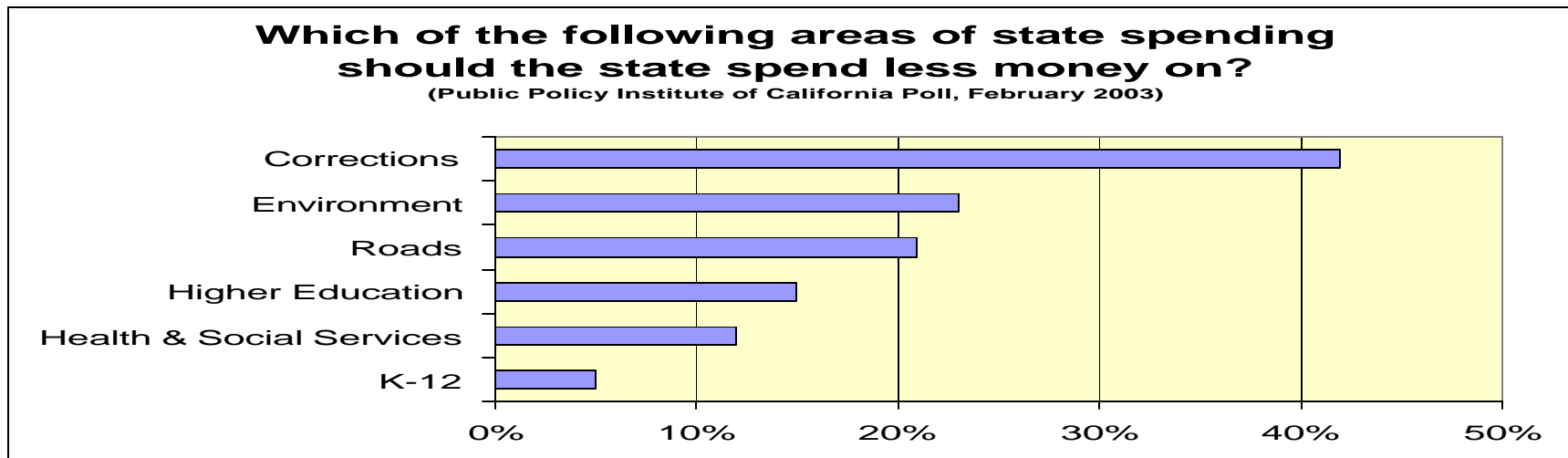
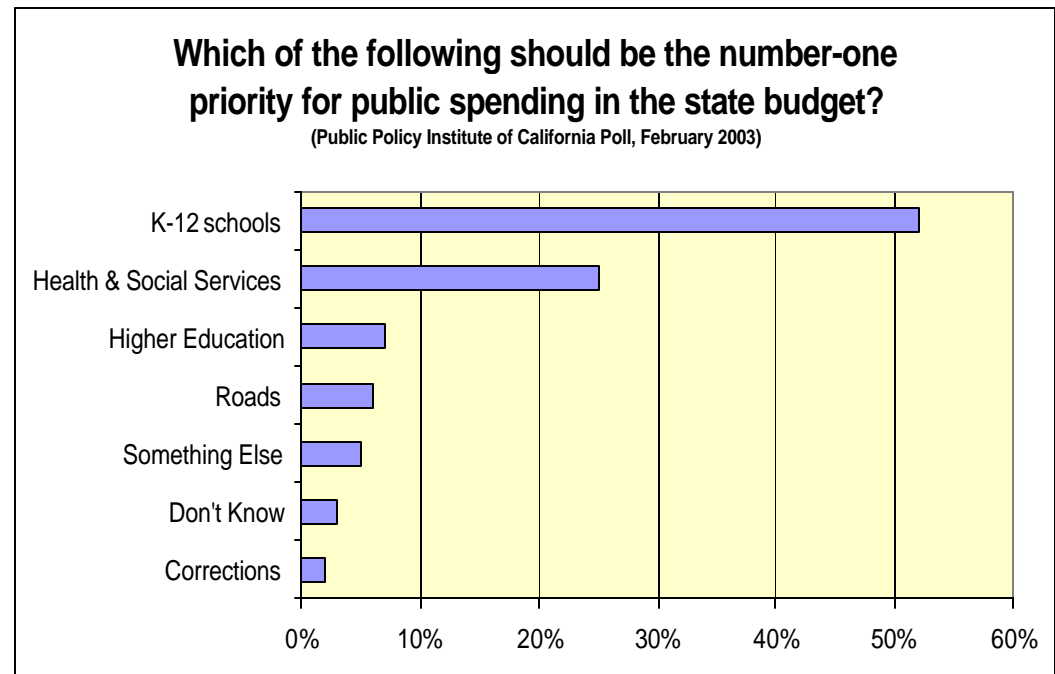


SOURCES: Department of Finance, California Budget Project

## CALIFORNIA VOTERS WANT CUTS TO CORRECTIONS AND PRESERVATION OF EDUCATION

**February 2003:** Prisons rank #1 spending area Californians want cut and Education ranks #1 area voters want protected. A statewide poll of likely voters found "corrections and prisons – the only program area that saw an increase in the governor's budget – is also the only area where a significant number of state residents support a reduction in spending."

*(Public Policy Institute of California)*



## OTHER POLLS CONFIRM:

**June 2002:** California voters asked where the state should make cuts to balance the budget ranked Corrections as the department they were most willing to cut. Education was ranked most important to preserve spending. **58% of likely voters favor a moratorium on ALL prison construction.** (*Fairbanks Maslin*)

**February 2002:** **Eighty-eight percent of Americans said that people convicted of nonviolent crimes should be sentenced to community service instead of prison.** To solve the problem of prison overcrowding, 76% support community service for nonviolent crimes and 64% favor more probation. Only 42% support building more prisons to deal with prison overcrowding. (*Parade Magazine*)

**February 2002:** Given a choice of six budget areas that could be reduced to help states balance their budgets, the public places spending on prisons at the top of their list. **Nearly two-thirds (62%) of Americans believe we need to change the laws so that fewer nonviolent crimes are punishable by prison terms and roughly the same percentage feel that drug abuse should be handled by treatment and counseling (63%) as opposed to prison (31%).** (*Peter Hart & Associates*)

**December 2001:** Prisons rank #1 spending area California voters are willing to cut. Public schools rank #1 to protect. (*Field Poll*)



# BASIC CALIFORNIA PRISON FACTS

- The National Association of State Budget Officers estimates that Corrections spending now consumes one in every 14 general fund dollars.
- More than half the people sent to California prisons last year were sent for TECHNICAL PAROLE VIOLATIONS - they had broken no law. Over 70,000 people in 2001 went to prison on these technical violations.
- California has built 23 NEW prisons in the last 20 years and only 1 new university.
- The Department of Corrections has spent Hundreds of Millions of dollars over their budget in recent years while the prisoner population has not grown. (CDC Overspent \$53.1 Million in 1999-00, \$157.6 Million in 2000-01 and \$178.6 Million in 2001-02)
- CDC's most recent population projections forecast 22,481 fewer prisoners than CDC anticipated when Delano II was authorized in 1999. (CDC Fall 2002 versus Fall 1999 projections.)

# WHAT CALIFORNIA COULD DO TO REDUCE PRISON SPENDING BY 20%

	(Savings in millions)	
	2003-04	2004-05
Delay Activation of Delano II*	-\$41.7	-\$104
Three Month Reduction in Time Served**	-\$60.2	-\$60.2
Increase Work & Compliance Credits**	-\$69.5	-\$68
Early Discharge from Parole for Specified Offenses**	-\$35	-\$47.6
Reject Short term Commitments of 0-6 months**	-\$16.2	-\$16.7
Remove State Prison as Sentencing Option for Selected Offenses**	-\$186.6	-\$249.7
Release Non-Violent Prisoners over 55**	-\$9	-\$9
Reduce % of Parole Violators Returned to prison to national average***	-\$333	-\$333
Reduce Guard Overtime by Reducing Prisoner Population***	-\$100	-\$100
Restore Prison Education and Arts Programs to Increase Work Credits and Reduce Recidivism***	-\$48	-\$74
Put Prop-36 'look-alikes' in treatment rather than prison***	-\$4.9	-0
Repatriate 20,000 foreign nationals who wish to return resulting in the closing of four prisons****	-\$400	-\$400
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>	<b>-\$1,304.1</b>	<b>-\$1,462.2</b>
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS OVER TWO YEARS:</b>	<b>-\$2,766 BILLION</b>	

SOURCES: \* LAO and CDC; \*\*LAO, \*\*\*Coalition for Effective Public Safety, \*\*\*\* Senator Richard Polanco

The budget identifies **MAJOR PROPOSED REDUCTIONS** in **ALL AREAS** of the budget **EXCEPT CRIMINAL JUSTICE**. It includes **MAJOR REDUCTIONS** in **K-12 AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** funding.

- LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Education Not Incarceration – 1904 Franklin St., Ste. 504, Oakland, CA 94612 Phone 510-444-0484

Email: [ed\\_not\\_inc@earthlink.net](mailto:ed_not_inc@earthlink.net)

Website: [www.may8.org](http://www.may8.org)