



Governor Newsom, Mental Health Advocates Launch Prop 1: "Treatment Not Tents" Mental Health Bond

The major overhaul to California's mental health funding system and \$6.4 billion bond will expand access for hundreds of thousands of Californians, fund substance abuse treatment, and help get those suffering from mental health crises off the streets and into care

Veterans' groups, first responders and mental health leaders all praised the accountability measures in Prop 1 and say it's a cost-effective alternative to our current system

CALIFORNIA – Today, advocates for veterans, mental health professionals and first responders all joined Governor Gavin Newsom in launching Prop 1: "Treatment not Tents," a bond initiative and mental health system reform on the March 2024 ballot. The package of the bond and reforms will help Californians most in need of mental health treatment get the care they need, fund substance abuse treatment, enhance programs that help veterans and help Californians experiencing homelessness safely off the streets. Governor Newsom will be directing \$6 million into the newly named committee, "Yes on Prop 1: Governor Newsom's Ballot Measure Committee," to boost early efforts of the campaign.

View the Prop 1 launch video [here](#)..

"We see the signs of our broken mental health system every day – too many Californians suffering from mental health needs or substance use disorders are unable to get the support or care they need," **said Governor Newsom**. "This will prioritize getting people off the streets, out of tents and into treatment."

THE DETAILS:

- **EXPANDS COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES:** Prop 1 will expand community-based mental health and addiction services across the state and serve tens of thousands of Californians each year.

- **BUILDS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING:** The initiative will create supportive housing settings where over 11,000 Californians with the severest mental health needs can live, recover, stabilize and thrive.
- **PROVIDES TREATMENT OVER INCARCERATION:** One in three California prisoners has a diagnosed mental illness. Today, we spend over \$100,000 per incarcerated person. Research shows it's costly and counterproductive. Prop 1 will prioritize treatment not punishment for the mentally ill.
- **HELPS HOMELESS VETERANS:** It is disgraceful that over 10,000 California veterans, many suffering from PTSD, are homeless and on the streets. Prop 1 will provide \$1 billion to serve veterans experiencing homelessness, mental health and substance abuse issues.
- **ADDRESSES SHORTAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS:** Currently, those with serious mental health issues can wait six months or longer just for an introductory appointment. Prop 1 will help fund additional professionals so that people with mental health needs can get help in real time.
- **REQUIRES STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY:** Democrats and Republicans support Prop 1 because it addresses mental health and homelessness without raising taxes. And Prop 1 has strict accountability measures, including mandatory audits, to ensure that funds are spent as promised.

“The 2004 mental health services act has generated \$31 billion of community based services, saved many lives and moved us farther towards fulfilling the promise California made when it shut the state hospitals a generation ago,” **said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg.**

“Proposition 1 will help finish the work and make sure that people with severe mental illness can live safely and with dignity in our communities. Proposition 1 will also focus more of the billions raised annually to alleviate our state’s most urgent problems, the lack of housing and treatment for the unsheltered suffering from serious mental illness and substance abuse, and help young people most at risk from experiencing the worst consequences of not getting the early help they need and deserve. Proposition 1 is a must for California.”

“California needs a system that prioritizes treatment, not tents, which is exactly what Proposition 1 will do,” **said Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton).** “Research is clear - incarcerating the mentally ill is counterproductive to rehabilitation and Prop 1 will ensure those with the greatest needs get the help they deserve. I was proud to author legislation that helped to get Prop 1 on the ballot and I urge Californians to vote YES in March.”

“Our Veterans risked everything for us and we need to do everything in our power to make sure they are taken care of when they come home. Proposition 1 will not only help veterans experiencing homeless transition off the streets, but will ensure they get important mental health treatment they need,” **said Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D- Thousand Oaks)**. “I was honored to work with Governor Newsom and with my colleagues in the legislature to make this a priority for California; I look forward to continuing this effort and passing Proposition 1.”

Veterans groups, first responders and mental health leaders joined Governor Newsom in the calls to pass Prop 1:

“Every day, firefighters and first responders see how our broken mental health care system can’t keep up with an incredibly dangerous environment that will only grow to be more violent and unpredictable without the solutions called for in Prop 1,” **said Brian K. Rice, President, California Professional Firefighters**. “Many unhoused people who suffer from untreated mental illness and addiction are without the treatment or safe living conditions they need to recover. Right now, there simply aren’t enough places for them to go and it’s created very unsafe conditions — for Californians living on the streets, first responders, and the general public. Prop 1 would help fix this huge problem.”

“There are over 10,000 homeless veterans in California— many suffering from PTSD or other mental health issues without access to the proper resources that could help them,” **said Rocio Palmero, Women Vets on Point Program Coordinator for U.S.Vets**. “This ballot measure will build thousands of new homes for Californians, complete with the mental health services they need and help remove the stigma of mental health needs and replace it with holistic solutions.”

“As healthcare providers, we deeply understand the importance of investing in mental health services for our communities,” **said Warner Thomas, President & CEO of Sutter Health**. “By prioritizing access to treatment, Prop 1 will provide those experiencing mental health issues with the necessary services that will benefit not only patients but their families and the community at large.”

Californians can go to treatmenttents.com to learn more about the measure.

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