



Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform

What is the Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform?

The Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform (CCJR) is a nonpartisan coalition dedicated to smart solutions that end over-criminalization and over-incarceration in Florida while never compromising public safety. We advocate for proven approaches that will save taxpayer money and keep our communities safe by prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment. Other states have shown that it is possible to reduce incarceration levels, lower crime rates, and save taxpayers millions of dollars – all at the same time.

Why does Florida need the Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform?

For decades Florida has relied on incarceration as the only solution to criminal justice issues, resulting in an extraordinarily harsh system that drives too many people into jails and prisons to the detriment of public safety. While harsher sentencing was once considered being “tough on crime,” these costly policies have proven ineffective at best, and counterproductive at worst. For example:

- Florida spends more than \$2.4 billion a year to incarcerate approximately 100,000 people.
- More children are sent to adult court and prison in Florida than in any other state.
- Florida’s population has roughly tripled since 1970, but its prison population has increased by more than 1,000%.
- Florida’s sentence lengths increased 166% from 1990 to 2009 – more than any other state.
- Since 2007, 33 states have implemented comprehensive criminal justice reforms; Florida is not one of them.

The majority of other states have recognized that mass incarceration is not the best solution to crime. It is time for Florida to join the majority by enacting comprehensive criminal justice reforms that improve public safety, save taxpayers money, and give Floridians the fair and just criminal justice system they deserve.

What can Florida do to improve its criminal justice system?

1. Eliminate the ability of state attorneys to prosecute children as adults without judicial approval.
2. Increase the use of juvenile civil citations.
3. Create safety valves that allow judges discretion on mandatory minimum sentences.
4. Reform bail and court fees that lead to the incarceration of people because of their poverty.
5. Decriminalize marijuana and reclassify possession of personal amounts of other drugs.
6. Create a statewide adult civil citation program like the current youth program.
7. Reform “truth in sentencing” to allow some people more flexibility in how they serve their sentences and to serve less than 85% of their sentence when they demonstrate rehabilitation.
8. Expand eligibility for conditional medical release to include more sick and elderly incarcerated people.

How can you help us reform Florida’s criminal justice system?

Passing comprehensive criminal justice reforms is not an easy task. We need your help.

Be Vocal and Visible

Show your support for criminal justice reform. Share your views about reforms online and contact your legislators. The more vocal and visible you are about your support for change, the more likely we are to pass comprehensive reforms for better justice in Florida.

Join the Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform

Sign up at www.BetterJusticeFL.com. CCJR will send you information about ways to participate in local and statewide coalition efforts.

General requests can be made at contact@betterjusticefl.com

Media requests can be made at media@betterjusticefl.com