



## City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

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**Title:** Resolution in support of Proposition 36

**CEQA:** Not a project.

**Recommendation:** Adopt Resolution 2024-73 in support of Proposition 36, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act

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**Prepared by:** Alexander K. Gammelgard, Chief of Police

**Council Meeting Date:** 10/08/2024

**Date Prepared:** 10/03/2024

**Agenda:** Administrative

**Background Information:** Proposition 36, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act, is on the November 2024 ballot and incentivizes people with serious drug addictions to fentanyl, meth, heroin, cocaine, or PCP to receive drug and mental health treatment. Prop 36 takes a compassionate approach and provides accountability needed to help people turn their lives around.

After the passage of Proposition 47, the use of drug courts was severely diminished since repeat drug offenders had little incentive to complete treatment. This is due to the change in law that reduced drug possession offenses to a simple misdemeanor. Misdemeanors are nearly always just citations and result in very little, if any, jail time, which created a disincentive to participate in drug treatment that could last for up to 12 or more months.

Addressing drug addiction is critical for helping the individual and improving public safety. An in-depth data analysis of crime statistics sampling from four counties showed that the rate of chronic drug offenders who committed three or more drug offenses more than doubled after Prop 47 passed and that approximately 60% of drug offenders also committed theft offenses.

### How Prop 36 Will Make a Difference

- Prop 36 restores drug courts and ensures there is accountability to complete treatment.
- Prop 36 creates a “treatment-mandated felony” if a person possesses a hard drug (meth, fentanyl, heroin, cocaine or PCP) and has two prior convictions for drug-related offenses.
- People with two or more prior convictions for drug-related offenses have the option of utilizing a drug court and participating in and completing drug and

mental health treatment instead of county jail. A drug addiction expert will conduct a substance abuse and mental health evaluation before treatment begins. Those who successfully complete drug and mental health treatment can have the charge fully expunged.

- A treatment program may also include job training and other conditions that a judge finds appropriate for a successful outcome.
- Prop 36 will restore the ability to hold people accountable to repeat theft offenses.

Research from the Office of National Drug Control Policy under the Obama Administration showed every \$1 spent on drug courts yields \$2 in savings in the criminal justice system, and 84% of drug court graduates were not re-arrested and charged with a serious crime in the first year after graduation.

In addition to the above information the following documents are attached for review:

- Voter Information Guide pages relevant to Prop 36
- LOA Analysis of Prop 36
- County of Nevada Staff report related to a Resolution in Support of Prop 36 brought by District 3 and District 4 Supervisors

As of the time of writing this staff report, at least 46 cities have taken formal support positions and reported that position to League of California Cities. Many cities are adding the action to their city council agendas so the number will continue to grow through October.

**Council Goals/Objectives:** The execution of this action attempts to achieve the following Strategic Goals: Goal #6 - Safe place to live, work and play.

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Funds Available:** N/A

**Account #:** N/A

**Reviewed by:** City Manager