



# City of Needles

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[www.cityofneedles.com](http://www.cityofneedles.com)

*Mayor, Janet Jernigan*  
*Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell*  
*Councilmember Tona Belt*  
*Councilmember Jamie McCorkle*  
*Councilmember JoAnne Pogue*  
*Councilmember Henry Longbrake*  
*Councilmember Larry Ford*

*City Manager Patrick Martinez*

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Laura Richardson  
Chair, Senate Budget Sub #5  
1021 O Street, Suite 7340  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable James Ramos  
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub #6  
1021 O Street, Suite 8310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Proposition 36 Funding – Support Request for \$400 Million in Funding for Recovery Support Services and Substance Use Treatment**

Dear Honorable Members,

The City of Needles writes in strong support of the budget requests signed by Assembly Member Stephanie Nguyen and Senator Catherine Blakespear for additional funding in the amount of \$400 million for probation and other services that are critical in the implementation of Proposition 36.

As you know, California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 36 (2024), the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act. This important measure made changes to drug and property theft crimes and created a new Treatment-Mandated Felony to address the surge in retail theft and shoplifting.

Funding to fully implement Proposition 36 is a top priority for our city. We are appreciative of the \$115 million that was provided last year for the courts and behavioral health. However, more funding is needed to actualize the will of the voters.

Specifically, we support the request for \$400 million to address the services needed to help ensure that treatment, when accompanied by supervision can increase the chances of successful rehabilitation. These investments are necessary to expand service capacity, secure in-custody treatment, and allow for individualized planning and monitoring for those in our communities. Absent real consequences and accountability, local governments cannot maximize treatment success.

For the City of Needles, a rural community with limited local resources, the need for this funding is especially critical. Our region faces ongoing challenges related to substance abuse, repeat property crime, and limited access to behavioral health and treatment services. Local law enforcement and emergency services are often the first—and sometimes only—point of response, placing significant strain on already limited staffing and resources. Without adequate funding for probation, treatment, and supervision, the goals of Proposition 36 cannot be fully realized at the local level.

For these reasons, the City of Needles urges the Legislature to include this important funding in the final FY 2026-27 State Budget and continue the progress being made in addressing retail theft, shoplifting and other crime in our communities.

Sincerely,

Janet Jernigan  
Mayor  
City of Needles

cc. Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez  
State Senator Steve Padilla  
Laura Varela, Regional Public Affairs Manager, at [Lvarela@calcities.org](mailto:Lvarela@calcities.org)  
League of California Cities, [cityletters@cacities.org](mailto:cityletters@cacities.org)