

WISCONSIN'S INCARCERATION CRISIS

Wisconsin is stronger and safer when we invest in people, not prisons, and when people can lead productive lives in the community. As a result of our broken system of probation and supervision many people are trapped in a cycle of incarceration. No one should live one missed appointment away from a prison sentence or languish in a cage when they could be supporting their families and communities.

“NO ONE SHOULD LIVE ONE MISSED APPOINTMENT AWAY FROM A PRISON SENTENCE.”

■ Wisconsin locks up too many people for too long. This overreliance on mass incarceration destroys lives, destabilizes communities, wastes taxpayer money, and fails to make us safer.

■ A major driver of this crisis is Wisconsin's punitive probation and parole system, which results in reincarceration rather than rehabilitation. It causes people to be thrown back in prison for minor mistakes like missing an appointment or even taking a job without prior approval.

MASS INCARCERATION:

- ✗ DESTROYS LIVES
- ✗ WASTES MONEY
- ✗ FAILS TO MAKE US SAFER

■ This practice of revocation without a new conviction has had tragic consequences for thousands of families across the state, especially people of color, while betraying our shared values of fairness and justice.

■ Spending an estimated \$500 million to build a new prison in the next biennial budget will not make us safer. We will not stand for continued spending of billions of dollars on a failing system of imprisonment that does not address the root causes of crime.

WHAT ARE OTHER STATES DOING?

Many states are reforming their broken criminal justice systems and closing down unneeded or unsafe prisons. Like Michigan, Oklahoma and Texas, we need a bold plan that invests in community-based alternatives to prison and saves taxpayers money. In Texas, it's led to a dramatic reduction in the prison population and at the same time, a decline in the crime rate that was greater than the national average.



Too many people who could be supervised safely in their communities serve long sentences in distant prisons that decrease their chances of successful rehabilitation and reentry. Wisconsin needs to adopt smart criminal justice reforms that reduce prison populations, reduce recidivism and make communities safer and stronger. We can develop effective means of holding people accountable that increase safety in the short and long terms and address the socioeconomic and structural factors that make crime likely in the first place.

“RATHER THAN WAREHOUSING PEOPLE IN PRISONS, WE MUST PROVIDE TREATMENT IN OUR COMMUNITIES.”

Wisconsin must do better by following in the footsteps of other states and reducing corrections populations and costs by: expanding approaches that have proven track records for keeping people out of prison, reducing the number of prison admissions that don't involve new convictions, and reducing recidivism by removing barriers to employment. We should also invest in local, community-based solutions and treatment.

WISCONSIN SHOULD INVEST IN PEOPLE, NOT PRISONS.

PENDING CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRIORITY LEGISLATION:

- **EXPUNGEMENT REFORM (AB 33/SB 39) -** Makes modest but important changes to expungement process.
- **UNLOCK THE VOTE (SB 348) -** Restores the right to vote for people currently on parole or extended supervision.
- **CRIMELESS REVOCATION (LRB 4356) -** Prohibits technical or crimeless revocations for people with low level felony convictions.
- **ANTI-SHACKLING OF PREGNANT WOMEN (AB 398 / SB 316) -** Would prohibit county jails from shackling women in labor.