

From: [Kevin Cosney](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Cc: [LaVere, Matt](#); [Supervisor Gorell](#); [SupervisorLong](#); [Supervisor Parvin](#); [Lopez, Vianey](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 54 - No on Prop 36
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Hello All,

Apologies for the late submission, but it looks like I may not be able to make tomorrow's meeting due to conflicts with my work schedule. I hope my comment can still be submitted and heard.

My name is Kevin Cosney, I grew up in Simi Valley and am currently living in Moorpark with my family. I'm writing to urge you to oppose the Prop 36 resolution. Growing up in Simi, I know many of my peers experimented with drugs, some even struggled with addiction, and some lost their lives. It was access to treatment and recovery programs that actually helped them, not long, mandatory sentences.

While Prop 36 claims to be about retail theft and drug treatment, it's a false solution that won't make our communities safer, it will actually cut over \$100 million every year from substance abuse, mental health, education, job training and crime survivor services. These programs have been proven to reduce crime and improve employment and housing stability. Prop 36 would erode funding for these programs, such as the \$15 million Ventura County received through Prop 47 grants, making our communities less safe and less healthy. It will actually cost Ventura County millions of dollars and increase spending on prison & jails across the state by \$5 Billion every year. Prop 36 would return California to the failed war on drugs policies of the 80s & 90s that will only lead to costly and dangerously overcrowded prisons that do not actually make our communities safer.

[The LA Times made it clear](#), Prop 36 is not the solution that proponents claim it to be. It will actually make things worse by cutting funding for programs that work while reinstating war on drugs policies that don't work.

Please vote to oppose the Prop 36 resolution, and keep investing our taxpayer dollars in programs and services that are proven to keep our communities safer and healthier.

Thank you,

Kevin Cosney