

I'm Dave Douglas with another community comment. Thank you for joining me while I discuss a topic of importance to all Californians; this time a proposed ballot initiative by Governor Jerry Brown which would release thousands more convicted felons from California prisons.

Under this initiative, felons would be eligible for parole after serving 50 percent of the sentence for their primary offense - regardless of any enhancements that had been added onto the sentence and despite previous sentencing strikes for brutal and heinous crimes such as rape and murder.

These criminals would be largely paroled to the rural and, in metropolitan areas, primarily minority poor neighborhoods they had previously pillaged. I have previously mentioned Proposition 47 and this initiative will yield similar results.

Prop. 47 has contributed to a surge in crime in most areas of the state by turning a host of serious felonies into misdemeanors, resulting in the early release of thousands of felons. The negative effects and increased victimization that has been pronounced in rural and poor, minority areas will continue and suffering will increase as this new ballot initiative ensures that these dangerous felons are released from prison and back into our communities many years earlier than the juries that convicted them intended.

Governor Brown has already admitted that the intent of this measure is to further reduce the prison population in California. While the intent is not malicious, this course of action only makes sense as a political imperative. How are the people of California safer by releasing dangerous prisoners who, when free, will attack the person or property of new victims and cause greater suffering? They will then be tried, convicted and sent back to prison with a shorter sentence- because of the same ballot initiative that resulted in their initial release.

The California District Attorneys Association, recognizing the danger to California families, had sued to stop the measure. A lower court had ruled in their favor. But, last month, the California Supreme Court authorized Governor Brown and his allies to start gathering signatures to qualify it for the ballot.

At this point we should anticipate the worst case scenario of the initiative qualifying for the November ballot. The arcane nature of California state politics will guarantee the initiative powerful political support with little regard for the

honest, hard working and vulnerable Californians who will suffer from yet another politics before people ballot initiative.