

Failure to pass Prop. 66 will benefit killers like the Grim Sleeper

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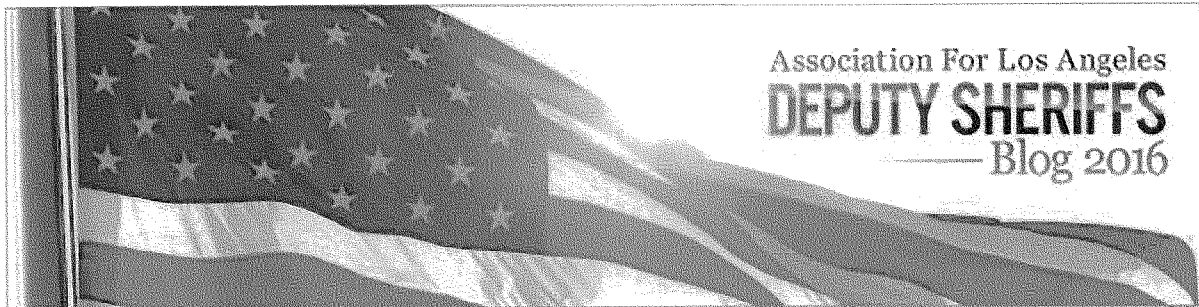
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Failure to pass Prop. 66 will benefit killers like the Grim Sleeper

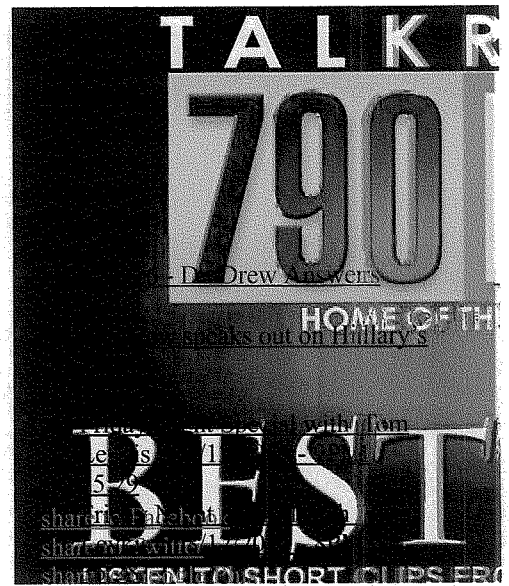
by George Hofstetter

If Lonnie David Franklin could vote in November, he would eagerly ink in the "yes" dot next to Proposition 62 and the "no" dot next to Proposition 66.

"I look at it a step toward reasonableness. What we have now doesn't work."

Sheriff Jim McDonnell was a guest on 790 KABC's McIntyre in the Morning Show with Doug McIntyre and Terri-Rae Elmer.

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Prop 66: "A Step Toward Reasonableness" - LA County Sheriff McDonnell

Posted on August 16, 2016

By Sandy Wells

12 KABC News

Proposition 66 is presenting voters an opportunity to push through a major reform that proponents say would save the state of California millions of dollars a year and fix a process that has become a sick joke. There are currently 743 inmates awaiting execution in California, according to deathpenaltyinfo.org. LA County Sheriff Jim McDonnell is backing Prop 66.

"What we have right now is broken. When somebody is sentenced, for them not meet justice for the next thirty years or more, really doesn't provide a disincentive for those watching what's happening, and certainly not to the individual - or provide justice to the victim's family."

Prop 66 would limit all state appeals to five years.

"Currently those appeals go on forever. Every murderer sentenced to death would have a special appeals lawyer assigned immediately. Oftentimes, that doesn't happen for several years as well. Then the State Supreme Court would be empowered to oversee the system to insure that appeal are expedited, but still protecting the rights of the accused."

McDonnell says the reform would lead to an estimated \$30 million in savings as special privileges and special housing for death penalty convicts would be withdrawn.

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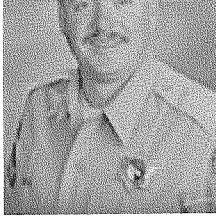
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George
Hofstetter

FRANKLIN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF NUMEROUS WOMEN AND GIRLS BETWEEN 1985 AND 2007; DETECTIVES BELIEVE HE COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING 25 OR MORE WOMEN.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Kathleen Kennedy sentenced Franklin to death last week. But his fate really will be decided at the ballot box this November.

Prop. 62 would scrap the death penalty, allowing Franklin and other death row inmates who have killed cops and raped and murdered children to continue receiving three square meals a day while living out their lives in the relative comfort of prison. Prop. 66, by contrast, would preserve the death penalty for the most heinous criminals by enacting critically needed reforms to the system.

In the interests of justice and public safety, it is imperative that each and every one of us do everything we can to pass Prop. 66 and defeat Prop. 62. Defeat simply is not an option, and ALADS urges all of our members to educate the public about the critical importance of this issue.

When we go out and talk to our friends, relatives, neighbors and acquaintances, we can drive home the importance of this vote by making the consequences real. An effective initial pitch would be to cite the Grim Sleeper as an example of someone who would reap the benefits of the wrong outcome in November.

You can sign up for campaign email updates, and volunteer for and donate to the campaign, by visiting the Californians for Death Penalty Reform and Savings website and clicking on the links on the right side of the home page.

George Hofstetter is President of the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs. ALADS is the collective bargaining agent and represents more than 8,200 deputy sheriffs and district attorney investigators working in Los Angeles County. George can be contacted at ghofstetter@alads.org.

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