

# In Case You Missed It

## Crime, Violence and Homelessness Emerge as Top Priority Issues for California Voters

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In two recent polls, the [Public Policy Institute of California](#) and the [Berkeley Institute of Government Studies](#) found California voters are increasingly concerned about crime, violence and homelessness in their state.

### Key findings and coverage include:

- **LA, SF, Oakland and San Diego's Homicides Up By 17% in 2021** ([PPIC](#))
- **78% of CA Voters Say Crime Has Increased Statewide** ([UC Berkely IGS Poll](#))
- **Crime and Homelessness Emerge as Top Issues Driving CA Voter Dissatisfaction** ([Los Angeles Times](#))
- **Crime and Homelessness are CA Democrats' Biggest Vulnerabilities in 2022 Elections** ([CalMatters](#))
- **Black CA Voters are Most Concerned with Violence & Crime in Their Communities** ([PPIC](#))

### How did we get here?

In response to the 2008 recession, public safety budgets were among the first to be cut and departments across the country have yet to recover the funding they need to recruit, hire, train and retain the right officers for the job. These challenges were compounded by the mere adoption and widespread proliferation of anti-police rhetoric, making it impossible to recruit, train and retain new qualified officers.

### How do we address the problem?

Community leaders, advocates and constituents are calling on local, state and federal leaders to [address rising crime](#), and it's time to listen. If you want to enjoy public life safely, that means ensuring police departments have the resources, staffing and funding they need to operate effectively – and our lawmakers have a responsibility to ensure communities are safe. Increased presence of well-trained officers on the streets is a deterrent to crime. Our elected leaders need to be part of the solution – this includes providing the necessary resources and helping shift the public narrative away from one that demonizes law enforcement to one focused on mutual respect and appreciation.