



Probation Association of New Jersey

Serving New Jersey Since 1904

An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

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Dear Legislative Leaders,

Now is the time to Post ACR-116/SCR-91, via a ballot question, to authorize the State Legislature to even consider changes to the State's Community Supervision System.

Shooting murders (264) and law enforcement shootings (45) are at their highest levels since 2010. The carjacking murder at the Short Hills Mall over the weekend of an attorney was tragic. It should also be noted that carjacking's are also at the highest point since 2010 (449).

PANJ believes that the Administrative office of the Courts is unwilling and unable to meet the need to safeguard their own officers and the citizens of New Jersey from offenders sentenced to probation. Simply put, this court administration does not believe that the purpose of probation is to safeguard the public, but rather to protect the sentenced probationer from intrusive and authoritative supervision in order to "rehabilitate" the offender, regardless of the safety implications to the officers and citizens of New Jersey.

The high percentage of probationers and over 19,000 absconders, who make up almost a quarter of all shooting related incidents and arrests in the State of New Jersey, indicate a strong need for *change*. The change needed, is for the Legislature to post ACR-116/SCR-91 and allow the citizens of this state to decide how they should be protected from these dangerous and violent predators that live amongst them.

PANJ urges you to make the right decision and simply allow the citizens to have a voice in whether or not the Legislature can even consider changes to Probation.

Respectfully,

Dwight Covaleskie
President, Elect
Probation Association of New Jersey