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January 25, 2024
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
Press Release #24-16

**DA Zimmer Announces Signature Collection Stations for
Homeless, Drug Addiction, Retail Theft Reduction Act Ballot Initiative**
Kick Off Begins January 26, 2024

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer joins efforts with District Attorneys across the state in an initiative to increase safety and accountability in our communities. Community members will be collecting signatures this weekend to place the Homeless, Drug Addiction, Retail Theft Reduction Act on the November 2024 ballot.

All registered voters are encouraged to sign the petition or learn more about the act by visiting the following signature collection stations:

Date	Time	Location
Friday, January 26, 2024	12:00pm – 1:00pm	Luigi’s Restaurant 725 E 19th St, Bakersfield, CA
Saturday, January 27, 2024	10:00am – 3:00pm	Hobby Lobby 4450 California Ave, Bakersfield, CA

According to Golden State Communities, proponents of the initiative, since the passage of Proposition 47 in 2014, homelessness has increased 51% in California. Drug addiction has become a humanitarian crisis and retail and cargo theft have exploded. This measure will address these issues by reforming laws to:

- Hold repeat thieves accountable with felony prosecution.
- Allow treatment-mandated felony prosecution for 3rd time hard drug convictions.
- Tackle the fentanyl crisis by going after fentanyl drug dealers.

Just 30 days in, a significant number of signatures have already been collected throughout California. 546,651 valid signatures from California votes are required to qualify the measure for the November 2024 ballot. This morning, Californians to Reduce Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft announced that in

less than 30 days, 214,000 California voters have signed the petition. Furthermore, a survey conducted by Californians to Reduce Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft found that 89% of voters support changes to Proposition 47 to hold repeat offenders accountable.

Although California voters have already shown strong support in qualifying the measure, the work doesn't end there. District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the efforts; "California's weak drug and theft laws have compromised public safety, and it is affecting the quality of life of Californians. Join me and thousands of other Californians this weekend in seeking a safer future by demanding stricter consequences for criminals."

Read the measure [here](#). For more information, visit: <https://casafecommunities.com>.