The 'Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2020'

This is an initiative crafted in response to Propositions 47 and 57, which made some prisoners eligible for early parole if they were convicted of a nonviolent felony and allowed for the reduction of some felonies to misdemeanors. This may ring a bell to some who have heard their Police Chiefs talk about the impacts of Prop 47 (approved by voters in 2014) and 57 (approved by voters in 2016) on local law enforcement over the last several years. Namely, the campaign's Executive Director, Mike Ziegler, talked about how reclassifying certain felonies to misdemeanors has significantly impacted the safety of local communities in California. The room was mostly in agreement with supporting the act; however, there were a number of local electeds that questioned its validity and purpose. More information can be found at https://keepcalsafe.org/about/. This will be on the November 2020 ballot and is endorsed by the California Police Chiefs' Association.

In a nutshell: Local law enforcement believe that Prop 47 and 57 have gone too far in creating too much leniency for criminals and want to correct that through the 'Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2020'. There is bound to be people on all sides of this issue; however, the campaign firmly believes through polling and crime data that residents of the state are tired of the uptick in violent crime.

Tiered Sex Offender Registration (SB 384)

If your police departments are not already thinking about this, they should be. Starting on January 1, 2021, SB 384 will transition California’s lifetime sex offender registration model to a tier-based model. SB 384 will establish three tiers of registration for adult registrants for periods of 10 years, 20 years, and life, and two tiers of registration for juvenile registrants for periods of 5 years and 10 years. The registrant must petition to have their status reclassified and there will be a process to vet these requests.

In a nutshell: California is transitioning away from requiring all sex offenders to be registered for life. It is anticipated this will require a substantial amount of extra paperwork on local law enforcement and there won't be financial support from the State to carry out this new mandate.