

August 23, 2018
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Dear Ms Wicks:

I am concerned about reintegration for those with criminal records. Over the past thirty years the number of people with such records has skyrocketed with blacks disproportionately affected. This has been a serious impediment to finding work and housing and added to economic immobility, recidivism and ultimately racism. California was deeply involved in this increase with prop 184 implementing a Draconian three strikes sentencing rule and Chief Gates' Operation Hammer sweeps arresting 25000 people in South LA. Now California is slowly clawing its way back with Prop 57 in 2016 offering sentencing reform. Another step in this process is now before your Public Safety Committee as AB 1076 to make the sealing of criminal records automatic. It would similarly be useful to make voter registration automatic. In both cases there are many people who are not aware that relief is available and others for whom the current process is too cumbersome.

Please assure me that you will back AB 1076 and automatic voter registration.

I am very proud to be a Berkeley resident and a large part of that derives from our progressive history.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson