



Building Partnerships Φ Reforming Corrections Φ Improving Public Safety  
MEDICAL ~ LIFERS ~ 3 STRIKES ~ VISITATION ~ QP'S ~ LEGAL ~ NEWS ~ LEGISLATION

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Mission Statement:

To unite the prison reform community and inform the public about Corrections, to reform Corrections and thereby improve public safety, to support forward thinking politicians who support prison reform and remove those who do not.

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# Parole Plan Tanking

CDCR's plan to discharge certain parolees early, or to provide no-parole for some offenders, is quickly sinking as the Office of Inspector General (OIG) just released its study of a recent sex-offender case out of South Lake Tahoe.

You may recall this recent case where a parolee sex offender was in the news for his alleged involvement in the 1991 kidnapping of an 11-year old girl who he and his wife kept in a backyard container for 17 years, and fathered two of her children.

The day after his arrest, CDCR held a celebrated press conference to praise the diligent efforts of its parole officers in finding the abducted girl and her children.

What CDCR didn't tell anyone is that there was a

host of parole violations over the years that should have tipped off any modestly competent parole officer that something was very, very wrong.

The scathing OIG report found numerous instances where improperly trained parole officers clearly dropped the ball for years and neglected to notice flagrant violations -- all of which could have brought the victim back to her family years ago.

Among the many identified mistakes are that no GPS monitoring was in place, no mental health evaluations were performed, and no home visits were conducted at all.

Meanwhile CDCR and the Governor have been promoting early the early discharge and direct release as a means of reduc-

ing the overcrowded prisons and appeasing judges.

We can now expect some sort of reactive legislation in January to increase parole supervision, while at the same time endure increased attacks on any efforts to reduce parole discharges or establish no-parole policies.

Now how will CDCR get their population down without building more prisons?

We will continue to remind decision makers of the need to start paroling indeterminately sentenced individuals who are deemed to no longer be a credible threat to public safety. Uphold California's parole laws, uphold the sentencing Matrix, and stop holding inmates who pose no credible threat to public safety.

## Capitol News

Rumors have been circulating that Matt Gray is considering whether or not to run for the State Assembly. As a lawmaker, he would be able to author legislation to directly address the issues plaguing California's prison system. Finally we would

have a lawmaker who is committed to doing what needs to be done to fix the ongoing catastrophic failures in CDCR.

With 18 years of experience working directly in the Capitol — 12 of that being a staff member in the Assembly and Senate

— Matt's relationships with people in both parties has earned him a reputation for being an independent thinker, an issues person, and not a partisan pony. Matt's commitment to prison reform has been unwavering, as he has a loved

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308,000 inmates, wards, parolees, probationers have an average of 4 eligible-to-vote family members each = 1.54 million possible TiPS members. At \$5 each per month, that's an annual political empowerment budget of \$92.4 million each year. *Imagine...*

## HALAL MEALS

CDCR is in yet another pickle, this time over providing Halal meals. Similar to requirements to provide Jewish inmates with Kosher meals, CDCR is also required to provide observant Muslims with meals which comport to their faith.

Unless there is some compelling safety, security, or operational need, CDCR cannot legally deny inmates access to a range of their religious practices — such as dietary requirements — because failure to do so is a both a violation of the inmates' civil rights (as a class), and denial of equal protection. Thankfully, the requirement to provide kosher meals already set precedence for anyone who wishes to pursue the Halal meals issue.

Several Muslim inmates have been vigilantly battling this issue for

years, and making progress, but they have been doing it nearly alone and could always use help. So if you care about this issue and want change, then you need to step-up and help their efforts.

In response to years of these actions, CDCR says it is in the process of finalizing the standards for providing Halal meals.

However, TiPS is grossly disappointed in the manner by which CDCR has chosen to implement the program, in that it fails to provide a decent quality meal for observant Muslims.

Similarly, while Kosher meals are now 'available' at a many of the institutions, after many years of battling this issue the department continues to find new ways to throw stumbling blocks in the way of actually providing the meals, such as firing or failing to hire Rabbis, ob-

structing the delivery of religious meal items, or not offering the access to kosher meals at all at certain institutions where Jewish inmates are transferred.

Civil rights violations such as this, have no statute of limitations. But verifiable evidence is difficult to come by, and nearly impossible to track down by the time these things go to court. This is where up to date record keeping becomes most important.

Staff members who intentionally obstruct the delivery of these services can be held accountable because there is no qualified immunity in their roles as state employees, because violating someone's rights is outside the scope of their authority. Please document names of staff, dates, details, and provide other evidence as available.

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## MEDICAL BEDS

The federal medical Receivership has significantly downgraded its plan to build medical facilities to adequately meet the needs of California's inmates.

Now only 1,800 additional beds are being proposed to serve California's nearly 170,000 inmates.

We say 170,000 inmates because so far there is no viable plan so far to reduce the prison population to even being close to within constitutional limits in response to overcrowded conditions.

Of course the argument remains that California's prison population will 'soon' be reduced by about 44,000 inmates, but so far (and after years of talks), the Governor and Legislature lack the political ability to forge any realistic solutions.

To make matters worse, however, the Receivership is proposing a mega-facility of 1,800 beds, unlike anything that has been done before. We respectfully withhold our enthusiasm for building government run

mega-facilities which are at least twice the size of even the largest privately run facilities in the country. To put it into perspective, most privately run facilities tend to be smaller than 600 beds for very good reasons.

While these private facilities are run for profit, if there was a way to house more patients efficiently while also providing quality medical care, they would have built mega-facilities long ago. Notice that they have not.

Beyond that, as presently planned, the mega-facilities are slated to be located far outside of popular metropolitan areas, and so staffing them with quality professionals is sure to be an insurmountable challenge.

Location. Location. Location.

Have we not learned anything from building Coaling State Hospital, where a 'state of the art' facility is always short of staff and so taxpayers ultimately bought a bunch of empty (expensive) space?

Those few staff who are available will likely come from the already

strained local clinics and hospitals, and so the vacuum of staff at those facilities will in turn cause a shortage of medical services for residents.

The remote locations will also be a considerable distance from airports and major transportation hubs, and thus transportation for visiting family members of inmates will be a burden and in many cases financially impossible.

All of these concerns were both studied and acknowledged as legitimate by the previous medical Receiver Bob Sillen. However, as of late, the about-face in strategies is alarming at best and likely to result in catastrophic failure.

The best plan would be to figure out a model for serving the individual patient's needs, and then determine how to replicate that process to efficiently meeting the needs for all of the patients. That model for success was in play and for some reason (cost and public perception), mothballed. The plan to cope with employee apathy towards inmates is still being discussed and all parties remain hopeful.

## Parole Cases

While there have been plenty of cases getting action lately (cf. Lawrence, Shaputis, Davison, Phillips, Hayward, et al.), none of them, so far, are actually getting the results we had all hoped for.

Even when the writs are granted, and even with orders for release, one or two people may peek out but on the whole there are still thousands of similarly situated people who are not getting any relief at all.

Even with the best of intentions, it seems that attorneys are arguing very narrowly defined claims that the courts then grant, and the Board/Governor still circumvents the ruling by shifting arbitrarily to a new issue that then needs to be arbitrated in a never ending cycle.

This cycle of constantly creating a

moving target of reasons to deny parole negates the entire scope of habeas, because a fundamental requirement of due process is Notice.

Government cannot deprive any individual of life, liberty, or property without due process. Government must notify the individual specifically in specific detail, in writing, as to why the individual liberty is being deprived — so that the individual has the opportunity to challenge it judicially.

Once an individual wins their petition, government cannot come back and deny the petitioner for a whole new reason, as that would clearly negate due process by rendering it arbitrary.

But this constantly moving target of reasons to deny parole is precisely what the Board and Governor does.

The Board cannot even articulate

what “insight” is (or for that matter codify it is as one of the legitimate reasons for denial). Of course the Board cites Shaputis when denying parole for lack of insight, but it forgets to apply the other factors of that narrowly decided case.

We are aware that in Shaputis the court found that the psych report was unfavorable, responsibility for the crime not admitted, and subsequently remorse was not forthcoming. In those exact instances, then, parole can be denied.

But to use that case to universally deny parole under very different case factors — such as those who admit guilt, accept responsibility, show remorse, and receive favorable psych. evals — is using the judiciary to set public policy (clearly a legislative function) and violates separation of powers protections.

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## MAKING AMENDS

by Mervin L. Brookins, Sr.

For years, I have struggled with trying to atone for the harm that my actions have caused others. This goes for those that I've harmed directly as well as those that I've harmed indirectly through my poor example.

I have a gnawing guilt for those that I *mis*guided through my actions, for those whose future I robbed through my example. Whenever I see or hear about a youngster coming to prison, I am reminded of the painful fact that my actions contributed to the negative

culture that influenced him. This awareness provides the fuel for my desire to atone.

Over the years, I've come to understand that making amends is not an *act* but rather it is *a way of life*. It is a way of *being* that springs from within you (remorse) and empowers those around you.

As the saying goes, “you can give without loving (an act), but you cannot love without giving (a way of life).” Making amends is exactly that: “you can make amends without being remorseful (an act) but you cannot be remorseful without making amends (a way of life).”

Writing a letter to your victim is an ‘act’ of amends; having the quality of character that seeks to contribute to others is ‘a way of life.’

One is fleeting, while the other is lasting. In making amends, I realize that I cannot undo what has been done, but I *can* do better than I did. In other words, while I cannot change the past, I can affect the future. In being a better me, I can positively impact those around me as opposed to the negative impact of my previous behavior. I can be ever mindful of my ability to influence those around me in a positive manner and honor that ability. Not when I get out, but now.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

TiPS relies heavily upon volunteer efforts by many people, and is grateful for the dedication by so many wonderful individuals.

This month we celebrate the 3-year mark for volunteer Gigi Pack, who has devoted so much of her time to making sure TiPS central office is running smoothly. Her focus, strategic vision, and selfless devotion to improving the quality of life for so many other people is greatly valued.

## LAWSUITS UPDATE

Money for continued lawsuits has been trickling in. We understand some people are struggling to assure their survival, and we remain most grateful for all of the support so far. All money is accounted for and deposited into a unique bank account.

TiPS stands ready to pursue its challenges to Prop. 9 (Marsy's Law), the Lifer Lawsuit, and Three Strikes. But we cannot do it without our members' wholehearted generous support.

In anticipation of the funding we did file the Prop. 9 lawsuit, but recently withdrew it. We stand ready to re-file it once it is funded. The Lifer Lawsuit and Three Strikes challenge are also on hold pending adequate funding.

We stand by our commitment that the legal strategies remain the best and most effective ones to stopping all of Prop. 9, and fixing the flawed parole process. We also continue to approach other interested groups for support.

## FAQs

Answering these Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) helps to reduce redundant inquiries by new members.

**Q: Why should I join TiPS?**

A: TiPS is an investment in your future, your political standing, your power and level of influence. We are now the fastest growing union in CA.

**Q: What is TiPS all about?**

A: Power in numbers! TiPS is the political empowerment machine for the prison reform community. With this growing effort we finally have a voice to fight back against the self-serving special interests who line their own pockets at the expense of inmates and their loved ones.

**Q: Can I be on the TiPS mailing list?**

A: Become a member. TiPS is paid for and owned by TiPS members. You must be a member.

**Q: Why do I receive some of the same handouts every time TiPS writes me?**

A: Duplicate handouts, such as Statement of Membership (SoM) forms, are for your use in sharing TiPS with other people you know who should also be a member.

**Q: Will TiPS advocate my case?**

A: TiPS only proceeds on matters which benefit our membership body.

**Q: How do I join TiPS?**

A: 1) Read our union contract  
2) fill out and return the Statement of Membership (SoM) form to us  
3) pay your dues either monthly, quarterly, or annually.

**Q: How much are TiPS dues?**

A: Starting at just \$5 per person per month for the basic Silver Plan.

**Q: What if I don't have money?**

A: Ask your family or friends to sponsor you. TiPS sponsors some indigent members because they work for their membership by providing other membership sign-ups and outreach to community entities in exchange for paying their dues. However, given the need to finance this political empowerment effort, we ask that if you are indigent you

first ask your friends and family to sponsor your membership dues. TiPS has a limited number of indigent memberships available and cannot afford to carry those who will not help themselves. For any indigent member proof of financial status is required by way of the trust account.

**Q: What other choices do I have?**

A1: You could do nothing and enjoy the reward of dying in prison because the general public thinks you are a TV example of a hardened throw-away human being, no matter what you can actually accomplish or provide for the betterment of society; or A2: You can spin your wheels with other so-called 'prison reform' groups who have for years accomplished nothing, have no vested interest in succeeding, and would rather complain and talk about how difficult their life is. In short, you could have more of the same old same old, or you could have TiPS (the only organized and funded go-to prison reform group in the State Capitol).

## APPOINTMENT VISITOR PROCESSING

Spending up to 7 hours on the phone just to get through to someone, many visitors are frustrated with how CDCR has rolled out its appointment visitor processing program.

Instead of creating a web based appointment system, touch-tone automated registration, or any other 21st century method, CDCR is sticking with the traditional 'our staff will not let us down' approach. A few prisons are using email with growing success.

## Membership Cards

Membership cards don't expire (regardless of what the date says), unless the member violates the terms of our contract or fails to pay their dues.

That means the date on the front of the card is not important if you remain a member in good standing.

We maximize the use of TiPS \$\$\$ to avoid unnecessary waste, so the decision was made not to re-issue membership cards after the date on the card has lapsed. This is the best use of TiPS dollars.

**Law Office of  
Sanders & Associates**

Board Hearings

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If you believe you are a member in good standing but have not yet received your membership card, then please write to us and we will immediately look into it. Whenever possible be sure to include amount of your payment(s) and the date.

## Parole

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Lack of insight, lack of remorse, and failure to accept responsibility are not in and of themselves reasons for denial. But rather, they are conclusions that must be based upon "some evidence" that withstands the scrutiny of a due process hearing.

It must be determined that the evidence has a modicum of reliability and they must determine

that the evidence is a reasonable indicators that a person poses a current risk of danger. Then, and only then, can they conclude that the individual shows a lack of insight, lack of remorse, or fails to accept responsibility.

A process for evaluating the evidence, then, must be adhered to in order to form a rational basis for any conclusion. It is not up to the individual to prove that s/he has insight, remorse, or accepts respon-

sibility. The law doesn't say the individual has to prove they aren't a danger, it says that the Board must determine if the person poses an unreasonable risk and due process requires that they establish on the record that evidence is reliable and it supports a conclusion (rational basis), that the person is still a danger (not 'were' a danger). Shaputis allowed the conclusion based upon the specific evidence of that case.

## Trimming the Fat

In light of the budget crisis, why does California continue to pay two or more people to do the same job?

Californians are deservedly worried about their economic future. Yet, the State of California thinks nothing of paying two or more people to do the same job and in some cases to reverse each other's decisions.

How is this happening? Take the plight of the lifer inmate who has served the minimum time allowed before coming in front of the Board of Prison Terms. During the parole hearing, the inmate and his/her record are carefully scrutinized. The inmate must present the reasons why they are no longer considered a threat to society and should be released. This is like proving your innocence! It's very hard to do.

We know the Board members are usually ex-law enforcement or current victims vengeance advocates, even though the law states it is to be a cross-section of individuals comprising these boards. But this is not the reality inmates face. Retired wardens, retired police officers, ex-district attorneys and those who have suffered violence make up the Board panels.

What are the criteria for being released from prison? The inmate must show a strength of character by having no disciplinary infractions. The inmate must show sincere remorse for the crime committed and the inmate must have deep and true insight into the reason

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## Three Judge Panel

The final decision by the three judge panel concerning inmate population should be received shortly. The attorneys representing the inmate plaintiffs have essentially accepted the proposal submitted by CDCR for inmate population reduction with some minor differences which remain in dispute.

However, before anyone reaches the conclusion that this matter is now over, gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brown and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger have both promised to appeal the order no matter what it says. Both have indicated that they have no intention of reducing inmate

population and continue to press for more prison construction instead.

It is likely, but not guaranteed, that the three judge panel will issue its order before Christmas which will result in the appeal being filed by the State of California in January.

In that justices of the United States Supreme Court have already indicated that they want to rule on the appeal, we should all expect it to be heard in the Court's October 2010 term.

If the court actually does prevail through

the appeals process, and actually ends up issuing a ruling on how to reduce the prison population, experts agree there is only one way: there will likely be an across the board cut of up to 25% off of determinate sentences.

For example, a 2 year sentence would become 18 months, without looking at the type of offense or the individual inmate's case. With respect to Lifers, discussions so far are that no action will be forthcoming from the Three Judge Panel on Lifers. Nonetheless, we will not give up on that issue.

## Thank you members

We are on a mission to empower the prison reform community. Our members understand that this political empowerment effort is all a process, and certain things have to be completed before others can begin.

**First** comes a large enough membership to sustain the battles we must wage. This takes time, effort, and money, which comes from your direct involvement in our growth.

**Second** comes an effort to educate the public through earned media and public events. This has come to some extent, but we need a much larger membership to do it right.

**Third** comes a full scale push upon the Legislature and during elections to support lawmakers who are progressive on prison reform. The other two steps must be in place before this can be accomplished.

Rome was not built in a day (or even a few years). But every day is a chance to plant another seed and lay another brick. What you are doing to build your TiPS union with more dues paying members?

Our beloved members provide solid support because they recognize strategy and have realistic expectations about how things get done—one foot in front of the other.

Invest in yourself and your future; and help build TiPS every day!

## Trimming Fat From Pg. 5

the crime was committed so as not to be in that position again.

Disciplinary infractions are easy to get within the prison setting, especially when they are handed out for haircuts, dress codes, and cleanliness.

Over a 12 plus year period, it can be counted on that some imbalanced power hungry staff will write up an inmate for merely hanging a towel in the wrong place. There are many write-ups that are unjustified (and many that are), but just one 115 citation can be used by the Board to deny parole.

Showing remorse for a crime is basically required, even if the inmate is later found to be factually innocent. During the trial phase of their legal journey, defense attorneys do not want the accused to say those words

victims need to hear..."I am sorry." At the time of the trial, many victims cannot accept those words and understandably so. However, as years go by, inmates for the most part do come to the realization of what their crime has cost the victim's family, their family, and society. With that realization, true sorrow follows and remorse.

Insight into the crime is another criteria for a release date. What does that mean? It means the inmate must understand what led him/her to commit this crime. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time is not insight. It is an excuse. Inmates do develop insight with deep reflection as to what led them on this path, and what they have to do to take another road.

When an inmate comes to the hearing all of the above must be present and more. The inmate must also show evidence of programming. Pro-

gramming is having a job and going to work every day. Programming means getting an education if it wasn't gained before. Programming is everything else that can be done in a positive light in the institutional setting. If that is not the case, the inmate is denied a date.

How hard is it to get found suitable to parole? Considering the make up of the panels it is not surprising that the statistics bear out that it almost impossible to hear "You have been found suitable" at a Board hearing. It is statistically negligible that the first hearing results in a finding of suitability, and now under Prop. 9 the inmate is given three to fifteen year denials before he can come in front of the Board again.

Being found suitable does happen, but it is not an easy hurdle to clear. When the inmate does get that suit-

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## Matt Gray From Pg. 1

one in prison and understands the challenges families face with harsh treatment, arbitrary decisions, and trying to hold a family together through it all.

*"Prisons should be a place to keep people who are a credible threat to public safety, only so long as they remain a credible threat, and not simply because we are angry with someone," says Matt.*

In the face of Governor Schwar-

zenegger's push to strip away nearly all of AB 900's rehabilitation programs and eliminate 1/2 of the teacher positions in prisons, the push for scrutinizing who gets elected has become a hot issue.

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## Commissioner Doyle

As the Senate has been busy confirming Board Commissioners in spite of objections from prison reform advocates (who provide evidence that the individuals are morally, ethically, and professionally unsuitable for the positions), one recently confirmed commissioner is rising to the top of the list of reasons why the Senate should actually pay attention to the facts being presented.

At a recent parole hearing, Commissioner Doyle informed the inmate that they "cannot program [their] way out of prison."

This inmate had a stellar programming record, favorable psychological reports, no write-ups for over a decade, and even Chronos from staff who

have had the opportunity to observe the inmate and their commitments on a daily basis.

The Deputy Commissioner couldn't resist the chance to also say something stupid, and chimed-in with an admonishment to the inmate that had they just written up their parole proposal in a format which the panel could understand, then parole might have been granted.

Could you imagine? The panel basically said 'we cannot understand the information presented, so we are going to deny parole at this time.'

By the way, this inmate is a clear thinker and articulate, so the lack of understanding undoubtedly speaks entirely to the make-up and competency of the panel that day.

By all accounts this inmate has accepted responsibility for the crime, expressed remorse and made amends as best they can from where they are. This inmate has also consistently behaved in a respectable manner which only underscores their suitability on all levels.

In 'Doyleing' out the denial, the commissioner and deputy commissioner clearly violated Lawrence and thus disregarded an interpretation of law by California's highest court, the state Supreme Court.

A public official (i.e BPH Commissioner), who flagrantly disregards the laws of this state and willfully chooses to ignore a very clear ruling by our Supreme Court, should without hesitation be removed by the Governor.

## Trimming Fat From Pg. 6

ability stamp of his paperwork, he does not just walk home. This is where the issues begin.

The Department of Corrections then reviews the hearing to be sure it was done correctly. There is wasted money! If the high-prices Board members are trained properly, then their finding would suffice. Next the case goes into the Governor's Office for review, and the Board's own counsel sets provides background and recommendations on ways for the Governor to then over-rule the Board.

This is also a waste of time and money. Again, if we the taxpayers are paying Board members \$112,000+ dollars per year, then why is another committee looking over and reversing their decisions? Most findings of suitability are ultimately

reversed by the Governor upon a review by yet another panel.

Who are these people that reverse the Board decisions behind the shadow of the Governor? Very few people know. They are appointed by the Governor and paid a handsome salary. Are they attorneys? No one knows. How did they get the job? No one knows. Are they a cross section of the community as the Board members are supposed to be? No one knows. And just what are they paid? No one knows because their existence is shrouded in secrecy.

Once the reversal has been given, more money must be spent because an inmate can request a court appointed attorney to continue the legal battle. Another way California taxpayers are having their money wasted.

In summary, we have three groups of people all doing the same job; and

all getting paid to do the same job.

If we have a panel of 18 Board members and they are trained, why is it their decisions do not hold? Why are there people looking over their shoulders to be sure they did everything correctly. Why is it a third group then looks over the same case and makes yet another decision reversing what two groups have already decided on.

If newsletters had soundtracks, at this point we would have reached the end of the clickety-clack of the price tag being ratched up, followed by a big "swoosh" of money flushing down the toilet.

No wonder the State of California is going broke. In how many departments are many people all doing the same job, reversing the decisions of the people who came before them?

## Matt Gray From Pg. 6

The Assembly District in question includes parts of the cities of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Foothill Farms, Granite Bay, North Highlands, Orangevale, Roseville, and Sacramento, and has traditionally been a republican district, but with waning partisan registration the district is now a near split between 38% democrats and 39% republicans (down from 44%), with an increasing number of Decline to State registrants. While the district still tends to vote conservative, a majority supported Obama while also Prop. 8 (same sex marriage ban). Clearly the Decline to State group is more issue oriented and hence the departure from formal partisan registration.

After careful deliberation and consultation with colleagues and friends, Matt has filed to run.

A formal campaign website has been published and can be found by going to [www.votemattgray.com](http://www.votemattgray.com) where you be able to view his platform and commitments to voters. Unlike every other candidate, Matt has far more experience and has presented a

detailed platform with details on what needs to be done to address California's problems. This campaign will be very expensive, and all **Donations** are appreciated. Donations to the campaign may be sent by mail or made directly online at the homepage. All Donations must include the payer's full contact information, the name of their employer, and their job title (if any).

Downloadable fliers to pass out to family/friends can be found online at [www.votemattgray.com/pr.pdf](http://www.votemattgray.com/pr.pdf)

A FaceBook page has also been created for anyone who wants to receive updates on the progress of the campaign, just search "Matt Gray for Assembly 2010." On Twitter find him at "MattGray\_Calif".

The 'powers that be' don't want Matt to win, and have hand-picked a nobody to run against Matt. This nobody has the inside track and is favored among the very same people who have done nothing to fix this prison mess, and care nothing about fixing parole. We have more people, we have more money, we just need to get united on the same front and 'send a message' to Sacramento that

**we matter** and will be silent no more!

Whether you like Matt or not, the prison reform community has never had a chance like this, and probably will not again any time soon — so let's do this right.

**To answer any questions, yes, TiPS will continue with business as usual during this campaign.**

Register today to vote June 8th!  
Paid for by Matt Gray for Assembly 2010. Campaign ID #1323001

## Miscellaneous Tidbits

1. Make sure you update who your emergency medical contact is in your file. This medical release of information form (# 7385), can be obtained through your counselor and possibly through medical, and needs to be completed to include your family member's name and contact information.
2. Get involved with your Inmate Family Council (IFC), made up of family members of inmates and which regularly meets with institution staff to resolve various issues. Find out who is on your IFC and how you can help.

## The Big Picture

TiPS serves to unite, empower, educate and provide for its members. By implementing a 3-pronged approach to prison reform and improving public safety in California, we have created and are supporting:

1. "California Prisoners Union" — as a bona fide multidisciplinary union representing past and present inmates, wards, parolees, wards, and their friends & family members
2. "Victims Foundation" — a non-profit public service to meet the needs of victims (including inmates), as well as sue on their behalf. VF is supportive of finding constructive & cost effective ways to prevent the creation of more victims, and is different from the current fear based retributive victims organizations that violate peoples' rights
3. Investments in intervention & prevention programs for our youth — including educational investments in children of incarcerated parents and those who are perceived to be at-risk children.

By meeting the needs of the incarcerated, as well as the victims and all of our children, we will altogether create a mainstream movement toward improving the level of public safety for all Californians.

On the web at:

[www.ForPublicSafety.com](http://www.ForPublicSafety.com)



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**"Nothing can be more abhorrent to democracy than to imprison a person or keep him in prison because he is unpopular. This is really the test of civilization." Winston Churchill**