



## Penner for Governor: Committed to Returning the American Dream of Social Mobility

### The Penner Homelessness Plan: Balancing Kindness and Safety

*A measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members*

#### Plan Highlights

- Lean into public-private partnerships for the most efficient planning and development of these newly built communities, utilizing state-of-the-art modular home construction, which will reduce time to implement by almost 50%
- Declare a state of emergency to bypass the cost and time delays of our state's massive bureaucracy, reducing the time to build by years and the costs to the taxpayer by half, or approximately \$25-50 billion
- Create a single state directed program modeled after the private sector solution called Community First! Village in Austin Texas', which has fostered a true community wherein homeless live productive lives in dignity
- Restore safety to all our streets by ending street camping
- Within the housing villages, house and provide high-quality care that is tailored to meet the specific needs of each individual rather than lump all homeless into a single facility or method of care.

#### California in Crisis

California's government has spent nearly \$25 billion on homelessness since 2020, and the net result is an increase in the state's homeless population of approximately 25%. The state leads the nation in homelessness, with approximately 25% of all homeless nationally sleeping on California's streets. We must create use our taxpayer's hard-earned money to facilitate a better quality of life with proper care for our society's most vulnerable.

Beyond the human tragedy in the streets, the cost to the state is truly enormous. Major urban areas, such as Downtown Los Angeles, are now ghosts of their former selves and unsafe, and as a result perhaps has much as \$100 billion of real estate value has been wiped out there alone! In addition to the financial devastation and safety issues, the souls of Californians are being impacted daily, as we are all forced to walk by this human tragedy, with our hearts breaking and knowing that it is a problem that is simply too big for anyone but government to solve.

California needs a single housing and homelessness policy that can restore safety to our streets and use proven solutions to help our most vulnerable citizens rebuild their lives. Current spending, funding many different initiatives, has failed to reduce homelessness



or make communities safer. It is time to marry compassion with efficiency and determination to build a single new approach that achieves the desired results.

Reducing homelessness is not just about removing tents from sidewalks. It is about helping individuals find stability, rebuild their lives, and move toward the American dream. When people have safe housing and access to support, they can pursue education, secure jobs, and contribute to their communities. Stronger communities in turn attract new businesses and investment, creating a cycle of opportunity that benefits everyone in California.

**Plan Benefits:** Safety, Economic Vibrancy, Dignity, Quality Care, Cost Efficiency

Housing our homeless in villages enables them to enjoy a community life and facilitates the providing of both care and opportunity in an optimal manner. Within these communities, professionals will address each citizen's specific need with tailored solutions, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

A single, statewide homelessness strategy will get greater results, be more naturally transparent, will be more easily executed, and will eliminate efficiency and corruption. California can no longer afford to pour billions into programs that do not work. We need a results-driven homelessness policy that balances compassion with public safety, gives people a real chance to rebuild their lives, and makes our communities safe and livable again.

Moving our homeless population out of our urban centers will create a much more affordable quality of life for the thousands of social workers and mental health professionals who service that community.

A statewide ban on sleeping in the streets will immediately improve safety and quality of life for all Californians, including our homeless population. It will also have an immediate positive impact on economic vibrancy.

Building and maintaining these communities will bring meaningful economic benefit to Californians in the form of jobs.

We must also take proactive steps to halt multigenerational homelessness. For children, homelessness can mean losing access to education, health care, and the stability they need to grow and thrive. Our approach will ensure every homeless child can remain in school, receive regular medical care, and have safe spaces for learning and play.

By combining creative housing solutions, wrap-around services, and public-private partnerships, California can eliminate street encampments, help people recover, and restore public spaces for everyone.