

**11/7/24** Elected officials in the “Bluest” of areas may have met their match. [Progressive Los Angeles D.A. George Gascon](#), who was blasted by his staff for going easy on the accused and hard on cops, was ousted by former Federal prosecutor Nathan Hochman, who blamed his rival for the waves of theft and misbehavior that haunt L.A. [And in California’s violence- and homelessness-beset Bay Area](#), voters booted two other progressives: Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao and Alameda County D.A. Pamela Price. Their preference for pulling back the throttle on policing and punishment seems no longer in favor.

**11/6/24** Proposition 47, which California voters enacted ten years ago, reflected progressive priorities to reduce punishment and incarceration. But waves of shoplifting and burglary eroded its support. Voters have just passed [Proposition 36](#), which restores the “felony” designation to thefts under \$950 for those with two or more prior convictions for stealing. Group thefts, which have come to beset retailers, are now felonies punishable by lengthy terms. Penalties have also substantially stiffened for drug dealing.

**10/8/24** Mobs that have been besieging 7-Elevens in Los Angeles have expanded into the home of Disneyland. While a street takeover delayed the cops, an aggressive band of masked shoplifters “ransacked” an Anaheim 7-Eleven, punching the clerk and carting off the cash register and a load of merchandise. Calling the incident the first in the city, Anaheim PD Sgt. Matt Sutter promised his agency would endeavor to “stop this before it gets started.”

**9/23/24** Swarms of young teen shoplifters continue besetting L.A.-area 7-Eleven stores. One that was ransacked early last month by a group of about fifty bicycle-riding youths just got hit again, and again by about fifty. Bemoaning “a neighborhood that is both in fear and now without a convenience store on the corner,” councilmember Tim McOsker, who represents working class areas, finds it “deeply disturbing [that] incidents like these are becoming more common.” Although “Blue,” he’s called for...more cops.

**9/2/24** “You’re allowed to rob a store as long as it’s not more than \$950.” That’s how candidate Trump recently characterized California Prop. 47, which reduced the punishment of all thefts from businesses, including planned thefts, to misdemeanors if losses don’t exceed \$950. Trump’s opponent, Kamala Harris, the State’s A.G. when Prop. 47 was introduced, had reportedly said that she was “neutral” about the measure. Mayors, police and prosecutors have blamed the law for a surge in retail theft.

**8/19/24** Gangs of twenty or so bicycle-riding youths have been swarming L.A.-area 7-

Eleven stores. Smashing windows and jumping over counters, they quickly grab food and other merchandise then swiftly pedal away. Two such events happened in the Hollywood area within a half-hour Friday evening; another took place in a nearby district last week. And so far, no arrests.

**8/14/24** California Prop. 36, which voters will decide on later this year, nixes the progressively-minded reforms of Proposition 47 and, among other things, restores felony penalties for repeat thefts. In response, liberally-minded legislators sent the Governor a competing bill, [which he signed](#), that ups punishment, but for organized theft rings. Members of the Legislative Black Caucus oppose both. “These measures deepen mass incarceration, and deepening mass incarceration is going in reverse of where Californians wanted us to go, which is to decarcerate.” (See 4/10/24 update)

**8/1/24** To pay for their drug habits, groups of thieves had been stripping reams of street lighting and communications wiring from L.A.’s poverty-stricken neighborhoods, then reselling the metal to shady scrap yards and recyclers. This “epidemic” of copper-wire theft led the city to establish a “copper wire task force.” A joint project of LAPD and the Bureau of Street Lighting, it recently generated an eye-popping eighty-two arrests. While two council members remain opposed to funding a “punishment” approach, their colleagues recently added \$200,000 to the enforcement kitty.

**7/31/24** A coordinated effort by the California A.G., five Southern California cities and the Riverside sheriff’s office against smash-and-grab robberies has led to the conviction and imprisonment of eight leaders on charges of robbery and theft. During May-August 2023 they assembled crews using social media, then swarmed high-end stores in Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside Counties. Their targets included Nordstrom, Yves Saint Laurent and Louis Vuitton. Losses to the retailers exceeded 1.7 million.

**4/18/24** In a concerted effort to tackle an epidemic of “flash robberies” by mobs of thieves, LAPD released a detailed series of images depicting hooded young persons swarming retailers on two occasions in March. They are described as “male Hispanics, five to six feet tall, 120 to 250 pounds, and appear to be between the ages of 15-25 years old.” Police cautioned that the thieves “used force and displayed a lack of regard for the safety of witnesses and victims.” They fled on bicycles.

**4/10/24** Enacted in 2014, California Proposition 47 raised the threshold for felony theft to \$950. That, say retailers, spurred on an epidemic of smash-and-grabs. A ballot initiative would address the issue by allowing felony charges for three-time repeat thieves and for strings of thefts where the total loss is at least \$950. “The homelessness, drug addiction and theft reduction act” also targets the fentanyl crisis. Among (many)

other things, drug treatment would be required for chronic users. [Initiative 23-0017](#) (See 8/14/24 update)

[4/3/24](#) “Bumper stickers, billboards and advertisements on public buses” warning criminals that they will be severely treated are three of the eye-catching elements of a campaign by Orange County, Calif. authorities as they combat a claimed epidemic of home invasions, burglaries, and “smash-and-grab” thefts. D.A. Todd Spitzer blames outsiders for committing the crimes, and State authorities for enacting legal easings that have made the consequences of being caught “far less than the reward.”

[3/8/24](#) Faced by a steep rise in drug use and homelessness, progressively-minded San Francisco has (somewhat) retrenched. Police were prohibited from pursuing suspects except under the gravest circumstances. But with voters’ passage of Proposition E, they can do so when there is “reasonable suspicion that a person committed, is committing or is likely to commit a felony or violent misdemeanor.” Police will also be allowed to deploy drones and use facial recognition technology. But Proposition B, an expensive move to boost police staffing, was overwhelmingly rejected. [Official digest](#)

[2/7/24](#) Oakland’s marked increase in violent crime and theft, which seem badly out of synch with other cities, has upset the local NAACP chapter. It urges tougher measures to protect vulnerable minority communities. “If there are no consequences for committing crime in Oakland, crime will continue to soar.” To help, Calif. Governor Kevin Newsom is sending 120 CHP officers. But he resists tinkering with the much-maligned Proposition 47, which eased criminal penalties. Some now blame that for more crime.

[2/6/24](#) London Breed, San Francisco’s liberal Mayor, credits “strategic” policing with helping bring down crime in a city that was becoming beset by thievery. Black and immigrants residents of poor neighborhoods, she says, are nonetheless “pleading for more police,” and she urges approval of a March 5th. ballot measure that would grant them more means to fight crime, including the authority to use drones and surveillance cameras.

[12/26/23](#) A raid by state officers on a Southern California warehouse and a make-up store yielded over a million dollars’ worth of cosmetics stolen from local retailers. Part of a task-force approach instituted by Governor Gavin Newsom in response to a sharp spike in retail theft, the seizure followed on the heels of an LAPD raid that yielded “hundreds of thousands of dollars” in goods purloined from L.A.-area businesses. These and other recoveries add fuel to a move by some lawmakers to undo Proposition 47, which recategorized all property crimes where the total loss is less than \$950 as misdemeanors.

**12/18/23** Last year, normally placid Vermont experienced a substantial uptick in shootings. And the violence has continued. Statewide, it's suffered ten homicides since October. Burlington, where three Palestinian students were recently wounded in a hate attack, experienced sixteen "gunfire incidents" this year. In 2020 calls for defunding led the City Council to order police officer staffing reduced from 104 to 74. That move has since been moderated, but the city presently has 69 officers. Facing a scourge of public drug dealing and misbehavior, the city has hired security guards to help shoppers feel safe. (see 11/14/22 update)

**9/27/23** Retail thefts, including large-scale assaults by organized bands of shoplifters ("flash mobs"), have made life difficult for chain stores. Target, which reported a major increase in thefts involving threats or violence this year, is shuttering nine locations across the U.S. Walmart is following suit. Many retailers are trying to deal with the situation by removing desirable items from the shelves and placing them behind the counter. Self-checkout is also being limited. But according to an asset protection executive, "the situation is only becoming more dire."

**8/14/23** A "flash mob" of four dozen men and women wearing hoods hit a Nordstrom's store in a Los Angeles-area shopping mall on Saturday afternoon. Quickly rummaging through the aisles, they grabbed \$60,000-\$100,000 worth of merchandise, then fled in vehicles without license plates. One week ago, a like number of thieves stormed a retailer in nearby Glendale, hauling off \$300,000 in goods. "Smash-and-grabs", mostly by smaller bands, have come to beset upper-end retailers throughout California. [Video](#)

**7/21/23** Retail crime continues to beset Chicago. Solutions, though, seem out of reach. Kim Foxx, Chicago's progressive D.A., eased up on offenders. [And that, say her critics](#), led thievery from besieged stores to "skyrocket." [Not so in neighboring Oak Brook](#), whose cops and D.A. are reportedly enthusiastic crime-fighters and work closely with retail loss-prevention staff.

**4/17/23** Hordes of shoplifters, many in organized gangs, beset New York City. A mere 327 repeat thieves were arrested *six thousand times*, a third of the total. They target select stores: 20% of episodes involve 18 department stores and seven pharmacies. Employees complain that shoplifters have become unusually aggressive. Retailers and many politicians, [including the city's mayor](#), blame the state's 2020 bail reform, which eliminated cash bail and requires the release of non-dangerous offenders.

**4/6/23** Reacting to the early-morning stabbing death of a tech executive in a tony part of San Francisco, Twitter's Elon Musk asked D.A. Brooke Jenkins, whether she is

“taking stronger action to incarcerate repeat violent offenders” than former progressive D.A. Chesa Boudin, who was recalled last year. D.A. Jenkins, a law-and-order type, assured that “we do not tolerate these horrific acts of violence in San Francisco.” And while violent crime in the city is somewhat down, homicide keeps rising.

**3/8/23** When progressive Los Angeles D.A. George Gascon took office in 2020, he ordered a number of easings. Among them was that juveniles charged with serious and violent crimes not be transferred to adult court. Many deputies resisted. One was Shawn Randolph, a veteran D.A. who headed the juvenile division. So Gascon placed her elsewhere. She sued, alleging retaliation. A jury just awarded her \$1.5 million. And more such suits are pending (see 2/24/23 update).

**3/7/23** D.C.’s council is “withdrawing” a controversial measure that would have reduced the penalties for serious and violent crimes committed in the District. Its move comes after President Biden announced that he endorsed a Senate bill that torpedoes the easings. But the pot’s been stirred, so that prohibition remains likely to be enacted.

**2/28/23** Taking up a cause championed by D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, “Red” members of Congress are scrambling to prevent forthcoming changes to the D.C criminal code. As things now stand, most mandatory minimums will soon be eliminated, and penalties for crimes including carjacking and robbery will be substantially reduced. But concerns about encouraging crime led thirty-one “Blues” in the House to approve a measure to nix the easings, and only one more “aye” in the Senate will send it to the Prez, [who promised to sign it](#) (see 2/16/23 update).

**2/24/23** Four years ago a Los Angeles teen one-month shy of his 18th. birthday shot his girlfriend and her sister dead then set their apartment on fire. But prosecutors’ move to transfer the killer to adult court was cut short by progressive D.A. George Gascon, who forbid such transfers when he took office. Although he has apparently softened his stance, the passage of [AB 2361](#), which requires evidence that minors are “not amenable to rehabilitation” as juveniles helped torpedoed more recent efforts at a transfer. And dismayed the victims’ families, who had been fervently hoping for the upgrade (see 3/8/23 update).

**2/16/23** Concerns that proposed easings in the D.C. criminal code might send offenders the wrong message and make the District’s violent crime problem even worse led Mayor Muriel E. Bowser to suggest [several revisions](#). Among these are retaining mandatory prison terms for convicted armed robbers who again get caught with a gun, restoring stiff terms for armed carjacking, which the revision halved, and eliminating a provision that treats residential burglary far more leniently should victims “sleep

through.” (See 2/28/23 update)

**2/3/23** Last Tuesday a 23-year old ex-con shot and killed a 24-year old police officer in the small, peaceful community of Selma, California. Officer Gonzalo Carrasco Jr., who had two years on the job, encountered Nathaniel Dixon, 23, on a suspicious person call. Dixon quickly pulled a gun and shot the officer dead. Dixon had served a brief prison term for robbery. Once out he was repeatedly arrested on gun and drug charges. [But thanks to a considerate plea deal](#) and AB 109, he was released on probation.

**1/23/23** With sixteen youths shot dead last year, twice 2021’s toll, and homicides at a near-20-year high, Washington D.C Mayor Muriel Bowser agreed that anxiety over crime is running high. Still, as she mentioned at a meeting with the city’s Neighborhood Advisory Commission, the homicide count during the crack epidemic was twice that number. But one of the group’s members complained that “children are picking up their first gun at 12.” Mayor Bowser later conceded that the woman’s remarks were indeed reflective of “what I hear in neighborhoods across the District of Columbia.”

**1/18/23** Fearing that an easing would “send the wrong message” and spur more crime and violence in her besieged city, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser had vetoed a bill that would “eliminate most mandatory minimum sentences.” Penalties for burglary and for violent crimes including carjacking and robbery would also be reduced. But the Council just overrode her veto, and the measure is expected to take effect. However, the move could be overridden by a joint action of Congress, a possible but unlikely scenario (see 11/14/22 update).

**1/12/23** A recent “[reaction essay](#)” in *Criminology and Public Policy* challenged the findings of an [article](#), published in a preceding issue, that reported crime increased in Philadelphia after a purposeful reduction in the prosecution of misdemeanors and felonies during 2015-2019. That stirred the original author to pen a [rebuttal](#) in which he criticizes the “reaction essay” as “imprecise and ideological” (see 7/25/22 update).

**12/5/22** Adding to the discord in the L.A. D.A.’s office brought on by the election of George Gascon, a decades-long prosecutor is suing him after she was removed from a high-ranking position. Victoria Adams claims the move came as retaliation for objecting to a series of progressively-minded measures, including prohibitions on seeking sentence enhancements and trying juveniles as adults. Other assistant D.A.’s have also sued, and they and their colleagues have been openly criticizing their boss in the media.

**11/14/22** In normally placid Burlington, Vermont, years passed without a shooting. After the George Floyd incident, the progressive city council reduced the size of the

police force by twenty-five percent. Many officers became disenchanted and quit. Now violence has returned, and with a vengeance. Police have recorded twenty-five shootings this year, including four murders. Larcenies are also way up. Ditto hooliganism, drug sales and bike theft. Life in Burlington is not so placid anymore. (See 12/18/23 update)

**11/14/22** With D.C. “awash in guns,” the *Washington Post* editorial board frets about the District’s near-certain approval of a measure that substantially lessens the punishment for firearms possession by persons convicted of violent crimes. If approved, the bill, which [seeks to enhance the racial equity of the D.C. criminal code](#), would do away with a mandatory three-year minimum penalty and reduce the maximum from fifteen years to four. Penalties for other violent offenses would also be reduced (see 1/18/23 update).

**10/27/22** Targeted for recall by anti-crime groups, [Fairfax County, Va. D.A. Steve Descano](#) uses data to show that he sought detention of violent offenders more often than courts allowed. His office policy, though, is to avoid prosecuting misdemeanors and to never seek cash bail, as it disadvantages the poor. Meanwhile his progressive counterpart in Philadelphia, [D.A. Larry Krasner](#), faces impeachment for slacking off on prosecuting illegal gun possessors, of whom many have serious criminal histories.

**10/19/22** Faisal Gill, a prime candidate for Los Angeles City Attorney, intends if elected to impose a 100-day “moratorium” on prosecuting misdemeanor crimes to give him time to decide what offenses merit being charged. That’s endeared him to civil rights activists but not to the police. Nor, apparently, to the normally liberally-inclined *Los Angeles Times*, [which endorsed his opponent](#).

**8/16/22** According to the *Los Angeles Times*, prosecutors working under progressive D.A. George Gascon are accepting as many felonies as always. But they’re filing only half as many misdemeanors - only 43 percent of what comes in - as his predecessor. Gascon and his supporters claim that’s not why violence has surged; instead, they attribute it to a substantial drop in homicide clearances by local police. Meanwhile [a second attempt](#) to force Gascon into a recall election has fizzled.

**8/6/22** An academic study of prosecutions initiated in Florida in 2017 confirms that criminal cases adjudicated in jurisdictions with progressive chief prosecutors are less likely to yield prison sentences and felony convictions. Outcomes also seem more racially equitable. Whether lenient treatment leads to more crime, as many fear, was not assessed. However, the authors cite [one study that suggests it does not](#).

**7/25/22** “De-prosecution and death,” a new article in *Criminology & Public Policy*,

reports that Philadelphia's purposeful reduction in the prosecution of misdemeanors and felonies during 2015-2019 may have increased homicides by nearly 75 each year. During 2010-2014 homicides ranged from 246 to 331. They increased from 248 to 280 during 2014-2015 and closed out at 356 in 2019 (see 1/12/23 update).

7/23/22 In 2019 New York State [eliminated cash bail for misdemeanors and non-violent felonies](#). On July 21, during his campaign for New York Governor, Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY) was assaulted by a man wielding a pointed plastic object. David G. Jakubonis, 43, was tackled by bystanders and arrested for attempted assault. It's considered a non-violent felony, and he was released without bail. This episode is now being cited as evidence that the "Blues" have gone unreasonably soft on crime. [A day later](#) Feds arrested Jakubonis for assaulting a Member of Congress, and he is being held without bail.

[After serving six years](#) of a 50-life term for robbery-murder, Andrew Cachu, 25, was released last year under the provisions of [Prop. 57](#). Enacted in 2016, it requires that prosecutors who wish to apply adult sentencing to persons such as Cachu, who was 17 when he committed the crime, justify it in a hearing. But progressive L.A. District Attorney George Gascon forbid it, and Cachu was freed. He is now charged with having a gun, possessing drugs for sale and fleeing from police.

7/16/22 When progressive Los Angeles D.A. George Gascon took office in 2020 he forbid prosecutors from seeking sentence enhancements based on prior convictions. His staff revolted, their union sued, and a State appeals court [ordered him to rescind the directive](#), as State law trumped his policies. He did, but his lawyers have appealed to the California Supreme Court.

7/14/22 Starbucks announced that concerns about customer and employee safety, propelled by a series of "challenging incidents" involving drugs, mental illness and racism, was leading it to close six stores in Los Angeles, six in the Seattle area, two in Portland, and one each in Philadelphia and D.C. Employees will have an opportunity to transfer.

7/2/22 Prostitution remains illegal in California ([P.C. 647](#), a misdemeanor). But [a bill just signed by Governor Gavin Newsom](#) strikes wording that criminalizes "loitering for the purpose of engaging in prostitution." According to the Governor, "it simply revokes provisions of the law that have led to disproportionate harassment of women and transgendered adults." While progressives bemoan the toll that policing takes on "sex workers," others worry that the easing will exacerbate human trafficking.

**6/30/22** Justin Flores, a 35-year old Southern California man, had a long criminal record. But thanks to the D.A.'s intercession, his conviction last year for felon with a gun resulted in probation. And even as Flores continued misbehaving - a warrant was recently issued for domestic violence - probation officers failed to follow up in person. So they're also catching blame for the violent deaths of two El Monte police officers earlier this month, shot dead by Flores when they responded to reports of an assault at a motel.

**6/17/22** According to a deputy L.A. county prosecutor, Justin Flores, who murdered two El Monte police officers on June 14, had a prior felony conviction that should have counted as a "strike" when he was arrested for drug and gun offenses in 2020. But new, progressive D.A. George Gascon forbid using enhancements. In 2021 Flores pled no contest, and the lack of a "strike" enabled him to get probation instead of prison time. Flores was under probation supervision when he gunned down the officers. Judges later ruled that State sentencing laws overruled Gascon's lenient policy, and he withdrew it.

**6/7/22** Far fewer teens under eighteen are being sent to adult courts, even for serious crimes. That "historic" shift - referrals dropped from about 250,000 (8% of youths) to about 53,000 (2%) between 2010 and 2019 - is meant to prevent the harms of imprisonment. Community treatment options including counseling and peer mediation show considerable promise. But there have been some notable failures, and skeptics abound. One police chief called the new approach "arrest, release, repeat."

**5/4/22** According to the progressively-minded *L.A. Times*, most of progressive L.A. District Attorney George Gascon's prosecutors back [the current campaign to recall him from office](#). He earned their disapproval from the very start, when he barred them from seeking the death penalty or asking for sentence enhancements. And while Gascon has moderated some of his stances - prosecutors can again (with approval) ask judges to impose life terms for murder - one-hundred twenty have resigned, leaving their colleagues with insufferable caseloads.

**4/27/22** In a rural area of Colorado, a progressive prosecutor came to office on a promise of no more "criminalization of poverty." One and one-half years later, a string of dismissals and reduced charges for serious and violent crimes has caused victims to complain, and the State A.G. is investigating. A recall campaign has been mounted. Alonzo Payne admits he's made mistakes. But he defends his efforts. "I'm dismissing the case when it's crap, and I'm not going to have somebody wait in jail just because I can."

**4/25/22** FBI Director Christopher Wray bemoans the lack of attention given to the killings of police officers. Seventy-three were feloniously killed in 2021, a 59 percent increase over the forty-six murdered in 2020 and a "20-year high." Director Wray

attributes the increase to a jump in violent crime, more criminal involvement by juveniles, a surge of gun trafficking across State lines, and an “alarming frequency of some of the worst of the worst getting back out on the streets.”

**4/13/22** LAPD attributes a sharp increase in “follow-off” robberies to teams of South-L.A. gang members who assail persons they observe leaving luxury stores and steal jewelry and other valuables for resale to entrepreneurs. There were 165 such robberies in 2021 and 56 so far this year. A special task force has served nearly 300 search warrants and made dozens of arrests for robbery, gun possession and attempted murder. But officers are frustrated that arrestees are quickly released without bail. It took four arrests - most recently, for seven robberies - before one suspect was finally held without bond.

**4/8/22** Brothers Dandrae Martin, 26 and Smiley Martin, 27 were arrested after an April 3 shootout between rival gang members in a crowded Sacramento entertainment district that killed six and wounded twelve, including innocent bystanders. Both were wounded, and Smiley remains hospitalized. Both are felons and face ex-con with gun charges. Smiley also faces a machinegun charge, as his gun was converted to fire full auto. Against prosecutor’s wishes - Smiley was a long-time gunslinger and considered very dangerous - he recently gained early release from a ten-year prison term. According to an *AP* investigation, his lenient treatment was enabled by California Prop. 57, which redefined crimes considered most dangerous and vastly expanded opportunities for good credits and early release.

**3/26/22** [California authorities arrested](#) a group of nine persons for stealing “hundreds of thousands of dollars” in name-brand clothing from major California retailers during the past year. Meanwhile, [in tony Beverly Hills](#), masked burglars armed with a sledgehammer smashed through a jewelry store window during mid-afternoon and made off with \$5 million worth of loot while amazed bystanders looked on.

**3/2/22** “We can’t have a city where our drugstores and bodegas and restaurants are leaving because people are walking into the stores, taking whatever they want on the shelves and walking out.” New York City Mayor Eric Adams’ complaint about a post-pandemic wave of thievery is borne out by the numbers. While complaints of retail thefts in NYC increased 16 percent between 2019-2021, the proportion leading to arrest plunged from 48.5 percent to 28 percent. Blame is attributed to permissive bail laws, police preoccupation with crimes of violence, and the rise of an online marketplace for stolen goods.

**2/17/22** After facing threats of recall over his progressive policies, George Gascon, L.A.’s liberally-minded D.A. tweaked his much-criticized decision to forbid prosecutors from trying juveniles as adults. Instead, he now requires that such moves be approved by a supervisor. That change, he says, is in response to a looming judicial decision on

Proposition 57, whose provisions could be interpreted to force the mass release of juveniles who were convicted as adults, and even for the most serious crimes. [Gascon subsequently announced](#) he would again allow prosecutors, with his approval, to seek life sentences, whose imposition he forbid when taking office.

**2/16/22** A poll of California voters reveals that a clear majority is concerned that crime has increased, and 59 percent favor rescinding provisions in Prop. 47 that reduced penalties for many property crimes to misdemeanors. Legislators across the political spectrum have also introduced bills and proposed ballot measures that would restore felony/misdemeanor thresholds to former, more punitive levels.

**1/4/22** Beset by smash-and-grab robberies and shoplifting, liberal-minded residents of normally placid San Francisco bemoan that their city has changed, and not for the better. [According to SFPD data](#), larceny-theft increased 20.3 percent in 2021, and homicide is up 16.7 percent. Much of the problem is attributed to the city's pronounced economic disparities, which were exacerbated by the pandemic.

**12/30/21** An *L.A. Times* editorial ridicules the notion that Prop. 47 and bail reform may have increased crime. Instead, it points out that according to [LAPD data](#), robbery and burglary have declined since 2019. That's true for robbery, but only when compared to 2020 (it increased 5.3% this year.) Burglaries have come down somewhat, but Prop. 47 narrowed its application. Vehicle thefts are up 53.6% since 2019, and other forms of theft increased this year. And the *Times* itself recently [published a story](#) about a murder allegedly committed by two persons who had been released after their arrest for serious crimes.

**12/18/21** [Responding to critics](#) who demand that Proposition 47 be undone and the definition of felony theft revert to previous levels, Calif. Governor Kevin Newsom pledged \$270 million to help police and prosecutors combat the "organized gangs" responsible for the rash in theft. Meanwhile [progressive San Francisco Mayor London Breed](#) has declared "a state of emergency" in the city's notorious "tenderloin" district and pledged additional police funds to counter drug use, disorder and retail thievery.

**12/10/21** Smash-and-grabs continue to beset Southern California retailers. And when it comes to guns, the consequences could be especially profound. In Garden Grove, masked thieves broke into a gun store during the early morning hours and got away with forty firearms. They sped off in a pair of BMW's.