

CALIFORNIA PRIORITIZES PRISONS OVER EDUCATION

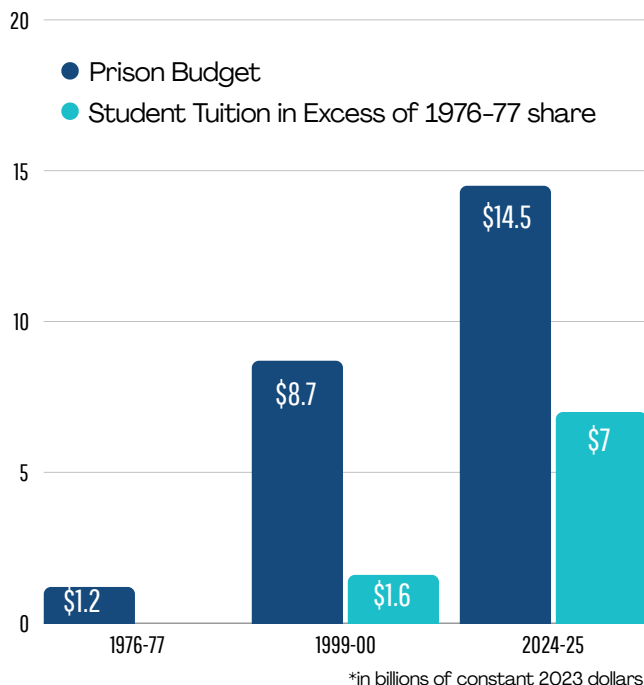
BILLIONS FOR EMPTY PRISONS. CUTS FOR COLLEGES.

As prison populations shrink, California continues to pour money into prison building while cutting resources for classrooms, professors, and student aid. The message is clear—our students' futures are not the priority.

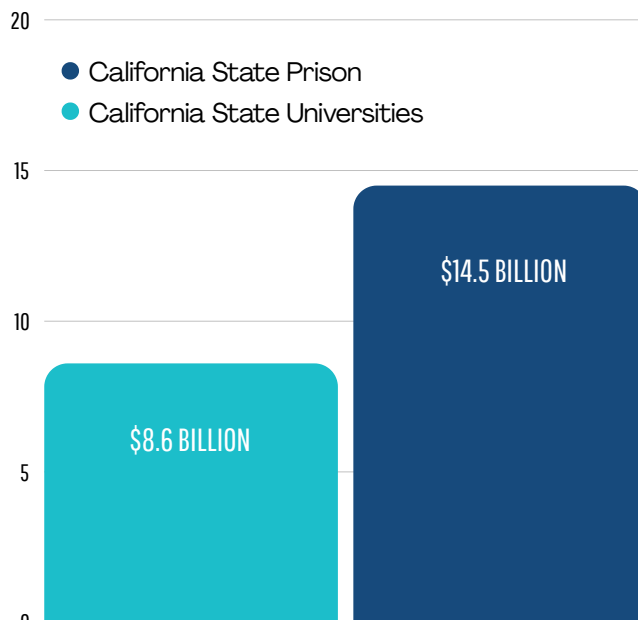
WHERE ARE OUR PRIORITIES?

- In fiscal year 2024-25 California spent 1.6x more on prisons than higher education.
- From 1970-2006 prison budgets grew 15 fold & per-person spending on prisons grew nearly 8 fold.
- As prison spending increased, the state covered the cost by reducing its support for higher education—forcing students to pay more in tuition.

PRISON FUNDING FAR EXCEEDS CSUs



CALIFORNIA BUDGET ALLOCATION 2024-25 HAS DROPPED

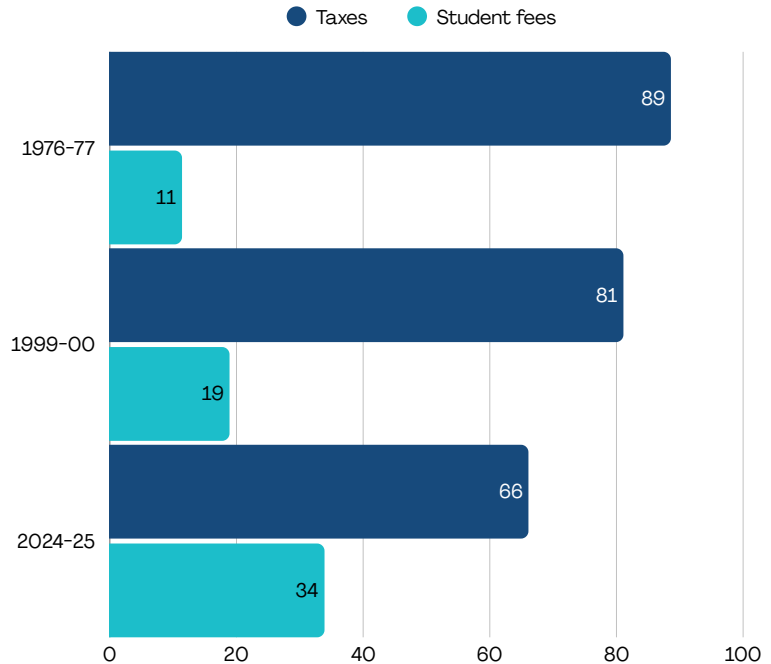


JUST THE FACTS | CA PRIORITIZES PRISON OVER EDUCATION

THE REAL COST

- In 1975-76, average tuition was \$3,700.
- By 2006-07, it hit \$11,300.
- Annual state undergrad tuition & fees rose four times faster than inflation between 1975-76 and 2006-07.
- Today, it's over \$16,000—a burden that pushes students into debt while prisons sit empty.

TAX REVENUE FELL WHILE PRISON COSTS ROSE, LEAVING STUDENTS TO COVER MORE OF THE COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- ▣ Close five prisons as recommended last year by the state's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office
- ▣ Reinvest the savings into higher education.
- ▣ Return to the 1960s blueprint for higher education in California—ultimately rolling back tuition increases.

HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

1. Join our campaign by scanning the QR code. →
2. Educate the public and demand budget & policy changes.

SCAN ME!



It's time to prioritize our students! California's future depends on what we fund today. Invest in classrooms, not cellblocks.