

CALIFORNIA PRIORITIZES PRISONS OVER EDUCATION

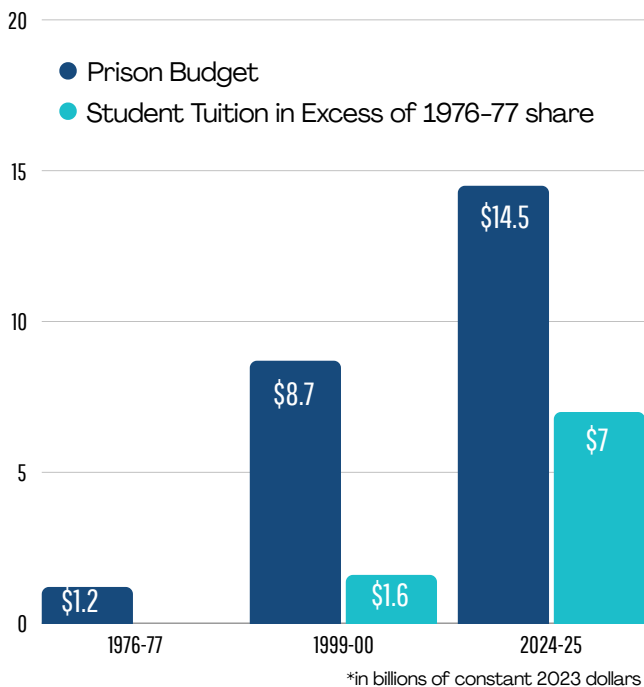
BILLIONS FOR EMPTY PRISONS. CUTS FOR COLLEGES.

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.

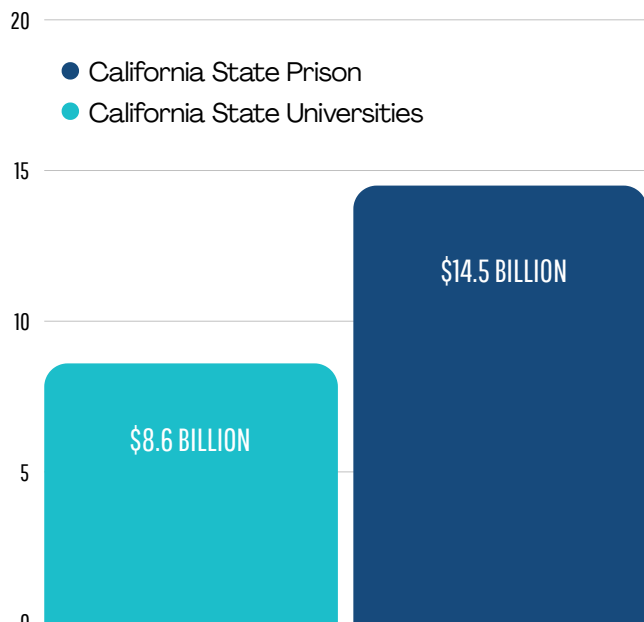
WHERE ARE OUR PRIORITIES?

- In fiscal year 2024-25 California spent 1.6x more on prisons than higher education.
- Between 1970-2006, prison and per-person budgets grew tremendously.
- 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



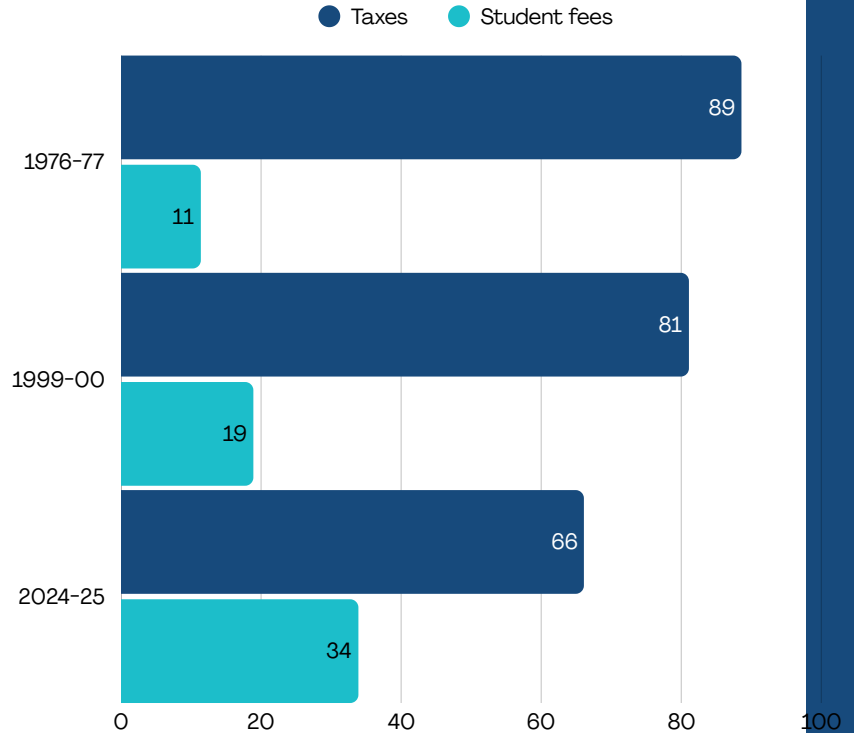
CALIFORNIA BUDGET ALLOCATION 2024-25 HAS DROPPED



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?

- ▢ Reinvest savings from prison closure into higher education
- ▢ Begin restoring higher education funding to 1970s levels
- ▢ Focus cuts on the bloated prison budget and empty prison capacity rather than higher education

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.