

PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE

2012-2013
ANNUAL REPORT

November 2013

PO Box 127 Northampton MA 01061
<http://www.prisonpolicy.org>
(413) 527-0845

Table of contents

Executive Director's letter.....	1
Who we are	5
Campaign updates	
Protecting our democracy from mass incarceration.....	6
Bringing fairness to the prison and jail phone industry	8
Protecting letters from home in local jails.....	10
Fighting against overreaching and ineffective geography-based penalties	11
Research Clearinghouse and Legal Resources for Incarcerated People	13
Seizing timely opportunities to advance justice reform.....	14
Supporting our work.....	16
Prison Policy Initiative budget report for 2012-2013 year.....	17

“PPI is one of the most imaginative research groups illuminating the dark recesses of our carceral landscape”

-Pete Brook
Prison Photography

Executive Director's letter

Dear friends and supporters,

I'm thrilled to share our first annual report that recaps our most recent accomplishments. In this report (see pages 6-15), we outline our progress on our core issues: prison gerrymandering, phones, jail letter bans, and geography-based punishments, and then discuss some of other projects over the last year before ending with a very special request.

We started the fiscal year (2012-2013) right after a huge win at the U.S. Supreme Court on our main issue: ending prison gerrymandering. This problem arises from the Census Bureau's methodology of tabulating incarcerated people at prison locations, rather than their home addresses. This leads state and local governments to grant extra clout to voters who live near prisons, and dilute the votes cast by everyone else. In June 2012, the Supreme Court upheld Maryland's first-in-the-nation law ending prison gerrymandering, and in the months that have followed we have used that momentum to spur more states to pass similar laws. Ideally, the Census Bureau will solve the problem nationwide by counting incarcerated people at home in the next Census. But for that to happen, the Census Bureau needs to hear from the public and stakeholders long before 2020, so our work with the federal government remains as critical as ever.

As redistricting wound down after the 2010 Census and our prison gerrymandering work became less intense, we finally had the capacity to take on some additional campaigns consistent with our mission to produce cutting edge research to expose and alleviate the broader harm of mass incarceration.

Our work with Drew Kukorowski changed the pace of the grassroots movement to bring fairness to the prison telephone industry. On the side, while helping with our prison gerrymandering work, Drew wrote the report, "The Price To Call Home: State-Sanctioned Monopolization In The Prison Phone Industry". That report explained how prison systems and private companies collude to charge unconscionable sums to poor families that simply want to stay in touch with an incarcerated loved one. Our report captured the

The non-profit, non-partisan Prison Policy Initiative **produces cutting edge research** to expose the **broader harm of mass incarceration**, and then **sparks advocacy campaigns** to create a more just society.



attention of *The New York Times* and other media outlets, and sparked an organizing collaboration with the highly effective corporate accountability organization SumOfUs.

I had hoped we could use Drew's first report to raise enough funding to support a year-long project taking on the profiteers of the prison system more broadly. While that didn't pan out, we did raise sufficient funds to keep the phone work going, writing a follow-up report that blew the lid off of the prison and jail industry's dirty tricks: "Please Deposit All of Your Money: Kickbacks, Rates, and Hidden Fees in the Jail Phone Industry". We wrote this report to urge the FCC to prevent companies from creating arbitrary fees out of thin air to negate any caps that the FCC might impose on the cost of a call. It is clear from the FCC's historic ruling in August that they heard our concerns and took action accordingly (more about that on pages 10-11).

Also this year, we found out that a new harmful trend was largely flying under the radar of the criminal justice reform movement: a growing number of sheriffs are banning letters from home and allowing written family communication only via public postcards. To help activists and litigators push back, Policy Analyst Leah Sakala released a groundbreaking report in February. Leah's report, "Return to Sender: Postcard-only Mail Policies in Jail," helped activists in California's Santa Clara County stop one of these policies before it could be implemented.

Behind the scenes, we opened a few more avenues of communication in order to keep our biggest supporters abreast of our work and successes. We've always had a separate website (<http://www.prisonersofthecensus.org>) for the prison gerrymandering work and a very popular newsletter for that work, plus several other adhoc email lists. Now, for the first time, we found ways to tie all of this together. Folks who are new to our work find the organization of the websites and newsletters helpful and intuitive, but some of our longer-term friends might find this new overview helpful. The main ways to follow our work are:

- We have three **email newsletters**:
 - ending prison gerrymandering
 - general PPI updates on other issues we work on (currently monthly but it might be slightly more frequent)
 - research clearinghouse updates (see p. 13) and you can subscribe to one or all at <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/subscribe/>
- If you use **RSS**, you can subscribe to both of our blogs, the research updates, maps and graphs updates and our events updates via RSS at <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/feeds.html>



Expanding our organizational focus is bringing our work to new audiences. For example, a map I made about the global use of the death penalty for children back in 2004 was featured in a Hank Green YouTube video about "42 Amazing Maps" that has been viewed almost a million times.

- We use **Facebook and Twitter** to share updates about our activities, those of our colleagues, and current events in a way that's quite different than the website or newsletter.
- We've always had a general Prison Policy Initiative **blog** (in one form or another), but now we've made it a bigger part of our work. It's rapidly becoming a go-to place for the in-depth analysis and updates beyond what's possible on Facebook or Twitter. Check it out at <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/>

Thanks to the invaluable pro bono assistance of Laurie Jo Reynolds, Rebecca Richman Cohen and Molly McLeod, this year we've learned how to make short videos about our work. We've recently produced several 2-4 minute videos about prison gerrymandering, jail letter bans and the prison telephone industry. You can see these videos on our various issue pages or on our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/PrisonPolicyInit>

And we're starting to get more and more recognition on a national scale. In July, for example, I was honored for our work on prison gerrymandering by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers with their Champion of State Criminal Justice Reform Award.

Our organization is getting stronger in other ways, too. We added three new board members over the last year (see interviews with Drew Kukorowski, Heather Ann Thompson and Neelum Arya on pages 9, 13 and 15), and we're excited to continue to grow our board over the next year.

Finally, I wanted to share with our closest friends and supporters — people like you who read to the end of a letter like this — my most urgent goal on the fundraising front: ensuring our long-term ability to continue to lead the movement to end prison gerrymandering. One of our most stalwart funders, the Public Welfare Foundation, has told me that their most recent grant was the last time that they will be able to fund our ending prison gerrymandering project, which they have been doing until now by repeatedly renewing a special opportunity grant usually reserved for one-time investments.

I'm deeply grateful for the Public Welfare Foundation's support in many ways: first for recognizing the potential in this project with an instrumental grant in 2009 on the eve of the 2010 Census, second for renewing that support repeatedly, and lastly for giving us almost two years notice that we need to recruit other funders to continue to sustain our prison gerrymandering project. This notice is both an excellent opportunity and powerful incentive for new foundation partners to join our work.



NACDL President Jerry J. Cox, Peter Wagner, and State Legislative Affairs Director Angelyn Frazer at the NACDL conference after recognizing Peter with the Champion of State Criminal Justice Reform Award.

(Image source: NACDL)

As we strengthen our work on new issues, our commitment to leading the movement to end prison gerrymandering remains at our core. We have driven this issue from a law student project into a successful national movement that is bringing stakeholders from different sectors together to create a more just and equal society. I need your help to find funders that understand the value of our prison gerrymandering work, and who appreciate that ending prison gerrymandering in the 2020 Census requires an investment in the mid-decade period devoted to critical planning.

If you know of prospective funders or donors for this work, please be in touch with me at pwagner@prisonpolicy.org. I remain so grateful for your support and your partnership.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Wagner', with a stylized, cursive script.

Peter Wagner
Executive Director
November 21, 2013

Who we are

The non-profit, non-partisan Prison Policy Initiative **produces cutting edge research** to expose the **broader harm of mass incarceration**, and then sparks **advocacy campaigns** to create a more just society.

The Prison Policy Initiative was founded in 2001 to document and publicize how mass incarceration undermines our national welfare. Through groundbreaking research, innovative media work, and cross-sector organizing, the Prison Policy Initiative is changing the debate about the U.S. criminal justice system. Our team has grown to three dedicated staff members who, along with student interns and volunteers, shape national reform campaigns from our office in Western Massachusetts.

Staff

- Peter Wagner, *Executive Director*
- Aleks Kajstura, *Legal Director*
- Leah Sakala, *Policy Analyst*

Board of Directors*:

- Neelum Arya, *Director*
Research Director, Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy, UCLA School of Law
- Eric Lotke, *President*,
Senior Research Analyst, SEIU Public Division and author of 2044.
- Annette Johnson, *Director*
- Drew Kukorowski, *Clerk*,
Attorney, Council for Children's Rights
- Christopher Sturr, *Director*
Co-editor, Dollars & Sense Magazine
- Heather Ann Thompson, *Director*
Professor of History, Temple University
- Sarah Walker, *Director*
Co-founder, Minnesota Second Chance Coalition
- Peter Wagner, *Director*
Executive Director, Prison Policy Initiative
- Angela Wessels, *Treasurer*

*Organizations for identification purposes only.

Advisory Board*:

- Andrew Beveridge, *Sociology, Queens College*
- Nils Christie, *Criminology, University of Oslo, Norway*
- Alec Ewald, *Political Science, University of Vermont*
- Barbara Fedders, *UNC School of Law*
- Alex Friedmann, *Prison Legal News*
- Joseph "Jazz" Hayden, *plaintiff, Hayden v. Pataki*
- Dale Ho, *Director of Voting Rights Project, ACLU*

- Daniel Jenkins, *democracy activist, plaintiff, Longway v. Jefferson*
- Pamela S. Karlan, *Stanford Law School*
- Bruce Reilly, *Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted People's Movement*
- Brigitte Sarabi, *Partnership for Safety and Justice*
- Janice Thompson, *Midwest Democracy Network*
- Brenda Wright, *Dēmos: A Network for Ideas and Action*
- Rebecca Young, *Attorney*

*Organizations for identification purposes only.

Consultants and volunteers (2012-2013):

- Natalie Aflalo, *Smith College Work Study*
- Bill Cooper, *GIS Consultant*
- Jennie D'Ambrose, *Hack for Civic Change*
- Emily Doll, *Volunteer from UNC Law School*
- Samuel S. Duncan, *Hack for Civic Change*
- Hillary Fenton, *Summer Law Clerk*
- Corey Frost, *Volunteer from UNC Law School*
- Sadie Gold-Shapiro, *Smith College Work Study*
- Jonathan Hills, *Hack for Civic Change*
- Lynnsey Lafayette, *FCC Rally*
- Elena Lavarreda, *Prison gerrymandering research consultant*
- Robert Machuga, *Design Consultant*
- Jordan Miner, *Programming Consultant*
- Jake Mitchell, *Hack for Civic Change*
- Gyepi Sam, *Hack for Civic Change*
- Aaron Smith, *Hack for Civic Change*

Protecting our democracy from mass incarceration by ending prison gerrymandering

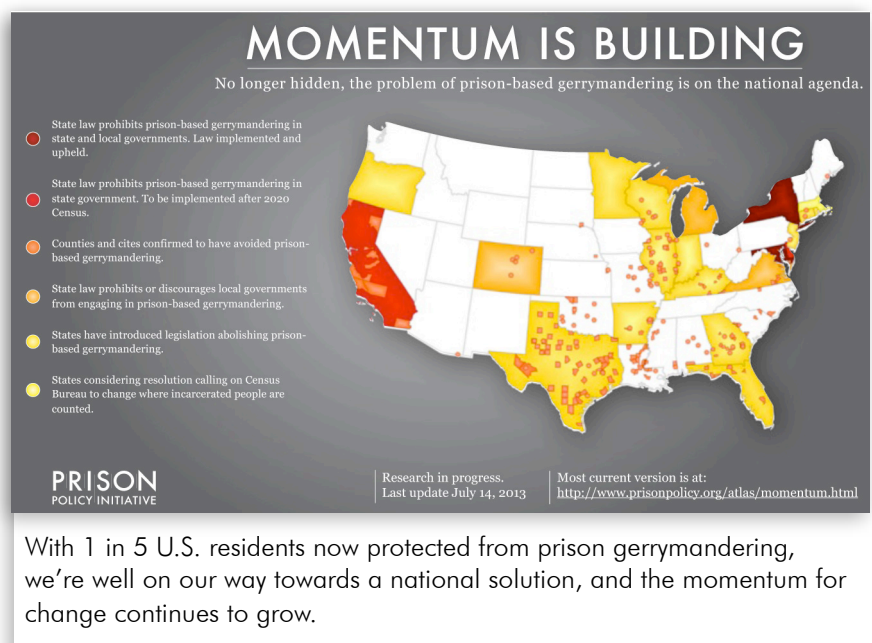
<http://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/>

The Census Bureau's practice of counting more than two million incarcerated people in the wrong place encourages state and local governments to dilute the votes of everyone who doesn't live next to a large prison. For more than a decade, we've been leading the movement to keep the prison system from exerting undue influence on the political process.

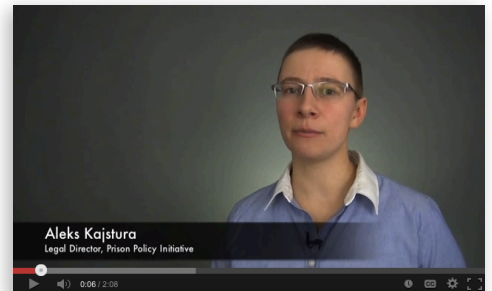
When we released our first report documenting prison gerrymandering in New York just over a decade ago, the public was unaware that prison gerrymandering was distorting our democracy and impeding criminal justice reform. Today, our work has **sparked successful legislation** in multiple states, **won major civil rights victories** in the courts, and has made the problem of prison-based gerrymandering a key issue for state legislators, local governments, national and state voting rights advocates, researchers and journalists.

Highlights from the past 18 months include:

- We helped defend Maryland's law ending prison gerrymandering all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, where it was affirmed in June 2012.
- Peter Wagner wrote an op-ed, "Beginning of the end of 'prison-based gerrymandering,'" for the *Washington Post* on how **victories against prison gerrymandering in the courts will fuel the movement** moving forward.
- **Virginia passed legislation** on a bi-partisan, nearly unanimous basis to give all counties the option to avoid prison gerrymandering. (Previously prison gerrymandering was required for some counties.)



- The Illinois House passed legislation to end prison gerrymandering, and 27 of 59 Senators signed on as co-sponsors. We are optimistic about passage in the next session.
- The California Legislature passed a bill in 2012 to strengthen that state's 2011 law to end prison gerrymandering.
- Additional legislation to end prison gerrymandering was introduced in Connecticut, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Texas.
- We coordinated a letter signed by 210 organizations urging the Census Bureau to prioritize research on tabulating incarcerated people at their home addresses in the 2020 Census.
- We released two new reports, "Imported 'Constituents': Incarcerated People and Political Clout in Connecticut" and "Prison Gerrymandering in Massachusetts: How the Census Bureau prison miscount invites phantom constituents to town meeting."
- We released a new video featuring Aleks Kajstura explaining how the Census Bureau's prison miscount invites phantom constituents to town meetings in Massachusetts.
- We inspired media coverage on prison gerrymandering in hundreds of publications, including an editorial in the *New York Times* urging the Census Bureau to tabulate incarcerated people in their home communities in 2020, and a *Hartford Courant* editorial board in support of ending prison gerrymandering in Connecticut.



In our newest video on prison gerrymandering, Aleks Kajstura gives an overview of how the Census Bureau's prison count method distorts democracy in Massachusetts town governments.

Local OPINIONS

PETER WAGNER

Beginning of the end for 'prison-based gerrymandering'

Sandwiched between its controversial immigration, campaign finance and health-care rulings last month, the Supreme Court issued a little-noticed decision in a Maryland case that gave the green light to states to eliminate the repugnant practice of prison-based gerrymandering.

of the case *Fletcher v. Lamont* upheld Maryland's 2010 "No Representative Population Act," which requires the Census Bureau to count incarcerated people in their home districts.

tion in Annapolis as five from any other district in the state. While urban and African American communities bore the brunt of the harm, prison-based gerrymandering diluted the votes of residents of communities across the state.

with a largely African American and entirely nonvoting prison population created what we call a "false majority-minority district," which did not contain enough African American voters to carry an election. Prison-based gerrymandering split the African American voting population between multiple districts, and for decades the county commission remained entirely white.

rural support for their bill. They made it clear that their bill would not affect funding but would ensure equal representation for all. Three other states quickly followed suit. New York's version was successfully implemented for this decade's redistricting, and Delaware and California's laws require incarcerated people to be counted at home for the redistricting cycle in 2020. Several other states, including Rhode Island and New Jersey, have similar legislation.

changed, the rules for counting incarcerated people evolved as well. The Census Bureau director has explained that the residence of prisoners is not in their home district.



States are now unqualified to correct for an overcount in the U.S. Census of incarcerated people. Not only do they have no authority over their home districts, but they also have no authority over the federal census. Today, by more than 100 to 0, the editorial board of the *Hartford Courant* has urged the Census Bureau to count incarcerated people at their home addresses in 2020.

though it fell in a rather busy week, the Supreme Court decision should have more attention. The ruling is a landmark in the history of the census process, and it raises the political process and raises the political process and raises the political process.

deliberations with interested parties. They should reform the current process and raise the political process and raise the political process.

deliberations with interested parties. They should reform the current process and raise the political process and raise the political process.

deliberations with interested parties. They should reform the current process and raise the political process and raise the political process.

deliberations with interested parties. They should reform the current process and raise the political process and raise the political process.



The Census Bureau has steadfastly resisted calls to end the practice of counting incarcerated people in their home districts instead of the cities and towns where they live. John Thompson, the bureau's director, has argued that prison-based gerrymandering is necessary to protect the interests of the mainly rural districts that have the most influence on the bureau's decisions. But state and local laws that require inmates to be counted in their hometowns often require inmates to be counted in their hometowns. That's why members of Congress are pushing the Census Bureau to solve this problem. Earlier this spring, for example, 18 House Democrats signed a letter asking the bureau to develop "a standard national solution to the problem of redistricting incarcerated people." Mr. Thompson said that the Census Bureau decided on the rules for the 2020 census after consultations with interested parties. They should reform the current process and raise the political process and raise the political process.

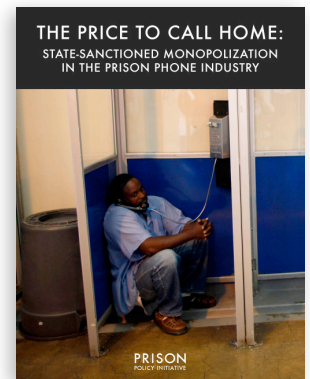
Bringing fairness to the prison and jail phone industry

<http://www.prisonpolicy.org/phones/>

Some children have to pay \$1/minute for a call home from an incarcerated parent. Why? Because prisons profit by granting monopoly telephone contracts to the company that will charge families the most.

For more than ten years, families had been calling on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide relief from the exorbitant bills that the prison phone companies charge just to stay in touch. Recognizing yet another way that mass incarceration punishes entire communities, we stepped in to collaborate with partners across the country to generate the research and advocacy that was necessary for change:

- We released **two reports** to expose the price gouging and hidden profit incentives in the prison telephone industry. The first, “The Price To Call Home: State-Sanctioned Monopolization In The Prison Phone Industry,” provided a detailed overview of the industry and the second, “Please Deposit All of Your Money: Kickbacks, Rates, and Hidden Fees in the Jail Phone Industry,” delved into the hidden sky-high fees in jail phone service. (This latter report was 28 pages — including 120 footnotes — and 1200 pages of evidence in 54 exhibits.)
- Our research sparked and informed **press coverage** across the country, including two *New York Times* editorials and articles in publications such as *American Prospect*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *The Economist*, the *International Business Times* the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and *Rolling Stone*.
- Three members of **Congress cited our research** in letters urging the Federal Communications Commission to regulate the prison phone industry.
- We worked with the corporate accountability organization SumOfUs to collect 36,690 petitions to the FCC.



- We led a team of volunteer programmers at a local “Civic Hackathon” to build an **original tool** that made the hundreds of thousands of pages of public submissions to the FCC searchable and organized by keyword. Our tool makes it easier for activists, journalists, and policymakers to access and use public submissions for advocacy purposes, leading to several high-profile news articles.
- Beyond our reports, we responded to multiple FCC requests to aid their deliberations with additional information and data.
- Peter Wagner made an **invited presentation of our research** on the prison phone industry at a July 2013 FCC workshop in Washington D.C. on regulating the industry.
- We **created a video** explaining how prison phone industry giant Global Tel*Link’s exclusive contract with the Hamden County Jail in Massachusetts requires some families to pay more than \$17 for a single 15-minute call.

Our hard work paid off on August 9th when the FCC voted to pass an order to cap the rates charged for the most expensive interstate calls, and require greater transparency and fairness in the prison telephone industry. Our work was cited throughout the nearly 200 pages of technical discussions in the FCC’s order, beginning on the second page in a footnote explaining why the Commission took action. The commissioners also voted to open another comment period to consider extending their regulation to control in-state calls. We look forward to contributing our research and advocacy skills to this next phase of the movement for prison phone justice.

Getting to know new PPI board member: **Drew Kukorowski**

Drew Kukorowski is an attorney at the Council for Children’s Rights. He graduated from University of North Carolina School of Law, and joined the PPI board in 2013.

Peter: Why did you write your first report on the prison phone industry?

Drew: After graduating from law school, I returned to work with PPI on the project to end prison gerrymandering. During this time I became outraged that phone companies were colluding with state prison systems to rip off poor families. I saw a real need for a comprehensive policy paper, so in the evenings, on my own time, I wrote “The Price To Call Home: State-Sanctioned Monopolization In The Prison Phone Industry”.

Peter: What prompted the FCC to rule to regulate the industry?

Drew: After 13 years, the FCC finally responded to the tidal wave of political pressure from families, from advocates, from the public, from the media, and from members of congress.

Peter: What are the next steps for the movement for fair prison and jail phone charges?

Drew: We need to ensure that the FCC enforces its ruling, expands the regulation to apply to in-state calls, and closes the door on any loopholes that allow companies to charge unreasonable fees to deposit money, request refunds, or even just to have an account.



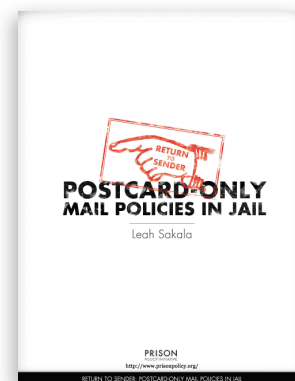
Drew Kukorowski delivering 36,690 petitions that we collected with SumOfUs to FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn.

Protecting letters from home in local jails

<http://www.prisonpolicy.org/postcards/>

A growing number of sheriffs are experimenting with a harmful idea: banning letters from loved ones. We are pushing back.

Controversial Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio began a misguided new trend in 2007 when he **banned families from sending letters to loved ones in jail**, requiring personal correspondence to take place on postcards instead. Social science research and basic common sense say that incarcerated people must be able to maintain ties to family and friends in order to succeed upon release. With this harmful idea spreading to other jails at an alarming rate, the Prison Policy Initiative stepped up to the plate to do research and advocacy to protect letters from home.



- We wrote the **first comprehensive report exposing the harm of letter bans** in local jails, “Return to Sender: Postcard-only mail policies in jails.” The National Institute of Corrections called our report “required reading for policy makers and anyone working with individuals in jail custody.”
- Our **new video**, “Why Jails Should Not Ban Letters From Home,” summarizes our research in order to fuel local campaigns against letter bans.
- Newspapers such as *The Independent* in Santa Barbara California and *The Sun Herald* in Gulfport Mississippi published our **letters to the editor** urging the local sheriffs to cancel plans to ban letters from home.
- We coordinated a **sign on letter** with more than **50 local and national organizations** urging the Santa Barbara County Sheriff to not implement a proposed postcard-only policy.
- Our research supported a **successful grassroots campaign against a proposed jail letter ban in Santa Clara California**. In August 2013, Sheriff John Hirokawa announced that incarcerated people would continue to be allowed to receive letters and photos from home.



Leah Sakala explains why jail letter bans are harmful and counterproductive in this video summary of her report.



Fighting against overreaching and ineffective geography-based penalties

<http://www.prisonpolicy.org/zones.html>

Rendering large portions of cities, counties or states off-limits, or turning them into increased penalty zones, may sound good on the campaign trail. But this rhetoric doesn't work out in practice because when a legislature decides everywhere is special, nowhere is special.

Our work on geography-based penalties began in 2006 with a research project on over-large drug penalty enhancement zones around Massachusetts schools. This research was published in our 2008 report, “The Geography of Punishment: How Huge Sentencing Enhancement Zones Harm Communities, Fail to Protect Children.” Our follow up report, “Reaching too far, coming up short: How large sentencing enhancement zones miss the mark,” demonstrated how increased penalties in school zone areas worsens racial disparities in the criminal justice system. In 2006 we also began a different branch of geography research when we worked with the Southern Center for Human Rights to bring an successful suit to overturn a Georgia law that effectively banished people on the sex offender registry and their families from living in most residential areas of the state. We’ve participated in several similar cases since. In the past year and a half, we’ve made great progress towards reducing the harm of both kinds of geography-based penalties:



Peter talking about the effects of Massachusetts’ sentencing enhancement zone law on racial disparities at a Springfield, Mass. community forum about the proposed new law.

Massachusetts sentencing enhancement zones

- As part of a package to save the budget and reduce the prison population, Massachusetts **Governor Deval Patrick endorsed our proposal** to shrink the sentencing enhancement zones to 100 feet.
- In August 2012 the **Massachusetts Legislature improved the state’s sentencing enhancement zone policy** by reducing the zones from 1,000 feet to 300 feet. **Further reforms have already been introduced** in the legislature.



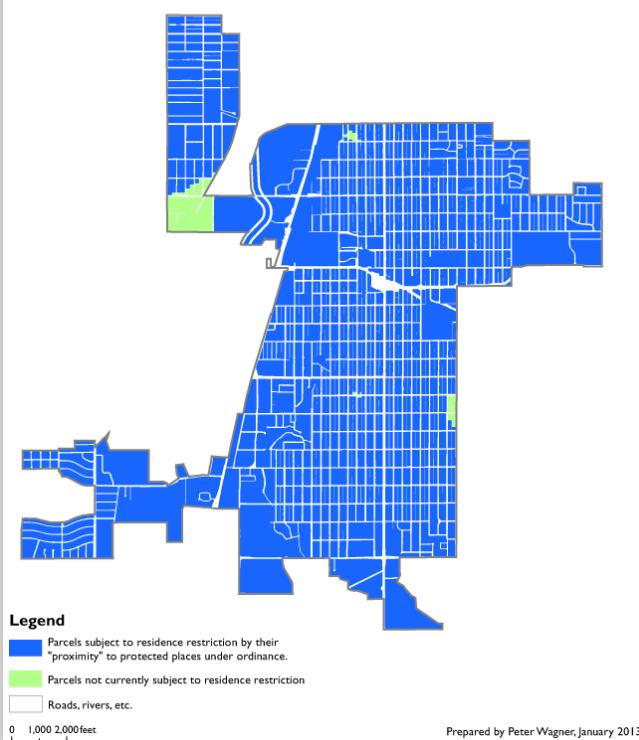
How far is 1,000 feet really? Our demonstration showed that the Massachusetts legislature erred in assuming that 1,000 feet was an effective or reasonable distance for a sentencing enhancement zone.

- **Our research was cited** throughout a Families Against Mandatory Minimums amicus brief urging the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to rule that the legislature’s 2012 zone reform should apply to everyone who was sentenced after the law was changed.

Banishment laws

- Peter Wagner served as **an expert witness in a successful case** that the Colorado ACLU brought to overturn an Englewood, Colorado city ordinance that severely restricts where persons convicted of certain sex offenses and their families can live. Our map analysis found that the ordinance rendered approximately 99% of the city off limits. The Court invalidated the counterproductive ordinance in August 2013.
- We produced supporting materials for the ACLU of Michigan’s testimony in October, 2013 against a Michigan bill that would dramatically expand ineffective restrictions on where people on the sex offender registry are permitted to live, work, or spend time.

Analysis of Englewood Colorado Residence Restriction



Research Clearinghouse and Legal Resources for Incarcerated People

<http://www.prisonpolicy.org/resources.html>

Beyond producing original research, the Prison Policy Initiative edits several databases to empower activists, journalists and policy makers to shape effective criminal justice policy.

Our searchable **Research Clearinghouse** contains more than 1,700 entries with original empirically rigorous research on criminal justice issues ranging from policing, to the death penalty, to drug policy.

- In the last 16 months alone, we've added more than 300 new entries with the most recent cutting edge research on justice reform issues.
- You can now get the newest additions delivered right to your inbox by signing up for our Research Clearinghouse updates newsletter at <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/subscribe>.



Our **Legal Resource Guide for Incarcerated People** also continues to



grow in popularity. We work with legal services providers to update their entries in our guide each year so that we can assure incarcerated people who write to us, their loved ones on the outside, or the staff of other policy and legal organizations that the referrals on our list are all accurate. To ensure that incarcerated people don't receive information that is no longer useful, our database automatically removes entries that have not been reconfirmed in the previous 365 days.

Getting to know new PPI board members: **Heather Ann Thompson**

Heather Ann Thompson is an associate professor of history in the Department of African-American Studies and the Department of History at Temple University. She is currently writing the first comprehensive history of the Attica Prison Rebellion of 1971, and also writes regularly on the current crisis of incarceration. She joined the PPI board in 2012.

Leah: What research projects are you currently working on?

Heather: I am completing a history of the Attica Prison uprising of 1971 for Pantheon books. I'm also continuing to write contemporary pieces as on the current incarceration crisis and the history of how we got here.

Leah: How have you used the PPI Research Clearinghouse in your scholarship?

Heather: PPI's Research Clearinghouse has been invaluable to the talks that I have been giving around the nation as well in other countries on the carceral crisis. When I speak of the ways in which incarceration impacts communities in various states, for example, I rely on the important research PPI provides in that regard. I also cite PPI research regularly in the contemporary pieces that I write on this issue. My latest piece in the *Atlantic* depended on the important work PPI has done on prison gerrymandering.

Leah: How can other academics and advocates benefit from the Research Clearinghouse as well?

Heather: For academics who seek to remain abreast of the most important research out on the carceral state and the criminal justice system, there is no site better for them to check regularly than the PPI site. Not only will they find an endless supply of articles and reports that will help their own scholarship to be better informed and completely up to date, but they will also find original research done by PPI staffers that is invaluable to them.

Seizing timely opportunities to advance justice

<http://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog>

Aside from our main campaigns and ongoing projects, we've had several opportunities to support our colleagues' campaigns and participate in advancing larger discussions about mass incarceration.

- In the month leading up to the 2012 presidential election, we worked with digital artist Josh Begley to create a graphic (right) illustrating how the states with the most extreme felon disenfranchisement laws were most likely to cast deciding electoral college votes.
- We used Census Bureau data to update our graph about the #1 criminal justice question we see people asking about on Google: racial disparities in the criminal justice system.



2 MILLION VOTERS
DISENFRANCHISED
IN KEY SWING STATES
VIRGINIA FLORIDA

Should the states that bar the most people from the polls be allowed to pick the president?

VIRGINIA
13 electoral votes
14% of all presidential campaign stops since convention
6% of voting age population cannot vote because they were once incarcerated

FLORIDA
29 electoral votes
18% of all presidential campaign stops since convention
9% of voting age population cannot vote because they were once incarcerated

5.9 million people will be sitting out Tuesday's presidential election because they live in a state that bars some or all people with felony convictions from voting. Of those, 2.6 million have already completed their sentence, but live in a state that bars people with old felony convictions from voting. Two-thirds of the people barred from the polls because of an old felony conviction live in two of the swing states that will determine who becomes the next president: Florida and Virginia.

Is this how democracy is supposed to work?

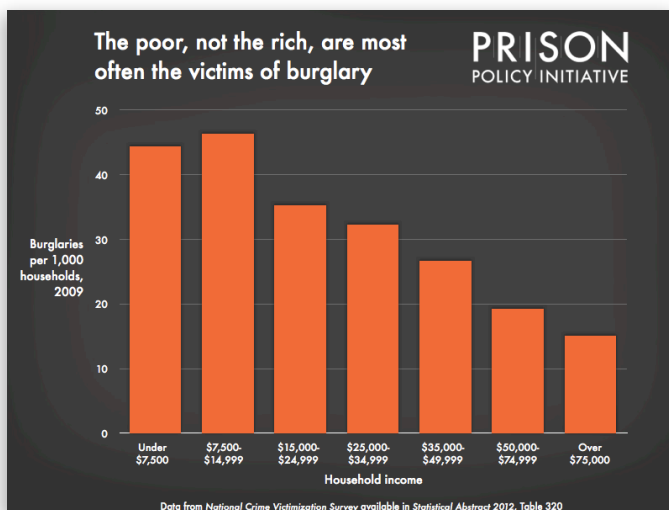
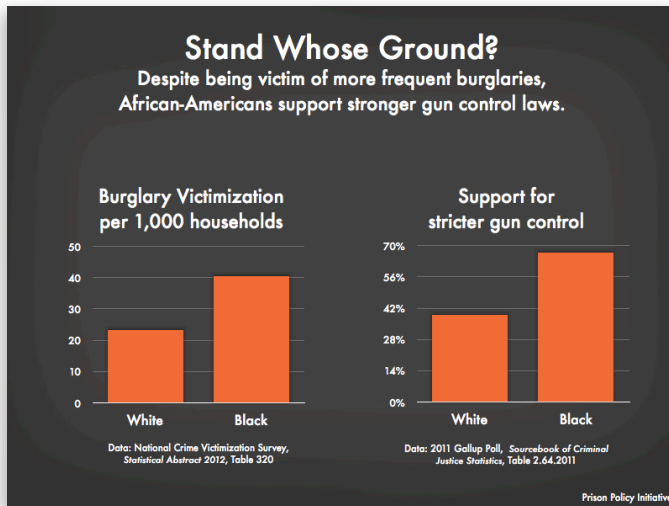
PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE
PRISONPOLICY.ORG

SOLUTIONS:

- Re-enfranchisement: <http://fcpmovement.wordpress.com/national-voting-rights-campaign>
- Switch to a national popular vote: <http://nationalpopularvote.com>

Map shows 1 dot for every 100 people in each state that are barred from voting because they have an old, but completed, felony sentence. Disenfranchisement for reasons of incarceration, probation or parole is not included on the map. Data from "Estimates of disenfranchised population in each state from State-Level Estimates of Felon Disenfranchisement in the United States", 2010, Table 3, by Christopher Uggen, Sarah Shannon and Jeff Manza, July 2012. Available at: http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/fd_State_Level_Estimates_of_Felon_Disen_2010.pdf. The portion of the post-convention presidential visits from the candidates was calculated from The Center for Voting and Democracy's Presidential Tracker at: <http://www.fairvote.org/presidential-tracker> as of October 29, 2012. Graphic adapted from visual.ly and designed by Josh Begley.

- In the wake of the **Trayvon Martin** tragedy last October, we released an article with a series of graphs showing that the vigilante ethos behind “stand your ground” laws have very little to do with legitimate fear of crime.



- We submitted three letters to the Massachusetts Department of Corrections Commissioner urging him to call off plans to begin implementing narcotic dog searches of prison visitors.

Getting to know new PPI board members: **Neelum Arya**

Neelum Arya is Research Director of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy at UCLA School of Law. Prior to joining UCLA school she was the Research and Policy Director for the Campaign for Youth Justice, a national nonprofit devoted to removing youth from the adult criminal justice system. She has published extensively about the dangers of incarceration for youth focusing on the impact on families and communities of color. For her work she was named a Harvard Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow in 2011. Neelum joined the PPI board in 2012.

Leah: Why did you join the Prison Policy Initiative board?

Neelum: I have admired PPI for a long time, starting with their work on prison gerrymandering. I joined the Board to help PPI expand their reach to new constituencies. If you are active in the justice-reform movement you are aware of PPI and rely on their work. I joined the Board to help bring more people into the movement.

Leah: What’s unique about PPI?

Neelum: PPI is a nimble organization that always seems to be on the cutting edge of identifying ways that we are harmed by mass incarceration. They produce amazing reports with critical information and graphics, and then get the word out through traditional media and social media. Plus they are fast, fast, fast.

Leah: What’s something that most people don’t know about PPI?

Neelum: Most people probably don't know that PPI is a small nonprofit based in Western Massachusetts. Given the amount of work that PPI produces, I think most people think PPI is a much bigger organization based in New York or DC.

Supporting our work

<http://www.prisonpolicy.org/donate/>

The generous support of visionary foundations and individual donors has allowed the Prison Policy Initiative to grow from the idea of three enterprising students in 2001 into an innovative and efficient policy shop at the forefront of the criminal justice reform movement in 2013.

Thank you to our 2012-2013 grantmaking partners*:

- Ettinger Family Foundation
- Kindling Fund
- Moses and Susan Feldman Philanthropic Fund
- National Equal Justice Association
- Open Society Foundations
- Public Welfare Foundation

In addition, we are also enormously grateful to the small network of generous individuals who sustain our work and allow us to seize timely new opportunities. Without you, we wouldn't have had the flexibility we needed to help protect poor families from the predatory prison telephone industry, for example, and we wouldn't have been able to help the Illinois House of Representatives pass legislation ending prison gerrymandering.

If you would like to join these donors, you can either donate online, or you can send a paper check to:

Prison Policy Initiative
PO Box 127
Northampton, MA 01061

If you are a current supporter of our work, we ask you to allow us to count on your support in the future by becoming a monthly contributor. Just go to <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/donate/>, then under "Donation Preferences", select the button to make your gift a monthly contribution.

And if you ever have any questions about how to support our work or how your gift is being used, please don't hesitate to contact Peter, Aleks and Leah at (413) 527-0845.

No matter how you support us, we thank you for making our work – and our successes – possible.

*We're also deeply indebted to the support of family foundations and others who wish to remain anonymous. If your wishes in the future regarding credit ever change, please don't hesitate to let us know so we can properly credit you retroactively for your partnership.



Prison Policy Initiative budget report for 2012-2013 year

Income

Large foundations	\$225,000
Individual donors	\$21,105
Small foundations	\$13,000
Consulting	\$6,642
Honoraria	\$500
Interest	\$1,006
Total	\$267,253

Expenses

Salaries, benefits, employment taxes for 3 staff	\$211,087
---	-----------

Consultants

Legal research	\$1,100
Programming	\$3,427
Graphic Design	\$2,229
GIS/Mapping	\$3,465
Other consultants	\$2,000
Subtotal consultants	\$12,221

Other expenses

Travel	\$3,808
Postage	\$1,475
Printing	\$160
Website & newsletter hosting	\$1,126
Rent & Utilities	\$4,350
Telephone & Fax & Internet access	\$2,421
Computer Equipment	\$4,648
Insurance	\$2,160
Lexis/Nexus research subscription	\$827
Supplies	\$3,039
Legal/Accounting Services	\$1,942
Staff development	\$622
Promotion and Conference fees	\$1,678
Subtotal, other expenses	\$28,257

Total Expenses	\$251,565
-----------------------	------------------