

Partnership Report

Results from Code for America's Automatic
Record Clearance Pilot with the Contra Costa
District Attorney's Office

CODE *for*
AMERICA

JANUARY 2020



“ The removal of these convictions effectively reduces barriers to licensing, education, housing and employment. It is imperative that we continue to be innovative in our approach to reforming and strengthening the criminal justice system. ”

— **Diana Becton**, Contra Costa District Attorney

Leveraging Clear My Record technology to fulfill the promise of Proposition 64

In March 2019, DA Diana Becton and the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office joined Code for America in the first partnership of its kind to leverage technology and user-centered design to proactively review criminal convictions that qualify for relief under Proposition 64 (marijuana legalization). Previously, people had to petition the court on their own, but this is a time-consuming, expensive, and confusing process.

With the aid of technology, a DA's office can dismiss or resentencing convictions proactively and automatically. This requires no action on the part of the individual, and minimal government staff time and resources — and reduces barriers to employment, housing, health, and education that hundreds of thousands of Californians face.

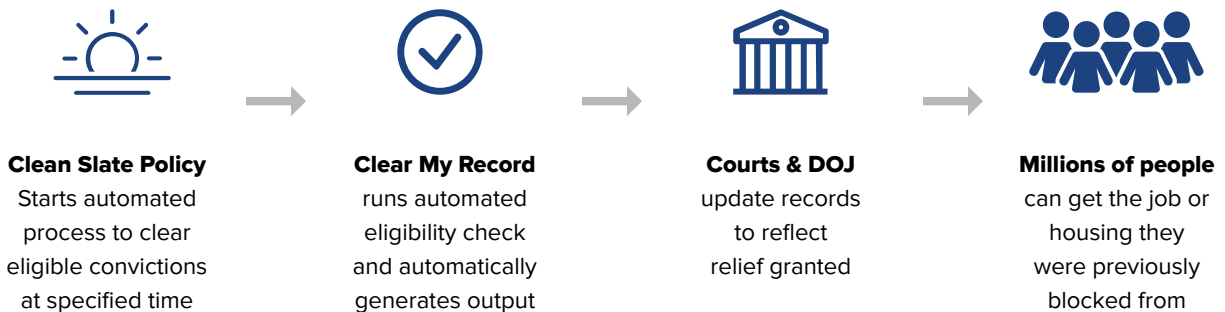
By providing proactive and automatic record clearance services, counties can address the wrongs caused by the failed war on drugs, felt most pronouncedly in communities of color, and fulfill the promise of the reforms aimed at remedying the legacy of mass incarceration in California.

Using technology to automatically clear criminal convictions demonstrates that government has the infrastructure to deliver relief to people in faster, more dignified ways—and the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office and Code for America are leading the way.

How does Code for America's Clear My Record technology work?

Clear My Record is technology developed by Code for America that can automatically and securely evaluate eligibility for convictions by reading and interpreting conviction data. It can determine eligibility for thousands of convictions in just a few minutes.

This alleviates the need for DA staff to go through state criminal records one by one to evaluate eligibility, a time- and labor-intensive process. Streamlining conviction data processing will also make it easier for the courts to update records.



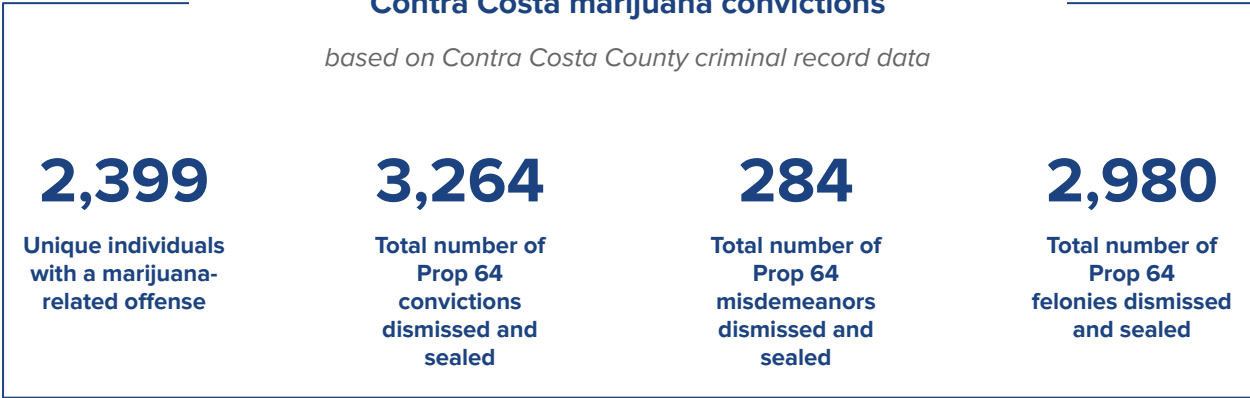
About Code for America

Code for America believes government can work for the people, and by the people, in the digital age, starting with the people who need it most. We build digital services that enhance government capabilities, and we help others do the same across all levels of government. We organize thousands of volunteers across nearly 80 chapters nationwide who improve government in their local communities. Our goal: a 21st century government that effectively and equitably serves all Americans. Learn more at codeforamerica.org.

Impact of the Automatic Record Clearance Pilot

Contra Costa marijuana convictions

based on Contra Costa County criminal record data



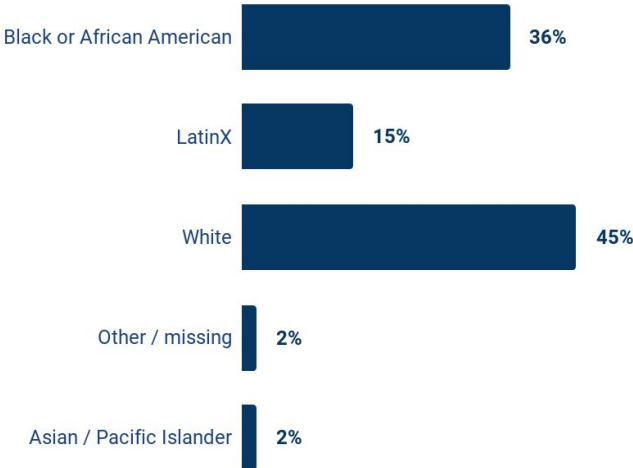
531

People who now have no felonies on their record

316

People who now have no convictions on their record

Race Breakdown



Has my record been cleared?

To find out if your record has been cleared, or for more information about this initiative, contact the Contra Costa District Attorney’s Office by email at DA-Prop64@contracostada.org