

Measure 11 undermines the structure of our judicial system. Why employ judges if we're going to take away their ability to judge? There is absolute need for a neutral arbiter in criminal cases. Not every case exists in a vacuum. The nuances need to be considered.

Most states have done away with mandatory sentencing and there is no empirical evidence to support that mandatory sentencing helps maintain law and order. For example, it can put away first time offenders who are otherwise law abiding mothers and fathers. The impact on children can be horrendous. Certainly a judge can help in certain cases.

For example, a man was charged with two counts of manslaughter 2nd degree for DUI which left two people dead. It was a horrific tragedy. However, it was a first time offense for a veteran and college graduate who was a taxpaying and father of three. Does this man need 12.5 years to learn his lesson? His young children no longer have the support of their father and this tragedy will wreak even more havoc on their lives and the society at large.

Please let our judicial system function as it was intended.