



# Jobs Not Jails Coalition

## Eliminate Unfair Probation, Parole and Court Fees

**Repeal provisions of our criminal laws that require people on probation and parole to pay monthly fees to stay out of jail.**

Persons on probation and parole are required to pay a set monthly fee. These fees may be waived only if the court or the parole board finds that imposing the fee would constitute an undue hardship. Probationers whose fees are waived must perform community service. These and numerous other court fees trap people, including ex-prisoners, in poverty and effectively lengthen punishment.

The monthly probation fee is now \$65 for supervised probation (\$60 probation fee and \$5 victim services surcharge) and \$50 for administrative probation (\$45 probation fee and \$5 victim services surcharge). The monthly parole fee is \$55 (\$50 parole fee and \$5 victim services surcharge).

These fees are an unfair burden to the countless people on probation and parole who cannot afford to pay the fees, and for whom a failure to pay may mean a return to incarceration. Many times, the families of probationers and parolees are forced to commit scarce funds to paying these fees or get into debt to keep a family member who is on probation out of jail.

The obligation to pay these fees often means that ex-prisoners and others involved in the criminal justice system have no money to dedicate to other re-entry goals, such as getting employment or improving their education or job skills.

The so-called “new revenues” that the state collects from probation and parole fees are often illusory and offset by the cost of incarceration. For example, a probationer who returns to jail for failure to pay the fees actually cost the state more than the revenue generated by probation fees.