

Your Turn: It is death by geography

By Rita Kresha
Your Turn

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Thank you for Daniel Borenstein's column laying out how the death penalty sentence is bankrupting some counties, especially Alameda and Contra Costa.

Alameda County ranks fourth in total death sentences since 2000, while nearly three out of four homicides go unsolved.

Bottom line is that \$14.3 million or more was wasted seeking execution since 2000.

Contra Costa's homicide rate has been rising, despite the high number of death sentences, while nearly two-thirds of homicides go unsolved. Alameda County has four times more death sentences than L.A. and nine times more than Fresno County. While the vast majority of California counties have largely abandoned execution in favor of simply sentencing people to die in prison, just 10 counties continue to aggressively pursue executions. You might call it death by geography.

Kresha is a resident of Oakland.