

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B-18 2018

With the passage of Proposition 64, which legalized recreational cannabis, local governments were given the responsibly to provide oversight and regulate the legalization within their communities.

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors recently completed a multi-year process to review and approve local regulations for land use, public safety, licensing, and other cannabis-related issues in the unincorporated areas of our county. After numerous public hearings and meetings, the Board adopted ordinances that allow San Luis Obispo County to ensure public safety while overseeing this growing industry. Local ordinances create buffer zones around schools, parks, residential neighborhoods, and other sensitive areas and locations, and mandate odor controls.

Legalization leads to needed enforcement, education, and other related services. San Luis Obispo County needs to tax the cannabis industry in order to effectively enforce our ordinances and fund critical services such as the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, mental health services, public health, and other important services.

Opponents may claim that the money will simply go into the general fund. What they usually leave out is that the general fund is used to pay for important services like those listed above, plus other services such as County Fire, parks, and road maintenance.

Whether you agree with the legalization of cannabis or not, it is imperative that we tax the industry to ensure compliance with existing laws and deal with the black market.

The proposed starting tax rate of 4% in Measure B-18 is fair to cannabis businesses and consumers, and is much lower than the rates already approved in other jurisdictions such as Grover Beach and Monterey County.

Please join us in supporting Measure B-18 to ensure that cannabis does not create a burden that takes money away from existing programs and services.

The undersigned authors of the primary argument in favor of Ballot Measure B-18 at the Statewide Direct Primary Election for San Luis Obispo County to be held on June 5, 2018, hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo

Signed _____ Date _____
John Peschong, Chair, District 1 and on behalf of the Board of Supervisors,
County of San Luis Obispo

Signed _____ Date _____
Adam Hill, District 3, Board of Supervisors, County of San Luis Obispo