

YES ON 19



CONTROL AND TAX CANNABIS

www.taxcannabis.org

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to seek your endorsement for Proposition 19, the statewide ballot measure which will control and tax cannabis (marijuana) in California this November.

We hope you agree that California's laws criminalizing cannabis have failed. In fact, a recent poll conducted by EMC Research shows that upwards of 80 percent of California voters agree with that sentiment. And various recent polls show a majority of Californians are ready to control and tax cannabis.

Proposition 19 will:

- **Control cannabis like alcohol, allowing Californians 21 and older to possess up to one ounce of cannabis**
- **Give state and local governments the ability to tax the sale of cannabis for adult consumption**
- **Generate billions of dollars in much needed revenue to fund what matters in California**

The campaign is gaining momentum. Several recent polls show us leading, and we are securing new endorsements every day from law enforcement leaders, medical professionals, faith leaders, economists and business leaders, labor, elected officials, and more.

In order to keep our momentum going, we need support from respected, influential leaders like you.

Please add your name to the growing list of supporters of Proposition 19. Together we can win in November, and finally reform our broken cannabis laws in California.

Included with this letter you will find: 1) A 1 page informational flier about the initiative, 2) A FAQ sheet, 3) A list of current endorsements, and 4) An endorsement form.

If you have any questions, please contact Mauricio Garzon, Coalition Director, at (510) 268-9701, or mauricio@taxcannabis.org.

Thank you so much,

The Yes on Proposition 19 Campaign

1776 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612 • 510-268-9701

Yes on 19. Tax Cannabis 2010. Sponsored by S.K. Seymour LLC, a Medical Cannabis Provider, dba Oaksterdam University, a Cannabis Educator



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Prop 19: Common Sense Control of Cannabis

The Problem

Today, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are wasted enforcing the failed prohibition of cannabis (also known as marijuana). Currently, cannabis is easier for kids to get than alcohol. Prohibition has created a violent criminal market run by international drug cartels. Police waste valuable resources targeting non-violent cannabis consumers, while thousands of violent crimes go unsolved. And there is \$14 billion in marijuana sales every year in California, but our debt-ridden state sees none of the revenue that would come from controlling and taxing it. Cannabis prohibition has failed.

The Solution

We need a common sense approach to control and tax cannabis like alcohol.

Proposition 19 was carefully written, in order to:

- **Control cannabis like alcohol, allowing adults 21 and over in California to possess up to one ounce of cannabis**, to be consumed at home or licensed establishments
- **Give state and local governments the ability to tax the sale of cannabis** for adult consumption
- **Put our police priorities where they belong**, by ending the arrests of non-violent cannabis consumers, saving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars a year and enabling police to focus on violent crime
- **Generate billions in annual revenue** to fund what matters most in California: jobs, healthcare, public safety, parks, roads, transportation, and more
- **Cut off funding to violent drug cartels** across our border who currently generate 60 percent of their revenue from the illegal U.S. marijuana market
- **Protect our kids, our roads, and our workplaces**, by increasing the penalty for selling marijuana to minors, banning the smoking of marijuana in public, on school grounds, and while minors are present, maintaining strict criminal penalties for driving under the influence of marijuana, and preserving employers' rights to maintain drug-free workplaces
- **Protect medical cannabis patients' rights**

Get Involved Today!

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What will Proposition 19 do?

A: Proposition 19 offers a common sense approach to control cannabis like alcohol. Under Proposition 19, adults 21 and older will be allowed to possess up to one ounce of cannabis, to be consumed at home or licensed business establishments. Proposition 19 will also give state and local governments the ability to tax the sale of cannabis for adult consumption.

Q: How will Proposition 19 control and tax cannabis?

A: After Proposition 19 passes, adults 21 and over in California can possess up to one ounce of cannabis. Local governments will be able to decide whether to allow for sales within area limits. If a local government decides against allowing for the sale of cannabis within area limits, the possession of up to one ounce of cannabis will still be allowed for those 21 and over within that area, but buying and selling it within area limits will not be allowed. If a local government decides in favor of allowing for the sale of cannabis within area limits, that local community will have control over how cannabis can be sold, how much cannabis can be sold, and what the tax rate will be.

Q: How does cannabis compare to alcohol?

A: Cannabis has much fewer harmful effects than alcohol, which is legal for adult consumption, and taxed to support vital services. Cannabis is not physically addictive, does not have long term toxic effects on the body, has never led to an overdose death, and does not cause its consumers to become violent. If we can control and tax alcohol, we can control and tax cannabis too.

Q: How much revenue will Proposition 19 generate for California?

A: According to California's tax collector, the Board of Equalization (BOE), there is an estimated \$14 billion in cannabis transactions every year in California, but since cannabis remains illegal, our state sees none of the revenue that would come from controlling and taxing it. The BOE estimates that controlling and taxing cannabis could generate \$1.4 billion in revenue each year, which could help fund what matters most in California: jobs, healthcare, public safety, parks, roads, transportation, and more. (<http://www.boe.ca.gov/legdiv/pdf/ab0390-1dw.pdf>)

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FAQ continued

Q: How will Proposition 19 create jobs?

A: According to a study by the California Chapter of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws), controlling and taxing cannabis could generate an additional \$12 - \$18 billion a year for California's economy from spin-off industries like coffeehouses and tourism. And if a controlled and taxed cannabis market operated at the same level as the California wine industry, it would create between 60,000 and 110,000 new jobs, and \$2.5 - \$3.5 billion in new wages for workers each year. (http://canorml.org/background/CA_legalization2.html)

Q: How will Proposition 19 affect the number of people who consume cannabis?

A: There is evidence showing that controlling and taxing cannabis does not lead to an increase in consumption. According to The National Research Council's study of the U.S. states where cannabis is decriminalized, there is little apparent relationship between the cannabis laws in those states and how many people consume cannabis in those states. Also, despite having some of the strictest cannabis laws in the world, the United States has the largest number of cannabis consumers. The percentage of our citizens who consume cannabis is double that of the percentage of people who consume cannabis in the Netherlands, a country where the selling and adult possession of cannabis is allowed. Controlling and taxing cannabis won't necessarily lead to more people consuming it. (http://www.mpp.org/assets/pdfs/download-materials/MJ_ProhibFacts092008.pdf, <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1821697,00.html>)

Q: How will Proposition 19 affect cannabis use among minors?

A: Right now, cannabis is easier for kids to get than alcohol, because street dealers don't require ID. By taking cannabis out of the shadows, controlling it like alcohol, and increasing the criminal penalty for providing cannabis to a minor, Proposition 19 will dry up the criminal market, and give California more tools to prevent those under 21 from accessing cannabis.

Q: How will Proposition 19 affect crime?

A: Right now our police waste hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars and thousands of police hours a year arresting non-violent cannabis consumers. According to the FBI, in 2008, over 61,000 Californians were arrested for misdemeanor cannabis possession. That same year, 60,000 violent crimes went unsolved in California. According to a study by Florida State University economists Bruce Benson and David Rasmussen, violent crime increases when police are focused on drug enforcement, particularly cannabis prohibition. They found that every 1% increase in drug arrests leads to a 0.18% increase in violent crimes. When we stop arresting thousands of non-violent cannabis consumers, we will be freeing up police resources and saving hundreds of millions of dollars each year, which could be used for apprehending truly dangerous criminals and keeping them locked up. (http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/data/table_05.html, http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/data/table_69.html, Benson et al. 2001, "The Impact of Drug Enforcement on Crime: An Investigation of the Opportunity Cost of Police Resources," *Journal of Drug Issues*, 31: 989-1006)

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FAQ continued

Q: How much money will Proposition 19 save law enforcement in California?

A: According to a study by the California Chapter of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws), controlling and taxing cannabis would save the state over \$200 million per year that would have been wasted on arrests, prosecutions, and prison for non-violent cannabis consumers. According to a report by the California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), which provides non-partisan fiscal and policy advice, Proposition 19 would enable California to put our police priorities where they belong. The report says the initiative "could result in savings to the state and local governments by reducing the number of marijuana offenders incarcerated in state prisons and county jails, as well as the number placed under county probation or state parole supervision. These savings could reach several tens of millions of dollars annually. The county jail savings would be offset to the extent that jail beds no longer needed for marijuana offenders were used for other criminals who are now being released early because of a lack of jail space."

(http://canorml.org/background/CA_legalization2.html, http://www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2010/19_11_2010.pdf)

Q: What safety controls does Proposition 19 have?

A: As the California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) report says, under Proposition 19, "the smoking of marijuana in the presence of minors is not permitted." The initiative would not change laws "that prohibit possessing marijuana on the grounds of elementary, middle, and high schools. Moreover, a person age 21 or older who knowingly gave marijuana to a person age 18 through 20 could be sent to county jail for up to six months and fined up to \$1,000 per offense. (The measure does not change existing criminal laws which impose penalties for adults who furnish marijuana to minors under the age of 18.)"

(http://www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2010/19_11_2010.pdf)

Q: How will Proposition 19 affect driving laws?

A: Proposition 19 maintains the same strict criminal penalties for driving under the influence of cannabis that exist now. The California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) says that Proposition 19 "would not change existing laws that prohibit driving under the influence of drugs."

(http://www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2010/19_11_2010.pdf)

Q: How will Proposition 19 affect an employer's ability to maintain a drug-free workplace?

A: Proposition 19 preserves the rights of employers to maintain a drug-free workplace. The California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) says that Proposition 19 "does specify that employers would retain existing rights to address consumption of marijuana that impairs an employee's job performance."

(http://www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2010/19_11_2010.pdf)

Q: How will Proposition 19 affect medical cannabis patients?

A: Proposition 19 explicitly protects the rights of medical cannabis patients.

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FAQ continued

Q: How will Proposition 19 affect the drug cartels?

A: Proposition 19 will help cut off a major source of funding to the drug cartels. Cannabis prohibition has created a violent criminal market run by vicious drug cartels right across our border. In 2008 alone, the cartels murdered 6,290 civilians in Mexico—more than all U.S. troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. According to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, in 2006 more than 60 percent of the revenue generated by Mexican drug cartels came from illegal cannabis sales in the United States. It's time to weaken the cartels and end this senseless violence, by passing Proposition 19, controlling and taxing cannabis, and cutting off a major source of revenue for the cartels.

(http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/02/02/us.mexico.marijuana/index.html?section=cnn_latest,
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-02-26-mexico-drug-violence_N.htm, <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/fallen/>)

Q: After Proposition 19 passes, how will the new state law interact with federal law?

A: While cannabis will remain illegal federally, we can still pass our own state laws in California. The United States Constitution enables individual states to enact laws concerning health, morals, public welfare, and safety within each state. For instance, in 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215, which legalized medical cannabis in the state, even though it remained illegal federally. Also, 40 counties and cities in California have regulated medical cannabis without federal interference. In addition, under Section 3 of the California Constitution, state and local authorities, who conduct the majority of law enforcement within the state, cannot refuse to enforce a state law "on the basis that federal law or federal regulations prohibit the enforcement."

Q: Who supports Proposition 19?

A: Proposition 19 is a common sense initiative, and people from all walks of life have come together—many for the first time—to support it. Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Libertarians, Greens, doctors, police chiefs, sheriffs, judges, faith leaders, labor leaders, business leaders, people young and old, are coming together to support Proposition 19's common sense solution to our failed cannabis laws. For a list of endorsements, visit: <http://www.taxcannabis.org/index.php/pages/endorsements>

Q: How was Proposition 19 written?

A: Proposition 19 was carefully written by a team of ballot initiative professionals and attorneys in order to get cannabis under control. It contains strict and strong public safety controls on cannabis.

Q: How can I help?

A: This will be a major fight for cannabis reform in California, and we are going to need every supporter involved. Sign up to volunteer, contribute, and get your friends involved today on our website!

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Join Us in Voting Yes on Proposition 19!

Law Enforcement

- San Jose Police Chief Joseph McNamara (Ret.)
- Seattle Police Chief and San Diego Deputy Police Chief Norm Stamper (Ret.)
- Former Los Angeles Deputy Police Chief Stephen Downing
- Former Contra Costa County Deputy Sheriff David Sinclair
- Humboldt County Sheriff's Captain Stephen Cobine (Ret.)
- Former Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff MacKenzie Allen
- Former Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff Jeff Studdard
- Former Sutter County Deputy Sheriff Nate Bradley
- Former Yolo County Resident Deputy Sheriff Danny Maynard
- Former Deputy Sheriff Leo E. Laurence, J.D., Central Missouri
- Orange County Superior Court Judge James P. Gray (Ret.)
- Humboldt County District Attorney Paul Gallegos
- San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan (Ret.)
- Former Senior Humboldt County Deputy District Attorney and Prosecutor Jeffrey Schwartz
- Former Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney and California Administrative Law Judge Mike Schmier
- Riverside County Deputy District Attorney Walter Clark (Ret.)
- Former Orange County Senior Reserve Park Ranger L. Lawrence Baird
- Oakland City Attorney John Russo
- Former Community Prosecutor James Anthony, Oakland City Attorney's Office
- Los Angeles Police Department Narcotics Detective David Doddridge (Ret.)
- Former San Jose Police Department Narcotics Detective Russ Jones
- Former Los Angeles Senior Police Specialist Walter McKay
- California Correctional Peace Officer William Baldwin (Ret.)
- California Correctional Peace Officer Madeline Martinez (Ret.)
- Former Military Police Officer Dr. Nina Graves, Santa Barbara, CA
- Mohave County Deputy Probation Officer Joe Miller (Ret.)
- Former Lakeport Police Officer Rick Erickson
- Former San Francisco Police Officer Bill Dake
- Former Stanton Police Officer Jerry Ross
- Former Torrance Police Officer Kyle Kazan

Physicians and Doctors

- United States Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders, MD (Ret.)
- Dr. Larry Bedard, Former President of the American College of Emergency Physicians*, Sausalito, CA
- Dr. Newton Harband, Retired Oncologist, Past President, Stanford Medical School Alumni Association*, San Rafael, CA
- Dr. Daniel Susott, MD, MPH, Medical Director, World Family Foundation*, San Francisco, CA
- Dr. Floyd Huen, MD, Board of Trustees, Alameda County Medical Center, Oakland, CA
- Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, State University of New York at Albany
- Dr. Lester Grinspoon, MD, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Norfolk, MA
- Dr. Julie Holland, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, NYU School of Medicine, New York
- Dr. Leonard Krivitsky, MD, DD, Addiction Medicine Specialist, Philadelphia, PA
- Dr. Frank H. Lucido, MD, Family Practitioner, Berkeley, CA
- Arthur M. Strosberg, Ph. D., Pharmaceutical Industry Consultant, Foster City, CA
- Dr. Sunil Aggarwal, MD, PhD, Seattle, WA
- Dr. Christopher Fichtner, MD, Hemet, CA

Economists and Business Leaders

- Harvard Economist Jeffery Miron
- Michael D. Whitty, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, University of San Francisco School of Business and Management

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Endorsements continued

Elected Officials

- Congressman Dan Hamburg (CA-1) (Ret.)
- California State Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata (Ret.)
- California State Senator Mark Leno
- California State Assemblymember Tom Ammiano
- Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley
- Mendocino County Supervisor John Pinches
- San Francisco Supervisor David Campos
- San Francisco Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi
- Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates
- The Berkeley City Council
- The Oakland City Council
- Arcata City Councilmember Shane Brinton
- Berkeley City Councilmember Kriss Worthington
- Berkeley City Councilmember Darryl Moore
- Hayward City Councilmember Bill Quirk
- Oakland City Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan
- Oakland City Councilmember Jean Quan
- Oakland City Councilmember Pat Kernighan
- Oakland City Councilmember Larry Reid
- Oakland City Councilmember Nancy Nadel
- West Hollywood City Councilmember John Duran
- Windsor Town Councilmember Debora Fudge
- Palm Springs Unified School District Board Member Justin Blake
- East Bay Municipal Utility District Board President Doug Linney
- Water Replenishment District of Southern California Director Rob Katherman
- Modoc County Democratic Central Committee Chair Thomas Romero
- Alameda County Democratic Central Committee Member Edie Irons

Organizations

- California NAACP
- California Libertarian Party
- California Green Party
- California Young Democrats
- Republican Liberty Caucus

- ACLU of Northern California
- ACLU of Southern California
- ACLU of San Diego
- California 16th Assembly District Democrats
- Alameda County Democratic Party
- Monterey County Democratic Party
- Progressive Democrats of Stanislaus County
- Desert Stonewall Democrats of Palm Springs
- Libertarian Party of Orange County
- Humboldt Center for Constitutional Rights
- The LA Gay & Lesbian Center
- A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing)
- William C. Velasquez Institute

Labor

- United Food and Commercial Workers, Western States Council
- Central Labor Council of Butte-Glenn Counties (AFL-CIO)
- Communications Workers of America (CWA), Local 9415
- Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), San Francisco Chapter
- Sign Displays, Local 510
- Michael Hardeman, Business Representative, Sign Displays, Local 510
- Dan Rush, United Food and Commercial

Faith Leaders

- Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative
- Rabbi Jeffrey Kahn, Clergy Against Prohibition*
- Jane Marcus, Ph.D., Board Member, Women of Reform Judaism*, Palo Alto, CA
- The Rev. Canon Mary Moreno Richardson, Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
- Dennis Shields, Minister, The Religion of Jesus Church, Captain Cook, HI

(partial list)

*Organizations listed for identification purposes only
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Endorsement Form

Organization: _____

Contact Name: _____ Title/Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

Please check all relevant boxes:

Yes, you may use my name as an endorser of Proposition 19

Yes, you may use our organization's name as an endorser of Proposition 19

I will help get endorsements from organizations I belong to:

Orgs: _____

I will host a house party or fundraiser

I will help raise money from my network

I will contribute: \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

Other ways I can help the campaign: _____

Fax/Mail Response Form To: Yes on 19. Tax Cannabis 2010.
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Fax: (510) 444-4743

Or Endorse Online At: www.taxcannabis.org/endorse

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