

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MA

The unfounded fear mongering by city officials regarding public safety and any perceived correlation between **Medical Cannabis** and rising crime is unproductive and unethical. And if over-taxed, the vetted operators will have to compete with the illegal Black Market.

Though we laud the Mayor and City Council for unanimously putting the Medical Cannabis Initiative (Measure MM) on this November's ballot and finally allowing Long Beach patients safe access to doctor-recommended cannabis, the proposed taxation rate would add an extremely excessive burden to the sick and disabled who desperately need this medicine.

This is why Long Beach residents need to **Vote NO** on **Measure MA**.

Vote YES on **Measure MM** which is fair and fiscally responsible.

Proponents of Measure MA accurately point out that crime has increased in recent years, but that is not a valid reason to **penalize Medical Cannabis patients**. They deliberately failed to reveal that crime rates were at their lowest until Long Beach eradicated all dispensaries, which was then followed by a spike in crime. We don't tax doctors and pharmacies for the current opiate epidemic, with its associated increase in crime. Statistics prove that drug dependency and overdoses are reduced everywhere legitimate **Medical Cannabis** is accessible, accompanied by lower enforcement costs.

The proponents also fail to differentiate between a potential recreational statewide initiative, which should be taxed like alcohol/cigarettes, and **Medical Cannabis**. Prescription **Medicine is Never Taxed** in California. Don't allow city hall to literally tax patients to DEATH.

VOTE NO on **Measure MA** and **VOTE YES** on **Measure MM!**

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