

Prop D: San Francisco Marijuana Business Tax Increase

Informational Resources

A yes vote is a vote in favor of taxing marijuana businesses with gross receipts over \$500,000 at a rate between 1 percent and 5 percent, exempting retail sales of medical marijuana, and expanding the marijuana business tax to businesses not physically located in San Francisco.

A no vote is a vote against taxing marijuana businesses with gross receipts over \$500,000 at a rate between 1 percent and 5 percent, exempting retail sales of medical marijuana, and expanding the marijuana business tax to businesses not physically located in San Francisco.

- Ballotpedia

“Should this ordinance be approved, in my opinion, it would result in a tax revenue increase to the City of an estimated \$2-4 million in 2019, growing to \$7-16 million annually beginning in 2021. The tax is a general tax and proceeds would be deposited into the General Fund... Additionally, the ordinance would permit the City to tax businesses that do not have a physical presence here.”

- San Francisco Controller

“I think that Prop. D will be devastating for the fledgling cannabis industry in San Francisco. Cannabis businesses are already struggling to pay taxes. Logistically, they have to pay in cash. This tax will punish them for operating legitimately. Seventy-four percent of San Franciscans voted to have access to legal recreational cannabis. This tax is contrary to the will of San Francisco voters, because it will drive cannabis businesses out of business or back to the illegal market.”

- Sonja Trauss, Candidate for District 6 Supervisor

“Medical cannabis patients are taxed too much as it currently stands. Adding this gross-receipts tax will drive more people back to the unregulated, illicit market.”

- David Goldman, president of the Brownie Mary Democratic Club

“San Francisco’s cumulative budget deficit over the next two fiscal years is projected to be \$262 million out of an annual budget of roughly \$10 billion. And the deficit keeps growing as the forecast period lengthens: By year four, the cumulative deficit is \$709 million.”

- 2017 Joint Report by the Controller’s Office, Mayor’s Office and Board of Supervisors’ Budget Analyst

Prop D is endorsed by:

Supervisor Malia Cohen

Supervisor Norman Yee

Supervisor Katy Tang

Supervisor Catherine Stefani

Supervisor Vallie Brown

Jewish Resources

The Torah gave permission to the doctor to heal, and it is even a commandment. Even more so, it is [the commandment] of saving a life. One who prevents oneself from doing so is considered to have shed blood.

- Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah, The Laws of Visiting the Sick and Healing, 336:1. Translation by Rabbi Charles Sheer. Edited for gender neutrality.

(5) Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their fruit. (6) Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters. Multiply there, do not decrease. (7) And seek the welfare of the city to which I have exiled you and pray to the LORD in its behalf; for in its prosperity you shall prosper.

- Jeremiah 29:5-7

It's a great mitzvah to be happy..., and to gird oneself to push away sadness and dark bitterness with all one's strength.

- Likutei Moranan 2:24, Rebbe Nachman of Breslov (1772-1810)

Conclusion

It was very important to our group that the resulting tax from Prop D did not apply to Prop D. They noted that the use of recreational marijuana would likely result in more work for hospitals, police, firefighters, etc., which would have a cost to our city. They liked the idea of using funding to create education programs about marijuana. The group cited Jeremiah 29:5-7 (see above) in their belief that seeking the welfare of our city as a whole was a Jewish value. They came to the conclusion that voting yes on Prop D was in line with their progressive Jewish values.

Our Ninth Grade Havurah discussed this issue as well. They were struck by the amount of debt that the city is in and motivated by that fact tax more heavily. While they did recognize that marijuana users are already taxed heavily by the state, they agreed with our Voter Education Night group that seeking the welfare of the city was in line with their progressive Jewish values. Our teen group came to the same conclusion, supporting a yes vote on Prop D.