

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE S

### **VOTE YES ON MEASURE S - THE MEDICAL CANNABIS TAX**

California voters authorized the use of medical cannabis in 1996 - in a ballot initiative overwhelmingly supported by Berkeley voters. In 2008, the voters of Berkeley again demonstrated support for increased patient access for medical cannabis with the passage of Measure JJ.

Like other cities, the City of Berkeley is working to create zoning, licensing and tax regulations for medical cannabis cultivation and dispensaries. Berkeley's business tax system does not yet have a category for medical cannabis cultivation, dispensing, and ancillary activities such as baking and product development.

Measure S creates a new business tax classification and rate for cannabis cultivators, dispensaries, and ancillary activities. It establishes a rate of \$25 per \$1000 of gross receipts, phased in over two years. For non-profits, the rate is \$25 per square foot for the first 3000 square feet and \$10 per foot thereafter. If State Proposition 19 passes, legalizing cannabis, this measure will permit the City to levy \$100 per \$1000 gross receipts for non-medical cannabis businesses.

The Cannabis Tax will provide **new revenue for city services** and may be used for any legal municipal purpose, such as **public safety, street repair and public health programs**. State law in California requires that any new business tax rate must be approved by the voters.

Measure S is **supported unanimously by the Berkeley City Council** and by the medical cannabis community, and will help **support and maintain essential services** for our city.

### **VOTE YES ON MEASURE S**

Tom Bates  
Berkeley Mayor

Darryl Moore  
Berkeley City Council, District 2

Maxwell G. Anderson, Jr.  
Berkeley City Council District 3

Susan Wengraf  
City Council member, District 6

Gordon Wozniak  
Berkeley City Council - District 8