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**ARGUMENT / REBUTTAL**

Election Date: November 3, 2020

Proposition: Measure I - Cannabis and Hemp Tax

Jurisdiction: City of San Buenaventura

Argument In Favor:  (300 Words)                      Rebuttal to Argument Against  (250 Words)

Argument Against  (300 Words)                      Rebuttal to Argument In Favor  (250 Words)

Argument Deadline: July 30, 2020                      Rebuttal Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement Must Be Typed**

On November 8, 2016, California voters approved Proposition 64 legalizing the commercial and recreational use and sale of marijuana. 60 percent of Ventura voters approved Proposition 64, more than the percentage who voted for it statewide or countywide. Currently retail sales and commercial cultivation cannot take place in Ventura, but there is no policy in place to allow for the taxation of this industry if, and when, such businesses are allowed to operate in Ventura.

In other local cities, cannabis taxes have passed easily. Both Thousand Oaks and Oxnard had nearly 80% approval of their marijuana tax measures. It is time for Ventura to adopt a similar tax measure. Measure I will impose a tax on potential marijuana businesses in Ventura. The illegal black market of marijuana businesses is prevalent in Ventura and none pay a penny in tax. Measure I will change that if marijuana businesses are ultimately allowed here, and this new revenue will make Ventura a safer and better city.

All of the money from this tax will stay in Ventura for the benefit of Ventura. Only marijuana businesses will pay this tax, and no one else.

100% of these revenues will be used to support essential city services including our first responders, improving our parks, providing programs for children and senior citizens, improving our streets, fixing potholes and supporting our homeless services.

Dozens of cities across California have already implemented a similar tax, and Ventura should join these cities to ensure that we properly regulate this industry and guarantee that marijuana businesses will pay their fair share.

Whether you agree with the legalization of marijuana or not, it is already here. If the City Council decides to allow new marijuana businesses to operate, we must tax this industry to ensure compliance and eradicate illegal sales.

Please vote Yes on Measure I!

