

Argument in Favor of Measure C

The national recession is crippling local governments everywhere, and the City of Sacramento is no exception. This year, the City closed a \$43 million budget gap; next year, the gap will be at least \$25 million. If the State of California continues to raid funding earmarked for cities, the City's deficit will grow larger. We have eliminated non-essential services, cut back critical services wherever possible, laid off employees, and pared budgets to the bone. Some of our City Departments, including City Code Enforcement, have had their budgets slashed by over 50%. Soon, we'll be forced to scale back other vital functions, including public safety.

We have held the line against increasing taxes on local businesses, because they are already struggling to stay afloat. We have resisted efforts to place a parcel tax on the ballot when so many Sacramentans are fighting to save their homes. We believe that the City needs new revenue sources. That's why we are supporting Measure C. This measure will extend the City's Business Operations Tax to Medical Marijuana Dispensaries at the rate of up to four percent.

In 1996, some 60 percent of Sacramento voters approved the Compassionate Use Act to allow for the cultivation and sale of medical marijuana. Since then, medical marijuana has been sold in the City to patients who qualify. While most medical marijuana dispensaries pay sales taxes, so far they have not paid the same tax rates that similar businesses are required to pay in other cities. The City of Sacramento needs this new revenue to keep providing the services you depend upon. Vote yes on Measure C.

James Butler
Vice President, Sacramento Area Fire Fighters

Russell Fehr
City Treasurer

Mark A. Tyndale
Vice President, Sacramento Police Officers Association
