



JUNE 2017 ELECTION BALLOT & REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS FOR CANNABIS INDUSTRY TAX

City Council Meeting
February 14, 2017

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SUMMARY

Under the California Elections Code 9287, the City Council has the first priority to submit ballot arguments in favor of the proposed measure, and if any opposition argument is filed against the measure, to submit a rebuttal argument to that opposition argument.

PRIORITY ORDER

If the City Council chooses not to submit an argument in favor of the measure, the following priority order would apply to select the author of the argument:

- A bona fide associations of citizens
- Individual voters who are eligible to vote on the measure

COUNCIL ARGUMENT OPTIONS

- Authorize another person to “prepare, submit, or sign the rebuttal argument”,
- Delegate to an ad hoc Council committee the authority to draft and submit the argument on behalf of the Council,
- Or to have such a committee draft the argument, and bring the draft back to the Council for approval.

ARGUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Arguments must be 300 words or fewer, with no more than 5 signatures, and submitted by March 20, 2017
- Rebuttal arguments must be 250 words or fewer, with no more than 5 signatures, and submitted by March 30, 2017

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Council, by motion, determine whether it wishes to submit a ballot argument and rebuttal argument in favor of a proposed measure for the June 6, 2017 ballot to authorize the Council to impose a local business tax on the cannabis industry at rates high enough to cover the costs to the City of allowing this emerging industry to operate in Santa Rosa and the process by which Council will draft the ballot arguments, should it choose to submit an argument for the measure.

QUESTIONS ?