

BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE TO ALLOW COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION,
PROCESSING, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF CANNABIS**

This initiative would amend the Ventura County Ordinance Code to allow the commercial cultivation, processing, distribution and sale of cannabis within the unincorporated area of Ventura County. Sales could occur only between licensed distributors. The initiative would not allow the retail sale of cannabis to the general public within the unincorporated area.

The cultivation allowed by the initiative would be limited to a total of 500 acres for general cannabis cultivation and a total of 100 acres for nursery cultivation. There would be no limit on the number of businesses so long as the total acreage limits were not exceeded. Commercial cannabis activities would be restricted to the AE (Agricultural Exclusive), M2 and M3 (Industrial) zoning districts and all cultivation would have to occur within pre-existing permanent greenhouse, glasshouse, conservatory, hothouse or other similar indoor facilities. No cultivation would be allowed outdoors. Ancillary processing and distribution activities would also be permitted.

The premises where the commercial cannabis activities would occur could not be located within a 1,200-foot radius of schools, day care centers, youth centers, drug rehabilitation centers, parks or residential neighborhoods in existence on March 4, 2020.

The initiative would impose a tax on commercial cannabis activities within the unincorporated area of the county in the amount of four percent of gross receipts on general cannabis cultivation and one percent of gross receipts on cannabis nursery cultivation. The taxes would be paid into the County's general fund and could be used for any public purpose of the County. Voter approval would be required for any increase in the rate of the tax.

The initiative would require operators to comply with state licensing requirements, and also obtain a cannabis license from the County. Applications for commercial cannabis business licenses could be accepted by the County beginning January 1, 2021. Applications would be processed on a first-come, first served basis, and must be granted if specified conditions are met and the total acreage amounts described above would not be exceeded. Licenses would have to be renewed annually.