

ARGUMENT AGAINST CITY OF COALINGA MEASURE TO AUTHORIZE TAXES ON COMMERCIAL MARIJUANA OPERATIONS

The Coalinga City Council, despite strong community opposition, conspired to sell the Claremont Custody Center to a business that violates federal law. Now they want voters to condone this action. Do not be fooled, Coalinga voters should not vote to balance the budget at the expense of decaying their struggling community. Bringing in these businesses will provide lucrative life styles for a select few and the quality of life in Coalinga will suffer.

Growing and distributing marijuana is against federal law. Condoning those activities locally does not change that fact. Openly permitting the sale of illegal drugs will change the family nature of the community of Coalinga.

Marijuana use by youth in Fresno County is already on the rise. In a 2014/15 report there were 1,852 youths seeking treatment for drug addiction. Of these, **69% were seeking treatment for marijuana addiction.**

A permissive City and community attitude toward an illegal drug not only leads to increased use by youth but has negative workplace impacts. Drug use in the workplace has consequences for employers including personal safety, employee impairment and increased absenteeism. A permissive culture that makes drugs more readily available negatively impacts all families, including yours.

Interestingly, there is no mention of medical need or compassion in this measure, only the need to generate money from drug trafficking and sales for the purpose of funding more government. Voters should vehemently oppose this quick-fix scheme. These out of town drug traffickers do not care about our community, but we do.

Law enforcement, business leaders, and educators agree this is a bad idea. Sheriff Margaret Mims and Supervisor Buddy Mendes are opposed to this measure. Coalinga businesses, neighborhoods and children are at risk, we cannot allow drug trafficking! A **NO** vote is a vote against illegal drug trafficking in our City.

The undersigned proponent(s) or author(s) of the primary argument against a ballot measure to authorizing taxes on commercial marijuana operations in the City of Coalinga at the November 2016 Presidential General election for the City of Coalinga to be held on November 8, 2016 hereby state that this argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

SIGNED

DATE

**Roger Campbell, Retired Superintendent
Coalinga-Huron Unified School District**

**Gregory J. Delano, Coalinga High School and
West Hills Community College Instructor**

**Margo S. Perkins, Principal
Coaling High School**

**Ron Lander, Coalinga
Councilman**