

# Cast Your Vote

An important ballot measure that will impact motorists



## PROPOSITION 64

### Traffic Safety at Risk

Proposition 64 would legalize recreational, non-medical marijuana use in California for adults age 21 and older. The 62-page measure has many provisions that attempt to commercialize, regulate, and tax the drug. Since 2012, four states and Washington, D.C., have legalized recreational marijuana use.

Supports, including Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Medical Association, argue that marijuana is widely available today, and the current system is counterproductive and incarcerates too many people. They also say that Proposition 64 offers a better approach to controlling and regulating marijuana use, while providing additional revenues through new taxes for drug-abuse prevention and treatment.

Proposition 64 is opposed by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, the California Hospital Association, the California Association of Highway Patrolmen, the California Police Chiefs Association, the California Narcotic Officers' Association, the California District Attorneys Association, and many other law enforcement organizations and officials. They say Proposition 64 is a bad idea because it does not have adequate safeguards to protect children; has too many loopholes that can be exploited and abused; and will increase drug-impaired driving, traffic crashes, and highway fatalities.

**The auto club opposes Proposition 64.** We have a genuine traffic-safety concern related to the legalization of recreational marijuana use, including marijuana candies, foods, and concentrates. It has taken generations to educate the driving public about drinking and driving and to strengthen laws to reduce drunk driving. Proposition 64 would create new traffic-safety issues and increase the problem of impaired driving.

Recent research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that fatal crashes involving drivers who recently used marijuana more than doubled in Washington after the state legalized marijuana. In fact, marijuana decreases driver performance and attention, and increases reaction time and lane deviation. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety also found that, unlike tests that have been developed over decades to measure blood alcohol content (BAC) to enforce drunk-driving laws, there is no similar, reliable, or scientific way to test for marijuana impairment. This poses a serious challenge for law enforcement to identify and prosecute marijuana-impaired drivers.

The Auto club believes that Proposition 64 puts traffic safety at risk. It will likely increase the availability and use of marijuana, which will lead to increased drugged driving. You can stop this by voting no on Proposition 64 on November 8.