

Community Comment
Tuesday, October 25

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

I have really kept it together this election cycle and not mentioned anything about specific candidates, even though I've been wanting to.

I'm going break my silence about two ballot concerns though—and I have a feeling my positions are somewhat unpopular and not mainstream Humboldt County, but here goes.

First, Prop 64. “No on 64” seemed like it came out of nowhere—which it probably didn't, it just seemed like it because I'm not plugged in to the pot culture. Haven't we spent two years expecting that legalizing cannabis was a slam dunk? I have a theory about it. And it's not because they can show advertisements about kids eating edibles, or whatever line they've come up with.

My theory is, that the growers came out of the haze to see that being an official business is not in their best interest. Now they have to follow regulations, now the taxes are being piled on, now more people are growing and the price has gone down, now they have to follow environmental rules. That's why it's No on 64. Not until the taxes and regulations started being formed was there a problem with legalization that I ever heard.

It's not so easy being a business, it's much easier being under the radar where you don't have to pay your workers overtime now like the grape growers do. It's not so easy being a business when the competition is more marketing savvy.

That's what I think of No on Prop 64. Let's legalize it already.

There is a Measure in Fortuna for a sales tax increase. Measure E. You heard me speak in favor of a 1 cent sales tax increase two years ago and of course I am personally in favor of this new three quarter of a cent sales tax increase.

Two years ago opponents were saying use your general fund to make up deficits; and bad management was to blame for budget woes. Opponents have even recycled their old letter to scare residents to vote no.

What's different this year? Prop 47, that's what's different. We can actually see the effects of Prop 47 in Fortuna and all of Humboldt County. A reduction of felonies and penalties. Ironically sold to Californians as a cost savings.

Sometimes cost savings are not in our best interest. In order to combat Prop 47, as well as the naturally higher cost of doing business, we need Measure E. If you are thinking about voting no, I urge you to read about it, talk to our Mayor, Council and City staff about it before you vote. The sales tax would be equal to the level of Eureka, not surpass it.

So, there you have it. I've gone rogue. Please note that these are my personal opinions and are not the opinions of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce.

We get to talk again on November 8.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.