

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment, Cannabis Revenue Budget



**From:** Jasmin Martin <jasmin@futureleadersnow.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 2:08 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Youth Fund Comment of Support  
**Attachments:** Youth Fund Comment.pdf

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

My name is Jasmin Martin, I work at Future Leaders of America as their Grant Manager. I am writing this email to express my support for the Youth Fund. I wanted to submit a written comment for the board ahead of tomorrow's hearing as I can not attend. Attached to this email you will find my written comment/support for the Youth Fund pilot program.

Best Regards,



**Jasmin Martin (she/her/ella)**

Grant Writer

**Future Leaders of America**

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**W:** [FutureLeadersNow.org](http://FutureLeadersNow.org) **E:** [jasmin@futureleadersnow.org](mailto:jasmin@futureleadersnow.org)

Good afternoon, Honorable Board of Supervisors,

My name is Jasmin Martin, and I am a staff member at Future Leaders of America and a supporter of the Santa Barbara County Youth Impact Coalition.

I am writing to share my concerns about how cannabis tax revenue is currently being allocated in Santa Barbara County and to urge a realignment of priorities that better supports our youth and communities. When California passed Proposition 64 in 2016, it came with a clear promise: to reinvest in communities that were disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs.

Since 2018, Santa Barbara County has collected nearly \$55 million in cannabis tax revenue. Unfortunately, a significant portion of these funds has been directed toward enforcement, rather than toward programs that uplift and support young people. This year alone, the County is projected to collect approximately \$4.7 million, yet youth and underserved communities continue to lack access to critical resources.

Cannabis tax revenue presents a meaningful opportunity to invest in prevention, education, and community well-being. In my role at Future Leaders of America, I have had the privilege of working closely with youth who are actively engaged in substance use prevention and community improvement efforts. They are leading workshops, advocating for healthier communities, and stepping up as leaders. As a county, we should be matching their commitment with meaningful investment.

As someone who has personally experienced housing and safety insecurity, I know firsthand how impactful youth programs can be. Growing up, I had limited access to resources, and my family was not aware of the services that could have supported us. Expanding access to youth programs—focused on education, leadership development, and basic needs—can make a lasting difference. Prevention is not only more effective than enforcement; it is also more equitable.

We respectfully call on the Board of Supervisors to establish a Youth Fund pilot program using cannabis tax revenue to invest in:

- Youth development and enrichment programs
- Mental health services
- Early intervention and substance use prevention
- Basic needs and support systems for young people

The County currently holds over \$780,000 in unallocated cannabis tax revenue. We urge you to use these funds to launch a Youth Fund pilot program that directly invests in the future of our young people.

Other California cities have already taken this approach. San Diego invests in youth substance use prevention, Sacramento allocates 40% of its cannabis tax revenue to youth services, and cities like Santa Cruz and Vista have redirected funds to community-based programs. These

investments are showing positive outcomes, strengthening communities and supporting youth success.

Meanwhile, in Santa Barbara County, youth are approximately 50% more likely to experience a felony arrest compared to youth statewide. This underscores the urgent need to shift our approach.

It is time to move from a system focused on punishment to one rooted in prevention, healing, and opportunity. Our young people deserve more than enforcement—they deserve investment in their future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



**Jasmin Martin (she/her/ella)**

Grant Writer

**Future Leaders of America**

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## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Alfredo Morillon <alfredo@futureleadersnow.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 3:20 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Written Comment - Youth Fund Hearing

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Good afternoon Board of Supervisors,

My name is Alfredo Morillon, I am the Oxnard Community Organizer for Future Leaders of America. This matter is of great importance to us, as FLA is dedicated to providing resources that help our youth succeed.

With this in mind, I send this written comment today to address how the County is spending cannabis tax revenue and why we must realign our priorities to better support youth and our communities by fully honoring the promise of Prop 64 of investing in young people right here in Santa Barbara County. In 2016, California passed Proposition 64 with a promise: to invest in communities harmed by the war on drugs.

Since 2018, Santa Barbara County has collected nearly \$55 million from cannabis taxes. Unfortunately, the majority of these funds have gone to enforcement, rather than to uplifting youth in our county. This year, Santa Barbara County is expected to collect nearly \$4.7 million in local cannabis tax revenue. However, the majority of these funds is mostly being funneled into enforcement while youth and underserved communities continue to lack critical support.

We believe that cannabis tax revenue can be used more effectively if it is directed to serve the youth of Santa Barbara County.

Although I serve communities in Oxnard, I also learn from students from all different regions. Including Santa Barbara County. This is why this issue is imperative to me. I want our students and underserved communities to have an equitable amount of resources and education. Our students need equitable access to education and their wellness and needs should be prioritized.

We are calling on the Board of Supervisors to create a Youth Fund pilot program using cannabis tax revenue to invest in:

- Youth development and enrichment programs
- Mental health services
- Early intervention and substance use prevention
- Basic needs and support systems for young people

The County currently holds over \$780,000 in cannabis tax revenue that has not been allocated. We urge you to use these funds to launch a Youth Fund pilot program that invests directly in young people.

We know youth programs deliver real results:

- In Santa Barbara County, youth are about 50% more likely to experience a felony arrest than youth statewide

- Every \$1 invested returns up to \$7-\$13 in long-term public benefit
- Youth programs deliver proven results:
  - But we also know what works. Youth with mentors are 55% less likely to be arrested and 46% less likely to start using drugs

Other cities are already doing this:

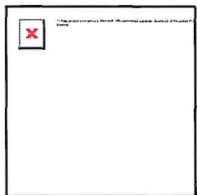
- San Diego invests in youth substance abuse prevention
- Sacramento allocates 40% of cannabis tax revenue to youth services
- Santa Cruz and Vista have redirected funds to youth programs and community resources

It's time to shift our priorities from punishment to investing in prevention, healing, and youth empowerment, because our young people deserve more than just enforcement; they deserve investment in their future.

Best wishes,

Alfredo Morillon

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[Alfredo Morillon \(he/him/el\)](#)

Oxnard Community Organizer

**Future Leaders of America**

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## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Ivan Vega <ivan@futureleadersnow.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 3:24 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Departmental Budgets | Policy and Executive Special Issue - Cannabis Revenue Budget Update

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Clerk of the Board,

Below is my public comment:

Good afternoon, Board of Supervisors,

My name is Ivan Vega. I am a Santa Barbara County resident and a proud member of the Santa Barbara County Youth Impact Coalition.

I am here today to ask that the County realign its spending of cannabis tax revenue and to urge you to honor the promise of Proposition 64 by investing directly in our young people.

When California voters passed Prop 64 in 2016, they did so with a clear commitment: to invest in communities harmed by the war on drugs. Since 2018, Santa Barbara County has collected nearly \$55 million in cannabis taxes. Yet the majority of those funds have gone toward enforcement, not toward the youth and underserved communities Prop 64 was meant to serve. This year alone, the County expects to collect nearly \$4.7 million in local cannabis tax revenue, and that pattern is set to continue.

I work directly with Santa Barbara County youth and families. Young people tell me they feel the weight of their parents' stress, facing the high cost of housing, immigration, family separations, lack of access to healthcare, and mental health care. That stress affects their mental health and their academic performance. Santa Barbara County youth deserve investment in their well-being and their futures, not investment in their punishment.

The data backs this up. Santa Barbara County youth are approximately 50% more likely to experience a felony arrest than youth statewide. And research shows that youth with mentors are 55% less likely to be arrested and 46% less likely to begin using drugs. We know what works; we simply need the will to fund it.

Other jurisdictions are already leading the way. San Diego County invests cannabis tax revenue in youth substance abuse prevention. Sacramento allocates 40% of its cannabis tax revenue to youth services. Santa Cruz and Vista have both redirected funds to youth programs and community resources through dedicated youth funds.

As a member of the Youth Impact Coalition, I have seen firsthand what young people are capable of when given the tools and support they need. Using their civic engagement skills to organize, lead, and advocate for meaningful change.

Today, we are calling on the Board of Supervisors to create a Youth Fund pilot program funded by cannabis tax revenue. This fund would support youth development and enrichment programs, mental health services, early intervention and substance use prevention, and basic needs support systems for young people. The County currently holds over \$780,000 in unallocated cannabis tax revenue. We urge you to put those dollars to work — right now — by launching this pilot program.

It is time to shift our priorities from punishment to prevention, from enforcement to empowerment. Our young people deserve more than to be policed; they deserve to be invested in.

Thank you,



**Iván Vega (he/him/el)**

Youth Leadership Development Director

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## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Cristal Robles <cristal@fundforsantabarbara.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 3:44 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Youth Making Change Fund  
**Subject:** Witten Comment: Support in Santa Barbara County Youth Impact Coalition

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello Board of Supervisors,

My name is Cristal Robles. I am the Youth Making Change (YMC) Coordinator, a community member, and a supporter of the Santa Barbara County Youth Impact Coalition.

I am writing to address how the County is spending cannabis tax revenue and why we must realign our priorities to better support our youth and their communities, fully honoring Proposition 64's promise to invest in young people right here in Santa Barbara County.

In 2016, California passed Proposition 64 with a clear promise: to invest in communities by directing tax revenue toward youth education, environmental restoration, and programs aimed at reducing driving under the influence of cannabis. Since 2018, the County has collected nearly \$55 million in cannabis tax revenue. Unfortunately, the majority of these funds have been allocated to law enforcement rather than the communities and youth they were intended to serve.

It is time we use those tax dollars as intended, for our youth. In my role as YMC Coordinator, I have had the honor of working with youth throughout the county and gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges within their communities. The YMC program is unique; it is one of the only youth-led grantmaking programs in the tri-county region and has been operating for 18 years. The program is entirely youth-led, from board recruitment to funding decisions. We have received applications from young people leading meaningful work in their communities, ranging from mental health initiatives to environmental health projects. Many of these youth groups are even raising their own funding to execute their programs. This is exactly why we need a Youth Impact Coalition.

YMC has sustained itself for so long because it has always invested in youth by placing them at the table and trusting them to make funding decisions. We can review data and conduct surveys, but no one understands the needs of our youth better than the youth themselves. And yet, what we have been able to invest through YMC is simply not enough.

Investing in the Youth Impact Fund would not only benefit young people but also strengthen our entire community by increasing resources and opportunities for teens to access and utilize. We often hear that programs exist, but that youth are not taking advantage of them. The difference with the Youth Impact Coalition is that youth will be at the center, helping to design, implement, and promote the programs themselves, ensuring relevance and reach.

I write this letter in strong support of the Youth Impact Coalition and respectfully ask for the Board's support

as well. Let us direct cannabis tax revenue toward investing in our community, rather than continuing to funnel it into enforcement, while youth and underserved communities remain without the critical resources they need and deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

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**Cristal Robles**

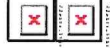
she/her/ella ([why pronouns matter?](#))([a how-to guide](#))

**YMC Coordinator**

(805) 387-6357

• [fundforsantabarbara.org](http://fundforsantabarbara.org)

[Grantee Portal](#) • [Join our Mailing List](#) • [Community Calendar](#)



## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Brandon Vasquez <brandon@futureleadersnow.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 4:19 PM  
**To:** sbcob; miranda.lopez1st@gmail.com; 500983@lmusd.org  
**Subject:** Public Comment 4.14.26

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

**Good [morning/afternoon], Board of Supervisors,**

My name is **Miranda Perez Lopez**, and I am a Santa Maria County resident and a member/supporter of the Santa Barbara County Youth Impact Coalition.

I'm here today to speak about how the County is spending cannabis tax revenue and why we must realign our priorities to better support youth and our communities by fully honoring the promise of Prop 64 of investing in young people right here in Santa Barbara County.

In 2016, California passed Proposition 64 with a promise: to invest in communities harmed by the war on drugs.

Since 2018, Santa Barbara County has collected nearly **\$55 million** from cannabis taxes.

Unfortunately, the majority of these funds have gone to enforcement, rather than uplifting youth in our county.

This year, Santa Barbara County is expected to collect nearly **\$4.7 million** in local cannabis tax revenue. However, the majority of these funds is mostly being funneled into enforcement while youth and underserved communities continue to lack critical support.

We believe that cannabis tax revenue can be used more effectively if it is directed to serve the youth of Santa Barbara County.

I just want to emphasize as a Santa Barbara County youth myself, it's saddening to see how much law enforcement is overflowing with funds while groups like youth are fighting to receive the scraps and just to get what's left.

I myself am a special education student and it would be beneficial to me and my peers if they directed more funds to youth programs rather than local law enforcement, which already has more than enough.

I've witnessed people in my community try to go get help only to be turned away or not get proper help because they do not have the means to support all of us.

The County currently holds over **\$780,000** in cannabis tax revenue that has not been allocated.

We urge you to use these funds to launch a Youth Fund pilot program that invests into youth because to have a good future we must invest in our future.

- Miranda Perez Lopez

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Brandon Vasquez <brandon@futureleadersnow.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 4:23 PM  
**To:** sbcob; 379720@students-smjuhsd.org; mrblackmonkey7@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Public Comment 04/15/2026

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

**Abel Seferino, 15**  
379720@students-smjuhsd.org

I'm here tonight because the promise of cannabis tax revenue benefiting our youth hasn't materialized.

I've seen painful cuts to vital programs, even as the county holds over **\$780,000** in unallocated funds.

I urge you to immediately allocate this unspent money to launch a Youth Fund pilot program.

It's not about asking for more, it's about using available funds to invest in our youth.

- Abel Serferino

## Katherine Douglas

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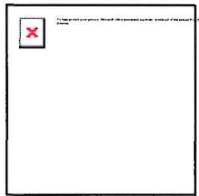
**From:** Andrea Pelagio <andrapelagio@futureleadersnow.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 4:39 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Youth Fund Public Comment  
**Attachments:** 4.15 Youth Fund Public Comment.pdf

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello,

Attached you will find my public comment that I would like to submit for tomorrow's (4/15) Board of Supervisors meeting regarding the Cannabis Revenue Budget Update agenda item.

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**Andrea Pelagio, (she/her/ella)**

Lompoc Community Organizer

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Hello Board of Supervisors,

My name is Andrea Pelagio, I am the Lompoc Community Organizer for Future Leaders of America, a Santa Barbara County resident, and a supporter of the Santa Barbara County Youth Impact Coalition.

I'm writing today about how the County is spending cannabis tax revenue and why we must realign our priorities to better support youth and our communities by fully honoring the promise of Prop 64 to invest in young people right here in Santa Barbara County. In 2016, California passed Proposition 64 with a promise to invest in communities harmed by the war on drugs.

Since 2018, Santa Barbara County has collected nearly \$55 million from cannabis taxes. Unfortunately, the majority of these funds have gone to enforcement, rather than uplifting youth in our county. This year, the County is expected to collect nearly \$4.7 million more, yet much of it continues to be directed toward enforcement while youth and underserved communities lack critical support.

In my experience as a community member, the need is clear. One in five children in our county lives in poverty. Our youth arrest rates are significantly higher than the state average. I've seen how many young people in our county feel like they're doing their best with limited support. Whether it's long wait times for mental health services, lack of safe spaces after school, or not having guidance on college and career paths. These gaps add up. Young people aren't lacking potential, they're lacking access. If we invested more in them, we'd be giving them real opportunities to succeed instead of leaving them to navigate these challenges alone.

The County currently holds over \$780,000 in unallocated cannabis tax revenue. We urge you to use these funds to launch a Youth Fund pilot program that invests directly in youth development, mental health services, early intervention and substance use prevention, and basic needs for young people.

Youth with mentors are significantly less likely to be arrested or begin using drugs. Other cities like San Diego, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, and Vista are already using cannabis tax revenue to support youth programs. It's time to shift our priorities from punishment to prevention, healing, and youth empowerment. Our young people deserve more than enforcement; they deserve investment in their future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.