

Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment



From: Brandon Vasquez <brandon@futureleadersnow.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 7:34 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Gloria Soto; Eva Maria Catalan; Ivan Vega
Subject: Distribution to the Board of Supervisors
Attachments: Youth Fund Letter of Support.pdf

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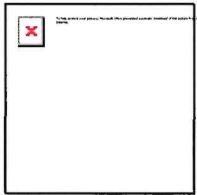
Dear County Clerk,

I hope you are doing well. I am writing to respectfully request that the Youth Fund Proposal be shared and distributed to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for their review and consideration. For the Budget hearing item.

Please let me know if any additional information or materials are needed.

Thank you for your time and support.

Best Regards,



Brandon Vasquez (he/him/el)

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June 16, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Community Organizations Letter of Support for the Santa Barbara County Youth Fund

Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Youth Impact Coalition and undersigned organizations, youth leaders, advocates, and community members, we write in strong support of establishing a Santa Barbara County Youth Fund dedicating unallocated cannabis tax revenue from this budget cycle toward youth investment throughout our county.

Santa Barbara County's young people deserve access to opportunities, resources, and supportive programs that allow them to thrive. Yet many youth across our communities continue to face significant barriers related to poverty, educational inequities, mental health challenges, substance use, and limited access to mentorship and leadership opportunities.

The proposed Youth Fund represents a meaningful investment in youth prevention through youth leadership development, wellness, and long-term community safety. We support the recommendation to dedicate unallocated \$780,000 cannabis tax revenue toward youth leadership development for prevention initiatives such as but not limited to:

- Youth leadership development
- Mental health and wellness services
- Youth-led community projects and civic engagement

Research consistently demonstrates that investing in prevention and youth development leads to stronger communities and reduced long-term public costs. Mentorship and youth engagement programs lower rates of substance use and justice system involvement while improving educational and economic outcomes. In contrast, the cost of failing to invest in youth is far greater for families, communities, and public systems.

We also recognize that this proposal aligns with the original intent of Proposition 64 by reinvesting cannabis tax revenue into communities most impacted and by supporting prevention-focused solutions. Other California jurisdictions, including San Diego, Sacramento,

Santa Cruz, and Vista, have already directed cannabis tax revenue toward youth programs with positive community impact.

We respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to support the establishment of the Santa Barbara County Youth Fund and allocate funding toward a pilot program that prioritizes the well-being, leadership, and future success of Santa Barbara County youth.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Santa Barbara Youth Impact Coalition

&

Future Leaders of America



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Children's Project

Proyecto de Niños
de Carpintería



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