

PRESS RELEASE

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State of Cannabis Report: Are Local Policies Protecting Us?

Scorecards reveal pathway forward for cities, counties to better protect youth & public health

(Oakland, CA) Today, [Getting it Right from the Start](#), a project of the Public Health Institute (PHI), released its 5th annual [State of Cannabis Report](#), tracking adoption of key policies by cities and counties that allow cannabis retail sales. The 2023 scorecards bring to light a patchwork of local policies that continue to fall far short of what is necessary to prevent the cannabis industry from following in the footsteps of Big Tobacco. Despite examples of localities that have led the way, many have not yet opted to go beyond basic state law to promote public health, protect youth, or advance social equity.

“Governor Newsom’s October 8th veto of the Cannabis Candy Child Safety Act (AB1207-Irwin) made it evident that it is up to local governments to protect kids from these cannabis risks. And the need is urgent,” says **Dr. Lynn Silver, MD, MPH, pediatrician and founder of the project**. “These scorecards offer practical information for communities on how to provide legal access without driving up harmful consumption, keeping our kids safer.”

The [scorecard](#) is based on a 100-point scale, with the higher score representing the more robust public health protections enacted over the last five years, and measured across six categories: retailer requirements, taxes and prices, product limits, marketing, smoke-free air, and equity and conflicts of interest.

The City of San Luis Obispo (SLO) scored the highest of all jurisdictions, with 51 points, thanks to several early and bold actions such as limiting the number of retailers and distancing them from places that serve youth. **Contra Costa County was second (50 points)**, showing national leadership by prohibiting the sale of flavored products for inhalation, widely known to hook kids. **The statewide average score however, remained a paltry 22 of 100** possible points across all jurisdictions allowing storefront retailers, and 12 for those allowing sale only by delivery, illustrating the enormous space for local action.

National City was the most improved jurisdiction that allows storefronts, rising 12 points to 28, by passing a local tax, prioritizing equity applicants, and requiring equitable hiring. **The City of Los Angeles was second**, with an improvement of 9 points to 39, by requiring in-store warnings and prohibiting temporary events, informing consumers, and maintaining our commitment to smoke-free air protections.

In 2021 alone, [California had 791 cannabis exposure](#) calls to poison control centers for children five or younger - an increase of 140% since 2018. The number of US 12th graders who have used highly potent [cannabis vapes in the preceding month tripled](#) in five years to 14% ([16.2% in CA](#)), which can have lasting negative impacts on the developing adolescent brain. California experienced a [near doubling of use during pregnancy](#) over the past decade, and a 75% increase in cannabis-related [emergency department visits](#) in just four years.

Yet, the state and most jurisdictions remain remiss in addressing these growing public health challenges. Only 10 of the 539 California localities enacted any cannabis product restrictions. **A handful of innovative pioneers, however,** illustrate the kinds of robust local action possible. **SLO prioritizes retail applicants that offer low-THC products and Grass Valley and Cathedral City tax high-potency products more heavily.** Recognizing the role of flavors and kid friendly marketing in initiating youth use, **Contra Costa County, Watsonville, and Chico** prohibit flavored inhaled products. **Three jurisdictions ban** cannabis-infused beverages (like orange soda). **Monterey County** authorizes its Health Officer to review products annually to ensure that packages are not attractive to children.

“The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department supports and enacts efforts to prevent cannabis products from ending up in the hands of youth. Substance use is a public health problem, and these scorecards provide clear metrics that can guide policy decisions and set up guardrails for healthier communities,” said **Rhonda McClinton-Brown, County of Santa Clara Public Health Department Deputy Director for Strategy, Policy, and Planning.**

Despite industry claims to the contrary, **2023 data show that 63% of Californians** live where they can legally buy cannabis (up from 56% in 2019). Many more are within an easy trip to retailers in neighboring jurisdictions. Only 3 of 58 counties had no location allowing legal sale, 36% of jurisdictions allow storefronts, and an additional 19% allow sales only by delivery, including 68 which don’t issue local licenses but permit delivery from outside their jurisdiction.

Other Report Highlights include:

- **77% (a 6% increase from 2019) of jurisdictions** allowing storefront retailers limited the number of outlets.
- **74% of jurisdictions** allowing storefronts established stronger buffers than the state to distance storefront outlets from schools and youth.
- **175 (9% increase from 2019) jurisdictions** enacted local cannabis taxes, which remained low and stable at only 5%, yet only 21 spent these revenues on substance abuse prevention, youth programs, or mitigating the impact of the war on drugs.
- **Most jurisdictions kept storefront retailers smoke-free** and a growing number (72) prohibited temporary cannabis events such as those in parks or markets, though 49 (up from 35 in 2019) went backward on smoke-free air by allowing on-site cannabis consumption, bringing back the era of “smoke-filled rooms.”
- Only **36 jurisdictions had specific policies for equity** in hiring or licensing, but this is up from six in 2019, demonstrating the limited priority given to economic equity.

The scorecards, the research methodology and many other resources are available at www.gettingitrightfromthestart.org.

Important Note: These scorecards reflect how local laws protect youth, public health, and equity. They do not capture how local governments are implementing their laws, inspecting cannabis businesses, or funding prevention and implementation, which we recognize many local governments’ staff work hard to do - and do well.

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[Getting it Right from the Start](#), a project of the Public Health Institute, works with states, cities, counties and community partners to develop evidence-based model policies and provide guidance on cannabis policies that can help reduce harms, protect against youth and problem cannabis use, and advance social equity.

[Public Health Institute](#) improves health, equity, and wellness by discovering new research, strengthening key partnerships and programs, and advancing sound public health policies. Their hundreds of programs have impacted millions of people, creating a framework that will continue to impact communities for generations to come.

THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

FACT SHEET

WHAT: California cities and counties can now measure how well their cannabis ordinances are protecting youth and supporting social equity in the first five years of legalization. Scorecards summarize the evolution of cannabis policies in the 298 California cities and counties that have opted to permit retail sales, whether through storefronts and/or by delivery, of cannabis.

The scorecards bring light to a patchwork of local policies that continue to mostly fall far short of what public health leaders believe is necessary. In a legal market lacking that more solid foundation, dangerous products and practices, like ultra-high potency grape flavored vapes, billboards everywhere or invisible health warnings in 6-point font, have rapidly become entrenched, leading to growth in cannabis-related health problems.

WHY: New data is showing increases in harmful patterns of cannabis use, including a tripling of daily or near daily use by California adults and a near doubling of cannabis use during pregnancy over the past decade. Cannabis-related emergency department visits increased 75% in just four years (2016-2020).

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, cannabis can have severe negative effects on the adolescent brain, including problems with memory and learning, and impaired coordination. Higher potency products are particularly dangerous for youth.

The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine concluded there was substantial evidence that cannabis use is associated with:

- Low birth weight, if used during pregnancy
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Psychosis and schizophrenia
- Problem use, especially when used at a young age or frequently.

Rates of cannabis-related mental health issues, including psychosis and suicidal ideation, are also climbing. These effects can have a strong impact on community public safety, including increased auto accident rates due to consumers driving under the influence.

To mitigate these issues, cities and counties that choose to legalize retail sales of cannabis should adopt a set of common sense, evidence-based cannabis policies to fulfill our collective responsibility to protect youth and promote social equity.

WHO: **Getting it Right from the Start**, a project of the Public Health Institute, works with states, cities, counties and community partners to develop evidence-based model policies and provide guidance on cannabis policies that can help reduce harms, protect against youth and problem cannabis use, and advance social equity.



Model Ordinances

Developing model local ordinances for licensing cannabis retailers, marketing, and general and special taxes on cannabis.



Research

Carrying out research with local and national stakeholders and experts to identify best practices.



Legal Analyses

Developing legal analyses of relevant issues for licensing, constraints on marketing and taxation.



Technical Resources

Managing a national listserv, providing webinars, presentations, visits and other TA tools that support communities, educating policymakers and sharing experiences.



Public Health Input

Providing public health-oriented input to regulatory processes and supporting other stakeholders to do so.

The Getting it Right from the Start project is funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Our research is also generously funded by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, the State of California, and National Institutes of Drug Abuse. However, the opinions expressed here reflect the position of the project and do not necessarily represent the views of any other organization.

THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES in 2023



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

Examples of what your neighbors are doing to protect youth, public health, and social equity



Alturas: Protected youth by increasing the **buffer between schools and retailers** to 1,000 ft. (61 other jurisdictions also increased the state-required 600 ft buffer)

Grass Valley: Protected youth and mental health by **taxing high potency products** (Cathedral City, too), and sugar-sweetened cannabis beverages

National City: Promoted **social equity** through equity in licensing provisions (as well as Sacramento, Oakland, Los Angeles City, Long Beach, San Francisco, Watsonville, Fresno & 28 other places)

Contra Costa County: Protected youth by prohibiting **flavored products** for combustion or inhalation (along with Chico, Watsonville & Mammoth Lakes)

Burlingame: Prohibited delivery to **youth- and children-serving locations**, public parks, and buildings, and eating and drinking establishments (along with Laguna Woods and 18 others limiting delivery destinations)

Stanislaus County: Increased the number of **sites with a required buffer** between retailers (as well as 138 other jurisdictions)

Baldwin Park: Protected the public and workers against secondhand smoke by not allowing **on-site consumption** (along with 146 other places such as Cudahy, Los Angeles, San Diego, & Santa Cruz)

Mono County: Protected consumers by not allowing **health or therapeutic claims** on cannabis products or their marketing (as did Stockton)

Watsonville: Protected youth by prohibiting **advertising, packaging, and products attractive to youth** (along with Mono County, Sonoma County, Pomona, Chula Vista, and 6 others)

Salinas: Protected youth by **capping** the number of licensed retailers (122 other jurisdictions also capped the number of dispensaries)

San Bernardino: Protected youth by prohibiting billboards and **restricting business signage** to what is needed for identification only (127 other places also limited advertising)

El Monte: Protected youth by **dedicating tax revenue to youth programs** and addiction prevention (along with 21 others)

Los Angeles: Protected smokefree air by prohibiting **cannabis temporary events** (as did 71 other cities and counties)

Pasadena: Protected youth by prohibiting **promotions and coupons** offering discounted cannabis (along with 3 others)

South El Monte: Informed consumers by requiring cannabis-related **health risks information on signs or in handouts** in dispensaries (along with 41 others, including San Francisco, San Jose, Culver City, Richmond & Chico)

Chula Vista: Protected youth by **banning cannabis-infused beverages** (along with Pasadena & Mono County)

Cannabis Policy Scorecard Testimonials: What the Experts are Saying

Every year we work with state and national subject matter experts, including local regulatory officials and agencies, local municipalities, and community partners to identify best practices that can help communities better safeguard their youth and support social equity through effective cannabis policies. Here's what some of them had to say about our scorecards and their value to their local efforts.

"The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department supports and enacts efforts to prevent cannabis products from ending up in the hands of youth. Substance use is a public health problem, and these scorecards provide clear metrics that can guide policy decisions and set up guardrails for healthier communities."

Rhonda McClinton-Brown, County of Santa Clara Public Health Department Deputy Director for Strategy, Policy, and Planning

"The County of Monterey Cannabis Program has found the Cannabis Policy Scorecard to be very insightful, as it offers a succinct and weighted view of existing and emerging best practices for supporting public health and equity outcomes that include retail and delivery requirements, taxes, product limits, marketing, and smoke-free air. The scorecard outcomes assist...our industry and stakeholders while identifying areas of opportunity for policies that address youth uptake, promote public health safety, and alleviate disparities."

County of Monterey Cannabis Program

"The practical information PHI offers to cities and counties is indispensable, and was used to formulate our local rules. Local governments' decisions over the next few years will be critical. If we do this right, we can provide safer legal access while reversing epidemic increases in youth vaping and heavy use of marijuana. But without swift action, we could expose our young people to harm for decades to come."

Dan Peddycord, Director of Public Health for Contra Costa County

"It is incredibly important to understand what communities are doing locally if we want to understand the true impacts of changing any state cannabis policy, but doing so is also incredibly difficult due to the different foci of each community. The Getting it Right from the Start Cannabis scorecards are a valuable tool for describing what is happening locally as it pertains to public health, youth access, and social equity, not just for policymakers but for researchers as well."

Rosalie Liccardo Pacula, Ph.D. Professor and Elizabeth Garrett Chair in Health Policy, Economics & Law, Health Policy, and Management

THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES



"Getting It Right from the Start's Cannabis Scorecards have been pivotal in our outreach to LA County lawmakers to demonstrate gaps in cannabis regulation and to make the case for better laws that protect youth, public health, and social equity. Their methodology and data have greatly supported our advocacy efforts."

Sarah Blanch, Vice President, Institute for Public Strategies

"The Cannabis Policy Scorecards are an excellent tool for communities to easily view best-practices related to smoke-free air, equity, products, and marketing. This information is incredibly helpful in tracking local policy across jurisdictions to inform government representatives about where we stand and what improvements can be made."

Kelsey Fernandez, Executive Director, Marin Healthy Youth Partnerships

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2023 STOREFRONT SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

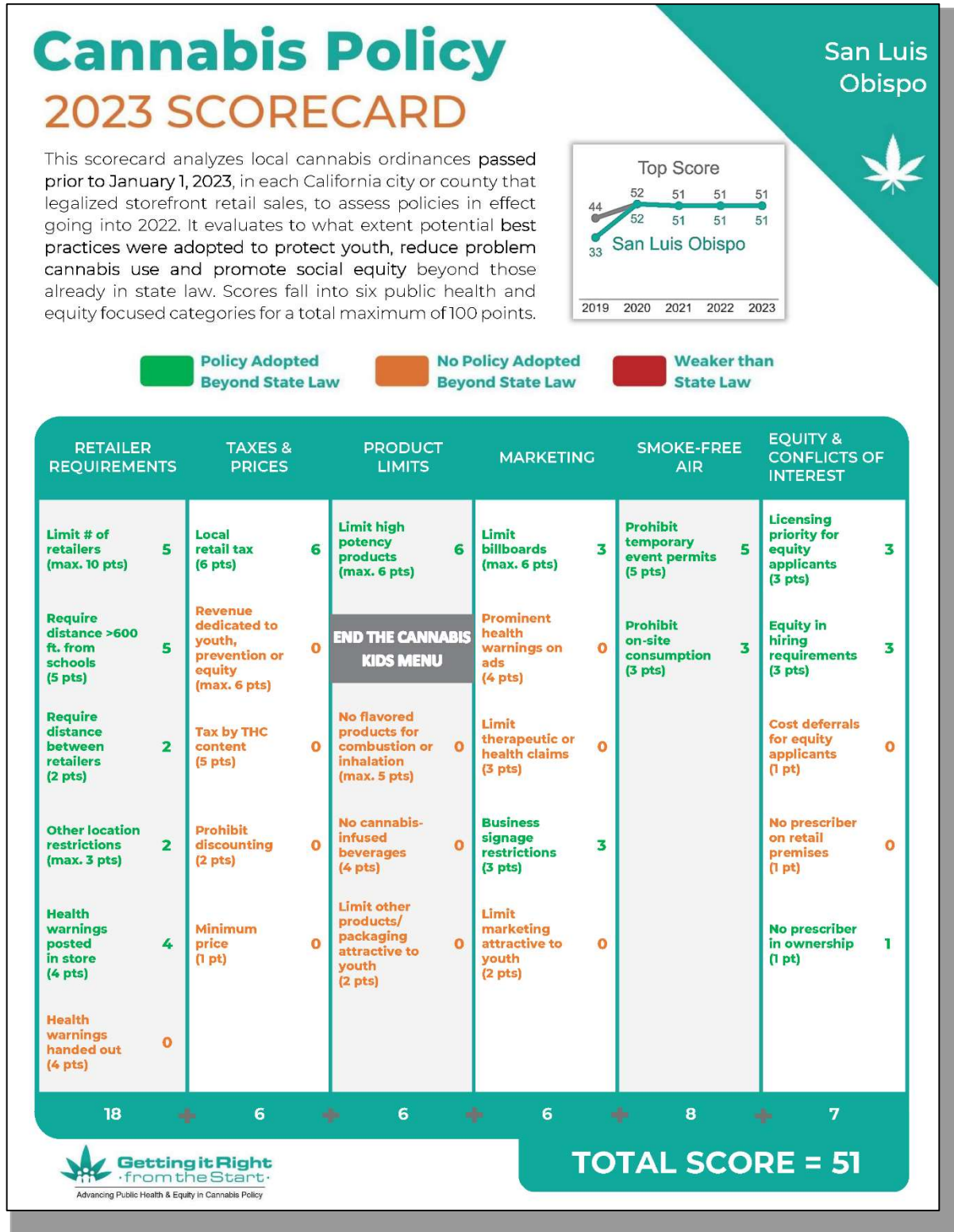
Where sales are allowed at storefront retailers located in a jurisdiction (may also allow delivery).

The scores are based on six primary categories of policies where local government can act to protect youth, public health, and equity if they opt to allow cannabis retail sales at storefronts. Policies with the greatest potential for achieving these goals, based on the best available evidence, received higher points. Cannabis laws passed by January 1st, 2023 were scored, using legal databases, municipal codes, and direct outreach to counties or cities. The maximum score possible was 100.

- 1) RETAILER REQUIREMENTS (28 total points possible):** Strategic limits on cannabis retailers can decrease youth use and exposure to cannabis.
 - **Caps on Retailers (10 points max).** Limit the number of licensed retailers, we used the ratio to number of inhabitants.
 - **Distance from Schools (5 points).** Mandate a distance greater than 600 feet between K-12 schools and retailers.
 - **Retailer Buffers (2 points).** Mandate a required distance between retailers.
 - **Other Location Restrictions (3 points).** Mandate required distance between retailers and other youth-serving locations not covered by state law such as parks, playgrounds, or universities, or other locations such as residential areas.
 - **Health Warnings Posted in Stores OR Handed Out to Customers (4 points each).** Mandate retailers post and/or handout health warnings informing consumers of relevant risks at the point of sale.
- 2) TAXES & PRICES (20 total points possible):** Taxes & higher prices can decrease youth access while raising valuable revenue for local communities.
 - **Local Cannabis Tax (6 points).** Impose a local tax on cannabis retail.
 - **Dedicated Tax Revenue (6 points max).** Dedicate tax revenue to youth, prevention, or reinvestment in communities most affected by the war on drugs.
 - **Tax by THC Content (5 points).** Impose higher tax rates for high potency (high THC) products.
 - **Discounting (2 points).** Prohibit discounting on cannabis such as coupons or discount days.
 - **Minimum Price (1 point).** Establish a minimum price floor for cannabis.
- 3) PRODUCT LIMITS (17 total points possible):** End the Cannabis Kids Menu of products that appeal to youth and limit products that increase adverse effects.
 - **Limit Potency (6 points max).** Prohibit sale of high potency cannabis flower and products through bans or ceilings.
 - **Flavored Products (Non-Edibles) (5 points).** Prohibit sale of flavored combustible or inhalable (non-edible) products.
 - **Cannabis-Infused Beverages (4 points).** Prohibit sale of cannabis-infused beverages.
 - **Products Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Prohibit sale of products attractive to youth more clearly than state law.
- 4) MARKETING (18 total points possible):** Limited exposure to marketing to decrease youth use and provide accurate warnings to inform consumers.
 - **Billboards (6 points max).** Restrict or prohibit the use of billboards to advertise cannabis.
 - **Health Warnings on Ads (4 points).** Require health warnings on all cannabis advertisements.
 - **Therapeutic or Health Claims (3 points).** Prohibit the use of therapeutic or health claims on cannabis products, packages, or ads.
 - **Business Signage Restrictions (3 points).** Restrict on-site business advertising.
 - **Marketing Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Detailed restrictions on packaging or advertising attractive to youth.
- 5) SMOKE-FREE AIR (8 total points possible):** Smoke-free air policies can improve air quality, protect kids, and reduce secondhand smoke exposure.
 - **Temporary Events (5 points).** Prohibit temporary cannabis events such as at county fairs or concerts in parks.
 - **On-Site Consumption (3 points).** Prohibit on-site cannabis consumption, whether by smoking, vaping, or use of edibles.
- 6) EQUITY & CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (9 total points possible):** Cannabis policy can promote social equity and reduce conflicts of interest.
 - **Priority in Licensing (3 points).** Prioritize equity applicants when issuing cannabis business licenses.
 - **Equity in Hiring (3 points).** Require hiring to prioritize low-income, transitional, or other workers from communities disadvantaged by the war on drugs.
 - **Cost Reduction/Deferral (1 point).** Reduce/defer the costs of cannabis business licenses for equity applicants.
 - **Conflict of Interest (2 points max).** Prohibit on-premises patient evaluations, prescriber ownership or other financial relationships with retailers, industry representation in oversight, or industry communication with application evaluation committee members.

EXAMPLE STOREFRONT SCORECARD

Where sales are allowed at storefront retailers located in a jurisdiction (may also allow delivery).



2023 DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

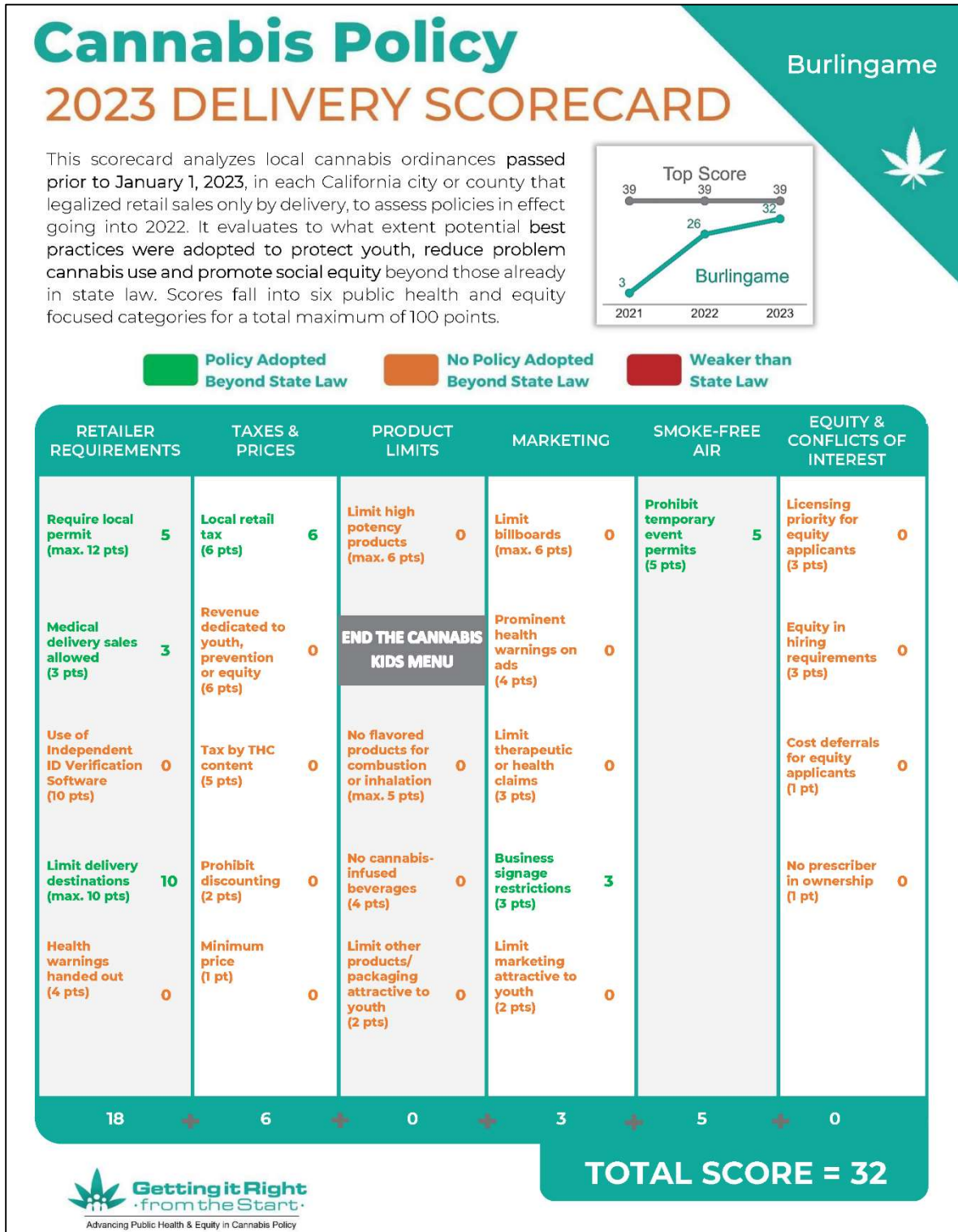
Where only delivery is allowed from deliverers located inside the permitting jurisdiction AND may be allowed from retailers located outside of the jurisdiction.

The scores are based on six primary categories of policies where local government can act to protect youth, public health, and equity if they opt to allow cannabis sales only by delivery. Policies with the greatest potential for achieving these goals, based on the best available evidence, received higher points. Cannabis laws passed by January 1st, 2023 were scored, using legal databases, municipal codes, and direct outreach to counties or cities. The maximum score possible was 100.

- 1) DELIVERER REQUIREMENTS (32 total points possible):** Strategic limits on cannabis retailers can decrease youth use and exposure to cannabis.
 - **Local Permit (5 points max).** Mandate local permitting by deliverers originating from within and outside the jurisdiction.
 - **Medical Cannabis Sales (3 points).** Allow delivery sales of medicinal cannabis.
 - **Independent ID Verification Process (10 points max).** Mandate the use of an independent age and identity verification process before cannabis delivery.
 - **Delivery Destinations (10 points max).** Limit where deliveries can terminate, i.e., no delivery to college dormitories.
 - **Health Warnings Handed Out to Customers (4 points).** Mandate retailers to handout health warnings informing consumers of relevant risks at the point of sale.
- 2) TAXES & PRICES (20 total points possible):** Taxes & higher prices can decrease youth access while raising valuable revenue for local communities.
 - **Local Cannabis Tax (6 points).** Impose a local tax on cannabis retail.
 - **Dedicated Tax Revenue (6 points max).** Dedicate tax revenue to youth, prevention, or reinvestment in communities most affected by the war on drugs.
 - **Tax by THC Content (5 points).** Impose higher tax rates for high potency (high THC) products.
 - **Discounting (2 points).** Prohibit discounting on cannabis such as coupons or discount days.
 - **Minimum Price (1 point).** Establish a minimum price floor for cannabis.
- 3) PRODUCT LIMITS (17 total points possible):** End the Cannabis Kids Menu of products that appeal to youth and limit products that increase adverse effects.
 - **Limit Potency (6 points max).** Prohibit sale of high potency cannabis flower and products through bans or ceilings.
 - **Flavored Products (Non-Edibles) (5 points).** Prohibit sale of flavored combustible or inhalable (non-edible) products.
 - **Cannabis-Infused Beverages (4 points).** Prohibit sale of cannabis-infused beverages.
 - **Products Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Prohibit sale of products attractive to youth more clearly than state law.
- 4) MARKETING (18 total points possible):** Limited exposure to marketing to decrease youth use and provide accurate warnings to inform consumers.
 - **Billboards (6 points max).** Restrict or prohibit the use of billboards to advertise cannabis.
 - **Health Warnings on Ads (4 points).** Require health warnings on all cannabis advertisements.
 - **Therapeutic or Health Claims (3 points).** Prohibit the use of therapeutic or health claims on cannabis products, packages, or ads.
 - **Business Signage Restrictions (3 points).** Restrict on-site business advertising.
 - **Marketing Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Detailed restrictions on packaging or advertising attractive to youth.
- 5) SMOKE-FREE AIR (5 total points possible):** Smoke-free air policies can improve air quality, protect kids, and reduce secondhand smoke exposure.
 - **Temporary Events (5 points).** Prohibit temporary cannabis events such as at county fairs or concerts in parks.
- 6) EQUITY & CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (8 total points possible):** Cannabis policy can promote social equity and reduce conflicts of interest.
 - **Priority in Licensing (3 points).** Prioritize equity applicants when issuing cannabis business licenses.
 - **Equity in Hiring (3 points).** Require hiring to prioritize low-income, transitional, or other workers from communities disadvantaged by the war on drugs.
 - **Cost Reduction/Deferral (1 point).** Reduce/defer the costs of cannabis business licenses for equity applicants.
 - **Conflict of Interest (1 point).** Prohibit prescriber ownership or other financial relationships with retailers, industry representation in oversight, or industry communication with application evaluation committee members.

EXAMPLE DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD

Where only delivery is allowed from deliverers located inside the permitting jurisdiction AND may be allowed from retailers located outside of the jurisdiction.



2023 DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

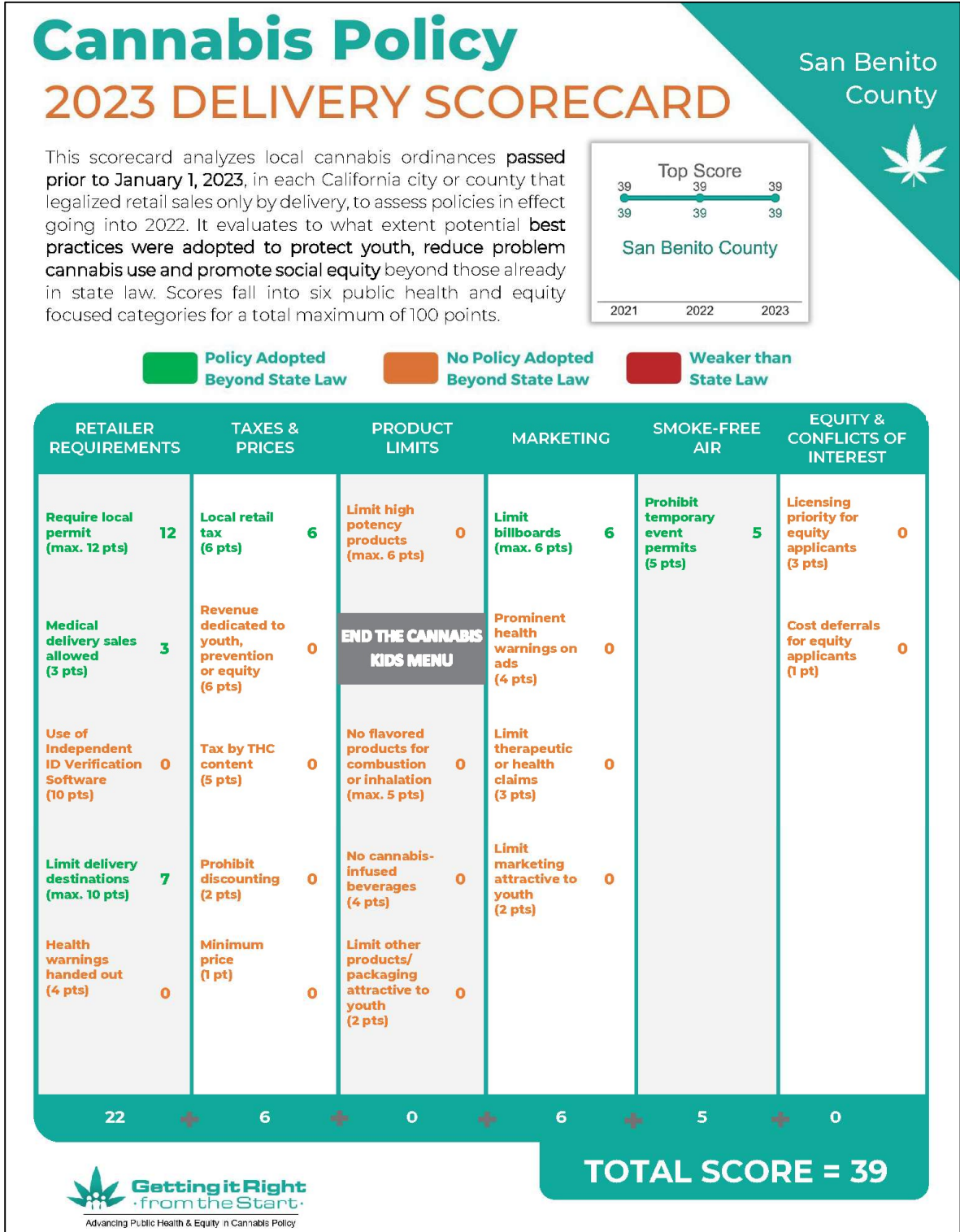
Where only delivery is allowed originating from retailers located **OUTSIDE** of the jurisdiction.

The scores are based on **six primary categories of policies** where local government can act to protect youth, public health, and equity if they opt to allow cannabis sales only by delivery originating from **outside** the permitting jurisdiction. Policies with the greatest potential for achieving these goals, based on the best available evidence, received higher points. Cannabis laws passed by January 1st, 2023 were scored, using legal databases, municipal codes, and direct outreach to counties or cities. The maximum score possible was 100.

- 1) DELIVERER REQUIREMENTS (39 total points possible):** Strategic limits on cannabis retailers can decrease youth use and exposure to cannabis.
 - **Local Permit (12 points max).** Mandate local permitting by deliverers originating from outside the jurisdiction.
 - **Medical Cannabis Sales (3 points).** Allow delivery sales of medicinal cannabis.
 - **Independent ID Verification Process (10 points max).** Mandate the use of an independent age and identity verification process before cannabis delivery.
 - **Delivery Destinations (10 points max).** Limit where deliveries can terminate, i.e., no delivery to college dormitories.
 - **Health Warnings Handed Out to Customers (4 points each).** Mandate retailers to handout health warnings informing consumers of relevant risks at the point of sale.
- 2) TAXES & PRICES (20 total points possible):** Taxes & higher prices can decrease youth access while raising valuable revenue for local communities.
 - **Local Cannabis Tax (6 points).** Impose a local tax on cannabis retail.
 - **Dedicated Tax Revenue (6 points max).** Dedicate tax revenue to youth, prevention, or reinvestment in communities most affected by the war on drugs.
 - **Tax by THC Content (5 points).** Impose higher tax rates for high potency (high THC) products.
 - **Discounting (2 points).** Prohibit discounting on cannabis such as coupons or discount days.
 - **Minimum Price (1 point).** Establish a minimum price floor for cannabis.
- 3) PRODUCT LIMITS (17 total points possible):** End the Cannabis Kids Menu of products that appeal to youth and limit products that increase adverse effects.
 - **Limit Potency (6 points max).** Prohibit sale of high potency cannabis flower and products through bans or ceilings.
 - **Flavored Products (Non-Edibles) (5 points).** Prohibit sale of flavored combustible or inhalable (non-edible) products.
 - **Cannabis-Infused Beverages (4 points).** Prohibit sale of cannabis-infused beverages.
 - **Products Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Prohibit sale of products attractive to youth more clearly than state law.
- 4) MARKETING (15 total points possible):** Limited exposure to marketing to decrease youth use and provide accurate warnings to inform consumers.
 - **Billboards (6 points max).** Restrict or prohibit the use of billboards to advertise cannabis.
 - **Health Warnings on Ads (4 points).** Require health warnings on all cannabis advertisements.
 - **Therapeutic or Health Claims (3 points).** Prohibit the use of therapeutic or health claims on cannabis products, packages, or ads.
 - **Marketing Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Detailed restrictions on packaging or advertising attractive to youth.
- 5) SMOKE-FREE AIR (5 total points possible):** Smoke-free air policies can improve air quality, protect kids, and reduce secondhand smoke exposure.
 - **Temporary Events (5 points).** Prohibit temporary cannabis events such as at county fairs or concerts in parks.
- 6) EQUITY (4 total points possible):** Cannabis policy can promote social equity.
 - **Priority in Licensing (3 points).** Prioritize equity applicants when issuing cannabis business licenses.
 - **Cost Reduction/Deferral (1 point).** Reduce/defer the costs of cannabis business licenses for equity applicants.

EXAMPLE DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD

Where only delivery is allowed originating from retailers located OUTSIDE of the jurisdiction.



THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

TOPLINE SUMMARY

Type of Retail Sales Allowed	Number of Jurisdictions [†] (% of Californian's Covered)				
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Sale by Storefronts Allowed	195 (53%)	179 (50%)	166 (49%)	150 (46%)	136 (45%)
Sale by Delivery Only with Local Businesses Allowed	35 (4%)	40 (5%)	39 (4%)	46 (5%)	116 (11%)
Sale by Delivery Only from Outside	68 (6%)	69 (6%)	73 (6%)	76 (7%)	
Any Retail Sales Allowed Total	298 (63%)	288 (61%)	278 (60%)	272 (58%)	252 (56%)

[†]Out of 539 cities and counties

Share of California Cities and Counties Which Allow Retail Sales Meeting At Least One Retail Practice Category Scoring Criteria

Retail Practice Categories	2023			2022			2021			2020	2019
	Among Cities and Counties Allowing Type of Sales*										
	Storefront	Delivery Inside/Outside	Delivery Outside Only	Storefront	Delivery Inside/Outside	Delivery Outside Only	Storefront	Delivery Inside/Outside	Delivery Outside Only	Storefront	Storefront
Retailer Requirements	92%	97%	100%	91%	98%	100%	90%	97%	100%	91%	88%
Taxation & Prices	82%	37%	18%	82%	38%	15%	81%	36%	16%	79%	79%
Product Limits	5%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	5%	4%
Marketing	60%	34%	3%	64%	28%	3%	63%	26%	4%	59%	53%
Smoke-free Air	77%	37%	7%	78%	35%	9%	79%	31%	8%	79%	84%
Equity & Conflicts of Interest	53%	3%	0%	53%	5%	0%	51%	5%	0%	50%	43%

***Delivery Inside/Outside** = Cannabis retail sales allowed by delivery only from deliverers located inside the permitting jurisdiction AND may be allowed from retailers located outside of the jurisdiction.

Delivery Outside Only = Cannabis retail sales allowed by delivery only from retailers located OUTSIDE the permitting jurisdiction.

THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Alameda County	31	31	28	25	24
– Alameda	32	32	32	32	32
– Albany†	9	9	9	–	–
– Berkeley	42	42	41	26	24
– Emeryville	14	14	14	7	7
– Hayward	17	17	12	12	12
– Livermore†	23	23	23	–	–
– Oakland	25	25	25	25	25
– Piedmont†	15	15	15	–	–
– San Leandro	42	42	42	31	31
– Union City	29	29	26	24	24
Contra Costa County	50	50	50	50	47
– Antioch	3	3	8	8	8
– Clayton†	23	23	23	–	–
– Concord	22	29	29	–	–
– El Cerrito	15	15	15	15	15
– Lafayette†	3	3	3	–	–
– Martinez	24	24	24	18	17
– Oakley†	23	23	23	–	–
– Pittsburg	24	24	–	–	–
– Pleasant Hill†	13	13	13	–	–
– Richmond	34	34	31	31	31
– Walnut Creek†	24	21	21	–	–
Marin County†	21	21	21	–	–
– Belvedere†	3	3	3	–	–
– Corte Madera†	3	3	3	–	–
– Fairfax	12	12	12	12	10
– Larkspur†	15	15	15	–	–
– Novato†	13	13	13	–	–

NOTE:

The highest total score possible is 100 points.

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THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
– Ross†	3	3	3	–	–
– San Anselmo†	15	15	15	–	–
– San Rafael†	31	25	25	–	–
– Sausalito†	15	15	15	–	–
– Tiburon†	3	3	3	–	–
Napa County†	3	3	3	–	–
– American Canyon†	16	16	16	–	–
– Napa	16	16	16	16	6
– St. Helena†	3	3	3	–	–
– Yountville†	8	8	8	–	–
San Francisco City & Co.	22	22	22	22	22
San Mateo County†	6	6	6	–	–
– Belmont†	11	11	11	–	–
– Brisbane†	14	14	14	–	–
– Burlingame†	32	26	3	–	–
– Daly City	21	21	–	–	–
– Foster City†	15	15	15	–	–
– Half Moon Bay†	9	9	9	–	–
– Hillsborough†	15	15	15	–	–
– Menlo Park†	3	3	3	–	–
– Millbrae†	15	15	15	–	–
– Pacifica	26	26	26	27	27
– Portola Valley†	3	3	3	–	–
– Redwood City	25	25	25	–	–
– San Bruno	18	–	–	–	–
– San Carlos†	26	26	26	–	–
– San Mateo†	8	8	8	–	–
– South San Francisco†	21	21	21	–	–
– Woodside†	3	3	3	–	–

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Santa Clara County					
– Campbell†	21	21	21	–	–
– Cupertino†	3	3	3	–	–
– Los Altos†	3	3	3	–	–
– Los Altos Hills†	3	3	3	–	–
– Monte Sereno†	11	11	11	–	–
– Mountain View†	17	17	17	–	–
– Palo Alto†	3	3	3	–	–
– San Jose	39	36	36	36	33
Santa Cruz County	21	18	18	18	20
– Capitola	29	29	29	29	29
– Santa Cruz	42	42	37	34	27
– Scotts Valley†	10	10	10	–	–
– Watsonville	45	45	45	–	–
Solano County†	21	21	21	–	–
– Benicia	23	23	23	23	14
– Dixon	19	19	19	16	16
– Fairfield	29	29	29	–	–
– Rio Vista	15	15	15	15	16
– Suisun City	10	8	8	22	22
– Vacaville	27	27	–	–	–
– Vallejo	18	18	18	15	12
Sonoma County	39	39	40	34	34
– Cloverdale	14	14	14	15	15
– Cotati	16	19	19	19	19
– Petaluma†	16	16	16	–	–
– Santa Rosa	15	15	15	15	15
– Sebastopol	8	8	8	7	7
– Sonoma	32	32	41	35	–

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THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL COAST

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Monterey County	25	25	24	24	22
– Del Rey Oaks	22	22	22	22	22
– Gonzales†	9	9	9	–	–
– Greenfield	18	18	18	18	18
– King City	21	21	21	–	–
– Marina	32	32	32	21	24
– Salinas	30	30	30	30	33
– Seaside	15	15	16	16	19
San Benito County†	39	39	39	–	–
– Hollister	28	28	28	28	20
– San Juan Bautista	17	17	17	17	16
San Luis Obispo County†	14	14	14	–	–
– Arroyo Grande†	3	3	3	–	–
– Atascadero†	27	27	29	–	–
– Grover Beach	10	13	13	13	12
– Morro Bay	23	23	23	23	23
– Paso Robles†	14	14	14	–	–
– Pismo Beach†	3	3	3	–	–
– San Luis Obispo	51	51	51	52	36
Santa Barbara County	29	29	29	27	25
– Buellton†	3	3	3	–	–
– Carpinteria†	16	16	16	–	–
– Goleta	19	19	19	21	20
– Guadalupe	21	21	–	–	–
– Lompoc	6	6	6	6	6
– Santa Barbara	33	33	33	33	33
– Santa Maria†	3	3	3	–	–
– Solvang	25	25	25	25	24

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THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL COAST

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Ventura County†	14	14	14	–	–
– Ojai	12	12	12	6	6
– Oxnard	41	37	37	23	–
– Port Hueneme	10	13	13	13	4
– Thousand Oaks	32	32	32	32	32
– Ventura	33	33	–	–	–

NOTE:

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL VALLEY

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Colusa County					
– Colusa	8	–	–	–	–
Fresno County					
– Coalinga	23	23	23	29	29
– Firebaugh	22	22	22	22	–
– Fresno	46	46	46	46	39
– Mendota	13	13	23	23	–
– Parlier	23	32	32	–	–
Kern County					
– Arvin†	17	17	17	–	–
– California City	26	28	28	28	30
Kings County					
– Hanford	30	30	31	31	–
– Lemoore	9	9	9	9	–
Madera County					
– Madera	24	24	–	–	–
Merced County†					
– Atwater	12	12	12	12	12
– Gustine	8	8	8	8	–

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THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL VALLEY

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
– Livingston†	15	15	15	–	–
– Merced	37	37	35	32	31
San Joaquin County†	22	22	22	–	–
– Lathrop	16	16	–	–	–
– Manteca	25	25	–	–	–
– Stockton	43	40	40	40	31
– Tracy	23	23	31	17	–
Stanislaus County	21	21	21	21	21
– Ceres	9	9	9	9	9
– Modesto	31	31	31	30	20
– Oakdale	12	12	12	15	15
– Patterson	11	11	11	14	11
– Riverbank	15	15	16	16	16
– Turlock	31	31	31	13	–
– Waterford	8	8	8	2	–
Sutter County†	3	3	3	–	–
Tulare County	28	28	28	28	18
– Farmersville	20	20	20	20	24
– Lindsay	9	9	9	9	–
– Porterville	14	14	16	10	–
– Tulare	27	21	21	13	13
– Woodlake	15	15	15	15	27

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THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – GOLD COUNTRY

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Calaveras County	19	19	19	22	22
– Angels Camp†	15	15	15	–	–
El Dorado County	32	32	32	33	9
– Placerville	23	22	22	19	19
– South Lake Tahoe	32	29	17	17	4
Inyo County	9	9	9	9	9
– Bishop	31	31	–	–	–
Mono County	42	42	42	42	42
– Mammoth Lakes	26	26	26	16	16
Tuolumne County					
– Sonora	15	15	12	12	12

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Butte County†	3	3	3	–	–
– Biggs†	0	0	0	–	–
– Chico	41	41	41	–	–
Del Norte County	11	11	11	16	16
– Crescent City	9	9	9	–	–
Glenn County					
– Willows	12	12	12	12	12
Humboldt County	12	12	12	12	11
– Arcata	0	0	0	0	0
– Eureka	0	0	0	0	3
– Rio Dell	10	10	10	13	22
– Trinidad†	3	3	3	–	–
Lake County					
– Clearlake	3	3	3	3	0

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THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
– Lakeport†	16	16	16	–	–
Lassen County	17	17	17	17	–
Mendocino County	14	14	14	14	14
– Fort Bragg	6	6	6	6	6
– Point Arena	7	7	7	7	7
– Ukiah	12	12	12	12	12
– Willits	14	14	14	15	15
Modoc County					
– Alturas	23	23	23	23	23
Nevada County					
– Grass Valley	27	27	26	–	–
– Nevada City	25	25	25	25	25
– Truckee†	8	8	8	–	–
Plumas County†	3	3	3	–	–
– Portola†	15	15	15	–	–
Shasta County					
– Redding	28	28	28	28	28
– Shasta Lake	18	18	18	18	18
Sierra County†	3	3	3	–	–
– Loyalton†	3	3	3	–	–
Siskiyou County					
– Dunsmuir	13	13	13	13	13
– Fort Jones†	3	3	3	–	–
– Mount Shasta	7	7	7	7	10
– Weed	10	10	10	16	16
Tehama County					
– Red Bluff	12	–	–	–	–
Trinity County	10	–	–	–	–

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THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SACRAMENTO AREA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Placer County					
– Colfax	26	26	26	22	22
Sacramento County					
– Citrus Heights†	3	3	3	–	–
– Isleton	6	6	6	9	12
– Sacramento	29	29	29	28	28
Yolo County					
– Davis	11	10	–	–	–
– West Sacramento†	19	19	19	19	16
– Woodland	3	3	3	–	–
– Woodland	23	–	–	–	–
Yuba County					
– Marysville	28	28	28	28	35

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SAN DIEGO AREA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Imperial County					
– Calexico	9	9	9	9	19
– El Centro	9	9	9	9	11
– El Centro	25	25	25	–	–
– Holtville†	20	20	20	–	–
– Imperial	23	23	22	19	16
– Westmorland†	3	3	3	–	–
San Diego County					
– Chula Vista	29	23	27	27	27
– Chula Vista	43	43	43	41	41
– Encinitas	28	22	22	–	–
– Imperial Beach	44	44	44	44	44
– La Mesa	23	23	23	23	20
– Lemon Grove	20	20	20	20	23
– National City	28	16	–	–	–

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THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SAN DIEGO AREA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
– Oceanside†	25	25	25	–	–
– San Diego	38	38	38	38	30
– Santee	25	–	–	–	–
– Vista	28	28	23	23	23

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Los Angeles County					
– Artesia	15	–	–	–	–
– Avalon†	8	8	8	–	–
– Baldwin Park	31	–	–	–	–
– Bell†	15	15	15	–	–
– Bellflower	15	15	15	15	15
– Beverly Hills†	3	3	3	–	–
– Calabasas†	9	9	9	–	–
– Carson†	21	21	21	–	–
– Commerce†	13	13	13	–	–
– Cudahy	30	–	–	–	–
– Culver City	32	32	32	27	23
– El Monte	49	49	50	44	–
– Hawthorne	14	–	–	–	–
– Hermosa Beach†	21	–	–	–	–
– Huntington Park	16	14	15	15	15
– Lancaster	11	–	–	–	–
– Long Beach	34	40	40	41	41
– Los Angeles	39	30	31	31	31
– Lynwood	35	–	–	–	–
– Malibu	26	26	26	26	26

THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
– Maywood	22	22	22	22	19
– Montebello†	13	13	13	–	–
– Palos Verdes Estates†	3	3	3	–	–
– Pasadena	43	43	43	43	43
– Pomona	46	46	46	49	–
– Redondo Beach	23	–	–	–	–
– Rolling Hills†	20	20	20	–	–
– San Fernando†	22	22	22	–	–
– San Gabriel†	3	3	3	–	–
– Santa Monica	25	19	19	19	19
– South El Monte	38	–	–	–	–
– Torrance†	3	3	3	–	–
– West Hollywood	11	11	11	11	5
– Westlake Village†	3	3	3	–	–
Orange County					
– Costa Mesa	21	21	–	–	–
– Cypress†	3	3	3	–	–
– La Habra†	21	21	21	–	–
– Laguna Woods†	19	13	13	–	–
– Santa Ana	40	37	37	34	31
– Stanton	18	18	18	–	–
Riverside County	38	38	38	38	22
– Banning	19	19	19	19	19
– Beaumont†	15	15	15	–	–
– Blythe	24	24	24	24	24
– Calimesa†	15	15	15	–	–
– Canyon Lake	14	14	–	–	–
– Cathedral City	21	21	21	18	21
– Coachella	9	11	11	5	7

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
– Corona	29	29	29	–	–
– Desert Hot Springs	7	7	10	13	13
– Hemet	27	27	–	–	–
– Indio	14	–	–	–	–
– Jurupa Valley	26	26	27	27	24
– La Quinta†	16	16	16	–	–
– Lake Elsinore	12	12	12	12	12
– Moreno Valley	17	15	15	17	17
– Palm Desert	24	24	24	24	24
– Palm Springs	19	16	16	15	15
– Perris	18	18	21	21	20
– Rancho Mirage†	15	15	15	–	–
– San Jacinto	20	20	20	20	–
– Temecula†	3	3	3	–	–
– Wildomar	22	22	17	–	–
San Bernardino County					
– Adelanto	17	17	17	17	17
– Barstow	11	11	–	–	–
– Colton†	28	28	28	–	–
– Fontana	27	–	–	–	–
– Hesperia†	27	27	27	–	–
– Needles	11	11	11	14	14
– San Bernardino	27	27	26	32	32
– Victorville†	22	22	22	–	–

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