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Scorecards Highlight Gaps in California Local Cannabis Policies Amid Rising Public Health Concerns

Cities and Counties Urged to Pay Attention to the Science and Step Up for Public Health

(Oakland, CA) — Today, [Getting it Right from the Start](#), a project of the Public Health Institute (PHI), released its [2025 Annual State of Cannabis Policy in California Scorecards](#), a first-of-its-kind statewide framework to evaluate how well California cities and counties protect youth, public health, and communities in the era of cannabis legalization. The scorecards show that while a handful of communities are leading, most jurisdictions across California are still leaving critical public-health protections on the table — even as cannabis use and related harms continue to rise.

“California built the largest legal cannabis market in the world, but we still lack the public-health guardrails required for a legal but addictive product,” **said Dr. Lynn Silver, senior advisor at the Public Health Institute and director of Getting it Right from the Start.** “As cannabis products grow more potent and marketing more aggressive, the evidence of harm is mounting. Local leaders must respond to what the science tells us — not to industry narratives.”

[The 2025 scorecards assess](#) jurisdictions on a 100-point scale, with higher scores representing stronger public-health protections enacted as of January 1, 2025. Evaluations are based on six policy areas: Retailer requirements; Local taxation; Product regulations; Marketing restrictions; Smoke-free air protections; and Equity measures.

The City of Pomona topped this year's scorecard with 60 points, reflecting a comprehensive approach to public health and equity. Pomona caps the number of retail licenses, bans temporary cannabis events and on-site consumption, requires a 1,000-foot buffer from schools and other youth-sensitive sites, mandates in-store health warnings, prioritizes equity in hiring with fee deferrals, and dedicates local cannabis tax revenue to youth programs and prevention. **San Benito County**, which allows delivery-only sales from outside jurisdictions, earned the highest score among delivery-only jurisdictions for the sixth consecutive year (2020–2025), **with 39 points.**

Despite these examples of leadership, the statewide picture remains troubling. The average score across jurisdictions that allow storefront sales is 23 out of 100, and 15 for those permitting delivery only. Meanwhile, 70% of Californians now live in areas where legal cannabis can be sold, up from 55% in 2019 — meaning millions more residents are affected by local policy decisions.

“As more Californians live in communities that allow cannabis sales, local policy decisions increasingly shape who is exposed to risk and who is protected,” **said Alisa Padon, PhD, Getting it Right from the Start.** “These scorecards show how uneven protections remain across the state, and the science shows how much those choices matter.”

Alarming public health trends illustrate the real-world consequences of these policy choices. In California, teens living closer to cannabis retailers have higher rates of [cannabis use and dependence](#), while national data show daily use

among young adults has quadrupled, with one in ten using daily. [A recent State Auditor report](#) documented widespread failures to enforce rules prohibiting youth-appealing products and marketing, even as ultra-high potency products are aggressively promoted, and child poisonings have surged. New [research](#) links retail availability to increased psychosis and mental-health harms among teens, while older adults face rising [cannabis-related emergency visits](#) and a doubling of [cardiovascular death risk](#), often without knowing the danger.

“Too often, policymakers are misled by industry claims that over-regulation—rather than overproduction and aggressive marketing—is what drives the illegal market,” **said Silver**. “These scorecards bring accountability back into focus, and provide a clear, evidence-based way to compare local policies and identify where stronger protections are urgently needed.”

Only 14 of California’s 539 localities have enacted any cannabis product restrictions despite strong evidence supporting action on issues like potency and youth-appealing flavors. Regulation of products known to appeal to youth, such as fruit-flavored vapes, remains limited to just four jurisdictions (Contra Costa County, Watsonville, Chico, and Mammoth Lakes), while only one jurisdiction has taken action to regulate ultra-high-potency products.

Key Findings from the Scorecards

Beyond product regulation, the scorecards reveal uneven progress across other key areas of cannabis policy.

- **Retail Location Limits:** Most jurisdictions permitting storefront retailers now cap the number of licenses (81% in 2025, up from 76% in 2020), and more have adopted larger buffers from schools. Despite these measures, retail density continues to rise statewide, from one retailer per 20,000 residents in 2020 to one per 17,000 in 2025 — exceeding recommended public-health thresholds.
- **Local Cannabis Taxes:** Six in ten jurisdictions allowing cannabis sales now levy a local cannabis tax, up from 52% in 2020. However, taxation remains uneven: only 15% of jurisdictions that allow delivery-only sales from outside jurisdictions impose a local tax, and just 43% require those outside deliverers to get a local license.
- **Smoke-Free Policies:** The number of jurisdictions allowing on-site cannabis consumption increased only marginally in 2025, rising by one percent to 52 jurisdictions, though still up substantially from 32 in 2020. Eight jurisdictions explicitly permit cannabis cafés with on-site food preparation, and three allow service of ready-made food. The limited impact of the 2024 Cannabis Café bill likely reflects its January 1, 2025 effective date, which coincided with the end of the scorecard data collection period.
- **Equity and Consumer Protections:** Adoption of equity measures and in-store health warnings has increased modestly but remains limited overall. Costa Mesa emerged as a leader in youth access prevention by requiring independent, third-party ID verification for cannabis delivery — a key safeguard against fake IDs used by minors.

The 2025 Cannabis Policy Scorecards show modest progress alongside persistent gaps in protections — particularly in product potency, youth appeal, and smoke-free air. The results provide local governments with a clear, evidence-based framework for strengthening public health safeguards where state policy has not yet done so.

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

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 seven years of legalization. Scorecards summarize the evolution of cannabis policies in the 334 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 among older adults increased 70% in just four years (2015-2019).

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.

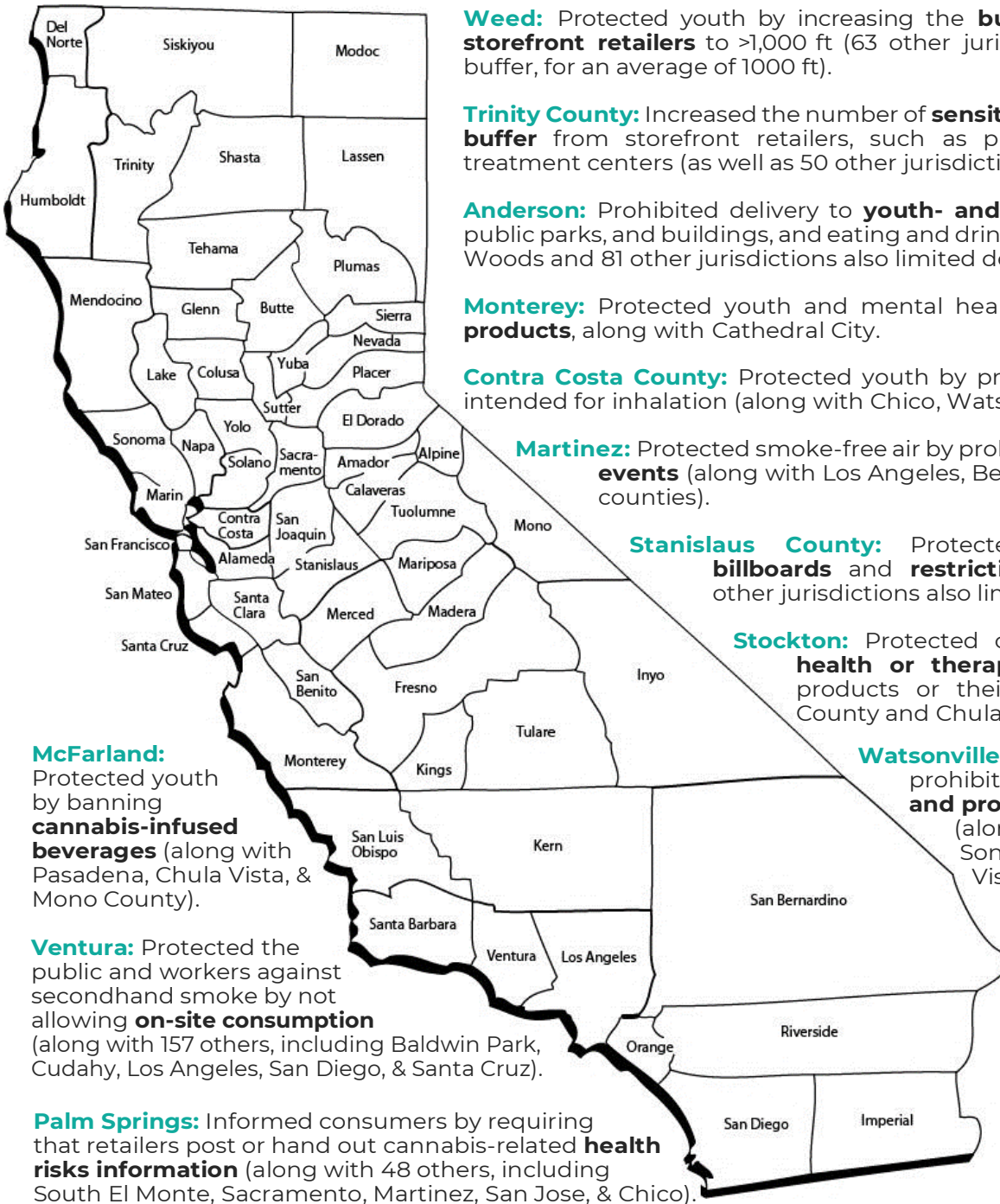


Public Health Input

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

THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES in 2025

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



Weed: Protected youth by increasing the **buffer between schools and storefront retailers** to >1,000 ft (63 other jurisdictions also increased the buffer, for an average of 1000 ft).

Trinity County: Increased the number of **sensitive use sites with a required buffer** from storefront retailers, such as public parks and residential treatment centers (as well as 50 other jurisdictions).

Anderson: Prohibited delivery to **youth- and children-serving locations**, public parks, and buildings, and eating and drinking establishments (Laguna Woods and 81 other jurisdictions also limited delivery destinations).

Monterey: Protected youth and mental health by **taxing high-potency products**, along with Cathedral City.

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

Martinez: Protected smoke-free air by prohibiting **temporary cannabis events** (along with Los Angeles, Belmont, & 103 other cities and counties).

Stanislaus County: Protected youth by prohibiting **billboards** and **restricting business signage** (147 other jurisdictions also limited outdoor advertising).

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

Watsonville: Protected youth by prohibiting **advertising, packaging, and products attractive to youth** (along with Mono County, Sonoma County, Pomona, Chula Vista, and 8 others).

Costa Mesa: Protected youth by requiring **independent, third-party ID verification** for cannabis delivery (as did Los Angeles, Red Bluff, San Jose, and 3 others).

Riverside: Protected youth by **capping** the number of licensed retailers (160 other jurisdictions also capped the number of licensed dispensaries).

El Monte: Protected youth by **dedicating tax revenue to youth programs** and addiction prevention; 28 other jurisdictions dedicated tax or fee revenue to youth, prevention, and/or social equity.

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

Ventura: Protected the public and workers against secondhand smoke by not allowing **on-site consumption** (along with 157 others, including Baldwin Park, Cudahy, Los Angeles, San Diego, & Santa Cruz).

Palm Springs: Informed consumers by requiring that retailers post or hand out cannabis-related **health risks information** (along with 48 others, including South El Monte, Sacramento, Martinez, San Jose, & Chico).

National City: Promoted **social equity** through equity in licensing & hiring provisions (as well as Sacramento, Oakland, Los Angeles City, Long Beach, San Francisco, Watsonville, Fresno, & 27 other places).

Imperial Beach: Protected youth by prohibiting **promotions and coupons** offering discounted cannabis (along with Pasadena, Chico, & Pomona).

2025 STOREFRONT SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

Where jurisdictions allow sales at storefront retailers (may also allow delivery):

The scores are based on **six key categories of policies** that local governments can enact to advance public health and equity if they opt to allow cannabis retail sales in storefronts. Based on the best available evidence, policies with the greatest potential for achieving these goals received higher points. Cannabis laws passed by January 1st, 2025, were identified using legal databases, municipal codes, and direct outreach to cities and counties. The maximum score possible was 100.

- 1) RETAILER REQUIREMENTS (28 total points possible):** Strategic limits on cannabis retailers and educating consumers can decrease youth use and risks of cannabis use.
 - **Caps on Retailers (10 points max).** Limit the number of licensed retailers; we used a ratio of retailers to 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 a distance between retailers and other youth-serving sites 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 (8 points max).** Mandate retailers post and/or hand out health warnings informing consumers of relevant risks at the point of sale.
- 2) TAXES & PRICES (20 total points possible):** Taxes and 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 sales.
 - **Dedicated Tax Revenue (6 points max).** Dedicate tax revenue to youth programs, prevention, or reinvestment in the 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 cannabis discounting 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 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):** Limit marketing exposure to decrease youth use and educate 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 therapeutic or health claims on cannabis labels, packages, and ads.
 - **Business Signage Restrictions (3 points).** Restrict on-site business advertising.
 - **Marketing Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Prohibit advertising attractive to youth more clearly than state law.
- 5) SMOKE-FREE AIR (8 total points possible):** Smoke-free air policies can reduce secondhand smoke exposure and discourage youth use.
 - **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.

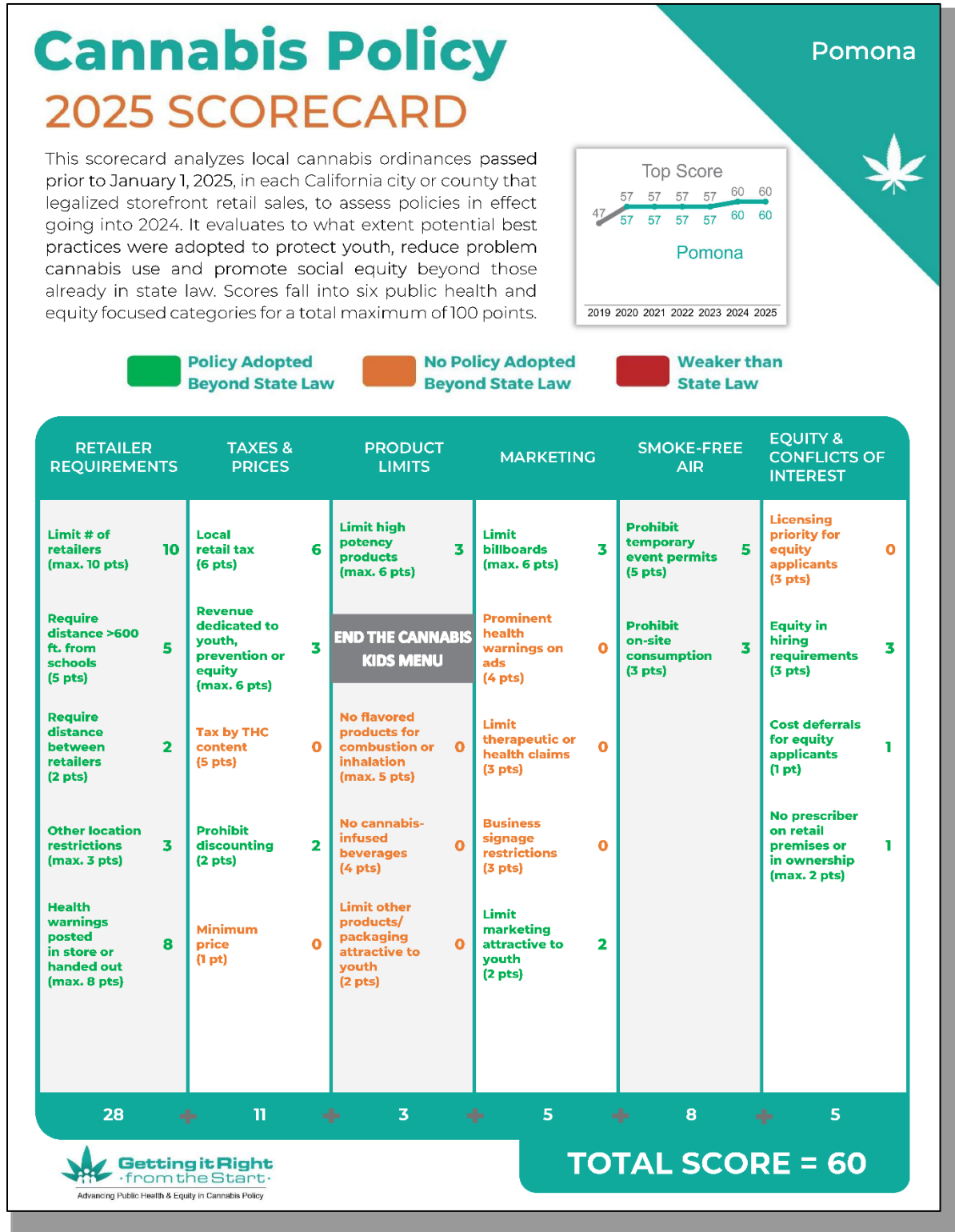
THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

EXAMPLE STOREFRONT SCORECARD

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



2025 DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

Where jurisdictions allow sales only by delivery from businesses based inside the jurisdiction AND may be allowed from deliverers based outside the jurisdiction.

The scores are based on **six key categories of policies** that local governments can enact to advance public health and equity if they opt to allow cannabis sales only by delivery. Based on the best available evidence, policies with the greatest potential for achieving these goals received higher points. Cannabis laws passed by January 1st, 2025, were identified using legal databases, municipal codes, and direct outreach to cities and counties. The maximum score possible was 100.

1) DELIVERER REQUIREMENTS (32 total points possible): Strategic limits on cannabis retailers and educating consumers can decrease youth use and risks of cannabis use.

- **Local Permit (5 points max).** Mandate local permitting of 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, e.g., no delivery to college dormitories.
- **Health Warnings Handed Out to Customers (4 points).** Mandate that retailers hand out health warnings informing consumers of relevant risks at the point of sale.

2) TAXES & PRICES (20 total points possible): Taxes and 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 sales.
- **Dedicated Tax Revenue (6 points max).** Dedicate tax revenue to youth programs, prevention, or reinvestment in the 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 cannabis discounting 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 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): Limit marketing exposure to decrease youth use and educate 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 therapeutic or health claims on cannabis labels, packages, and ads.
- **Business Signage Restrictions (3 points).** Restrict on-site business advertising.
- **Marketing Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Prohibit advertising attractive to youth more clearly than state law.

5) SMOKE-FREE AIR (5 total points possible): Smoke-free air policies can reduce secondhand smoke exposure and discourage youth use.

- **Temporary Events (5 points).** Prohibit temporary cannabis events such as at county fairs or concerts in parks.

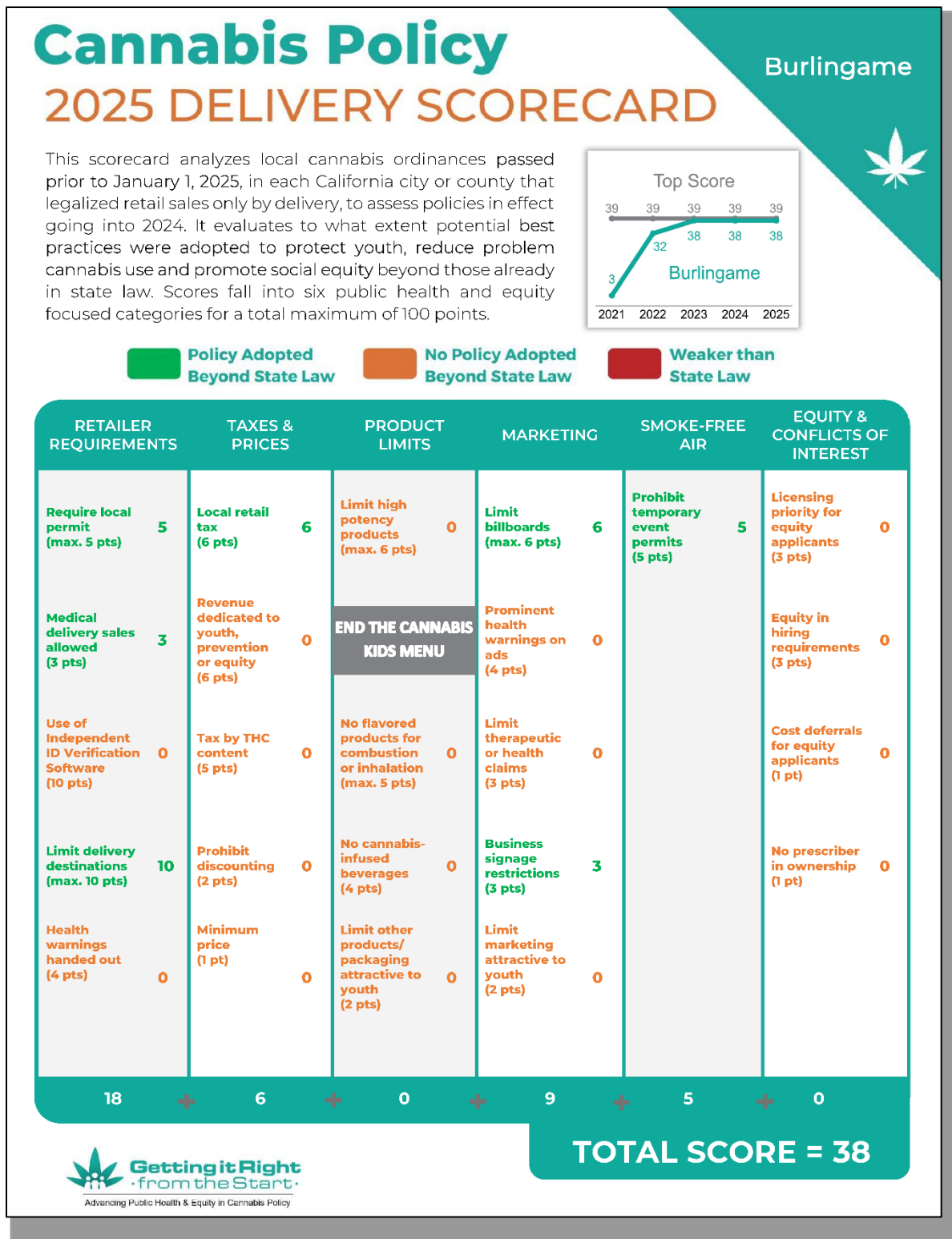
6) EQUITY & CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (8 total points possible): Cannabis policy can promote social equity and reduce conflicts of interest.

- **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.

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

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.



2025 DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

Where jurisdictions allow sales only by delivery from businesses based OUTSIDE of the jurisdiction.

The scores are based on **six key categories of policies** that local governments can enact to advance public health and equity if they opt to allow cannabis sales only by delivery originating outside the jurisdiction. Based on the best available evidence, policies with the greatest potential for achieving these goals received higher points. Cannabis laws passed by January 1st, 2025, were identified using legal databases, municipal codes, and direct outreach to cities and counties. The maximum score possible was 100.

1) DELIVERER REQUIREMENTS (39 total points possible): Strategic limits on cannabis retailers and educating consumers can decrease youth use and risks of cannabis use.

- **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, e.g., no delivery to college dormitories.
- **Health Warnings Handed Out to Customers (4 points each).** Mandate that retailers hand out health warnings informing consumers of relevant risks at the point of sale.

2) TAXES & PRICES (20 total points possible): Taxes and 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 sales.
- **Dedicated Tax Revenue (6 points max).** Dedicate tax revenue to youth programs, prevention, or reinvestment in the 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 cannabis discounting 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 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): Limit marketing exposure to decrease youth use and educate 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 therapeutic or health claims on cannabis labels, packages, and ads.
- **Marketing Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Prohibit advertising attractive to youth more clearly than state law.

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.

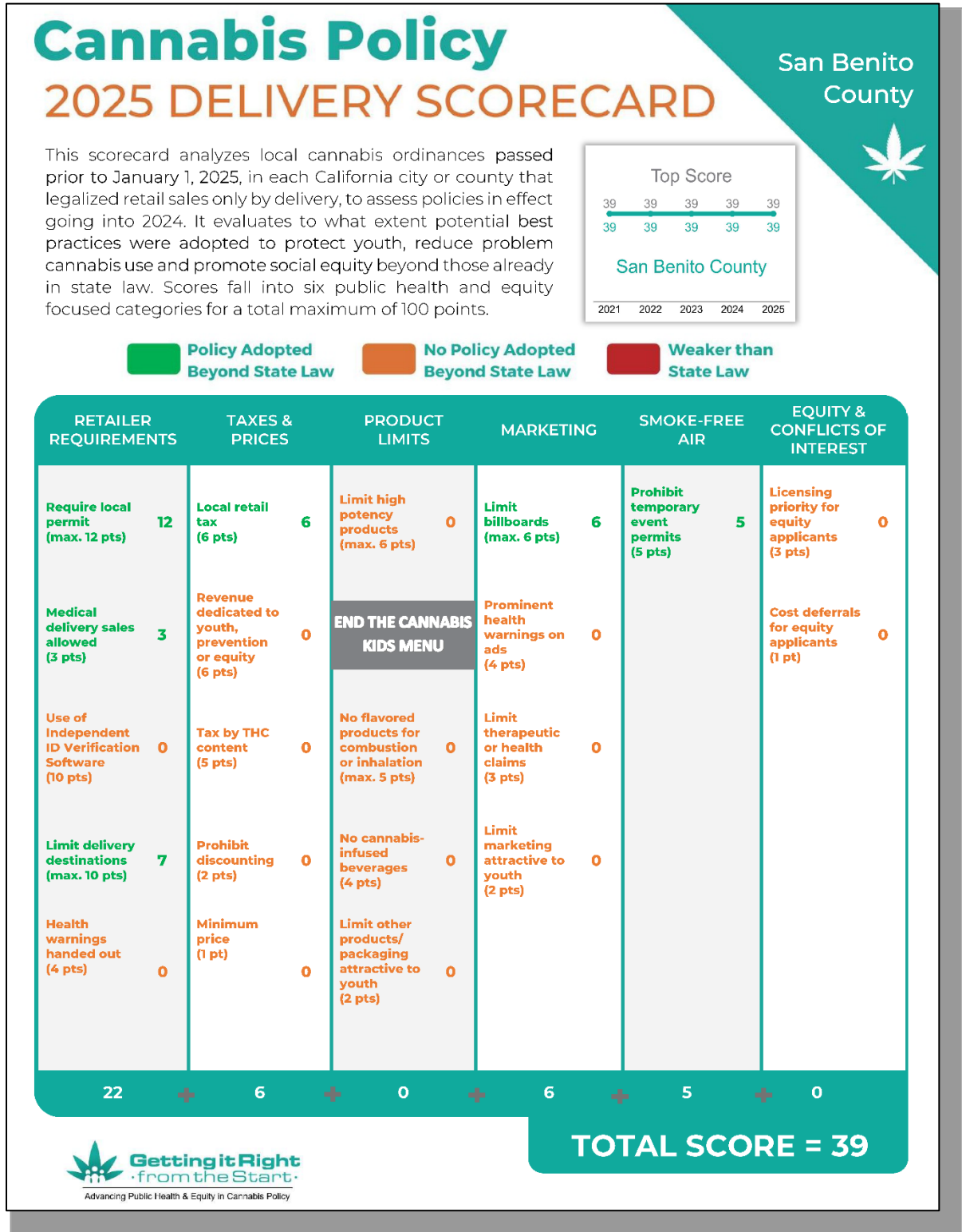
THE STATE OF CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA'S CITIES & COUNTIES



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

EXAMPLE DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD

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



Getting it Right from the Start is a project of the Public Health Institute. The Project has worked with experts from across the nation and within the state to identify potential best regulatory practices and develop model regulatory and taxation frameworks to protect youth, public health and social equity. Visit us at www.gettingitrightfromthestart.org.

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

TOPLINE SUMMARY

Type of Retail Sales Allowed	Number of Jurisdictions Allowing Legal Retail Sales and Californians Covered (% Jurisdictions†; % Californians Covered)						
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Sale by Storefronts Allowed	210 (39%; 55%)	207 (38%; 55%)	196 (36%; 53%)	179 (33%; 50%)	166 (31%; 49%)	150 (28%; 46%)	136 (25%; 45%)
Sale by Delivery Only with Local Businesses Allowed	43 (8%; 7%)	37 (7%; 6%)	28 (5%; 4%)	33 (6%; 4%)	32 (6%; 4%)	45 (8%; 5%)	115 (21%; 11%)
Sale by Delivery Only from Outside	80 (15%; 8%)	76 (14%; 7%)	74 (14%; 6%)	75 (14%; 6%)	79 (15%; 6%)	76 (14%; 7%)	
Any Retail Sales Allowed Total	333 (62%; 70%)	320 (59%; 67%)	298 (55%; 63%)	287 (53%; 61%)	277 (51%; 60%)	271 (50%; 58%)	251 (47%; 55%)

†Out of 539 cities and counties for 2019-2024 and out of 540 for 2025.

Percent of California Cities and Counties that Allow Retail Sales that Passed at Least One Recommended Policy across the Retail Policy Categories

Retail Policy Categories	Among Cities and Counties Allowing Each Type of Sale*																
	2025			2024			2023			2022			2021			2020	2019
	Stores	Delv In/Out	Delv Out	Stores	Delv In/Out	Delv Out	Stores	Delv In/Out	Delv Out	Stores	Delv In/Out	Delv Out	Stores	Delv In/Out	Delv Out	Stores	Stores
Retailer Requirements	93%	98%	100%	92%	98%	100%	92%	97%	100%	91%	97%	100%	90%	97%	100%	91%	90%
Taxation & Prices	85%	29%	15%	84%	28%	16%	82%	36%	17%	81%	37%	14%	81%	35%	16%	79%	79%
Product Limits	5%	0%	1%	5%	0%	1%	5%	0%	1%	6%	0%	1%	7%	0%	1%	5%	4%
Marketing	61%	27%	4%	61%	28%	4%	61%	33%	3%	65%	29%	3%	65%	27%	4%	59%	53%
Smoke-free Air	77%	35%	20%	78%	37%	19%	78%	46%	19%	79%	40%	20%	80%	35%	19%	79%	82%
Equity & Conflicts of Interest	53%	2%	0%	54%	2%	0%	54%	3%	0%	53%	5%	0%	51%	5%	0%	50%	43%

***Stores** = Cannabis retail sales allowed by storefront retailers AND may be allowed by delivery. **Delv In/Out** = Cannabis retail sales allowed only by delivery from delivery businesses located inside the permitting jurisdiction AND may be allowed from retailers located outside the jurisdiction. **Delv Out** = Cannabis retail sales allowed only by delivery from retailers located OUTSIDE the permitting jurisdiction.

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

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Alameda County	28	28	28	28	25	24
– Alameda	35	35	35	35	35	35
– Albany [†]	9	9	9	9	9	–
– Berkeley	42	42	42	42	41	26
– Emeryville	14	14	14	14	14	7
– Hayward	17	17	17	17	12	12
– Livermore [†]	31	31	31	31	31	–
– Oakland	25	25	25	25	25	25
– Piedmont [†]	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Pleasanton [†]	3	3	–	–	–	–
– San Leandro	42	42	42	42	42	31
– Union City	34	34	34	34	34	32
Contra Costa County	53	53	50	50	50	50
– Antioch	3	3	3	3	8	8
– Brentwood [†]	22	22	–	–	–	–
– Clayton [†]	23	23	23	23	23	–
– Concord	31	31	22	22	22	–
– Danville [†]	8	15	–	–	–	–
– El Cerrito	15	15	15	15	15	15
– Lafayette [†]	8	8	8	8	8	–
– Martinez	51	27	24	24	24	18
– Oakley [†]	23	23	23	23	23	–
– Pittsburg	34	34	34	34	–	–
– Pleasant Hill [†]	13	13	13	13	13	–
– Richmond	34	34	34	34	31	31
– Walnut Creek [†]	24	24	24	21	21	–
Marin County[†]	21	21	21	21	21	–
– Belvedere [†]	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Corte Madera [†]	3	3	3	3	3	–

NOTE:

The highest total score possible is 100 points.

Not all counties and cities have permitted sales or implemented policies. Some jurisdictions are not listed.

If a city and county are listed on the same row of this chart, the score represents the city, not the county.

If a county score is listed, it refers to laws for the unincorporated area of that county.

[†] These cities and counties only offer delivery-based retail.

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
– Fairfax	12	12	12	12	12	12
– Larkspur†	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Novato†	13	13	13	13	13	–
– Ross†	3	3	3	3	3	–
– San Anselmo†	15	15	15	15	15	–
– San Rafael†	34	35	35	31	31	–
– Sausalito†	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Tiburon†	3	3	3	3	3	–
Napa County†	3	3	3	3	3	–
– American Canyon†	16	16	16	16	16	–
– Napa	16	16	16	16	16	16
– St. Helena†	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Yountville†	8	8	8	8	8	–
San Francisco City & Co.	22	22	22	22	22	22
San Mateo County†	6	6	6	6	6	–
– Belmont	22	–	–	–	–	–
– Brisbane†	14	14	14	14	14	–
– Burlingame†	38	38	38	32	3	–
– Daly City	21	21	21	21	–	–
– Foster City†	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Half Moon Bay†	9	9	9	9	9	–
– Hillsborough†	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Menlo Park†	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Millbrae†	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Pacifica	26	26	26	26	26	26
– Portola Valley†	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Redwood City	28	28	25	25	25	–
– San Bruno	36	36	30	–	–	–
– San Carlos†	26	26	26	26	26	–

NOTE:

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

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
– San Mateo [†]	8	8	8	8	8	–
– South San Francisco [†]	26	26	26	26	26	–
– Woodside [†]	3	3	3	3	3	–
Santa Clara County						
– Campbell [†]	21	21	21	21	21	–
– Cupertino [†]	8	8	8	8	8	–
– Los Altos [†]	8	8	8	8	8	–
– Los Altos Hills [†]	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Milpitas [†]	20	–	–	–	–	–
– Monte Sereno [†]	11	11	11	11	11	–
– Mountain View [†]	17	17	17	17	17	–
– Palo Alto [†]	3	3	3	3	3	–
– San Jose	24	24	39	36	36	36
– Saratoga	3	15	15	15	15	–
Santa Cruz County	29	29	27	18	18	18
– Capitola	29	29	29	29	29	29
– Santa Cruz	42	42	42	42	37	34
– Scotts Valley [†]	10	10	10	10	10	–
– Watsonville	45	45	45	45	45	–
Solano County[†]	21	21	21	21	21	–
– Benicia	23	23	23	23	23	23
– Dixon	19	19	19	19	19	14
– Fairfield	29	29	29	29	29	–
– Rio Vista	15	15	15	15	15	15
– Suisun City	10	10	10	8	8	22
– Vacaville	27	27	27	27	–	–
– Vallejo	18	18	18	18	18	15
Sonoma County	37	37	33	33	34	34
– Cloverdale	14	14	14	14	14	14

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

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
– Cotati	16	16	16	19	19	19
– Healdsburg	14	14	–	–	–	–
– Petaluma	18	–	–	–	–	–
– Santa Rosa	15	15	15	15	15	15
– Sebastopol	8	8	8	8	8	7
– Sonoma	32	32	32	32	41	35

NOTE:

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL COAST

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Monterey County	22	25	25	25	24	24
– Del Rey Oaks	22	22	22	22	22	22
– Greenfield	18	18	18	18	18	18
– King City	21	21	21	21	21	–
– Marina	32	32	32	32	32	21
– Monterey	15	18	–	–	–	–
– Pacific Grove	33	33	–	–	23	–
– Salinas	30	30	30	30	30	30
– Sand City	4	–	–	–	–	–
– Seaside	16	15	15	15	16	16
San Benito County†	39	39	39	39	39	–
– Hollister	34	28	28	28	28	28
– San Juan Bautista	17	17	17	17	17	17
San Luis Obispo County†	14	14	14	14	14	–
– Arroyo Grande†	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Atascadero†	27	27	27	27	29	–
– Grover Beach	10	10	10	13	13	13
– Morro Bay	23	23	23	23	23	23
– Paso Robles†	14	14	14	14	14	–

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

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL COAST

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
– Pismo Beach [†]	15	3	3	3	3	–
– San Luis Obispo	51	51	51	51	51	51
Santa Barbara County	32	29	29	29	29	27
– Buellton [†]	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Carpinteria [†]	16	16	16	16	16	–
– Goleta	19	19	19	19	19	19
– Guadalupe	22	22	21	21	–	–
– Lompoc	6	6	6	6	6	6
– Santa Barbara	33	33	33	33	33	33
– Santa Maria [†]	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Solvang	25	25	25	25	25	25
Ventura County[†]	14	14	14	14	14	–
– Camarillo [†]	16	16	–	–	–	–
– Moorpark [†]	8	–	–	–	–	–
– Ojai	9	9	12	12	12	6
– Oxnard	39	39	45	41	41	26
– Port Hueneme	10	10	10	13	13	13
– Thousand Oaks	32	32	32	32	32	32
– Ventura	31	31	33	33	–	–

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

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL VALLEY

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Colusa County						
– Colusa	18	18	8	–	–	–
Fresno County						
– Clovis [†]	15	–	–	–	–	–
– Coalinga	23	23	23	23	23	29
– Firebaugh	22	22	22	22	22	22
– Fresno	54	54	54	46	46	46
– Mendota	13	13	13	13	23	23
– Parlier	23	23	23	32	32	–
Kern County						
– Arvin [†]	22	22	22	17	17	–
– California City	28	28	28	28	28	28
– McFarland	39	30	–	–	–	–
Kings County						
– Corcoran	17	17	–	–	–	–
– Hanford	30	30	30	30	31	31
– Lemoore	10	6	9	9	9	9
Madera County						
– Chowchilla [†]	15	15	–	–	–	–
– Madera	24	24	24	24	–	–
Merced County[†]						
– Atwater	22	22	12	12	12	12
– Gustine	8	8	8	8	8	8
– Livingston [†]	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Merced	37	37	37	37	35	32
– Atwater	22	22	12	12	12	12
– Gustine	8	8	8	8	8	8
– Livingston [†]	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Merced	37	37	37	37	35	32

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

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL VALLEY

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
San Joaquin County†	22	22	22	22	22	–
– Lathrop	28	28	28	16	–	–
– Manteca	25	25	25	25	–	–
– Stockton	43	43	43	40	40	40
– Tracy	28	28	23	23	31	17
Stanislaus County	27	30	21	21	21	21
– Ceres	9	9	9	9	9	9
– Modesto	31	31	31	31	31	30
– Oakdale	12	12	12	12	12	15
– Patterson	11	11	11	11	11	14
– Riverbank	15	15	15	15	16	16
– Turlock	31	31	31	31	31	11
– Waterford	17	8	8	8	8	2
Sutter County†	3	3	3	3	3	–
Tulare County	28	28	28	28	28	28
– Exeter	29	29	29	–	–	–
– Farmersville	20	20	20	20	20	20
– Lindsay	9	9	9	9	9	9
– Porterville	14	14	14	14	16	10
– Tulare	32	32	32	26	26	13
– Visalia†	14	8	–	–	–	–
– Woodlake	15	15	15	15	15	15

NOTE:

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

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – GOLD COUNTRY

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Calaveras County	19	19	19	19	19	22
– Angels Camp†	15	15	15	15	15	–
El Dorado County	32	32	32	32	32	33
– Placerville	23	23	23	22	22	19
– South Lake Tahoe	35	38	38	35	23	23
Inyo County	9	9	9	9	9	9
– Bishop	28	28	28	28	–	–
Mono County	42	42	42	42	42	42
– Mammoth Lakes	26	26	26	26	26	16
Tuolumne County†	14	–	–	–	–	–
– Sonora	21	21	21	21	18	18

NOTE:

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Butte County†	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Biggs†	0	0	0	0	0	–
– Chico	50	41	41	41	41	–
Del Norte County	11	11	11	11	11	16
– Crescent City	9	9	9	9	9	–
Glenn County						
– Willows	2	12	12	12	12	12
Humboldt County	12	12	12	12	12	12
– Arcata	0	0	0	0	0	0
– Eureka	0	0	0	0	0	0
– Rio Dell	10	10	10	10	10	13
– Trinidad†	3	3	3	3	3	–
Lake County						
– Clearlake	4	3	3	3	3	3

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



Getting it Right
·from the Start·

Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
– Lakeport†	16	16	16	16	–	–
Lassen County	17	17	17	17	17	17
Mendocino County	14	14	14	14	14	14
– Fort Bragg	12	12	12	12	12	12
– Point Arena	7	7	7	7	7	7
– Ukiah	15	15	18	18	18	18
– Willits	25	25	25	25	25	25
Modoc County						
– Alturas	23	23	23	23	23	23
Nevada County	19	30	–	–	–	–
– Grass Valley	22	27	27	27	27	–
– Nevada City	32	32	25	25	25	25
– Truckee†	8	8	8	8	8	–
Plumas County†	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Portola†	15	15	15	15	15	–
Shasta County						
– Anderson	25	–	–	–	–	–
– Redding	28	28	28	28	28	28
– Shasta Lake	18	18	18	18	18	18
Sierra County†	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Loyalton†	8	3	3	3	3	–
Siskiyou County						
– Dunsmuir	13	13	13	13	13	13
– Fort Jones†	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Mount Shasta	7	7	7	7	7	7
– Weed	15	15	15	15	15	21
Tehama County						
– Red Bluff	13	13	13	–	–	–
Trinity County	13	13	13	–	–	–

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

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SACRAMENTO AREA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Placer County						
– Colfax	26	26	26	26	26	22
Sacramento County						
– Citrus Heights [†]	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Isleton	6	6	6	6	6	9
– Sacramento	33	32	32	29	29	28
Yolo County						
– Davis	19	19	19	19	19	19
– West Sacramento [†]	5	5	–	–	–	–
– Woodland	23	23	23	–	–	–
Yuba County						
– Marysville	28	28	28	28	28	28

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

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SAN DIEGO AREA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Imperial County	9	9	9	9	9	9
– Calexico	9	9	9	9	9	9
– El Centro	25	25	25	25	25	–
– Holtville [†]	20	20	20	20	20	–
– Imperial	20	23	23	23	22	19
– Westmorland [†]	3	3	3	3	3	–
San Diego County	29	29	29	23	27	27
– Carlsbad [†]	16	16	–	–	–	–
– Chula Vista	46	46	46	46	46	44
– Encinitas	28	28	28	22	22	–
– Imperial Beach	44	44	44	44	44	44
– La Mesa	23	23	23	23	23	23
– Lemon Grove	20	20	20	20	20	20
– National City	28	28	28	16	–	–
– Oceanside [†]	25	25	25	25	25	–
– San Diego	38	38	38	38	38	38
– San Marcos [†]	6	6	–	–	–	–
– Santee	28	25	25	–	–	–
– Vista	32	31	31	31	23	23

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

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Los Angeles County						
– Alhambra	13	–	–	–	–	–
– Artesia	15	15	15	–	–	–
– Avalon†	8	8	8	8	8	–
– Baldwin Park	33	33	31	–	–	–
– Bell†	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Bellflower	15	15	15	15	15	15
– Bell Gardens	23	22	–	–	–	–
– Beverly Hills†	29	29	3	3	3	–
– Calabasas†	9	9	9	9	9	–
– Carson†	21	21	21	21	21	–
– Commerce†	13	13	13	13	13	–
– Covina	23	23	–	–	–	–
– Cudahy	30	30	30	–	–	–
– Culver City	32	32	32	32	32	27
– Diamond Bar†	22	–	–	–	–	–
– El Monte	49	49	49	49	50	44
– Hawthorne	14	14	14	–	–	–
– Hermosa Beach†	21	21	21	–	–	–
– Huntington Park	25	16	16	14	15	15
– Lancaster	19	19	11	–	–	–
– Long Beach	34	34	34	40	40	40
– Los Angeles	39	39	39	30	31	31
– Lynwood	38	38	38	–	–	–
– Malibu	26	26	26	26	26	26
– Maywood	22	22	22	22	22	22
– Montebello†	13	13	13	13	13	–
– Monterey Park†	8	8	–	–	–	–
– Palos Verdes Estates†	3	3	3	3	3	–

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
– Pasadena	43	43	43	43	43	43
– Pomona	60	60	57	57	57	57
– Redondo Beach	29	29	23	–	–	–
– Rolling Hills†	20	20	20	20	20	–
– Rosemead†	15	15	–	–	–	–
– San Fernando†	27	27	27	27	27	–
– San Gabriel†	23	8	8	8	8	–
– Santa Monica	25	25	25	19	19	19
– South El Monte	38	38	38	–	–	–
– Torrance†	3	3	3	3	–	–
– West Hollywood	6	6	11	11	11	11
– Westlake Village†	3	3	3	3	3	–
Orange County						
– Costa Mesa	21	21	21	21	–	–
– Cypress†	8	8	8	8	8	–
– Garden Grove†	22	22	–	–	–	–
– Irvine†	15	–	–	–	–	–
– La Habra†	21	21	21	21	21	–
– Laguna Woods†	25	25	–	–	–	–
– Santa Ana	40	40	40	37	37	37
– Stanton	18	18	18	18	18	–
– Tustin†	16	–	–	–	–	–
Riverside County	28	28	38	38	38	38
– Banning	19	19	19	19	19	19
– Beaumont†	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Blythe	24	24	24	24	24	24
– Calimesa†	21	20	20	20	20	–
– Canyon Lake	15	14	14	14	–	–
– Cathedral City	21	21	21	21	21	16

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
– Coachella	9	9	9	11	11	5
– Corona	29	29	29	29	29	–
– Desert Hot Springs	7	7	7	7	10	13
– Eastvale [†]	8	–	–	–	–	–
– Hemet	21	27	27	27	–	–
– Indio	14	14	14	–	–	–
– Jurupa Valley	26	26	26	26	27	27
– La Quinta [†]	16	16	16	16	16	–
– Lake Elsinore	12	12	12	12	12	12
– Moreno Valley	17	17	17	15	15	17
– Murrieta [†]	19	–	–	–	–	–
– Palm Desert	35	35	35	35	35	35
– Palm Springs	23	19	19	16	16	15
– Perris	21	18	18	18	21	21
– Rancho Mirage [†]	15	15	15	15	15	–
– Riverside	26	20	–	–	–	–
– San Jacinto	20	20	20	20	20	20
– Temecula [†]	3	3	3	3	3	–
– Wildomar	22	22	22	22	17	–
San Bernardino County						
– Adelanto	16	17	17	17	17	17
– Barstow	11	11	11	11	–	–
– Colton [†]	28	28	28	28	28	–
– Fontana	27	27	27	–	–	–
– Hesperia [†]	27	27	27	27	27	–
– Needles	11	11	11	11	11	14
– Rancho Cucamonga [†]	8	8	–	–	–	–
– San Bernardino	27	27	27	27	26	32
– Victorville [†]	22	22	22	22	22	–
– Yucca Valley [†]	8	8	–	–	–	–

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