



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Siskiyou County Sales Tax Measure S for Jail Expansion Trailing in Vote Count

Weed, CA – Preliminary election night results show Measure S, which needed 2/3 voter approval for passage, falling short by a vote of 4,996 (52.1%) to 4,586 (47.9%). The measure would have added a half cent sales tax increase to fund debt payments on a portion of the matching funds for eventually tripling the size of the county jail.

Businesses in the county (bordering the state of Oregon which has no sales tax), would have been disadvantaged by the additional levy. Additional concerns included high costs of construction and lack of identified funding to cover new operating costs.

The Siskiyou Forward Movement Political Action Committee also questioned the need for such a large increase in the number of jail beds at a time when no residential drug treatment facilities exist at all in the county. Current trends are reducing rates of incarceration statewide, at a time when the county's population is declining.

"We do need a new jail, just not the one they've planned", said SFM founder Andy Fusso. "Keeping people safe means dealing with root causes of crime, such as a poor economy and lack of investments in education and treatment. The county needs realistic, sustainable business development efforts. Unfortunately, this was a bad deal – the design was too big and we can't afford it".

PAC members toured the jail during the campaign, and were favorably impressed with the professionalism and dedication of jail staff. "We want to continue a respectful community dialog; the problems of our obsolete jail and limited resources still require effective solutions", Fusso stated.

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