



TO: Steve Trossman
FROM: Amy Levin, Liz Dunne
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RE: Tri-City Medical District Executive Compensation Ballot Initiative

- Our poll in the Tri-City Medical District demonstrates that voters would enthusiastically support a ballot initiative to cap executive compensation at Tri-City Medical Center at either \$250k or \$200k annually.
 - ✓ The \$250k cap proves marginally more popular, with 69% voting “yes” on a measure to ensure that “no Tri-City Medical Center executive, manager, or administrator can be paid more than \$250k in total annual compensation.” 21% vote “no” and 10% are undecided.
 - ✓ Support remains high for an initiative capping pay at \$200k, with 64% voting “yes”, 24% voting “no” and 12% undecided.
- In an area that leans Republican, support crosses party lines, with 71% of registered Democrats, 66% of registered Independents and 61% of registered Republicans voting yes on both ballots combined.
- “Sunshine” makes this appealing proposition even more of a slam dunk. When coupled with a requirement that “Tri-City Medical Center must publicly report the actual compensation paid to its top executives,” support climbs to a staggering 83% “yes” on the \$250k ballot and 86% “yes” at \$200k.
- This broad support is driven by the feeling that hospital executives are already paid more than their fair share – and the reasonable nature of the limit.
 - ✓ The median salary voters think the CEO of a public hospital financed by taxpayers in California *should* make (\$250k) is \$100k less than the \$350k voters think they *do* make.
- Moreover, voters understand that high costs in Tri-City are driven by executive salaries, not pay for hospital workers like technicians and janitorial staff.
 - ✓ 57% of voters think executive pay contributes more to the cost of health care at Tri-City Medical Center, while 25% think it is pay for hospital workers.
- Finally, when the best arguments from each side of the issue are pitted against each other, Tri-City Medical District voters side with supporters by a 31-point margin.
 - ✓ 59% agree that *“taxpayers provide more than \$175 million for Tri-City Medical Center. With the CEO being paid more than \$525k and the top five executives earning more than \$2.3 million combined, community residents who pay these salaries through taxes deserve a say on commonsense limits. We need accountability and transparency to protect taxpayers and ensure patients get the best care.”*
 - ✓ Just 28% agree that *“no matter how you feel about a hospital executive’s salary, it should be determined by experts in the field, not voters on Election Day. This initiative would make it*

harder to attract top medical talent to the Tri-City area and to ensure the most qualified people are running our hospitals and keeping standards high for patient care.”

Benenson Strategy Group conducted 500 interviews with likely 2016 voters in the Tri-City Medical District from October 17th to October 19th, 2015. All interviews were conducted over telephone using a voter list. The margin of error is $\pm 4.4\%$ for the entire sample at the 95% confidence level.