



Statement from Campaign Manager Dana Williamson:

“California’s homelessness and mental health crises demand action. Nearly half of all unsheltered people in the country live in California. Over the course of decades, every level of government has disinvested in mental health services – leaving those in most dire need of support without help.

“Permanent solutions require a permanent funding source. The California Solutions to Homelessness and Mental Health Support Act will raise hundreds of millions of dollars annually to fight homelessness and expand mental health support in California by allowing regulated entities to offer safe, responsible sports betting online. Funding from the initiative will help those experiencing homelessness get off the street and into housing, increase mental health services and address issues of addiction. The initiative provides strict accountability measures to ensure the funding is spent for its intended purpose. The non-partisan State Auditor will provide annual audits, and the initiative requires District Attorneys and the Attorney General to investigate any misuse of funds.”

Additional background information regarding the initiative:

- The campaign begins with \$100 million in the bank and is enlisting a top California political team. An internal campaign poll found 62% of voters would support the measure while only 25% would oppose (July 2021, Binder research).
- Right now, unregulated and untaxed online sports betting is happening throughout California on the illegal, offshore market without any consumer or responsible gambling protections. Leading industry experts estimate the illegal market has flourished with hundreds of billions of dollars bet online annually across the United States. This initiative replaces unregulated and untaxed illegal enterprises with a safe, legal online sports bet market that is regulated, closely monitored and taxed.
- The initiative also provides strong protections to prevent children and those with problem gambling issues from participating. The initiative strictly limits online betting to individuals 21 years of age or older, using the most advanced and proven technology to enforce restrictions, and it imposes fines of up to \$100,000 for any operator who knowingly accepts bets from minors. Extra funding is provided to the state’s problem gambler treatment program and every online sports betting platform must prominently display the message that if a person has a problem, they can get

help by calling 1-800-GAMBLER. Individuals can voluntarily exclude themselves from betting by notifying the California Department of Justice or an online sports betting operator. Under the initiative, the California Department of Justice is given broad power to regulate online sports betting in California to ensure there is no corruption or illegal activity in the market. 21 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia have authorized online sports betting in some form – proving that sports betting can be safe, regulated and generate massive revenue streams for a state to put towards intractable problems and California should be next on the list.

- The initiative does not conflict with the pending California Tribe-backed measure that would allow for in-person sports betting -- instead it is complementary by allowing for online sports betting as well. The initiative recognizes the important role of California Tribal nations. Any online sports betting operator seeking to participate in the California marketplace must do so by partnering with a California tribe. A portion of the measure's revenue is dedicated to uplifting Tribal communities.

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