

# Support for marijuana grows as election draws nearer

by Jack Zukin  
World Editor

Over the past few years, support for marijuana legalization has swelled across the nation. Twenty-three states have made the drug legal for medicinal use and four states, as well as Washington D.C., have made cannabis legal for recreational use. In the upcoming 2016 general election, there is expected to be an even more dramatic surge of pro-pot legalization, as a host of states plan to vote on ballot initiatives involving both recreational and medicinal use. However, it's important to remember where the destigmatization of pot originated, and that was in 1996 when California residents voted yes on Proposition 215, effectively legalizing medical marijuana.

Since 1996, California has had its fair share of problems in creating an effective medicinal system with comprehensive laws, but California did pave the way for other states, and it served as a case study for potential cannabis industries. However, after 1996, California has had its own issues with legalization when Proposition 19, which would have made recreational use legal, failed in 2010. In elections after 2010, all initiatives proposed for marijuana legalization have been shot down for a variety of reasons.

Advocates for legalization in California look forward to a promising 2016 election as recent governmental and popular developments make the



LEGALIZING MARIJUANA: The drug could be legalized for recreational use in 2016.

effort look likely to be successful. On Oct. 9, Gov. Jerry Brown lent his pen to three bills that would overhaul the current medical marijuana industry in order to create more thorough regulations and a stronger infrastructure than the ones in place today. This would include more in-depth licensing for the various stages of growing, distribution, and sale in addition to tighter product and growing regulations to ensure the safety of the consumer and the environment. The new structure provided by these laws primes the recreational industry for immediate integration when voters will likely legalize the drug on the 2016 ballot.

As the state government's support for legalization has become more implicit, the confidence of supporters has steadily increased. Unlike previous years where investors have shied away from marijuana initiatives, the push for legalization in this cycle has the funding, the unification, and the power to run an effective campaign. Although there are currently multiple initiatives, the one that stands out the most has all of the aforementioned qualities. Its financial supporters include Silicon Valley magnate Sean Parker, the Hyatt Hotel heirs Nicky and Joby Pritzker, Weedmaps app founder Justin Hartfield, and Progressive Insurance heir Graham Boyd, as well as the Drug Policy Alliance, the Marijuana Policy Project, and the California Cannabis Industry Association.

(Sources: SF Chronicle, ABC News, CNNMoney)

# New burger joint opens in Los Gatos, promises success

by Madeline Hagar  
Opinion Editor

Super Duper Burger recently opened up at the corner of Los Gatos Boulevard and Blossom Hill Road. It is a part of the newer development in town, surrounded by Philz Coffee and Pizza Studio. Though only open since early October, the restaurant is already packed and is becoming a new favorite spot for locals.

When you walk inside, it is not your typical burger joint covered wall-to-wall in a permanent layer of grease and salt. Super Duper Burger is modern, sleek, and quite roomy. It's a perfect spot for a quick snack, dinner with friends, or family celebrations.

The burgers are fresh, juicy, and sizzling when they arrive. Super Duper Burger even makes its own pickles! If you are not in the mood for a burger or fries, there is soft serve ice cream (which is hard to find in town otherwise). For those chocolate lovers out there, you can even have them dip the ice cream in chocolate to

create that crunchy, hard shell. Super Duper Burger also provides vegetarian options, chicken sandwiches, salads, and milkshakes.

The menu may seem relatively simple, but all the items are high quality. The attention to detail stems from Super Duper Burger's dedication to making "fast food burgers" with "slow food values." The focus is on using fresh produce, meat, and dairy. Super Duper Burger makes an effort to use locally grown produce

to provide healthier options and be more sustainable. They source from family-owned businesses like Brandt and Straus Family Creamery. All of the packaging is completely compostable as well.

Even though Super Duper Burger is new to town, it is already a sensation. While it is not the only burger joint in Los Gatos, Super Duper Burger has definitely distinguished itself from Classic Burger, Happy Hound, and Main Street Burger in terms of its look and menu. So, if you have not had time already, drive, bike, walk, or sprint on over to Super Duper Burger as soon as you can to try it for yourself!



Scan the QR code to check out the menu for yourself!



SUPER DUPER BURGERS: The newly opened restaurant offers a gourmet selection of burgers.

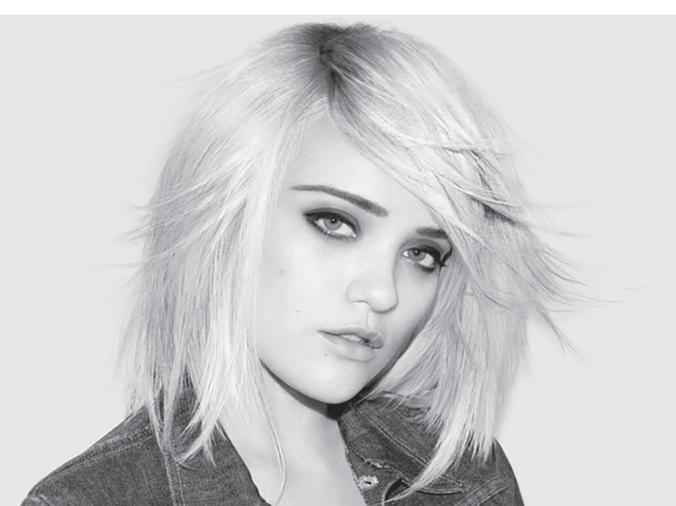


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# Transgender rights granted

by Sophie Domengeaux  
News Editor

On Oct. 21, California became the first state in the United States to issue a policy that provides transgender prisoners with their desired sex reassignment surgery. The state adopted a set of rules and guidelines to determine what services inmates will receive. The policy was spurred by two court cases. The first was settled in April of this year. California was ordered to provide the prisoner with their wanted surgery; however, the inmate was paroled, making the case moot. The second case took place in August and centered around Shiloh Quine, formerly known as Rodney J. Quine. She was sentenced to life on a murder charge but received a settlement that included a taxpayer-funded sex reassignment surgery. Prior to the Quine case, California had only provided inmates with hormone therapy, making this the first state-funded surgery.

The policy will provide mastectomies and operations to remove and reconstruct reproductive organs. It will not, however, cover what the state considers 'cosmetic.' These include procedures like breast implants and drugs for hair removal or hair growth. To actually receive the surgery, inmates must go through a specific application process. A committee of psychologists and doctors will decide if the person is allowed the procedure based on their physical and mental condition. However, before reaching that step, prisoners must meet a series of requirements. The inmates must have

more than two years left on their sentence before expected parole, must have expressed a desire for the procedure for at least two years, and must have lived as a member of their desired sex for a year with hormonal therapy.

Kris Hayashi, the executive director of Transgender Law Center in San Francisco, stated, "California has set a model for the country... It's especially important because transgender people are incarcerated at six times the rate of the general population." According to Joyce Hayhow, the legislative and communications director for an independent agency that oversees prison medical care, 400 of the 125,000 inmates in the California prison system are being treated for gender dysphoria, the condition of not identifying as the sex indicated by bodily organs. The cost of one reassignment surgery and additional services can range anywhere from 50,000 to 100,000 dollars.

Several lawsuits have been filed across the country to convince prison system to recognize gender dysphoria as a medical condition needing specific accommodations. Providing surgery is not the issue in all cases. Some states have not made the steps to offer hormonal therapy to transgender inmates. Supporters of the transgender community, like Hayashi, hope this new California policy will influence other states to make similar decisions.  
(Source: New York Times)



GROUND BREAKING POLICY: Prisons across California, like Pleasant Valley State Prison above, will begin to introduce this new policy.