



**TO:** Steve Trossman  
**FROM:** Amy Levin, Liz Dunne  
**DATE:** October 27, 2015  
**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 17<sup>th</sup> to October 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.*