

RMO-W

TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF
REBUTTAL ARGUMENT AGAINST BALLOT MEASURE S

Our community has a tradition of compassionate, sensible problem-solving. Where other cities scapegoat, Berkeley seeks real solutions.

Criminalizing sitting is a proven failure: San Francisco's law has failed "to improve merchant corridors, serve as a useful tool for SFPD, connect services to those who violate the law, and positively contribute to public safety," according to a report commissioned by the San Francisco Controller's Office. Imitating other cities' failures doesn't help businesses and hurts poor people. This is not how Berkeley solves problems.

Measure S will divert police resources from preventing and solving real crimes. It will push unsheltered teens into a futile cycle of warrants, jail time, and back into the streets. The ACLU calls Measure S "an infringement of civil rights and civil liberties."

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Poor people do not choose to rest in public. We have no drop-in center for homeless youth. Our youth shelter is open only six months a year. Neither the youth shelter nor the adult shelter is open during the day. There are four homeless people in Berkeley for every shelter bed. The "ambassadors"—hired to clean downtown streets—are not trained in mental health, ~~crisis intervention~~, or homeless outreach.

We can do better than this. Instead of wasting city money on proven failures, we can fully fund a youth shelter, provide enough shelter beds, and more public restrooms. Instead of pushing people out of our shared public spaces, we can unite to create *real* solutions for the economic problems that plague small businesses. **Vote No on Proposition S.**

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AUG 24 2012

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