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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE CHICO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TAKES A STAND ON PROPOSITIONS 15 AND 20**

Wednesday, October 1, 2020: Last week, at their regularly scheduled September Board meeting, the Chico Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to take a stand on two key Propositions on the 2020 Ballot: Prop 15 & 20.

Proposition 15 is a \$12.5 billion property tax increase that raises our cost of living and makes everything we buy – food, gas, utilities, day care and health care – more expensive. Prop 15 repeals taxpayer protections in Prop 13. While the increase is described as a help to the local schools, the implications to small businesses is significant.

Katy Thoma, President/CEO stated: “Prop 15 will hurt already struggling small businesses from the impacts of the coronavirus, by increasing property taxes which will mean an increase in rents. Higher rents would likely be passed along to their customers by way of higher prices.”

The Chico Chamber says no to Proposition 15.

Proposition 20 restricts parole for certain offenses currently considered to be non-violent and authorizes felony sentences for certain offenses currently treated only as misdemeanors.

The fiscal impact is an increase in state and local correctional, court, and law enforcement costs likely in the tens of millions of dollars annually, depending on implementation.

Proposition 20 closes a loophole in the law that now allows convicted child molesters, sexual predators and others convicted of violent crimes to be released from prison early. Proposition 20 also expands DNA collection to help solve rapes, murders and other serious crimes, and strengthens sanctions against habitual thieves who steal repeatedly.

Thoma noted that “the safety of Chico has been one of the Chico Chamber’s core priorities. We recognize that Proposition 20 will help keep dangerous criminals off our streets and allow for more effective measures against crime.”

The Chico Chamber urges a yes vote for Proposition 20.

For further information regarding the Chico Chamber of Commerce contact Katie Thoma, President & CEO, katy@chicochamber.com, 530.891.5556 x 303.

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