

From: [Joe Cannabis](#)
To: [Haddon, Stacey](#)
Subject: Public Comment for AGENDA ITEM 11 Lompoc City Council Meeting 12/14/2020
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:22:01 PM

PLEASE INCLUDE THIS EMAIL AS PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEM #11 TONIGHT

Madam Mayor and City Council Members;

I am submitting this written communication as Public Comment for Agenda Item #11 Discussion of Potential Revisions to the Appointment Method and Structure of City Commissions; Introduction of Ordinance No. 1677(21) and Adoption of Resolution No. 6373(20) Changing the Appointment Method and Structure of City Commissions to Require That Commissioners Be Appointed by District (Requested by Mayor Osborne).

When the City Council was presented with the threat of litigation to institute "District Elections," the City Attorney at the time informed the Council that other cities that challenged the move, were unsuccessful in court and the City of Lompoc voted to make the changes to avoid litigation. Citizens were told that although Council Members would be elected by their districts constituents, that Council Members would still be open to listening and representing ALL the People of Lompoc, regardless of what District the People resided in.

Currently under District Elections, Citizens have no power to vote for a majority representation on Council. Citizens may only democratically participate to elect the Mayor once every two years and a council representative from their resided district every 4 years. Under this platform, 3 additional representatives are elected to the City Council without consideration of the citizen who was only allowed to vote for 2 persons. This automatically sets up a majority of Council not being elected at large.

Mayor Jenelle Osborne's request to discuss changing how Commissioners are selected to serve on City Commissions and Committees would further limit citizen participation and create a biased atmosphere against Lompoc Citizens.

As a Citizen of Lompoc,, I am opposed to Mayor Jenelle Osborne's request to change the way that Citizens may participate in their local government Commissions and Committees. Participation in these Commissions and Committees must remain at large to better serve the needs of the People, not Politicians who can't keep their word to the Citizens.

The appointments to committees and commissions should remain at large appointments for several reasons;

1. doing so would seriously limit the volunteer pool,
2. give an unfair advantage to the mayor because the mayor's appointment would create one district with two representatives
3. doing so could lead to discriminatory underrepresentation of majority-minority districts

4. districting provides an unfair advantage for potential competitors. Most councilmembers start as commissioners (Mayor Osborne, Council Member Cordova, Council Member Ball) and changing the way these appointments are made means that residents of these districts who have different views from their representatives are unlikely to ever be represented in these commissions.

Lompoc already has too limited a pool of candidates for public office, this would limit it even further and in essence be seen as an action to limit the People from their own government; a government of the People, by the People and for the People.

Remember the oath of office that you took.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe A. GARCIA
Lompoc Citizen
DISTRICT 3