



Dear Members of the Lompoc City Council,

It is critical that a change in the Cannabis Ordinance be made to put a tax or graduated fee structure on the manufacturing side of the burgeoning cannabis industry and be passed 5-0 at the meeting on June 1, 2021. A lesser outcome of the various votes would signal that some council members do not respect the citizens of the city of Lompoc.

Under previous councils and budgets our services were cut because there wasn't enough money to fund the staff, equipment, public safety, and on and on. This is an opportunity for the City Council to be pro-active and work on correcting the inequality in the current Cannabis Ordinance that taxes retail operations and only levies a nominal fee on the manufacturing side (which is the larger side). This inequity has been shown to take staff time on our skeleton crew and take funds from the City instead of bringing in a stable revenue stream for the City to cover the extra costs of the cannabis industry and make Lompoc a better place to live and work.

The tax would be important to the Cannabis industry that wishes to bring in new jobs which would mean new families moving to our area. They will not want to move to a City that is decaying, with empty store fronts, weeds on all the sidewalks, high crime and violence throughout the City. Those conditions do not bring businesses and families to Lompoc.

This is an action that has been taken by many other cities and is not out of the ordinary cost of doing business. Arguments against this action can be done at the ballot box.

If the full support of the City Council is not given to putting the measure on the ballot for the residents to vote their conscience, then this is a form of Voter Suppression. The voice of one or two council members does not equal the voice of the residents!

We support changing the cannabis ordinance to tax or use a graduated fee structure on the manufacturing of cannabis and to put this to a vote of the people of Lompoc.

Lorraine Waldau, President
Lompoc Valley Democratic Club
Resident of District 1