

## Lisa Wolfe

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**From:** Lori Grundman <  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 01, 2020 7:01 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe  
**Subject:** Public Comment re: 7/21 Meeting, 15C Resolution Regarding Placing Advisory Question Related to Retail Cannabis on November Ballot

Hello Mayor Patterson, City Council Members, and staff,

I have re-watched the 7/21/20 City Council Meeting, specifically regarding the appropriateness of placing an advisory question regarding retail cannabis on the upcoming November ballot (Business Item 15C). I continue to fail to understand the logic behind Councilman Largaespada's comments. He said, "I think we know what the residents think... My point is, I think an advisory question is just that..."

With all due respect, how can you know what the residents think when you are denying us the opportunity to inform you? Mr. Largaespada, I agree with your point. Indeed, it is advice from the public, via an advisory question, and should be treated as such when crafting proposals and deciding your votes.

Please correct me if I'm wrong, but aren't our City Council Members elected to represent ALL citizens of Benicia during your tenure on the Council? It appears that you are limiting your scope to just those vocal individuals, like me, that send emails or publish their opinions online. Shouldn't ALL of Benicia's opinions be of the utmost importance and thus held in careful consideration whilst making decisions regarding the operation of our City?

I agree that this topic has been discussed ad nauseam, and can be divisive, at times, within the community. But, in the future, please don't dismiss the viewpoints of your constituents, for expediency. As a general rule, I believe knowing what your community thinks can only help to guide and make you a more effective and successful community leader. Accessibility and transparency are both necessary characteristics in our public officials. I am grateful to those Council Members that endeavor to personify these traits.

Thank you.  
Lori Grundman  
Benicia Marina