

# Measure G

## Cannabis Ballot Measure

### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Why are we voting on a tax for cannabis businesses?**

The voters of California approved Proposition 64 in November of 2016, which legalized adult use of cannabis for people that are 21 years of age or older. Beginning on January 1, 2018, the State will begin issuing licenses to cannabis businesses throughout the State. Each City and County in the State must adopt local regulations so that the State issues only the type and number of licenses appropriate for our community. In response, on August 8, 2017, the Cotati City Council voted unanimously to place this ballot measure before voters on November 7, 2017 to establish the financial means to regulate the cannabis industry. Without this measure, the City would need to take funding from the General Fund to regulate this industry, which would reduce available funding for other priorities such as public safety, road maintenance, and park maintenance. If approved by voters, this measure will provide a financial means to properly support and regulate this new industry to ensure public safety.

**2. Who supports or opposes the proposed cannabis business tax?**

After several public meetings and extensive input from both the public and cannabis businesses, the City Council voted 5-0 to place the cannabis business tax on the ballot for the voters. Representatives of the cannabis industry at the public meetings have expressed support for the proposed business tax. No argument against the proposed cannabis business tax was submitted by any individual, business, or group.

**3. Has anyone else in Sonoma County instituted a cannabis business tax?**

Yes, as of October 2017, voters have approved cannabis business taxes in Cloverdale, Santa Rosa, and the County of Sonoma. The proposed cannabis business tax for Cotati is very similar to the existing voter approved cannabis business tax in Santa Rosa. The cannabis tax in the County of Sonoma is significantly different than the proposed cannabis ballot measure in Cotati, and does not apply to Cotati businesses.

**4. Who does the cannabis business tax affect?**

The proposed measure is very narrowly written, and will only affect cannabis businesses. No other businesses in Cotati will be affected by the proposed business tax. The cannabis business tax is not a direct tax on consumers; it is a tax on cannabis businesses if they grow, manufacture, or sell cannabis products in Cotati.

**5. Does the proposed cannabis business tax apply to medicinal cannabis?**

The Cotati City Council exempted the retail sale of medical cannabis from the tax for at least the first 3 years. The proposed cannabis business tax would apply to cultivation and manufacture of all cannabis products.

**6. What are the next steps?**

The Planning Commission and City Council have held, and are continuing to hold, public meetings to discuss what cannabis business types should be legal in Cotati, and where they should be located. If you are interested in this topic, you are encouraged to participate in the process. You can get more information on upcoming meetings by contacting the Community Development Department at 707.665.3637.

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