



THE CITY OF MONTEREY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF MONTEREY PROPOSING BAN ON THE SALE OF FLAVORED TOBACCO AND DISPOSABLE E-CIGARETTES FOR THE HEALTH OF YOUTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Monterey, CA. – The City of Monterey is proposing to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products and single-use disposable e-cigarettes within City limits, and the City Council and staff want community feedback. Two community virtual town halls are scheduled. Register for your preferred Town Hall using the links below:

- **Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** - https://monterey-org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_rrdydk5HQVi0-ruJrYzHBA
- **Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.** - https://monterey-org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_SEWUb6GmRa2ZLribBcdALQ

The ordinance bans the sale of all flavored tobacco and vape products along with all disposable e-cigarette products regardless of flavor by retailers but does not prohibit their continued use and will not impact citizens in possession of flavored tobacco or disposable e-cigarettes. Youth vape usage has been trending upward since the early 2010s and the Surgeon General of the United States declared a youth vaping epidemic in 2018.

“This proposed ban would reduce access to flavored tobacco and disposable e-cigarettes, which target youth in our community and contribute to our nation’s youth vaping epidemic,” explains Assistant City Manager Nat Rojanasathira. “The ban would also reduce the chemicals and

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lithium-ion batteries from disposable e-cigarettes that pollute the environment and enter our waterways and the Monterey Bay.”

The City’s proposal is an effort to minimize underage exposure to flavored tobacco products, which are increasingly marketed to youth by tobacco and vape companies. In addition, a ban on the sale and distribution of disposable e-cigarettes is an extra step to preserve Monterey’s invaluable natural environment. Once passed by the City Council, retailers of these products will have 180 days to sell the remainder of their inventory before the ban is fully enforced.

This comes just a few weeks after the Board of Supervisors passed a similar measure for unincorporated areas in Monterey County. Several other cities in the area have passed similar laws, including Pacific Grove and Santa Cruz, and the State of California passed its own bill in 2020. California voters will consider a veto referendum to overturn Senate Bill 793. The veto referendum has been submitted by the California Coalition for Fairness, a group largely funded by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Philip Morris USA and its affiliated U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Co.

Hundreds of municipalities have enacted similar bans to curb youth vaping and smoking. Studies show that vaping and smoking from a young age inhibit proper brain development and increase the odds of addiction to tobacco and other harmful substances later in life. It has also been found that detrimental chemicals from e-liquid and lithium-ion batteries, often from disposable e-cigarettes, pollute the environment and can be harmful to wildlife and water quality.

Links to register for the meeting and additional information is also posted at <https://haveyoursaymonterey.org/flavoredtobacco>.



[Town Hall Postcard](#)

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