

**From:** Thode Family [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2026 9:08 AM  
**To:** City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>  
**Subject:** Grocery Outlet

Hello,

I received a mailer from Grocery Outlet a few weeks ago. The front of the brochure depicted how the proposed store would look in the former Rite Aid location, resplendent with a parking lot in the foreground showing nary a car, truck, or cycle to be seen...only 3 shoppers depicted coming and going on foot; an idyllic scene to be sure.

Attached to this brochure was a card requesting community input, which I promptly filled out. I placed a large X in the box stating "I oppose Grocery Outlet's proposed Sebastopol store". I hope that you, our city council, will oppose this project as well.

I have nothing against Grocery Outlet. But, at the top of my list for not wanting a Grocery Outlet smack in the middle of town is, I feel that allowing Grocery Outlet to locate here would be a great disservice to the existing markets and shops in our community. There are three grocery stores within 2 blocks of the proposed location, not to mention the other 5 located within easy driving distance. If someone wants to go to Grocery Outlet, it takes all of 15-20 minutes to drive to the Grocery Outlets in Rohnert Park or Sebastopol.

Secondly, I don't feel the parking lot is adequate for a store like Grocery Outlet. Currently, this lot is providing much-needed off-street parking. Sufficient parking helps all the businesses in our downtown area.

I've lived in Sebastopol for 38 years and have seen a lot of changes over the years. Sebastopol has become a vibrant destination, but has retained its heart. I don't feel that a store like Grocery Outlet represents our community well, and would cause great harm to the existing businesses in the area. Please vote no for allowing Grocery Outlet to move into our downtown.

Thank you,

Catherine Thode