

FW: Keep Sebastopol Local

From City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Date Wed 3/25/2026 4:15 PM

To Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Cc Victoria Henkel <vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Zulema Higgins <zhiggins@cityofsebastopol.gov>; John Jay <jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Jane Riley <jriley@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Please see email submitted to the City of Sebastopol.

BCC:Email BCC to City Council and City Attorney

City staff who have also received this email are included into the CC as shown above.

Thank you

Mary Gourley

Interim City Manager

From: Jamie Skikos [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 3:29 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Subject: Keep Sebastopol Local

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I am writing to follow up on my previous email regarding the proposal to bring Grocery Outlet to downtown Sebastopol. After further consideration, I would like to offer additional perspective, particularly in relation to the City's General Plan.

Sebastopol's General Plan was thoughtfully developed to guide decisions such as this. It prioritizes the support of locally rooted businesses, the preservation of a balanced and diverse economy, and the avoidance of over-concentration within specific sectors that could undermine existing establishments.

In a small community like Sebastopol, where several grocery stores already serve a limited population, the introduction of an additional store is unlikely to generate new demand. Instead, it would redistribute existing consumer spending—an outcome the General Plan explicitly cautions against.

Beyond economic considerations, locally owned grocery stores play a vital role in the fabric of our community. They actively support youth sports, contribute to school programs, donate to nonprofit organizations, and provide assistance to families in need. These contributions reflect long-standing relationships and a deep commitment to the community!

Should increased market saturation destabilize even one of these businesses, the consequences would extend well beyond the retail sector. The broader network of community support they provide could be significantly impacted—an outcome that runs counter to the intent of the General Plan.

Sebastopol is already well-served in terms of grocery access. The key question is whether this proposal will strengthen the existing local economy or place it at risk.

I respectfully urge the Council to evaluate this proposal through the lens of the General Plan and its long-term vision for Sebastopol.

Sincerely,

Jamie Skikos