

Introduced by: Council Member, Mark Springer  
Date: July 28, 2015  
Public Hearing: August 11, 2015  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 4-2

## *CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA*

### **Ordinance #15-17**

#### **AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF BETHEL, A BALLOT PROPOSITION AMENDING THE BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT A MARIJUANA RETAIL SALES TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF ~~12% (TWELVE PERCENT)~~ 15% (FIFTEEN PERCENT)**

**SECTION 1. Amendment.** Section 4.13.030 of the Bethel Municipal Code is amended to read (new language is underlined old language is stricken):

4.16.010 E.

Marijuana means all parts of the plant (genus) Cannabis, whether growing or not, the seed thereof, the resin extracted from any part of the plant, and any compound, manufacture, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or its resin, including marijuana concentrate. Marijuana does not include fiber products from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination, or the weight of any other ingredient combined with marijuana to prepare topical or oral administrations, food, drink, or other products.

4.16.030 Imposition – Rate.

A. There is levied and shall be collected a sales tax on all sales transaction in the City unless specifically exempted under this chapter. The tax is six (6) percent of the selling price.

B. The tax to be added to the sale price, shall be twelve percent (12%) for:

1. Transient lodging.
2. Marijuana retail sales.

C. The tax to be added to the sale price, shall be fifteen percent (15%) for:

1. Marijuana retail sales.

**SECTION 2. Election.** An election is to be held on October 6, 2015 in and for the City of Bethel for the purpose of submitting a ballot proposition to the qualified voters of the City of Bethel for approval or rejection. The proposition must receive a majority vote of the qualified voters in the City of Bethel voting on the question to be approved. The Proposition shall be substantially in the following form:

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Shall the City of Bethel establish a ~~12%~~ 15% marijuana retail sales tax on the sales of marijuana in the City of Bethel? (Ordinance No. 15-17)

**SECTION 3.** The proposition, both for paper ballots and machine ballots, shall be printed on a ballot which may set forth other ballot propositions, and the following words shall be added as appropriate and next to a square provided for marking the ballot for voting by a machine.

PROPOSITION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No

Explanation: A "Yes" vote will establish a tax on marijuana sales at a rate of ~~12%~~ 15%.

A "No" vote will maintain a sales tax rate of 6% on marijuana sales.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective December 1, 2015 after ratification by the qualified voters of the City of Bethel voting on the question at the October 6, 2015 City of Bethel Regular Election.

**SECTION 5. Classification.** This ordinance is of permanent nature and shall become a part of the Bethel Municipal Code if the voters in the October 6, 2015 Regular municipal election approve the proposition.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL ALASKA, THIS 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2015, BY A VOTE OF 4 IN FAVOR AND 2 OPPOSED.**

  
Richard Robb, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Lori Strickler, City Clerk