



Analysis of Michigan Recreational Marijuana Proposal

Referendum Highlights

In the Nov. 6 election, Michigan voters will determine fate of a proposal that would allow people to possess and grow marijuana for personal use. Municipal leaders would be allowed to determine if such operations are allowed in their communities. There would be a 10-percent tax, beyond the 6-percent sales tax, for all retail sales of product. The referendum requires revenue generated from this new marijuana tax to be split as follows: 35% to K-12 education, 35% to roads, 15% to communities that allow marijuana businesses, and 15% to counties where businesses are located. ***This vote will have no impact on current laws permitting medical marijuana.***

Why support it?

Supporters: Coalition to Regulate Marijuana like Alcohol, National Cannabis Industry Association, Michigan Cannabis Coalition

- Proposal gives local governments discretion to allow pot growing, dispensaries in their communities
- New source of state and local revenue as proposal requires a specific percentage of that revenue to go to roads, schools, cities and counties
- Allows production of hemp to manufacture paper, textiles, biodegradable plastics, insulation, construction materials, and biofuel (Once a significant industry before made illegal in 1930's)
- Potential new source of economic development for large and small business
- Requires regulated production of drug instead of dangers of all black-market production
- Advocates say prohibition ineffectively wasted money and adversely impacted minorities
- Legalizing marijuana reduces influence, violence from drug cartels as black-market demand decreases

Why oppose it?

Opponents: Healthy and Productive Michigan, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Livonia Police Department

- No explicit statutory protections for employers to maintain a safe, drug-free environment
- Marijuana sales are still against federal law, so banks cannot hold money from pot sales and such transactions create ethical issues for financial services industry
- Advocates say government revenue gains do not make up for increased police and social services costs
- Black market concerns persist since ballot allows possession of 2.5 oz. at a time (about 200 joints)
- There is no test like the preliminary breath test to determine if someone is too impaired to work or drive
- Concerns drug-related traffic crashes and hospitalizations will climb, based on CO, WA data
- Ballot sets no THC limits which permits legal manufacturing of powerful products that could lead to increased addiction or psychotic disorders

Sources:

Coalition to Regulation Marijuana like Alcohol (regulatemi.org)

Healthy and Productive Michigan (healthyandproductivemi.org)

Pro-Con (marijuana.procon.org)

Smart Approaches to Marijuana (learnaboutsam.org)

Marijuana in Michigan: What you Need to Know

(Book from workshop held by Livonia Police, LARA, Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, April 2018)

“Following marijuana Legalization, teen drug use is down in Colorado”

(https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/12/11/following-marijuana-legalization-teen-drug-use-is-down-in-colorado/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.f56181a7a578)

“Marijuana Advocates Explain Why Legalization is the only option for social and racial justice”

(<https://www.aclu.org/news/marijuana-advocates-explain-why-legalization-only-option-social-and-racial-justice>)