



## **NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
THAT A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**WILL BE HELD ON**

**September 03, 2019**

**6:00 PM**

**Location: Oswego Village Hall**

---

- A. CALL TO ORDER**
- B. ROLL CALL**
- C. CONSIDERATION OF AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS ON ANY REQUESTS FOR ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETING**
- D. PUBLIC FORUM**
- E. OLD BUSINESS**
- F. NEW BUSINESS**

F.1. Presentation and Discussion on Adult Use Cannabis.

[Adult Use Cannabis Agenda Memo](#)  
[Adult Use Cannabis Presentation](#)  
[Ottosen Britz Analysis](#)

Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Tina Touchette  
Village Clerk

[IML Resources](#)  
[Memo on Public Survey Results](#)  
[Public Survey Results](#)  
[National Marijuana Initiative Talking Points \(2019\)](#)  
[Denver, CO Annual Marijuana Report \(2018\)](#)  
[Illinois Economic Policy Institute Financial Impact Study](#)

## **G. CLOSED SESSION**

### G.1.

- a. Pending and Probable Litigation [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]
- b. Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Personnel [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]
- c. Collective Bargaining, Collective Negotiating Matters, Deliberations Concerning Salary Schedules [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]
- d. Sale, Lease, and/or Acquisition of Property [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) & (6)]
- e. Security Procedures and the Use of Personnel and Equipment to Respond to an Actual, Threatened, or a Reasonably Potential Danger to the Safety of Employees, Staff, the Public, or Public Property [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8)]

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**



**AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING TYPE:** Committee of the Whole

**MEETING DATE:** September 3, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Adult Use Cannabis Discussion

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Presentation and Discussion on Adult Use Cannabis

**BOARD/COMMISSION REVIEW:**

N/A

**ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN:**

Date of Action	Meeting Type	Action Taken
N/A	N/A	N/A

**DEPARTMENT:** Administration

**SUBMITTED BY:** Dan Di Santo, Village Administrator

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Regardless of whether the Village allows cannabis businesses in Oswego, the State of Illinois will deposit 8% of all cannabis revenues into the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), which distributes funds to all local governments on a per capita basis. These revenues are intended to fund crime prevention programs, training, and interdiction efforts. No valid estimates exist at this time for what Oswego would receive in additional LGDF funds.

If the Village permits cannabis businesses in Oswego and applies a 3% cannabis tax, revenue estimates vary widely from \$53,500 to \$525,000+ per year.

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 25, 2019, Governor Pritzker signed Public Act 101-27 – the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (Cannabis Act) – into law, thereby legalizing and regulating production, consumption, and sale of cannabis in Illinois. Effective on January 1, 2020, persons aged 21 and older may lawfully possess up to 30 grams of cannabis. Municipalities may not restrict authorized private consumption of cannabis; however, the Cannabis Act does allow municipalities to decide whether to, and how to, allow cannabis businesses in town.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Staff prepared the attached presentation on the Cannabis Act for Committee of the Whole discussion. Our goal is to walk the Village Board through the various facets of the Cannabis Act, and at the end recommend that the Village Board direct staff to send the zoning considerations to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a public hearing on October 10. Staff would then return to the Village Board with ordinances to consider, including the Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation on zoning implications.

## **Additional Resources**

As the Village Board prepares for the discussion on September 3, staff has attached several additional resources to aid in the review.

### Village Attorney Analysis

The attached memo prepared by Village Attorney Ottosen Britz outlines the various municipal decisions that should be made under the Cannabis Act.

### Illinois Municipal League Resources

The Illinois Municipal League (IML) prepared the attached fact sheet and model ordinances for municipalities to consider in their decision-making process.

### Public Survey Results

At the direction of the Village Board, staff posted an online survey from August 21 through August 28 to gauge public input on allowing cannabis businesses in Oswego. Attached is a summary of the survey results. Overall 88% of the 1,345 respondents self-identified as Oswego residents. Key findings include:

- 84% support medical dispensaries
- 73% support recreational dispensaries and production facilities
- 60% support cannabis cafés or smoke lounges
- 70% support recreational dispensaries in industrial or retail areas
- 63% support recreational dispensaries in Downtown Oswego
- 80% support a local tax on cannabis products

### Public Safety Information

Attached are talking points from the National Marijuana Initiative (2019) and the City of Denver Annual Marijuana Report (2018). The first report details public health and safety concerns associated with cannabis use. Important to note, however, is that these issues will exist in Illinois and Oswego regardless of whether cannabis businesses are permitted within Oswego.

The second report is an in-depth statistical analysis of the cannabis industry in Denver since recreational cannabis was legalized in 2014. In terms of direct impact of cannabis businesses, one interesting finding is that dispensaries appear to be a higher target for burglaries.

Financial Impact Study

The attached study by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute analyzes the financial impact of legalizing marijuana in Illinois. The report addresses public support for legalizing cannabis, job creation, tax base expansion, business growth, and economic impact to the State of Illinois.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Staff recommends that the Village Board review and discuss the presentation and associated materials and direct staff to conduct a public hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission on October 10, 2019, on the zoning implications of the Cannabis Act.
2. Staff recommends that the Planning and Zoning Commission only consider cannabis business regulation as a special use, subject to conditions, rather than a permitted use in any zoning district.
3. Based on public health concerns as well as public safety concerns with impaired driving from cannabis use and difficulty identifying levels of THC in the field, staff recommends prohibiting cannabis cafés/smoking lounges and smoking cannabis inside any cannabis business.

Staff will then return to the Village Board with ordinances drafted that address the Planning and Zoning Commission recommendations, enactment of a 3% local cannabis tax, and establishing licensing requirements similar to our liquor control regulations.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Staff Presentation
2. Ottosen Britz Analysis
3. IML Resources
4. Memo on Public Survey Results
5. Public Survey Results
6. National Marijuana Initiative Talking Points (2019)
7. Denver, CO Annual Marijuana Report (2018)
8. Illinois Economic Policy Institute Financial Impact Study

# Adult Use Cannabis

Village of Oswego  
Committee of the Whole  
September 3, 2019

# Presentation Outline

- ▶ Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act
- ▶ State Licensing
- ▶ Zoning
- ▶ Public Safety
- ▶ Village Employee Policies
- ▶ State Revenue
- ▶ Local Revenue
- ▶ Economic Development Considerations
- ▶ Public Survey
- ▶ Other Communities
- ▶ Village Board Discussion and Direction

# Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act

- ▶ On June 25, 2019, Governor Pritzker signed the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act into law (Public Act 101-27) legalizing and regulating production, consumption, and sale of cannabis in Illinois
- ▶ Effective on January 1, 2020, persons aged 21 and older may lawfully possess up to 30 grams of cannabis
- ▶ Consumption of cannabis is prohibited in public places, schools, childcare facilities and other locations
- ▶ Municipalities may NOT restrict private consumption of cannabis that is authorized in the Cannabis Act



# State Licensing

- ▶ The Cannabis Act authorizes the production and distribution of cannabis and cannabis products through state-licensed cultivators, craft growers, infusers, transporters and dispensaries
- ▶ Adult Use Licenses will be granted on a graduated scale
  - ▶ Licenses available for January 1, 2020 will only be issued to the existing 55 medical cannabis dispensaries, who will be permitted to open a second adult use dispensary- the application period has already opened
  - ▶ An additional 75 licenses can be applied for this fall and will be awarded before May 1, 2020
  - ▶ After January 1, 2021, another 110 licenses will be available
  - ▶ After January 1, 2022, up to 500 licenses will be available
- ▶ Cultivators will be capped at 50, craft growers at 100, and infusers at 100
- ▶ Home grow cannabis is limited to medical cannabis program participants only

# Zoning

- ▶ The Cannabis Act preserves local zoning authority, including the right for municipalities to “opt-out” and not allow cannabis businesses in town
- ▶ If allowed, municipalities may also regulate the time, place, manner, and number of cannabis businesses through a special use permit

# Public Safety

## ▶ Concerns Regardless of Opt-In or Opt-Out Decision

- ▶ Impaired driving from cannabis use
- ▶ Difficulty identifying levels of THC in the field
- ▶ Increased need for training of DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) Officers
- ▶ Cannabis is currently involved in criminal activities in the Village
- ▶ Expungement process is staff intensive and not easily understood

## ▶ Concerns if the Village Decides to Opt-In

- ▶ Allowing cannabis cafés/smoke lounges and allowing smoking cannabis in cannabis businesses would allow people to smoke cannabis then drive away immediately
- ▶ Dispensaries could become target for burglaries
  - ▶ Denver, Colorado 2018 Annual Marijuana Report states less than 1% of businesses are marijuana related but 10% of burglaries in Denver occur at marijuana businesses.
- ▶ Licensing and compliance checks will require staff time to complete

# Village Employee Policies

- ▶ The Cannabis Act allows municipalities to set reasonable zero-tolerance policies for employee recreational cannabis use
- ▶ Recreational use of cannabis is currently prohibited for Village employees
  - ▶ The Cannabis Act also prohibits police officers and firefighters from using cannabis while on duty
  - ▶ Employees that operate vehicles under a commercial driver's license (CDL), still cannot use cannabis at all under federal Department of Transportation rules, even for medical purposes
- ▶ Staff recommends continuing this prohibition into the future, which will require clarification in the Employee Policy Manual

# State Revenue

- ▶ The State of Illinois will collect revenues from cannabis businesses (taxes and fees), and deposit 8% of all the revenues into the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF)
- ▶ Like other LGDF revenues (income tax), these funds will be distributed on a per capita basis, regardless if the local government permits cannabis businesses in their jurisdiction
- ▶ These revenues are intended to fund crime prevention programs, training, and interdiction efforts

# Local Revenue

- ▶ Municipalities that permit cannabis businesses within their jurisdiction may impose a Municipal Purchase Excise Tax on adult use cannabis products of up to 3%, in 0.25% increments
- ▶ At this point it appears that the 1% state local sales tax will also apply, as would the Village of Oswego's 1.25% home rule sales tax
- ▶ If the Village of Oswego permitted cannabis businesses and imposed a local tax at the full 3%, the total local tax on cannabis products could be 5.25%
- ▶ Dispensary revenue estimates vary widely from \$1 million to \$10 million+ per year
  - ▶ This equates to an estimated \$52,500 to \$525,000+ per year in local revenue per dispensary using Village of Oswego tax rates

# Economic Development Considerations

- ▶ Increased tax base
  - ▶ There is the potential for significant new revenue streams to be injected into the local Oswego economy
  - ▶ Local tourism could increase, particularly if neighboring communities do not allow for licenses.
- ▶ Location of cannabis businesses
  - ▶ Cannabis businesses could depress or increase neighboring business' revenue
  - ▶ There is some evidence that legal cannabis businesses have increased nearby industrial property values and contributed to revitalizing dying retail strip centers
- ▶ Influence on image/perception of Oswego (positive and negative)
  - ▶ A 2017 survey by Southern Illinois University Carbondale found that 66% of registered voters in Illinois supported legalizing marijuana
  - ▶ Similar surveys have found the most support from the Millennial and Gen X cohorts
- ▶ Competition for limited licenses
  - ▶ If the Village Board is inclined to support cannabis businesses in Oswego, it may be advantageous to decide quickly in order to have the best chance at securing any of the limited number of licenses available

# Economic Development Considerations (continued)

► Job creation

- Industry experts claim legalized cannabis as having the fastest area of job creation in the U.S. and estimates in 2018 that there were 211,000 Americans directly employed in legalized cannabis jobs

**Figure 6: Estimated Annual Economic Impacts of Legalizing Marijuana in Illinois, By 2020**

Impact on Sales, Businesses, Employment, and Gross State Product	Annual Estimate
Total Estimated Marijuana Sales in Illinois	\$1,616.20 million
Number of Establishments (Firms Created)	2,633 businesses
Total Employment (Jobs Created) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Direct Jobs at Marijuana Dispensaries and Manufacturers</i></li> <li>• <i>Induced Jobs from Higher Consumer Demand</i></li> </ul>	23,618 jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>19,486 jobs</i></li> <li>• <i>4,132 jobs</i></li> </ul>
Net Economic Impact (Annual Gross State Product)	\$1,000.17 million

Source(s): Authors' estimates from an economic simulation using IMPLAN (IMPLAN, 2018) based on legal recreational marijuana market estimates from Figure 4.



# Public Survey

- ▶ On August 21, the Village posted an online survey for one week asking the public for their opinion on local cannabis business regulation
  - ▶ **84.01%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support retail medical Dispensaries.
  - ▶ **73.46%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support manufacturing facilities for extraction or infusion.
  - ▶ **73.13%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support indoor cultivation centers
  - ▶ **72.59%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support Retail Recreational Dispensaries.
  - ▶ **60.03%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support Cannabis cafes or smoke lounges
- ▶ The survey also asked about where cannabis businesses should be located
  - ▶ **69.62%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support a retail recreational dispensary in industrial parks
  - ▶ **69.60%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support a retail recreational dispensary in retail areas such as Route 34, Route 71, Route 30, or Orchard Road
  - ▶ **62.92%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support a retail recreational dispensary in Downtown/Main Street
- ▶ **79.85%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support a local tax on cannabis products.
- ▶ Of all respondents, **95.05%** self-identified as an Oswego resident (88.03%), business owner, or both.

# Current Area-Medical Dispensaries

- ▶ Addison
- ▶ Buffalo Grove
- ▶ Chicago
- ▶ Elmwood Park
- ▶ Evanston
- ▶ Highland Park
- ▶ Homewood
- ▶ Joliet
- ▶ Justice
- ▶ Mokena
- ▶ Mount Prospect
- ▶ Mundelein
- ▶ Naperville
- ▶ North Aurora
- ▶ Oak Park
- ▶ Posen
- ▶ Rolling Meadows
- ▶ Romeoville
- ▶ St. Charles
- ▶ Worth

# Other Communities

- ▶ **Aurora**
  - ▶ No formal discussion has taken place
- ▶ **Batavia**
  - ▶ The Mayor says he will veto any ordinance granting a cannabis business license
- ▶ **Geneva**
  - ▶ September 23 Board discussion
- ▶ **Kendall County**
  - ▶ September COW discussion
- ▶ **Naperville\***
  - ▶ Will consider “opt-in” Ordinances on September 3
- ▶ **Montgomery**
  - ▶ Discussions have begun and will continue over the next couple months
- ▶ **North Aurora\***
  - ▶ Plan Commission will discuss in September and Village Board review likely in November
- ▶ **Plainfield**
  - ▶ September COW Discussion
- ▶ **Plano**
  - ▶ September 9 COW discussion with a goal to vote on ordinances next month
- ▶ **Sandwich**
  - ▶ September 16 COW discussion
- ▶ **St. Charles\***
  - ▶ “Opt-In” passed Committee and will be sent to the Plan Commission
- ▶ **Sugar Grove**
  - ▶ Planned Board discussion in late September
- ▶ **Yorkville**
  - ▶ First read of Ordinance expected on September 10

# Discussion and Direction

- ▶ Staff recommends that the Village Board direct staff to conduct a public hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission on October 10, 2019, on the zoning implications of the Cannabis Act.
- ▶ Staff recommends that the Planning and Zoning Commission only consider cannabis business regulation as a special use, subject to conditions, rather than a permitted use in any zoning district.
- ▶ Based on public health concerns as well as public safety concerns with impaired driving from cannabis use and difficulty identifying levels of THC in the field, staff recommends prohibiting cannabis cafés/smoking lounges and smoking cannabis inside any cannabis business.

# Planning and Zoning Commission Considerations

- ▶ Appropriate Zoning Districts
  - ▶ Retail Recreational Dispensaries
  - ▶ Indoor Cultivation Centers
  - ▶ Manufacturing Facilities for Extraction/Infusion
  - ▶ Craft Growers
  - ▶ Transporters
- ▶ Permitted locations
  - ▶ Downtown
  - ▶ Retail Areas (eg Rt 34, Rt 30, Rt 71, Orchard Road)
  - ▶ Industrial Parks (eg Stonehill, Kendall Point)
- ▶ Hours of operation
- ▶ Signage
- ▶ Distance from other uses (eg schools, parks, childcare facilities, places of worship)
  - ▶ The Cannabis Act requires all dispensaries to be 1,500 from each other

# Next Steps

- ▶ Along with Planning and Zoning Commission recommendations on zoning, staff will return to the Village Board with ordinances drafted that address the following:
  - ▶ Enacting a local cannabis tax of up to 3%
    - ▶ The Village Board can earmark the funds for specific purposes such as police staffing and training or any other purpose
  - ▶ Licensing requirements similar to liquor control regulations
    - ▶ Requiring a text amendment for each new license
    - ▶ Establishing penalties for violations
    - ▶ Requiring security, interior and exterior design, and business plans

The End

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Oswego Village Board

**From:** Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

**Date:** August 20, 2019

**Re:** Municipal Decisions Post-Cannabis Legalization

---

Beginning January 1, 2020, the sale, possession, and use of recreational cannabis will be legal throughout Illinois. Earlier this year, the General Assembly voted 38-17-2 in the Senate and 66-47-2 in the House in favor of the legislation. Governor J.B. Pritzker then signed Public Act 101-0027 on June 25, 2019.

The clock is ticking for municipalities to take action. Although the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (410 ILCS 705/1-1, *et seq.*) does not allow municipalities (including home rule) to prohibit private consumption of marijuana, public consumption is still within municipalities' regulatory authority. That means there are many decisions village boards and city councils must make soon:

- Will cannabis businesses be allowed in the municipality? All types?
- Does zoning need to change for cannabis businesses?
- What reasonable restrictions should be placed on cannabis businesses?
- Should a local cannabis sales tax be imposed?
- Is the local municipal code compliant with the new law?
- Do the municipality's employment procedures need updating?
- Is the police department prepared to deal with expungements?

What follows is a general overview of each of these topics. The actual execution of any ordinance, resolution, or zoning amendment would depend upon what the municipality currently has in place.

### **Permitting Cannabis Businesses**

The first and most important decision municipalities will need to make regarding the legalization of "adult-use cannabis" (as the Act refers to it) is whether they want cannabis businesses setting up shop in their community. The new law allows municipalities to "opt-out" of the business-side of recreational cannabis (410 ILCS 705/55-25(5)).

The types of businesses identified in the Act are:

- Cannabis Craft Grower
  - Cultivates, dries, cures, and packages cannabis
- Cannabis Cultivation Center
  - Cultivates, processes, and transports cannabis



- Cannabis Dispensing Organization
  - Acquires, sells, and dispenses cannabis, cannabis products, and cannabis paraphernalia
- Cannabis Infuser Organization
  - Incorporates cannabis or cannabis concentrate into cannabis products
- Cannabis Processing Organization
  - Extracts chemicals to create cannabis concentrate, or incorporate cannabis into cannabis products
- Cannabis Transporting Organization
  - Transports cannabis on behalf of cannabis businesses

These businesses are for “adult-use” cannabis, not medical-use cannabis.

Municipalities must pick and choose which types of businesses they want to allow within their borders. If the municipality decides to ban any or all cannabis businesses, an ordinance must be passed before the end of this year to that effect. The ordinance should 1) prohibit that type of business specifically, 2) declare the operation of that type of business a public nuisance, and 3) establish penalties for violating the ordinance.

These ordinances should be adopted before the end of 2019, though the Act does not set a deadline for opting-out (the original draft language created a one-year deadline, otherwise a referendum was necessary to make changes).

Importantly, there are limits to the number of cannabis businesses allowed in the state. Initially, licenses will only be issued to 75 Dispensaries, 40 Craft Growers, and 40 Infusers. Those numbers will be increased year-by-year, though. Additionally, since many municipalities are opting out of these businesses, the demand among potential owners will likely increase as available destinations shrink. That means if a municipality does not opt-out, there is a good chance a cannabis business will eventually come to town, despite the limit on licenses.

Also, medical-use cannabis cultivators and dispensaries will have the first access to state licenses for adult-use cannabis. If a municipality already permits medical-use cannabis businesses but wants to prohibit or limit similar operations for adult-use cannabis, an ordinance should be passed to mark the distinction.

### **Cannabis Business Regulations**

If a municipality chooses to allow certain or all cannabis business establishments, the municipality (home rule or non-home rule) can still regulate the operation of the business to an extent (410 ILCS 705/55-25(1)-(4)).

Municipalities can basically treat these cannabis establishments like liquor stores. The businesses are licensed through the state, but a municipality could require that a business obtain a conditional use permit before setting up shop. This would allow the municipality to limit the number of each type of cannabis business, requiring each business applicant

to come before the governing body. The municipality could also restrict the hours of operation of the business and the location of the business relative to schools, day cares, and other sensitive areas.

Municipalities have the leeway to pass any other reasonable regulations on the manner in which cannabis businesses are conducted. That includes whether cannabis can be smoked on-premises at a cannabis business. If allowed by the municipality, that business would not be a “public place” under the Smoke Free Illinois Act (410 ILCS 82/1, *et seq.*)

In addition to passing ordinances establishing these regulations, municipalities should also amend their zoning map, limiting cannabis businesses to certain areas depending on the type of business. For instance, a Craft Grower or Cultivation Center might belong in an agricultural zone, an Infuser or Processor in an industrial zone, and a Dispensary in a commercial zone. Remember, though, that the zoning change cannot prohibit cultivation of cannabis plants in a person’s home for personal, medicinal use.

### **Local Cannabis Sales Tax**

Governor Pritzker openly advertised cannabis legalization as a means for generating tax revenue. Of course, his primary goal was to benefit the state’s finances, as his budget includes significant income from the state adult-use cannabis privilege tax (410 ILCS 705/60-10), excise tax (410 ILCS 705/65-10), and license fees. That money will be deposited into the Cannabis Regulation Fund, part of which (8% of deposits) will be distributed indirectly to local governments through the Local Government Distributive Fund. The Act provides that the money be used for crime prevention programs, training, and interdiction efforts relating to the illegal cannabis market.

The amount each local government will receive from the state tax will be fairly modest. However, the Act does allow both home rule and non-home rule municipalities to collect local taxes from dispensaries on the sale of adult-use cannabis products (i.e., not medical use). The tax is limited to 3% of gross receipts; anything less than that must be in 0.25% increments. This is in addition to all other occupation, privilege, or excise taxes. (65 ILCS 5/8-11-22).

The Act is somewhat unclear on when a local cannabis tax would take effect. As written, an ordinance imposing the tax must be adopted and filed with the Department of Revenue (which will retain 1.5% of the tax income as an administrative fee) by June 1, 2020. Then the new tax rate would be implemented after September 1, 2020. The problem with that timeline, of course, is that municipalities would potentially lose out on nine months of tax revenue after cannabis is legalized. We expect the General Assembly to clarify this procedure during their November session.

### **State Funding**

The Act includes efforts to help communities impacted by the enforcement of drug laws over the years. (410 ILCS 705/10-40). The Restore, Reinvest and Renew (R3) Program

will foster the identification of areas that need funding due to their historic violence and economic disinvestment. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) will analyze data to determine the communities most in need of help. Once these R3 areas have been identified across the state, grant applications will be made available to municipalities within those areas. A 22-member board will then award funds for the purpose of economic development, violence prevention, re-entry services, youth development, and civil legal aid.

### **Local Municipal Code**

Many municipalities have cannabis prohibitions written into their Code, allowing for administrative penalties for certain offenses. Those prohibitions are moot as of January 1, 2020. However, the new law does not make cannabis legal in all circumstances. There are still restrictions on personal use, which should be written into municipal codes, thus continuing to allow local enforcement.

The Act states that municipalities may adopt and enforce local ordinances regarding cannabis possession and consumption, as long as those regulations are consistent with the Act. (410 ILCS 705/10-10, 10-15). Examples include:

- No one under 21 years of age may possess, consume, use, purchase, obtain, or transport any amount of cannabis;
- No resident of Illinois who is 21 years of age or older may possess more than 30 grams of cannabis, 500 milligrams of THC contained in cannabis-infused product, or 5 grams of cannabis concentrate, unless authorized for medical reasons.
- No non-resident of Illinois who is 21 years of age or older may possess more than 15 grams of cannabis, 250 milligrams of THC contained in cannabis-infused product, or 2.5 grams of cannabis concentrate, unless authorized for medical reasons.
- No resident may cultivate cannabis plants for personal use unless they are 1) 21 years of age or older, and 2) are a registered qualifying patient under Illinois's Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act (410 ILCS 130/1, *et seq.*). If both qualifications are met, residents may grow no more than 5 cannabis plants, no more than 5 inches tall, in an enclosed, locked space.

Bear in mind that any municipal provisions for seizure of property would also need to conform to the new legal cannabis limits.

Municipalities also may reasonably regulate the location of public consumption, as with alcohol. The Act specifically allows municipalities to create prohibitions on using cannabis in public places, in motor vehicles, and near people under the age of 21. The Smoke Free Illinois Act (410 ILCS 82/1, *et seq.*) applies to smoking cannabis, and vehicles may not be operated under the influence of cannabis.

These local regulations can still be enforced through local prosecutions, which means any ordinances regarding administrative adjudication also will need to be amended.

## **Employment Policies**

Aside from the many public ordinance considerations, municipalities also need to think about changing their internal policies regarding employment in light of the cannabis legalization.

The Act specifically states that employers are still allowed to adopt reasonable zero-tolerance and drug-free workplace policies despite marijuana being legal. (410 ILCS 705/10-50) By way of comparison, alcohol is a legal substance after age 21, but most employers have policies against coming to work drunk and drinking alcohol at work.

Reasonable policies would include prohibiting consumption, storage, or use of cannabis while at work; arriving at work (or being on-call) while under the influence of cannabis; and employee drug testing. However, there are two complications with workplace policies for cannabis versus alcohol: 1) cannabis stays in the system much longer than alcohol, and 2) there is no clear basis for “level of impairment.” The “Driving While Impaired” statute, though, sets the level of impairment at 5 nanograms of THC in whole blood, or 10 nanograms of THC in another bodily substance.

The best solution might be a zero-tolerance policy. That way, as long as employees are made fully aware of the policy and no testing occurs for 60 days, the municipality would be within its rights to discipline an employee who tested positive for cannabis while on the job.

Importantly, the Act already prohibits police officers and firefighters from using cannabis while on duty, but policies and contracts should be updated to clarify how that will be enforced. Those operating a vehicle under a commercial driver’s license (CDL) still cannot use cannabis at all under federal Department of Transportation rules, even for medical purposes, as any trace of marijuana on a test is grounds for termination.

## **Expungements**

The decriminalization of marijuana (in smaller amounts) is not just prospective. The Act also amends the Criminal Identification Act (20 ILCS 2630/5.2(i)) to provide for automatic expungement of criminal records in certain situations.

As of June 25, 2019, police departments must expunge all criminal history records of a person arrested for a “minor cannabis offense,” provided certain qualifications are met. The Act considers a “minor cannabis offense” to be any violation of Sections 4 and 5 of the Cannabis Control Act (720 ILCS 550/1, *et seq.*) involving 30 grams or less of cannabis, unless the penalty was enhanced due to some other crime. If the person qualifies, all arrest records, charges, orders of supervision, and orders of qualified probation should be destroyed, along with any mention of the person’s name in the public record related to the minor cannabis offense. This include code violation records.

There are two requirements for arrest record expungement:

- 1) At least one year has elapsed since the offender's arrest or interaction with police;
- 2) No criminal charges were filed as a result of the arrest or encounter, or criminal charges were filed but were dismissed or vacated, or the person was acquitted of those charges.

If that second requirement cannot be verified, meeting the first requirement is enough to expunge.

The Act also creates a staggered timeline for expungement based on the age of records:

- Records from January 1, 2013 to June 25, 2019 must be expunged by January 1, 2021.
- Records from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2012 must be expunged by January 1, 2023.
- Records from before January 1, 2000 must be expunged before January 1, 2025.

The Act also gives offenders an avenue for expunging convictions, which must go through the courts and state police. However, if a conviction is expunged, then that is equivalent to charges being vacated, so the person's arrest records would then be eligible for expungement as well.

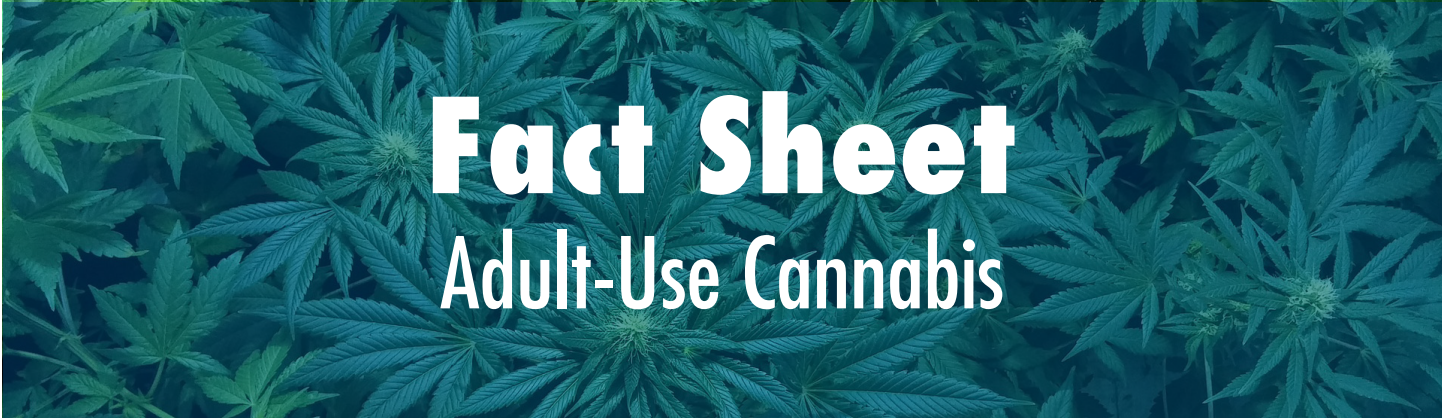


# Adult-Use Cannabis Resources

7/16/19

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Fact Sheet: Adult-Use Cannabis</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Model Ordinance: Municipal Cannabis Business Prohibition</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Model Ordinance: Municipal Cannabis Business Zoning</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Model Ordinance: Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Disclaimers and Referrals</b>	<b>20</b>



# Fact Sheet

## Adult-Use Cannabis



## Adult-Use Cannabis

Public Act 101-0027 creates the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act and was signed into law by Governor JB Pritzker on June 25, 2019. Effective January 1, 2020, the Act legalizes the possession and private use of cannabis for Illinois residents over 21 years of age.



7/15/19

### LOCAL REGULATION OF CONSUMPTION

Municipalities may not restrict the private consumption of cannabis that is authorized by the Act. However, the Act prohibits the use of cannabis in public places, schools and child care facilities among other locations. Municipalities may adopt and enforce local ordinances to regulate possession and public consumption of cannabis so long as the regulations and penalties are consistent with the Act.

### HOME GROW LIMITED TO MEDICAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Home grow cannabis will be authorized only for medical cannabis program participants, and is limited to five plants in their residence and subject to specified restrictions. Home grow of recreational cannabis by non-medical participants is prohibited. [More information about the medical cannabis program is available via this link.](#)



### ZONING

The Act preserves local zoning authority and directly authorizes municipalities to prohibit (opt out) or significantly limit the location of cannabis businesses by ordinance. Municipalities will have the authority to enact reasonable zoning regulations that are not in conflict with the act. This would include the authority to opt out of either commercial production or distribution (dispensaries) of adult-use cannabis within their jurisdiction. Municipalities also may enact zoning ordinances and regulations designating the time, place, manner and number of cannabis business operations, including minimum distances between locations through conditional use permits.

### BUSINESS REGULATION

In addition to zoning authority, municipalities will have the authority to allow for on-premise use of cannabis at locations to be determined locally. The Act anticipates that local authorities will engage in inspections of cannabis-related businesses. Municipalities may establish and impose civil penalties for violations of the local ordinances and regulations.

## LOCAL REVENUE

Municipalities, by ordinance, may impose a Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax on adult-use cannabis products of up to 3% of the purchase price, in .25% increments. Counties may impose up to 3.75% in unincorporated areas, in .25% increments. The taxes imposed under this Act shall be in addition to all other occupation, privilege or excise taxes imposed by the State of Illinois or by any unit of local government, such as sales tax.



## SMOKE FREE ILLINOIS ACT

The Act applies the restrictions of the Smoke Free Illinois Act on smoking cannabis, and provides that property owners may prohibit the use of cannabis by any guest, lessee, customer or visitor. In addition, lessors may prohibit cultivation of cannabis by their lessees.

## EMPLOYER PROVISIONS

The Act provides employer protections including that nothing in the enactment prohibits employers from adopting reasonable zero-tolerance or drug-free workplace employment policies concerning drug testing, smoking, consumption, storage or use of cannabis in the workplace or while on-call. These policies must be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner. Employers may prohibit the use of cannabis by employees in the workplace, and engage in discipline, including termination, for violations of those policies and workplace rules.

## STATE LICENSING

The Act authorizes the production and distribution of cannabis and cannabis products through state-licensed cultivators, craft growers, infusers, transporters and dispensaries. Cannabis transporters will be separately licensed by the Act, as well. A market study due in March 2021 will inform future licensing. The state will issue licenses according to a graduated scale. By the end of the first year, there will be up to 295 dispensing organizations. The Act will allow up to 500 dispensing organizations by January 1, 2022. Cultivators will be capped at 50, and 100 craft growers will be allowed. By that same date, 100 infusers will also be authorized to be licensed.

## GRANTS AND INVESTMENT

The Act establishes the Restore, Reinvest and Renew (R3) Program to invest in communities historically impacted by economic disinvestment and violence. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) will identify R3 areas that qualify for funding, and grants will be awarded by the R3 Board. A 22-member R3 Board will award grants throughout the state, subject to an application process and the Government Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA); the R3 Board shall be chaired by the Lt. Governor.

## SOCIAL EQUITY

The Act provides for a social equity program to establish a legal cannabis industry that is accessible to those most adversely impacted by the enforcement of drug-related laws in this state, including cannabis-related laws. Qualifying social equity applicants may be awarded financial assistance and incentives if they are interested in establishing cannabis related businesses.

## DECRIMINALIZATION AND EXPUNGEMENTS

A significant portion of the Act addresses the decriminalization of cannabis through mandatory and discretionary expungements of criminal convictions relating to non-violent cannabis offenses.

## STATE REVENUE

State revenues derived from the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act will be deposited into the Cannabis Regulation Fund. The funds will be distributed to multiple state agencies for implementation of the Act. The legalization of adult cannabis also includes a new source of Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) dollars. A portion of the Cannabis Regulation Fund revenues (8% of deposits) will go to local governments, through LGDF, which will be used to fund crime prevention programs, training and interdiction efforts. The Cannabis Regulation Fund is derived from moneys collected from state taxes, license fees and other amounts required to be transferred into the Fund.





# Model Ordinance

## Municipal Cannabis Business Prohibition

**MODEL ORDINANCE  
MUNICIPAL CANNABIS BUSINESS PROHIBITION**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE  
OF THE CITY/VILLAGE OF \_\_\_\_\_  
BY THE ADDITION OF [ARTICLE/CHAPTER] \_\_\_\_\_  
PROHIBITING CANNABIS BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the City/Village has the authority to adopt ordinances and to promulgate rules and regulations [that pertain to its government and affairs and] that protect the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, Public Act 101-0027, which provides that the City/Village has the authority to prohibit adult-use cannabis business establishments; and

**WHEREAS**, the City/Village has determined that the operation of cannabis business establishments would present adverse impacts upon the health, safety and welfare of the residents, and additional costs, burdens and impacts upon law enforcement and regulatory operations of the City/Village; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City/Board of Trustees of the Village of \_\_\_\_\_ as follows:

**SECTION 1. Recitals.** The facts and statements contained in the preamble to this Ordinance are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 2. Cannabis Business Establishments Prohibited.** Chapter \_\_\_ of the Municipal Code of the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ shall be amended by the addition of [Article/Chapter] \_\_\_ that will read as follows:

**ARTICLE [CHAPTER] \_\_\_ Cannabis Business Establishments Prohibited.**

**1. Definitions.** The following words and phrases shall, for the purposes of this Article [Chapter], have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section, as follows:

**ADULT-USE CANNABIS BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT:** A cultivation center, craft grower, processing organization, infuser organization, dispensing organization or transporting organization.

**ADULT-USE CANNABIS CRAFT GROWER:** A facility operated by an organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture to cultivate, dry, cure

and package cannabis and perform other necessary activities to make cannabis available for sale at a dispensing organization or use at a processing organization, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A.101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

**ADULT-USE CANNABIS CULTIVATION CENTER:** A facility operated by an organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture to cultivate, process, transport and perform necessary activities to provide cannabis and cannabis-infused products to licensed cannabis business establishments, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A.101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

**ADULT-USE CANNABIS DISPENSING ORGANIZATION:** A facility operated by an organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to acquire cannabis from licensed cannabis business establishments for the purpose of selling or dispensing cannabis, cannabis-infused products, cannabis seeds, paraphernalia or related supplies to purchasers or to qualified registered medical cannabis patients and caregivers, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A.101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

**ADULT-USE CANNABIS INFUSER ORGANIZATION OR INFUSER:** A facility operated by an organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture to directly incorporate cannabis or cannabis concentrate into a product formulation to produce a cannabis-infused product, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A.101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

**ADULT-USE CANNABIS PROCESSING ORGANIZATION OR PROCESSOR:** A facility operated by an organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture to either extract constituent chemicals or compounds to produce cannabis concentrate or incorporate cannabis or cannabis concentrate into a product formulation to produce a cannabis product, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A.101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

**ADULT-USE CANNABIS TRANSPORTING ORGANIZATION OR TRANSPORTER:** An organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture to transport cannabis on behalf of a cannabis business establishment or a community college licensed under the Community College Cannabis Vocational Training Pilot Program, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A.101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

**PERSON:** Any person, firm, corporation, association, club, society or other organization, including any owner, manager, proprietor, employee, volunteer or agent.

**2. Cannabis Business Establishments Prohibited.** The following Adult-Use Cannabis Business Establishments are prohibited in the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_. No person shall locate, operate, own, suffer, allow to be operated or aide, abet or assist in the operation within the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ of any of the following:

- Adult-Use Cannabis Craft Grower
- Adult-Use Cannabis Cultivation Center
- Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization
- Adult-Use Cannabis Infuser Organization or Infuser
- Adult-Use Cannabis Processing Organization or Processor
- Adult-Use Cannabis Transporting Organization or Transporter

**3. Public Nuisance Declared.** Operation of any prohibited Cannabis Business Establishment within the City/Village in violation of the provisions of this Article [Chapter] is hereby declared a public nuisance and shall be abated pursuant to all available remedies.

**4. Violations.** Violations of this Article [Chapter] may be enforced in accordance with the provisions of Article [Chapter] \_\_\_\_ of this Code.

**5. Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application of any provision of this Ordinance, is held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such occurrence shall not affect other provisions of this Ordinance, or their application, that can be given effect without the unconstitutional or invalid provision or its application. Each unconstitutional or invalid provision, or application of such provision, is severable, unless otherwise provided by this Ordinance.

**6. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Village President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/Village Clerk



# **Model Ordinance**

## **Municipal Cannabis Business Zoning**

**MODEL ORDINANCE  
MUNICIPAL CANNABIS BUSINESS ZONING**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER \_\_ (ZONING TITLE, PURPOSE, DEFINITIONS), CHAPTER \_\_ (GENERAL ZONING PROVISIONS), CHAPTER \_\_ (COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS), AND CHAPTER \_\_ (INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS) OF TITLE \_\_ (ZONING ORDINANCE) OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO ADULT-USE CANNABIS**

**WHEREAS**, the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_, Illinois, has enacted Municipal Code Regulations for the purpose of improving and protecting the public health, safety, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the people; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois enacted the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (Act), which pertains to the possession, use, cultivation, transportation and dispensing of adult-use cannabis, which became effective June 25, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Act, the City/Village may enact reasonable zoning ordinances or resolutions not in conflict with the Act, regulating cannabis business establishments, including rules adopted governing the time, place, manner and number of cannabis business establishments, and minimum distance limitations between cannabis business establishments and locations the City/Village deems sensitive; and

**WHEREAS**, on \_\_\_\_\_, the City Council/Village Board initiated an amendment to Title \_\_ (Zoning Ordinance) to review and consider additional amendments to further regulate adult-use cannabis facilities within the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning and Zoning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals conducted public hearings, as required by law, on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in regards to the proposed amendments to Title \_\_ (Zoning Ordinance) of the \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Code pertaining to adult-use cannabis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning and Zoning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals recommended approval of the proposed amendments to Title \_\_ (Zoning Ordinance) on \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City/Board of Trustees of the Village of \_\_\_\_\_ as follows:

**SECTION 1:** The recitals set forth above are incorporated herein.

**SECTION 2:** Chapter \_\_ (Zoning Title, Purpose, Definitions) of Title \_\_ (Zoning Ordinance) of the \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, as follows:



\* \* \*

ADULT-USE CANNABIS BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT:

An adult-use cannabis cultivation center, craft grower, processing organization, infuser organization, dispensing organization or transporting organization.

ADULT-USE CANNABIS CRAFT GROWER:

A facility operated by an organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture to cultivate, dry, cure and package cannabis and perform other necessary activities to make cannabis available for sale at a dispensing organization or use at a processing organization, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A. 101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

ADULT-USE CANNABIS CULTIVATION CENTER:

A facility operated by an organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture to cultivate, process, transport and perform necessary activities to provide cannabis and cannabis-infused products to licensed cannabis business establishments, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A. 101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

ADULT-USE CANNABIS DISPENSING ORGANIZATION:

A facility operated by an organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to acquire cannabis from licensed cannabis business establishments for the purpose of selling or dispensing cannabis, cannabis-infused products, cannabis seeds, paraphernalia or related supplies to purchasers or to qualified registered medical cannabis patients and caregivers, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A. 101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

ADULT-USE CANNABIS INFUSER ORGANIZATION OR INFUSER:

A facility operated by an organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture to directly incorporate cannabis or cannabis concentrate into a product formulation to produce a cannabis-infused product, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A. 101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

ADULT-USE CANNABIS PROCESSING ORGANIZATION OR PROCESSOR:

A facility operated by an organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture to either extract constituent chemicals or compounds to produce cannabis concentrate or incorporate cannabis or cannabis concentrate into a product formulation to produce a cannabis product, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A. 101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

ADULT-USE CANNABIS TRANSPORTING ORGANIZATION OR TRANSPORTER:

An organization or business that is licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture to transport cannabis on behalf of a cannabis business establishment or a community college licensed under the Community College Cannabis Vocational Training Pilot Program, per the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (P.A. 101-0027), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

\* \* \*

**SECTION 3:** Chapter \_\_ (General Zoning Provisions) of Title \_\_ (Zoning Ordinance) of the \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, as follows:

\* \* \*

**: ADULT-USE CANNABIS:**

1. Purpose and Applicability: It is the intent and purpose of this Section to provide regulations regarding the cultivation, processing and dispensing of adult-use cannabis occurring within the corporate limits of the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ . Such facilities shall comply with all regulations provided in the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (P.A. 101-0027) (Act), as it may be amended from time-to-time, and regulations promulgated thereunder, and the regulations provided below. In the event that the Act is amended, the more restrictive of the state or local regulations shall apply.

2. Conditional Use: Adult-Use Cannabis Business Establishment facilities, as defined herein, requiring approval of a conditional use in the respective districts in which they are requested shall be processed in accordance with Section \_\_\_\_\_ (Conditional Uses) of this Title and Section 3 (Adult-Use Cannabis Facility Components) as provided herein.

3. Adult-Use Cannabis Facility Components: In determining compliance with Section \_\_\_\_\_ (Conditional Uses) of this Title, the following components of the Adult-Use Cannabis Facility shall be evaluated based on the entirety of the circumstances affecting the particular property in the context of the existing and intended future use of the properties:

3.1 Impact of the proposed facility on existing or planned uses located within the vicinity of the subject property.

3.2 Proposed structure in which the facility will be located, including co-tenancy (if in a multi-tenant building), total square footage, security installations/security plan and building code compliance.

3.3 Hours of operation and anticipated number of customers/employees.

3.4 Anticipated parking demand based on Section \_\_\_\_\_ and available private parking supply.

3.5 Anticipated traffic generation in the context of adjacent roadway capacity and access to such roadways.

3.6 Site design, including access points and internal site circulation.

3.7 Proposed signage plan.

3.8 Compliance with all requirements provided in Section 4 (Adult-Use Cannabis Craft Grower); Section 5 (Adult-Use Cannabis Cultivation Center); Section 6 (Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization); Section 7 (Adult-Use Cannabis Infuser Organization); Section 8 (Adult-Use Cannabis Processing Organization); or Section 9 (Adult-Use Cannabis Transporting Organization), as applicable.

3.8 Other criteria determined to be necessary to assess compliance with Section \_\_\_\_\_ (Conditional Uses) of this Title.

4. Adult-Use Cannabis Craft Grower: In those zoning districts in which an Adult-Use Cannabis Craft Grower may be located, the proposed facility must comply with the following:

4.1 Facility may not be located within 1,500 feet of the property line of a pre-existing public or private nursery school, preschool, primary or secondary school, day care center, day care home or residential care home. Learning centers and vocational/trade centers shall not be classified as a public or private school for purposes of this Section.

4.2 Facility may not be located within 1,500 feet of the property line of a pre-existing property zoned or used for residential purposes.

4.3 Facility may not conduct any sales or distribution of cannabis other than as authorized by the Act.

4.4 For purposes of determining required parking, Adult-Use Cannabis Craft Grower shall be classified as “\_\_\_\_\_” per Section \_\_\_\_ (Schedule of Off-Street Parking Requirements: Industrial Uses), provided, however, that the City/Village may require that additional parking be provided as a result of the analysis completed through Section \_\_\_\_ (Adult-Use Cannabis: Conditional Use) herein.

4.5 Petitioner shall file an affidavit with the City/Village affirming compliance with Section \_\_\_\_ as provided herein and all other requirements of the Act.

5. Adult-Use Cannabis Cultivation Center: In those zoning districts in which an Adult-Use Cannabis Cultivation Center may be located, the proposed facility must comply with the following:

5.1 Facility may not be located within 1,500 feet of the property line of a pre-existing public or private nursery school, preschool, primary or secondary school, day care center, day care home or residential care home. Learning centers and vocational/trade centers shall not be classified as a public or private school for purposes of this Section.

5.2 Facility may not be located within 1,500 feet of the property line of a pre-existing property zoned or used for residential purposes.

5.3 Facility may not conduct any sales or distribution of cannabis other than as authorized by the Act.

5.4 For purposes of determining required parking, Adult-Use Cannabis Cultivation Centers shall be classified as “\_\_\_\_\_” per Section \_\_\_\_ (Schedule of Off-Street Parking Requirements: Industrial Uses), provided, however, that the City/Village may require that additional parking be provided as a result of the analysis completed through Section \_\_\_\_ (Adult-Use Cannabis: Conditional Use) herein.

5.5 Petitioner shall file an affidavit with the City/Village affirming compliance with Section \_\_\_\_ as provided herein and all other requirements of the Act.

6. Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization: In those zoning districts in which an Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization may be located, the proposed facility must comply with the following:

6.1 Facility may not be located within 1,500 feet of the property line of a pre-existing public or private nursery school, preschool, primary or secondary school, day care center, day care home or residential care home. Learning centers and vocational/trade centers shall not be classified as a public or private school for purposes of this Section.

6.2 Facility may not be located in a dwelling unit or within 250 feet of the property line of a pre-existing property zoned or used for residential purposes.

6.3 At least 75% of the floor area of any tenant space occupied by a dispensing organization shall be devoted to the activities of the dispensing organization as authorized by the Act, and no dispensing organization shall also sell food for consumption on the premises other than as authorized in Section 6.5 below in the same tenant space.

6.4 Facility may not conduct any sales or distribution of cannabis other than as authorized by the Act.

6.5 Facility may be issued a permit to host on-site consumption of cannabis if located in a freestanding structure occupied solely by the dispensing organization and smoke from the facility does not migrate into an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited. The security plan for the facility required by Section 10 (Additional Requirements) shall also reflect adequate provisions to respond to disruptive conduct and over-consumption. The on-site consumption permit shall be reviewed annually and may be suspended or revoked following notice and hearing as provided in Section \_\_\_\_ of the City/Village of Municipal Code.

6.6 For purposes of determining required parking, said facilities shall be classified as “\_\_\_\_\_” per Section \_\_\_\_ (Schedule of Off-Street Parking Requirements: Commercial Uses) of the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Code, provided, however, that the City/Village may require that additional parking be provided as a result of the analysis completed through Section \_\_\_\_ (Adult-Use Cannabis: Conditional Use) herein.

6.7 Petitioner shall file an affidavit with the City affirming compliance with Section \_\_\_\_\_ as provided herein and all other requirements of the Act.

7. Adult-Use Cannabis Infuser Organization: In those zoning districts in which an Adult-Use Cannabis Infuser Organization may be located, the proposed facility must comply with the following:

7.1 Facility may not be located within 1,500 feet of the property line of a pre-existing public or private nursery school, preschool, primary or secondary school, day care center, day care home or residential care home. Learning centers and vocational/trade centers shall not be classified as a public or private school for purposes of this Section.

7.2 Facility may not be located in a dwelling unit or within 250 feet of the property line of a pre-existing property zoned or used for residential purposes.

7.3 At least 75% of the floor area of any tenant space occupied by an infusing organization shall be devoted to the activities of the infusing organization as authorized by the Act. Facility may not conduct any sales or distribution of cannabis other than as authorized by the Act.

7.4 For purposes of determining required parking, said facilities shall be classified as “\_\_\_\_\_” per Section \_\_\_\_ (Schedule of Off-Street Parking Requirements: Commercial Uses) of the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Code, provided, however, that the City/Village may require that additional parking be provided as a result of the analysis completed through Section \_\_\_\_ (Adult-Use Cannabis: Conditional Use) herein.

7.5 Petitioner shall file an affidavit with the City affirming compliance with Section \_\_\_\_\_ as provided herein and all other requirements of the Act.

8. Adult-Use Cannabis Processing Organization: In those zoning districts in which an Adult-Use Cannabis Processing Organization may be located, the proposed facility must comply with the following:

8.1 Facility may not be located within 1,500 feet of the property line of a pre-existing public or private nursery school, preschool, primary or secondary school, day care center, day care home or residential care home. Learning centers and vocational/trade centers shall not be classified as a public or private school for purposes of this Section.

8.2 Facility may not be located in a dwelling unit or within 250 feet of the property line of a pre-existing property zoned or used for residential purposes.

8.3 At least 75% of the floor area of any tenant space occupied by a processing organization shall be devoted to the activities of the processing organization as authorized by the Act. Facility may not conduct any sales or distribution of cannabis other than as authorized by the Act.

8.4 For purposes of determining required parking, said facilities shall be classified as “\_\_\_\_\_” per Section \_\_\_\_\_ (Schedule of Off-Street Parking Requirements: Commercial Uses) of the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Code, provided, however, that the City/Village may require that additional parking be provided as a result of the analysis completed through Section \_\_\_\_\_ (Adult-Use Cannabis: Conditional Use) herein.

8.5 Petitioner shall file an affidavit with the City affirming compliance with Section \_\_\_\_\_ as provided herein and all other requirements of the Act.

9. Adult-Use Cannabis Transporting Organization: In those zoning districts in which an Adult-Use Transporting Organization may be located, the proposed facility must comply with the following:

9.1 Facility may not be located within 1,500 feet of the property line of a pre-existing public or private nursery school, preschool, primary or secondary school, day care center, day care home or residential care home. Learning centers and vocational/trade centers shall not be classified as a public or private school for purposes of this Section.

9.2 Facility may not be located in a dwelling unit or within 250 feet of the property line of a pre-existing property zoned or used for residential purposes.

9.3 The transporting organization shall be the sole use of the tenant space in which it is located. Facility may not conduct any sales or distribution of cannabis other than as authorized by the Act.

9.4 For purposes of determining required parking, said facilities shall be classified as “\_\_\_\_\_” per Section \_\_\_\_\_ (Schedule of Off-Street Parking Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_) of the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Code, provided, however, that the City/Village may require that additional parking be provided as a result of the analysis completed through Section \_\_\_\_\_ (Adult-Use Cannabis: Conditional Use) herein.

9.5 Petitioner shall file an affidavit with the City affirming compliance with Section \_\_\_\_\_ as provided herein and all other requirements of the Act.

10. Additional Requirements: Petitioner shall install building enhancements, such as security cameras, lighting or other improvements, as set forth in the conditional use permit, to ensure the safety of employees and customers of the adult-use cannabis business establishments, as well as its environs. Said improvements shall be determined based on the specific characteristics of the

floor plan for an Adult-Use Cannabis Business Establishment and the site on which it is located, consistent with the requirements of the Act.

11. Co-Location of Cannabis Business Establishments. The City/Village may approve the co-location of an Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization with an Adult-Use Cannabis Craft Grower Center or an Adult-Use Cannabis Infuser Organization, or both, subject to the provisions of the Act and the Conditional Use criteria within the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Code. In a co-location, the floor space requirements of Section 6.3 and 7.3 shall not apply, but the co-located establishments shall be the sole use of the tenant space.

**SECTION 4:** Chapter \_\_ (Commercial Districts) of Title \_\_ (Zoning Ordinance) of the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, as follows:

**ARTICLE A. B-1 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_: **PERMITTED USES:**

\* \* \*

\_\_\_\_\_: **CONDITIONAL USES:**

The following conditional uses may be permitted in specific situations in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section \_\_\_\_\_ and Chapter \_\_ of this Title, as appropriate:

\* \* \*

Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization.

**ARTICLE B. B-2. INTENSE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_: **PERMITTED USES:**

\* \* \*

\_\_\_\_\_: **CONDITIONAL USES:**

The following conditional uses may be permitted in specific situations in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section \_\_\_\_\_ and Chapter \_\_ of this Title, as appropriate:

\* \* \*

Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization.

Adult-Use Cannabis Infuser Organization.

Adult-Use Cannabis Processing Organization.

Adult-Use Cannabis Transporting Organization.

**SECTION 5:** Chapter \_\_ (Industrial Districts) of Title \_\_ (Zoning Ordinance) of the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, as follows:

**ARTICLE A. I-1 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_: **PERMITTED USES:**

\* \* \*

\_\_\_\_\_: **CONDITIONAL USES:**

The following conditional uses may be permitted in specific situations in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section \_\_\_\_\_ and Chapter \_\_ of this Title, as appropriate:

\* \* \*

Adult-Use Cannabis Craft Grower Organization.  
Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization.  
Adult-Use Cannabis Infuser Organization.  
Adult-Use Cannabis Processing Organization.  
Adult-Use Cannabis Transporting Organization.

**ARTICLE B. I-2 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT**

**\_\_\_\_\_ : PERMITTED USES:**

\* \* \*

**\_\_\_\_\_ : CONDITIONAL USES:**

The following conditional uses may be permitted in specific situations in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section \_\_\_\_\_ and Chapter \_\_ of this Title, as appropriate:

\* \* \*

Adult-Use Cannabis Craft Grower Organization.  
Adult-Use Cannabis Cultivation Organization.  
Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization.  
Adult-Use Cannabis Infuser Organization.  
Adult-Use Cannabis Processing Organization.  
Adult-Use Cannabis Transporting Organization.

**SECTION 6: Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstances is ruled unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid application or provision, and each invalid provision or invalid application of this Ordinance is severable.

**SECTION 7: Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval as required by law.

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Village President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/Village Clerk



# **Model Ordinance**

## **Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax**



**MODEL ORDINANCE  
MUNICIPAL CANNABIS RETAILERS' OCCUPATION TAX**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE  
OF THE CITY/VILLAGE OF \_\_\_\_\_  
BY THE ADDITION OF [ARTICLE/CHAPTER] \_\_\_\_\_  
IMPOSING A MUNICIPAL CANNABIS RETAILERS' OCCUPATION TAX**

**WHEREAS**, the City/Village has the authority to adopt ordinances and to promulgate rules and regulations [that pertain to its government and affairs and] that protect the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Illinois Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax Law, 65 ILCS 5/11-8-22 *et seq.* (Act); and

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance is intended to impose the tax authorized by the Act providing for a municipal cannabis retailers' occupation tax which will be collected by the Illinois Department of Revenue;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City/ Board of Trustees of the Village of \_\_\_\_\_ as follows:

**SECTION 1. Recitals.** The facts and statements contained in the preamble to this Ordinance are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 2. Adoption of Tax.** Chapter \_\_\_ of the Municipal Code of the City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ shall be amended by the addition of [Article/Chapter] \_\_\_\_\_ that will read as follows:

**ARTICLE [CHAPTER] \_\_\_\_ Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax.**

**1. Tax imposed; Rate.**

(a) A tax is hereby imposed upon all persons engaged in the business of selling cannabis, other than cannabis purchased under the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, at retail in the City/Village at the rate of 3% of the gross receipts from these sales made in the course of that business.

(b) The imposition of this tax is in accordance with the provisions of Sections 8-11-22, of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/8-11-22).

**2. Collection of tax by retailers.**

(a) The tax imposed by this Ordinance shall be remitted by such retailer to the Illinois Department of Revenue (Department). Any tax required to be collected pursuant to or as authorized by this Ordinance and any such tax collected by such retailer and required to be remitted to the Department shall constitute a debt owed by the retailer to the State. Retailers may reimburse themselves for their seller's tax liability hereunder by separately stating that tax as an additional charge, which charge may be stated in combination, in a single amount, with any State tax that sellers are required to collect.

(b) The taxes hereby imposed, and all civil penalties that may be assessed as an incident thereto, shall be collected and enforced by the Department. The Department shall have full power to administer and enforce the provisions of this article.

**3. Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application of any provision of this Ordinance, is held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such occurrence shall not affect other provisions of this Ordinance, or their application, that can be given effect without the unconstitutional or invalid provision or its application. Each unconstitutional or invalid provision, or application of such provision, is severable, unless otherwise provided by this Ordinance.

**4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval and publication as required by law, provided, however, that the tax provided for herein shall take effect for all sales on or after the first day of January, 2020. Copies of this Ordinance shall be certified and sent to the Illinois Department of Revenue prior to September 30, 2019.

[NOTE: Any new ordinance or amendment to an existing ordinance can take effect only on September 1. To be effective September 1, an ordinance must be adopted and filed with the Department of Revenue by June 1.]

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Village President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/Village Clerk



# Disclaimers & Referrals

IML has assembled these resources for your municipality's consideration. It is strongly recommended that you consult with your municipal attorney or other qualified counsel prior to considering or adopting any of the model ordinances. The model ordinances are being provided as a reference for use in drafting an ordinance for your community. The model ordinances may require adaptation and modification to conform to your community's determinations and specific code provisions.

It is further recommended that local law enforcement officials discuss the mandated expungements with your municipality's retained attorney or other qualified counsel, as well as the state's attorney's office in your county to gain a full understanding of the issue and process and to be in compliance with what may be complicated expungement provisions. IML shall not provide direction or counsel on this aspect of the new law, due to the myriad factors that could impact each municipality differently.

### **State Agency Contacts**

#### Illinois Department of Agriculture

Website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Pages/default.aspx>

Phone: (217) 785-4789

#### Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Website: <https://www.idfpr.com/profs/adultusecan.asp>

Phone: (888) 473-4858

Email: [FPR.AdultUseCannabis@illinois.gov](mailto:FPR.AdultUseCannabis@illinois.gov)

#### Illinois Department of Public Health

Website: [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov)

Phone: (217) 782-4977

These contacts are likely to be expanded and updated as additional agency resources are made available.



## VILLAGE OF OSWEGO MEMORANDUM

TO: Dan Di Santo, Village Administrator; Village Board

FROM: Jenette Sturges, Community Engagement Coordinator – Marketing

DATE: August 28, 2019

SUBJECT: **Results from Cannabis Survey**

---

### Cannabis Survey Results

As of Wednesday, Aug. 28 at noon, when the survey closed, 1,345 people responded to the survey.

Among those who responded to the survey, a strong majority of respondents were in favor of bringing cannabis-related business to the community, with the strongest support for retail medical uses and the lowest support (but still a strong majority in favor) for establishments for on-site consumption. Among the different types of cannabis establishments presented:

- **84.01%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support Retail Medical Dispensaries.
- **73.46%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support manufacturing facilities for extraction or infusion.
- **73.13%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support indoor cultivation centers
- **72.59%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support Retail Recreational Dispensaries.
- **60.03%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support Cannabis cafes or smoke lounges

Support was highest for locating cannabis establishments in industrial and retail areas. Among the different potential locations presented:

- **69.62%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support a retail recreational dispensary in industrial parks
- **69.60%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support a retail recreational dispensary in retail areas such as Route 34, Route 71, Route 30, or Orchard Road
- **62.92%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support a retail recreational dispensary in Downtown/Main Street

Respondents strongly supported a local tax on cannabis sales. Based on open-ended responses (see discussion below) most residents who commented on the issue of taxation want to see income from cannabis sales either decrease their property taxes or fund local schools. On support for local taxation:

- **79.85%** of respondents either strongly or somewhat support a local tax on cannabis products.

This survey was conducted online, and was promoted via the press, through our social media channels, and it was sent out to all the residents on our email list. Thus, it is a self-selecting group and cannot be considered a statistically valid survey of all residents. Respondents were only allowed to take the survey once per IP address.

Of all respondents, 95.05% self-identified as an Oswego resident, business owner, or both.

### **Questions for consideration raised by respondents**

The following are questions that the Village Board may want to consider, resulting from comments submitted by respondents. The most common concerns that may or may not be addressed by local legislation were:

#### **Benefits and potential uses of tax revenue**

Overwhelmingly, people strongly believed that cannabis ought to be taxed, that local taxes were one of the biggest reasons to pursue cannabis industry for Oswego, and that not pursuing cannabis-related facilities would be giving up on tax dollars going to other communities.

Respondents also suggested that taxes should be earmarked for certain things:

- Can any local taxes on cannabis products be specifically earmarked for or diverted to the school district, either temporarily to solve the budget crisis, or in perpetuity?
- Can any local taxes on cannabis products be used to lower property taxes?
- Can any local taxes on cannabis products be earmarked for an increase law enforcement/medical first responder resources?
- Can any local taxes on cannabis products be put in a set-aside for victims of, say, DUI crashes?

#### **Business competitiveness**

While respondents overwhelmingly supported local taxation, some expressed a desire to remain competitive with local communities.

- How much would we as a Village charge for a license?
- Can we do a comparison with other communities to make sure that any local licenses, taxes and restrictions are competitive with surrounding communities, so as not to drive out business?

While several respondents indicated a desire to be generally in line with neighboring communities in regards to regulations and taxes, some expressed a desire to be more or less restrictive than surrounding towns.

#### **Driving Under the Influence**

The most common concern among respondents was an increase in DUIs, and specifically, the inability of law enforcement accurately to detect cannabis use in the same way that a field sobriety test can detect alcohol-induced impairment. Respondents suggested that lounges with on-site consumption posed the greatest risk, particularly in a suburban, car-reliant setting, where residents

might leave the café and then drive. Still 60% of respondents indicated they were generally in favor of on-site consumption establishments.

### **Zoning and Distance Restrictions**

Aside from concern about traffic, children's exposure to cannabis was the top concern among respondents. Residents expressed an interest in keeping dispensaries and other cannabis-related facilities away from schools and children, including residential areas and retail areas that attract children. Retail corridors and Industrial parks had similarly high levels of support as locations for cannabis-related industry.

- Can cannabis-related businesses be restricted from residential and child-oriented retail?
- Can they be given distance restrictions from schools?

Several respondents indicated a desire to treat cannabis retailers similarly to alcohol retailers in this regard.

### **Advertising**

Similarly, some respondents expressed concerns about children's exposure to cannabis-related advertising and also about keeping town looking classy.

- Could we impose restrictions on where they advertise, particularly on advertising near schools?
- Could we impose restrictions on how they advertise? The State of Illinois' law specifically mentions certain imagery that cannot be used, such as a pot leaf. Could Oswego get more specific?

### **Appearance and safety of locations**

Some respondents also said they cared about how any retail cannabis businesses looked.

- Could the Village take measures to ensure that shops looked clean, well-lit and classy?

There is also a perception that cannabis is a cash-only or cash-heavy business because of Federal restrictions that limit access to banking. This is partially true – some dispensaries have created their own store credit cards, installed cashless ATMs on site, or accept phone-based wallet apps, and some credit unions now accept dispensary cash.

- How would the excess cash affect crime?
- Could a dispensary be asked to locate in, for example, a former bank with a pre-existing vault? Could we require dispensaries to accept alternative payment methods?
- What other kinds of safety and security measures would we want to implement?

### **Medical Cannabis considerations**

Residents often drew a distinction between medical cannabis and recreational cannabis, including on the issue of taxation. While most were in favor of taxing cannabis for recreational use, many, particularly those who self-identified as medical card holders, advocated for tax breaks on cannabis for those with medical cards.

- Could we tax cannabis differently depending on whether it's sold a recreational or medical use?



Several self-identified current medical card holders responded to this survey. Most said cannabis is an unmet retail demand currently, that they drive to either North Aurora or Naperville now to get their medication, and that they would really prefer to shop local in Oswego.

### **Second-hand smoke**

Respondents expressed concerns about second-hand smoke in a variety of public and private settings.

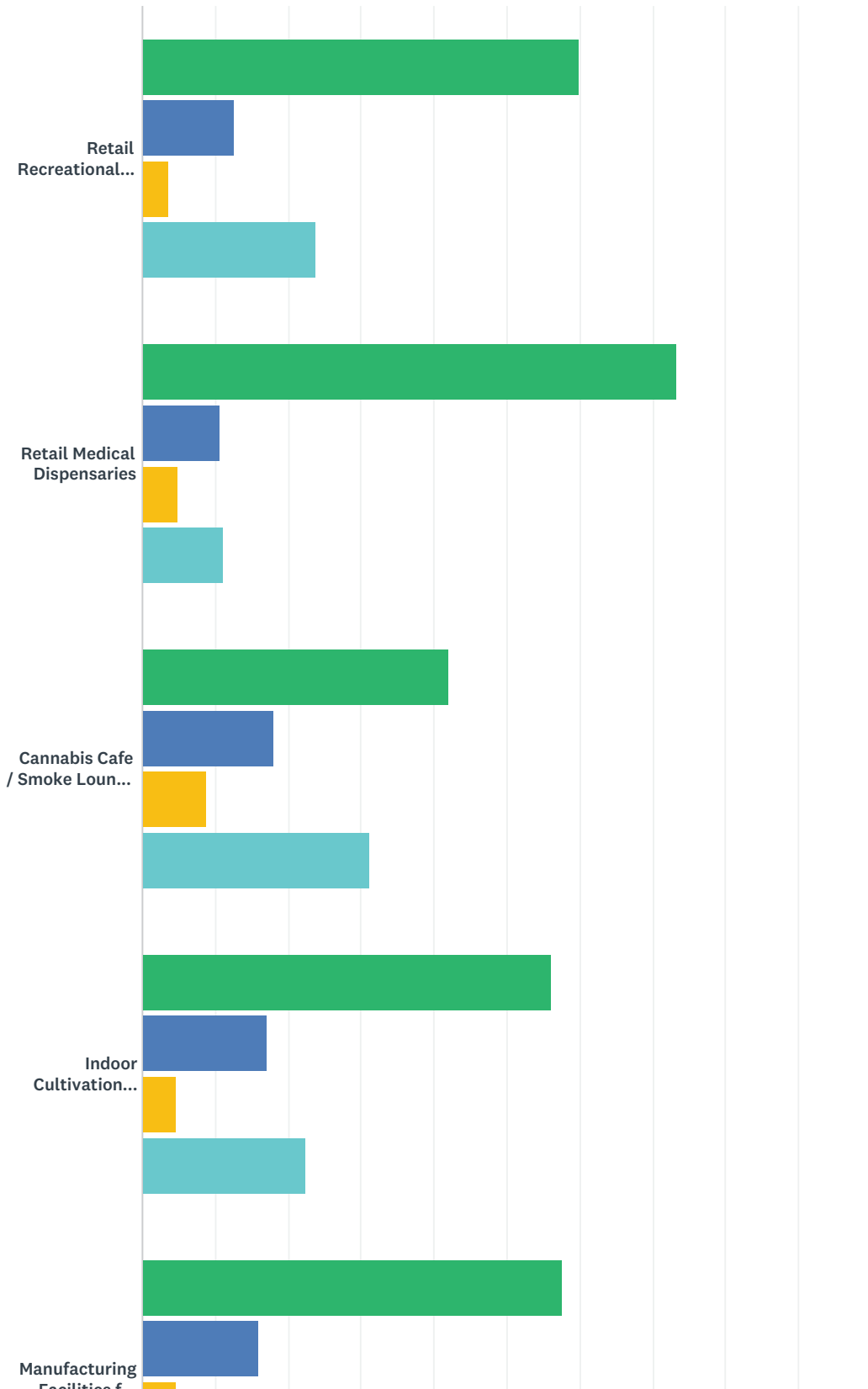
- Could the Village prohibit smoking in public? In public parks? Near schools and doors to public buildings? In residential areas, so that residents wouldn't have to smell their neighbors smoking out in the backyard?
- Could a café for on-site consumption be prohibited from locating in a building with other tenants?
- Could cannabis be prohibited from large public events?
- Could landlords prohibit the use in multi-family rentals?

### **Issues of fairness**

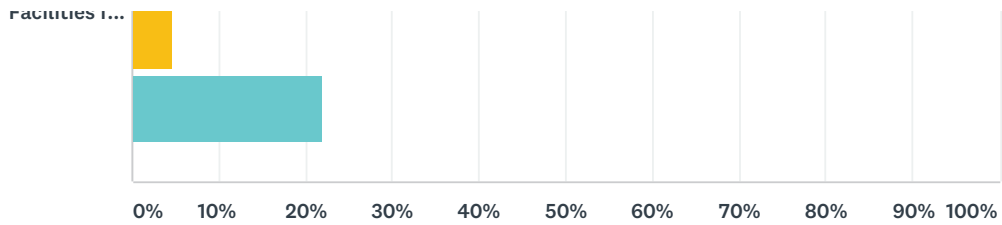
Residents mentioned the disproportionate negative effect that marijuana prohibition has historically had on people of color and were interested in maintaining fairness with regards to who gets licenses and how local ordinances are enforced.

# Q1 To what extent do you support or oppose the following types of cannabis establishments in Oswego?

Answered: 1,345 Skipped: 0



## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

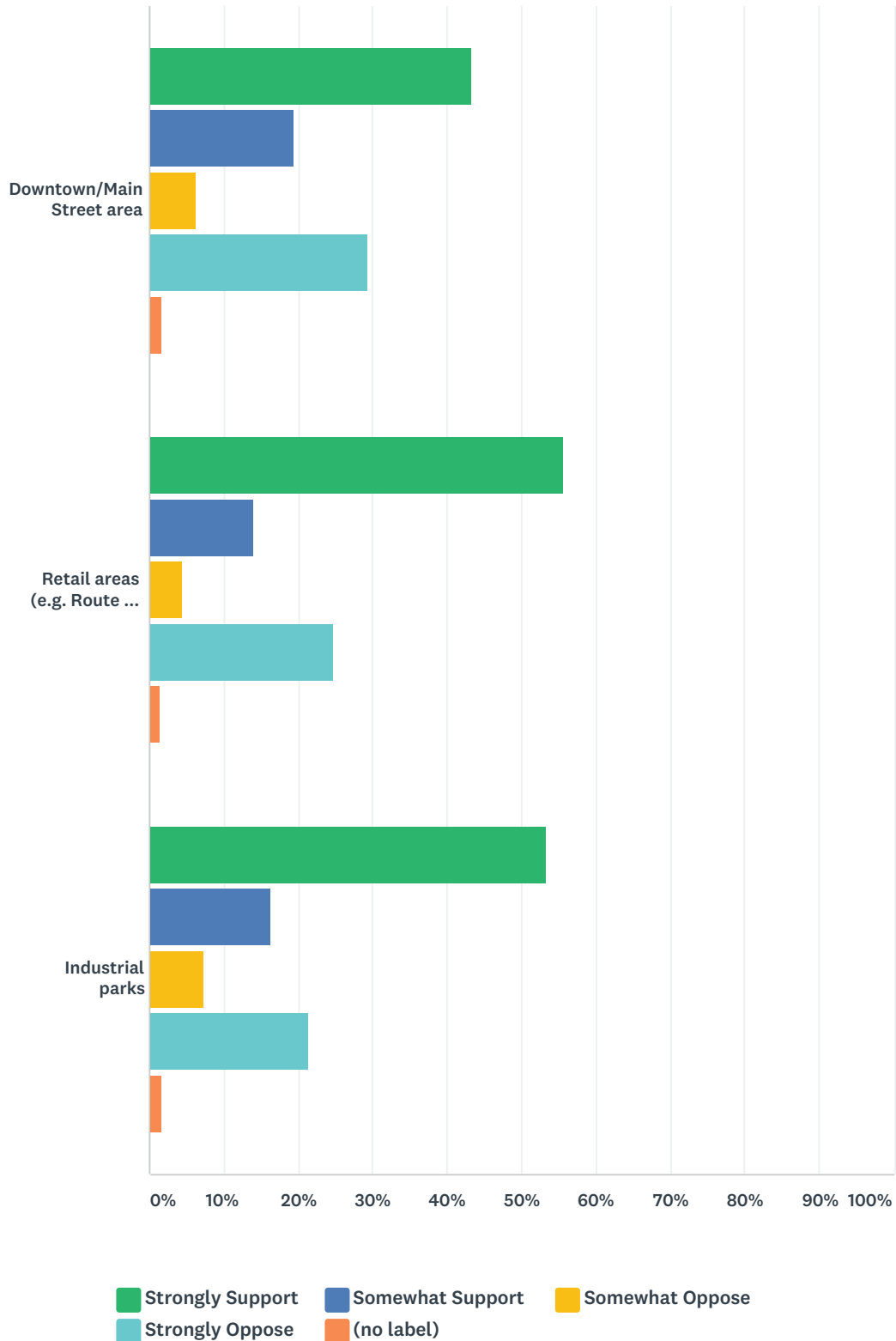


■ Strongly Support   
 ■ Somewhat Support   
 ■ Somewhat Oppose  
■ Strongly Oppose

	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	TOTAL
Retail Recreational Dispensaries	59.93% 806	12.64% 170	3.49% 47	23.94% 322	1,345
Retail Medical Dispensaries	73.26% 981	10.75% 144	4.85% 65	11.13% 149	1,339
Cannabis Cafe / Smoke Lounge (on-site consumption)	41.98% 563	18.05% 242	8.72% 117	31.25% 419	1,341
Indoor Cultivation Centers	56.04% 751	17.09% 229	4.55% 61	22.31% 299	1,340
Manufacturing Facilities for Extraction / Infusion	57.47% 769	15.99% 214	4.63% 62	21.90% 293	1,338

## Q2 To what extent do you support or oppose each of the following locations for retail recreational cannabis dispensaries in Oswego?

Answered: 1,345 Skipped: 0

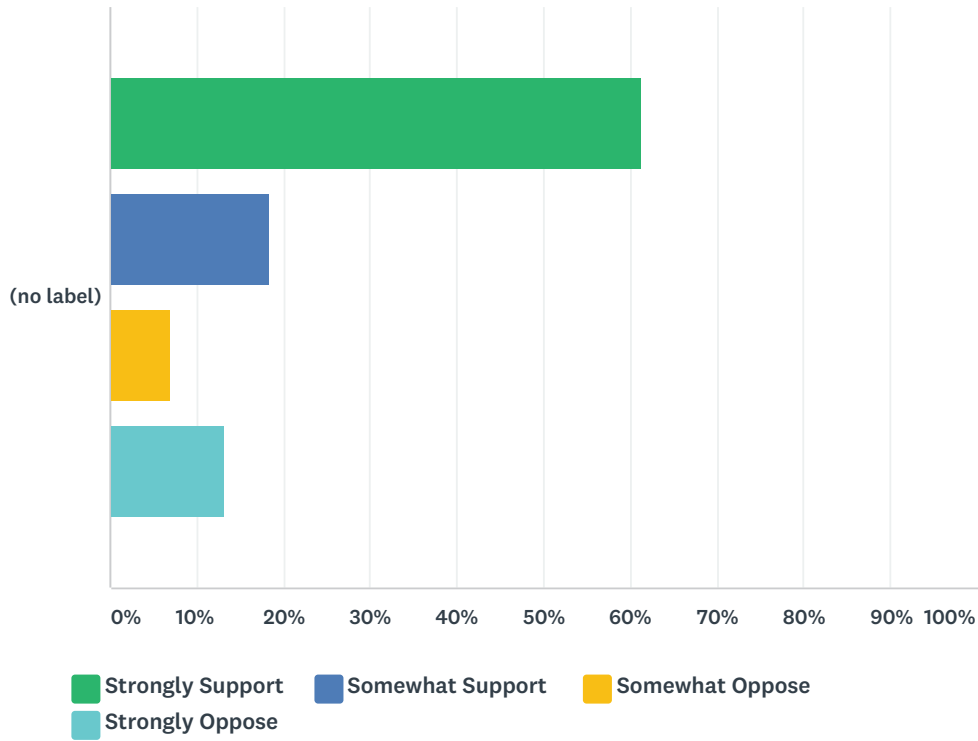


## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

	<b>STRONGLY SUPPORT</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT SUPPORT</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT OPPOSE</b>	<b>STRONGLY OPPOSE</b>	<b>(NO LABEL)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Downtown/Main Street area	43.37% 579	19.55% 261	6.22% 83	29.29% 391	1.57% 21	1,335
Retail areas (e.g. Route 34, Route 71, Route 30, Orchard Road)	55.56% 744	14.04% 188	4.33% 58	24.65% 330	1.42% 19	1,339
Industrial parks	53.34% 711	16.28% 217	7.28% 97	21.38% 285	1.73% 23	1,333

### Q3 To what extent do you support or oppose a local tax on cannabis sales?

Answered: 1,325 Skipped: 20



	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	61.36% 813	18.49% 245	6.87% 91	13.28% 176	1,325	1.00

## Q4 What comments, concerns, or suggestions do you have for the Village? Responses will be shared with the Village Board.

Answered: 422 Skipped: 923

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Think of the tax revenue	8/28/2019 6:44 AM
2	It's a better alternative to the opioid crisis, and what town can benefit from the taxes collected	8/28/2019 6:28 AM
3	I don't support this but can get on board if you tax the ever living daylights out of it!	8/28/2019 6:07 AM
4	Pass an ordinance prohibiting marijuana dispensaries and marijuana businesses in our community.	8/28/2019 5:44 AM
5	I look at it like I look at sales of alcohol	8/28/2019 5:30 AM
6	to keep on eye on policies of neighbor cities to make sure Oswego does not become on outlier on this one way or the other.	8/28/2019 5:22 AM
7	Need to regain some money our town has lost	8/28/2019 3:22 AM
8	Recreational and Medical use of marijuana and things like CBD oil have been proven to help with pain, and treatments of many ailments. We have a huge smoking problem among kids in our community, and that will never change. This isn't a decision about that. The benefit of having this available out ways the potential problems. If regulated the right way, with the right parameters around the business, it can be a huge benefit for our community.	8/28/2019 2:58 AM
9	It's time to join the rest of the world in knowing that it is a helpful herb that helps many people with their ailments and it is a peaceful alternative to alcohol. It's a 3000-year-old herb that somehow became villainized. Local tax amount needs to be Regulated so that it doesn't become too high.	8/28/2019 2:23 AM
10	Green light on medical use anywhere, yellow/red on retail recreational	8/28/2019 2:11 AM
11	None	8/28/2019 1:36 AM
12	Can't believe this is what it's come to...	8/27/2019 5:16 PM
13	Evidence shows that cannabis is beneficial for a variety of medical conditions and is safer than alcohol. Legalize it	8/27/2019 4:24 PM
14	All marijuana tax proceeds should go toward lowering water bills and the school district.	8/27/2019 4:18 PM
15	None	8/27/2019 3:51 PM
16	I thought Oswego is a family community not going to sell out for drug money.	8/27/2019 3:48 PM
17	The district 308 desperately needs funding! These taxes will help offset Property taxes while helping the school district that the state of Illinois is doing nothing for. When FDR repealed prohibition, it brought our country out of the great depression. WE NEED THIS!! Please sell and tax recreational cannabis in oswego!	8/27/2019 3:43 PM
18	I think it will help more than hurt to have this in our community, rather than see the needs being met in surrounding areas (monetary or societal). Consumption will not change much if access is limited locally.	8/27/2019 3:32 PM
19	Let's not promote it...I realize legalization is going to happen but I'd rather not raise my kid with marijuana stores at every corner, especially our nice town. Keep it out of daily sight...out of downtown	8/27/2019 3:31 PM
20	not happy about legalizing recreational drugs.	8/27/2019 3:22 PM
21	Marijuana impairs decisions and slows reaction times among many other negative factors. We will have an increase in traffic accidents and quality of good employees. It is a proven fact that marijuana leads to other drugs. I am very opposed to recreational marijuana.	8/27/2019 3:06 PM
22	If it a legal enterprise then we should support businesses that will add to the tax base.	8/27/2019 2:38 PM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

23	Grab the tax benefits or someone else will. The wave inevitable.	8/27/2019 1:43 PM
24	People already drive and act stoned when they're straight. The ones that are using it can still buy it elsewhere. I don't like the idea of having a pot parlor where patrons exit and get behind the wheel or act stupid and create more problems for the police and citizens!	8/27/2019 12:15 PM
25	Main concern are those driving under the influence. Have local ordinance violation fines and/or seize vehicles and homes for those abusing the system and putting others in jeopardy by being on the road. I support those needing this for medical purposes, but no one should be abusing it and getting behind the wheel. Bring the money into the community through OVTs and taxes.	8/27/2019 11:45 AM
26	From listening to one of the school board meetings it seems that Oswego needs more business. Getting manufacturing and cultivation centers would be a nice addition. This is also an emerging industry, and it would be great to get in early on it. I have toured dispensaries, manufacturing, and grow facilities in Denver. I think a lot of people have misconceptions of what they look like and how they operate.	8/27/2019 11:10 AM
27	It's an awesome opportunity, let's not miss out!	8/27/2019 10:15 AM
28	Blocking retail locations and processing facilities will do little or nothing to curb marijuana usage in Oswego, it will just mean the jobs and taxes that those businesses would provide will be going to the surrounding towns instead.	8/27/2019 7:56 AM
29	I want this as far away from my family as possible. Taxing pot doesn't make acceptable.	8/27/2019 3:23 AM
30	We already have "happy ending" massage businesses, which are likely trafficking their "employees", and video gambling. Let's not include cannabis too.	8/27/2019 1:37 AM
31	The country is hitting a tipping point on this issue. The village should embrace it and look for a way to leverage it to help the community. Don't let your decision be based on preconceived notions and propaganda that were born out of the failed war on drugs. Keep an open mind.	8/27/2019 1:30 AM
32	The short sightedness is absolutely dumbfounding. Yes, the surface benefits are obvious, but don't get sucked into the money element. Deep down you should all know the right action is to oppose this.	8/26/2019 4:43 PM
33	Please get some of this money into our school district.	8/26/2019 2:21 PM
34	This would be a great opportunity for the village to bring in a lot of money. I also believe that this would bring in a lot of people from surrounding towns since there is already some towns opting out on the sale.	8/26/2019 1:17 PM
35	Please do not bring it to the downtown area. The traffic is already obnoxious and drivers don't watch for pedestrians as it is.	8/26/2019 12:51 PM
36	It is beyond me with all of the drug problems we have in this country why we would want to bring this to Oswego. Just because the State has approved it does not mean we have to have it sold and used here. Why don't you have the the Police Department check with Colorado and see what kind of increase they they have had with DUI arrests. The Federal government has made cigarette companies put a warning on packages about the health risks of smoking yet not one word is said about the health risks of smoking this. Please do not approve the sale of that drug here.	8/26/2019 12:44 PM
37	Oswego has the best Village Manager.	8/26/2019 8:13 AM
38	keep communicating	8/26/2019 7:49 AM
39	Don't follow in Naperville's footsteps and try to ban sale of recreational. It will only cause citizens to obtain their product from another town and will take sales taxes out of Oswego.	8/26/2019 7:45 AM
40	NO.	8/26/2019 7:43 AM
41	Include a local tax which benefits education (and the budget shortfall) and offsets some of the property tax burden, thereby making Oswego an attractive place to live. Restrict cannabis sale to specific areas so as not to impact adjacent home values. If cannabis is not made available for purchase locally, residents who are so inclined will travel to where it is available. Oswego would lose the ability to capture the generated revenue, which would be spent outside of the local community. With some nearby areas possibly disallowing the sale of recreational, Oswego also has the opportunity to capitalize on tax revenue of those traveling (recreational tourists) from outside of the immediate area as well. This could bring additional revenue to other area businesses, as these outside consumers would use tangential services (gas, food). I am opposed to Cafe / Smoke Lounge (on-site consumption) as it would possibly promote an increase in driving under the influence.	8/26/2019 7:21 AM



## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

42	Regardless of it being decriminalized by the State, it remains illegal at the Federal level. Allowing it in the borders of Oswego will set a tone for the Village and how it does business. It will also make it a target for crime; a cannabis business has to be all-cash because the banks will not take their money due to Federal regulations. That means a large stash of cash, stored in that building ,making it a clear target for theft of both the product and the cash. Unless you are willing to let them move into the old Citi Bank building on Rt. 34 and use the built-in safe there, it is only asking for trouble and increased crime in the area.	8/26/2019 7:05 AM
43	We need all the help with taxes we can get. The additional revenue will help the city with projects.	8/26/2019 7:04 AM
44	I was attracted to Oswego because of its' small town charm..I am a medical marijuana patient and believe industrial parks would be a ideal location for retail dispensaries. Out of sight. It should also be used in the privacy of someone's home. I'm very concerned about the effects it will have on recreational users due to it's potency.	8/26/2019 6:03 AM
45	I currently live in Yorkville but previously lived in Oswego and had a child in the Oswego School District. The district needs money and this is a great way to help provide that income. Treat cannabis the same as alcohol. Tax it, regulate it and make money from it. I own a business in Yorkville and feel the same way about having it in Yorkville.	8/26/2019 5:49 AM
46	I think people are taking to causal an attitude toward this. This is not the same pot that people were smoking in the 70's, 80's, or 90's. It is much more potent.	8/26/2019 5:17 AM
47	People are going to buy it in other towns in the area. Why not buy it here where the village can capitalize on the sales tax for public improvements. Hire more emergency responders or better equip the ones we have to combat this new law.	8/26/2019 5:11 AM
48	How will OPD monitor possible impaired driving? Will the establishments run similar to bars where those under 21 are not permitted in?	8/26/2019 4:32 AM
49	Please don't allow this!	8/26/2019 4:32 AM
50	setting tax rates too high will discourage legitimate business.	8/26/2019 4:07 AM
51	It would be stupid to make it more difficult for Oswego residents to get a legal substance by having to go to another community. Plus Oswego would miss out on the tax revenue. I really think the idea of a community being able to opt-out is a phenomenally moronic idea. If it is a state law, then it is applicable everywhere. Blue laws were also stupid and didn't work out well. All they did was serve to draw people to other communities, who then raked in the tax revenues. Let's learn from the pain of our predecessors and not repeat the same stupid mistakes. Not only would opting out inconvenience residents, but it would also make it much more difficult for seniors and disabled folks who will be buying it for medicinal purposes. Let's be forward-thinking on this and not opt-out.	8/26/2019 4:06 AM
52	The taxes raised by selling cannabis in Oswego could help defray costs to homeowners, by lowering property taxes. With this initiative, add on that SD 308 find other sources of income other than property taxes or go back to overhead projectors instead of Apple touchscreens!	8/26/2019 3:57 AM
53	I oppose a local tax on medical cannabis.	8/26/2019 3:45 AM
54	I am concerned about teens using this and then even younger kids trying to get it. Medicinal purpose is the only ideal to the whole situation.	8/26/2019 3:13 AM
55	Medical sales only should be allowed. Recreational use needs to be closely monitored for abuse.	8/26/2019 2:57 AM
56	I belive with the new law coming into effect jan 1st there should be retail shops spread throughout the area. However I belive also the retail shops should not be near or advertised by any school.	8/26/2019 2:42 AM
57	Allow it but in industrial parks it's going to be sold in surrounding cities so we should make some money off of it atleast	8/26/2019 2:17 AM
58	We should make the most of the opportunity to boost existing retail and entertainment destinations.	8/26/2019 1:43 AM
59	Cannabis should be treated the same as alcohol, since the effects it has on some people are similar altering effects. Therefore, if you allow cannabis, same rules apply as alcohol; no driving under the influence, and smoking in the same areas that alcohol is prohibited, in addition to parks. People can do what they want in their home, though I feel sorry for the children that are stuck getting the second hand effects. And of course medical cannabis should be allowed. God put everything on this earth for a purpose, obviously that's what it's for!!	8/25/2019 7:51 PM
60	Offer low sales tax for local residents!	8/25/2019 5:25 PM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

61	Concerned about shared office building space and the smell from cannabis, especially in a cafe setting.	8/25/2019 4:11 PM
62	It is time to face the truth, tax it responsibly for our town. It is all around this town if you know how to ask quietly... besides, God gave us the plant like tobacco. And look at what the corporations did to the simple plant our founding fathers farmed. Vaping, 209 chemicals added to a simple cigarette with a plastic filter that litter our planet, and is not biodegradable. It will be a revenue driver for our town, and the whole state of Illinois.	8/25/2019 4:00 PM
63	There's enough negative issues in neighborhoods while marijuana is illegal. Legalization and having it available close to our neighborhoods can only make problems worse!	8/25/2019 3:33 PM
64	Extremely concerned about the junior high and high schoolers having this in our community. Definitely sends a mix message when we are teaching them not to get mixed up in drugs in school. Yet it will be widely available. Nope, not gonna support this.	8/25/2019 3:16 PM
65	Don't invite more trouble to our community. Don't kid yourself - it will happen.	8/25/2019 3:13 PM
66	I oppose legalizing any drug. The FDA considers marijuana an illegal drug, classified in the same category as heroin, LSD, ecstasy, bath salts, therefore, marijuana is not considered a medicine but as a harmful drug. We try to outlaw smoking cigarettes because it causes cancer as well as does second hand smoke & yet we want to legalize marijuana. Does anyone else see the stupidity in that...kids please don't smoke cigs but go ahead and have a joint. Smoking marijuana is different than cigarettes. One draws deeper and holds their breath longer, making it even more dangerous. It causes chronic bronchitis & damages a person's immune system. It can raise the handed for clinical depression and enhancing mental health issues. The affects on short term memory loss, problems learning and focusing can last as long as 24 hours after smoking pot. This is much longer than alcohol. It raises the chances of having a heart attack or stroke by raising your pulse which lasts up to 3 hours after smoking. People put it in candy, baked products which can accidentally be ingested by people who do not know it contains pot. I could go in and on. Please do not put this in Oswego or anywhere in Kendall co. I believe Illinois takes advantage of the weakest in our society by legalizing pot. Let's keep it as far away as possible. We legalize 'sin' and then must come up with programs to help people who become addicted. The stupidity of our lawmakers...	8/25/2019 2:56 PM
67	Figure out a way to tax this and make the village some money or we will be left behind on this issue!	8/25/2019 2:50 PM
68	No cannabis!! None Nowhere Medical mailed to qualifying patients only	8/25/2019 2:49 PM
69	I think that there are some great things that can come from the revenue, etc. but we need to be responsible and have some foresight into possible problems. We need to learn from the mistakes of other communities that have already been through this, as well as what has worked well.	8/25/2019 2:30 PM
70	I strongly support all sales. It's far safer than alcohol	8/25/2019 2:13 PM
71	It is a huge concern for these individuals who will be driving smoking weed. It is only going to encourage our kids to smoke weed because it will be legal	8/25/2019 1:58 PM
72	PLACES TO BY SHOULD BE LIMITED AND STRONGLY REGULATED . TAXING SHOULD BE IN LINE WITH OTHER AREAS NEAR US .	8/25/2019 1:58 PM
73	People under the influence and driving or other dangerous activities that endanger those of us who do not use any drugs. Taking over family areas such as parks in the downtown area or neighborhoods. I don't want to smell cigarettes or marijuana. Use in private residence only if allowed. I don't want my physical well being affected by someone else's bad habit.	8/25/2019 1:39 PM
74	I strongly support using tax dollars generated from cannabis related income to build a better Oswego in the future.	8/25/2019 12:44 PM
75	Don't be Naperville and pass up tax money.	8/25/2019 12:30 PM
76	If you allow tobacco sales (cancer) and not cannabis sales (medicine, anti inflammatory) you are living in the past. This is 2019 and I cant see how it is a debate. I ask to anyone with opposition, why do we choose to ignore cancerous chemicals being sold and advertised all over town, and not a plant which helps people? I would list the benefits, but it would be much shorter and easier to list the benefits it does not bring. I say to my fellow seniors especially, whatever outcome is decided for the village please ask your doctor about the benefits that cannabis will bring you for mental and physical well being. Thank you for your time.	8/25/2019 12:20 PM
77	This is a bad idea! Please do not move Oswego in this direction	8/25/2019 11:48 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

78	Marijuana or other marijuana based products have no business in our community. Marijuana is still classified a Schedule 1 drug by the DEA, and is illegal by Federal Law. The State of Illinois is defiantly thumbing their nose at the Rule of Law. Oswego should not support any illegal federal crimes.	8/25/2019 11:39 AM
79	Cannabis consumption will decrease safety on roads. Let's limit access to it in our area as much as possible.	8/25/2019 11:24 AM
80	I will preface my comments by saying that I neither smoke or eat cannabis. I also recognize this topic shouldn't be taken lightly. Let it be clear, there's a lot of revenue to be made in the cannabis industry. For far too long, many consumers have benefitted from cannabis sold off the backs of persons of color. It's time to right the wrongs. If the village of Oswego chooses not to allow cannabis sales, many other communities will. It would be a missed opportunity for revenue. More importantly, what does opting-out of allowing cannabis say about the village and its attitude toward persons of color that have been wrongfully criminalized across the nation.	8/25/2019 10:55 AM
81	By fighting the progression of cannabis it will only put Oswego behind other communities that will prosper with taxes associated with sales	8/25/2019 10:47 AM
82	I think bringing any of these options to Oswego is great!	8/25/2019 10:44 AM
83	Just make sure the appropriate ages purchases it and make sure the taxes money is spent appropriate	8/25/2019 10:44 AM
84	This will open so many doors for even more accidents around here. When mixed with alcohol marijuana impairs the brain even worse.....on its own it impairs judgement.....voting to allow marijuana to be sold will be also signing even more death certificates....	8/25/2019 10:35 AM
85	I strongly oppose introducing this type of activity in our community.	8/25/2019 10:29 AM
86	Marijuana legalization through proper PR funnels is an ideal way to take the human society through the next evolutionary leap. Not only are the medical findings boosting its reputation, the recreational and mental benefits without the addictive overheads make it very attractive and socially acceptable. As you legalize a drug, the entire illegal cartel around it is instantly broken into shambles. The substance becomes less valuable for illegal traders and consequently leads to lesser drug related violence. there is added safety control if the government legalizes and controls the supply of the substance. If you are buying weed off the street then there is no way to gauge the authenticity of your purchase. With current legalization efforts creating a framework for a safety control system we can work together to get rid of the risk coming from smoking inferior and mixed marijuana.	8/25/2019 10:27 AM
87	We would be smart to get in on it first. The tax revenue would be great.	8/25/2019 10:27 AM
88	Other states that legalized marijuana, crime has gone up. Just because state says it's legal, it is not good for you. Not feel it will be good for children and many people move to Oswego as it is slightly more affordable.	8/25/2019 10:24 AM
89	It would be an excellent source of revenue	8/25/2019 10:18 AM
90	Don't allow it.	8/25/2019 10:08 AM
91	Here is no place for recreational marijuana in Oswego. I do not want to live in a town that is the "go to" for recreational marijuana. I would support either a dispensary or a processing facility for medical marijuana only.	8/25/2019 9:52 AM
92	Everyone knows it's going to come in because you can't turn down the tax money, but PLEASE keep it away from anything residential. People should be able to sit outside without smelling that smoke.	8/25/2019 9:16 AM
93	No concern, we need the tax revenue. If we don't do it someone around us will and they will reap the benefits and all Oswego residents will be forced to spend outside of our own tax generating area.	8/25/2019 9:11 AM
94	I believe having a dispensary in town is a wonderful idea. I believe that the use of other drugs and drug over doses will decrease due to being able to legally buy cannabis. I am a huge advocate on smoking cannabis and I do believe that it does help in other things especially medically.	8/25/2019 8:21 AM
95	I live in Yorkville but grew up in Oswego and do a lot of shopping there. This is a great opportunity for Oswego to keep money in the area. Surrounding communities will sell marijuana and members of our community will drive there to purchase it. Why not keep that money in our town and county?	8/25/2019 8:09 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

96	I hope that the tax imposed in it could go to benefiting the school district, as the fees for student have tripled since I was in the district. A lot of kids are missing opportunities on the sheer facts their parents cant afford it.	8/25/2019 8:08 AM
97	I have no problem paying taxes on it if it goes to the community not the politicians. Helping schools, parks and things for the people	8/25/2019 8:04 AM
98	I never thought this day would come. I don't even partake anymore, but this is a lovely reminder of the ever dwindling freedoms we have here.	8/25/2019 8:01 AM
99	The profit made from the local dispensaries need to be put back into the community. Not into your already filled pockets.	8/25/2019 7:58 AM
100	It is already taxed. Stop being greedy. You already took away home grown cause all politicians in Illinois are corrupted greedy selfish tools	8/25/2019 7:57 AM
101	Do they have to pay taxes to the village or will they be waived like the village tends to do for many new businesses which seems to be the reason why residents are paying some of the highest taxes in the NATION?	8/25/2019 7:31 AM
102	Any local taxes added to cannabis purchases would be a disservice to the community. The state taxes and greedy cannabis corporations have already gouged the prices enough, and elderly/disabled residents on a fixed income are having a hard time affording this medication already.	8/25/2019 7:30 AM
103	Marijuana, though classified as a schedule 1 drug by the federal government, which states the drugs in the list have no medical use, is clearly mislabeled. Research has clearly identified marijuana as medically useful. It's used as an alternative to opioids, which we're all aware is a problem in this country. It's used to treat cataracts in the eye. I teach government, and a common discussion is the concept of federalism. Though federal law still makes marijuana illegal, states have found ways around that. As more states legalize marijuana, there is an eventual point where the federal government will have to recognize that the majority of states disagree with federal law, and re-examine it's stance on marijuana. Despite all that, it's working in the states that have legalized it. Colorado alone has brought in hundreds of millions of dollars that can now be used to improve infrastructure, and reinforce education funding. That alone is reason enough to allow the sale of marijuana in Oswego. Will we let other towns and municipalities open stores of their own and increase their budget surpluses, and miss out on the advantages the income could provide us? We're well aware of the financial woes of our school district. This could alleviate some of that burden. Economic development is increasing in Oswego, this could fit right in. There are of course safety issues to be concerned about, legitimately. The income from this can also be used to hire more police officers to patrol and keep people from harming themselves and others. The new law is being written to make it illegal to buy and use before going home. They must drive from the dispensary to their home sober. I have absolutely no problem punishing driving while high as severely as drunk driving. But those factors alone are not enough to dissuade Oswego from using this opportunity to grow.	8/25/2019 7:20 AM
104	Tax dollars needed	8/25/2019 7:18 AM
105	Tax it and reduce our property taxes.	8/25/2019 7:16 AM
106	Have you looked at the science behind short term and long term effects of marijuana on the body? Have you investigated recent data to see the effects of implementing such measures on a local community? I would like to see evidence of its medical, recreational, and financial benefit to local municipalities. Marijuana is a gateway drug. Despite the increased revenue benefit for our community, it is unwise to sanction manufacturing and the sale of this drug to our current population and future generation.	8/25/2019 7:13 AM
107	The extent to which I would support (or at least not wholly oppose) allowing it to reside alongside the arguments about alcohol and cigarettes... Would depend on the extent of the regulations and how well they are enforced. While I prefer it be hidden from plain sight for the sake of mine and other children... I do accept there should be a certain expectation of proper parenting. One doesn't think twice about buying beer or cigarettes with their kid/s in tow. While I don't want it "in my back yard" and I will admit I don't know what the right answer is... I do know that criminalizing pot, but regulating tobacco and alcohol is hypocritical and would allow many a second chance rather than being ruined for life, simply because they got caught for such a minor thing.	8/25/2019 7:09 AM
108	The tax revenue will be great for our town!	8/25/2019 7:02 AM
109	Just be cool.	8/25/2019 6:47 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

110	Tax it to the point of dropping property taxes.	8/25/2019 6:44 AM
111	I am not certain how all these changes will effect our village and our state, but more importantly our minor children. I think that sales should be allowed for private use, but I am strongly opposed to cafes, smoke lounges, or any such businesses operating near our retail areas, therefore our housing and schools. Let's face it our town is small and all of our kids ride their bikes to these retail centers. I am for any businesses, dispensaries or manufacturing operating here creating revenue for the village and jobs, I just dont think its appropriate next to our grocery stores etc.	8/25/2019 6:42 AM
112	It is 2019 and our society needs more options than pharmaceutical companies can provide without all the dangerous side effects. There are vets, children, adults who could benefit from access to cannabis, but are hindered by the current lengthy process to obtain a medical license. If Oswego bans the sale, people will just take their business elsewhere. With the stalled Hudson Crossing development and recent loss of local business, can Oswego really afford to ban sales and alienate more paying customers?	8/25/2019 6:38 AM
113	Just because the state legalizes it doesn't mean that Oswego has to peddle it. Nothing good can come of it. Its all about \$\$\$ at the citizen's expense.	8/25/2019 6:36 AM
114	I feel it should be treated like alcohol.	8/25/2019 6:33 AM
115	Make the license fees affordable	8/25/2019 6:23 AM
116	My only concern is that they remain professional in appearance from the exterior and don't turn into used car lots with the big floppy air tube guy out front. In my opinion it should be something along the lines of binney's. Light bright clean and professional.	8/25/2019 6:16 AM
117	As long as the laws are being followed as they should by all smokers, and the local police isn't lurking following profiling when people are leaving the establishments then I think things will be ok.	8/25/2019 6:16 AM
118	If it changes your mood , it changes your reflexes. Driving, building , teaching, it is affected. Should be stalled until a fast sobriety test can be made so people can be challenged as to their competence.	8/25/2019 6:12 AM
119	None at all. Please make this a solution prior to January 1 so that revenue and home value increases.	8/25/2019 6:07 AM
120	WE have enough trouble trying to enforce the no text and drive laws with irresponsible people among us.	8/25/2019 6:00 AM
121	i will use mj for pain control for a serious progressive neurological disorder.	8/25/2019 6:00 AM
122	Marijuana has been shown to be safer than alcohol and this is going to be great for the city.	8/25/2019 5:58 AM
123	Do not miss on an opportunity to elevate some of the property tax burden on us.	8/25/2019 5:50 AM
124	I have concerns about this in our community. I have concerns about raising children with easy access to this substance. I have concerns about safety, especially on the road travel, with this in our community.	8/25/2019 5:40 AM
125	If we don't support it and tax it, potential tax money will just go to surrounding towns such as Aurora.	8/25/2019 5:33 AM
126	I believe there would be a great and positive impact on the town and community. The state is making it legal and as long as we go about all of this the right way it will bring on job and revenue into the village.	8/25/2019 5:33 AM
127	This is a revenue opportunity for the village that should not be squandered. But regulations must also be carefully put in place to protect citizens as much as possible. The village must be cautious and thorough in researching best practices in communities that already have dispensaries.	8/25/2019 5:19 AM
128	Legalising something that helps so many people with a variety of illnesses is a great idea, that i'd support	8/25/2019 5:06 AM
129	My concern is driving under the influence issues. And the nonresident people coming to Oswego to purchase/intake this substance	8/25/2019 4:44 AM
130	Please don't let this be part of our cute downtown area. Protect and cultivate that area. This belongs in a strip mall or industrial park.	8/25/2019 4:41 AM
131	Sell this	8/25/2019 4:04 AM
132	Please keep it out of the village	8/25/2019 3:51 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

133	None	8/25/2019 3:13 AM
134	If the decision to allow this occurs, then the taxes should benefit all of us who are put in possible danger by those who are participating in the use. What ever happened to "smoking being dangerous to your heath". What about the opiod issue. While I realize nicotine is not a part of cannabis, and it technically is not an opiod, it is a form of a drug that can be habit forming, as is tobacco and opiods. If someone is stopped for a moving violation, how can the use of cannabis be tested? There are tests in place for alcohol in moving violations, but what can be done to see if cannabis useage is a factor? Also, what if someone has used cannabis and then goes to a restaurant or bar? What if a bartender or server is not aware that a customer has just participated in the use of cannabis and serves them a drink? Since the number of drinks differs from person to person on it's effect - so would the effect of the combination. As a previous business owner that had staff that dealt with food and hot items, I would have to know how I would be protected as an employer. Because someone passes a drug test, doesn't mean that they would participate in the use of cannabis later.	8/25/2019 2:14 AM
135	Go for it. Why not, guys??	8/24/2019 9:09 PM
136	I believe there should be some restrictions during festivities, such as Prairie Fest and any other event that takes place on school grounds	8/24/2019 7:41 PM
137	It's gonna get into the village regardless of whether or not you sell it here. Might as well sell it and tax it and use the taxes to fix the roads or the schools or something.	8/24/2019 5:08 PM
138	Let Cannabis in! It's a medicine! Do the research.	8/24/2019 4:17 PM
139	Keep it out of the hands of children!	8/24/2019 3:59 PM
140	The idea of a pot smoking lounge is scary because it COULD put more impaired drivers on the road. Oswego doesn't necessarily have a mass transit system and after a wild hookah party some people may find themselves behind the wheel 'stoned as a bejesus' driving through a cornfield. I don't think that would be too 'groovy'.	8/24/2019 2:54 PM
141	A local tax could be put towards useful things but I worry if the price is too high, people will continue to buy/sell underground and then it will all be pointless.	8/24/2019 2:39 PM
142	Be in forefront Oswego! Don't let this extra revenue pass you by!	8/24/2019 1:59 PM
143	To not capture this tax revenue opportunity, would be a huge mistake.	8/24/2019 12:15 PM
144	The sale of cannabis will generate much needed tax dollars, which Oswego desperately needs! Our property taxes are some of the highest in the area and cannabis consumption is far safer than alcohol!	8/24/2019 12:09 PM
145	Sales downtown--not enough parking Taxing--I would hope that if taxed, this money could replace part of the extremely high real estate taxes in this area.	8/24/2019 12:01 PM
146	Although I'm totally against local use, sales, distribution, manufacturing or cultivation of cannabis, if any of these activities were to be allowed by the Village, they should be heavily taxed to insure other village revenue sources aren't needed to pay for administration and enforcement of these misguided programs.	8/24/2019 11:15 AM
147	I'd love to patronize some boutique recreational weed shops	8/24/2019 10:24 AM
148	I have a friend whos child was one of the few selected for the Epidiolex trials and have seen first hand what it can do to not only better, but change, someone's entire way of existence. We as a society do not know what is going on in someone else's life to make them want, or need, to use marijuana. Effective regulation can make it safe for people to seek it out.	8/24/2019 10:11 AM
149	To all board members, please do not vote for any cannabis establishment in our town.	8/24/2019 10:03 AM
150	Oswego used to be a wholesome, family-friendly community. But since we moved here 14 years ago, we have seen an increase in crimes, panhandlers, drug busts and slot machines. We used to see the police force on Douglas daily, and I cannot tell you the last time I've seen a police car over here. Let's aim to preserve the goodness of the community. Oswego community members are high-income earners compared to other towns. Let's think of a better way to use the resources we have instead of corrupting our children and our community. Just because something is legal doesn't mean it's ethical.	8/24/2019 8:46 AM
151	Regulate and tax in a sensible way to take advantage of the potential boost to village tax coffers	8/24/2019 8:33 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

152	I would suggest that at least for a time if not indefinitely you take a portion of collected taxes and give that to the school district. Use the rest to pay off debts so we can lower taxes and bring people back to this great town instead of forcing them away. This gives us an opportunity to expand and be the great town we can. Be the forefront of the state with the best educational system in the state and bring in the more businesses. We can truly be great but it requires thought and foresight and proper planning but most of all thinking outside the box and how we can truly give back to this community.	8/24/2019 7:22 AM
153	I'm in strong opposition to any form of cannabis in our community.	8/24/2019 7:22 AM
154	This will be good option for people with pain and inflammation.	8/24/2019 7:02 AM
155	It's a revenue source which is always needed. If Oswego says no, the next town will say yes. People are going to buy it, so we might as will keep the tax dollars here instead of going elsewhere.	8/24/2019 6:52 AM
156	If we decide to ban these facilities within Oswego we will see tax revenue and jobs go to other municipalities. As a current medical card holder I would prefer to be able to support my local community but that is not an option now.	8/24/2019 6:37 AM
157	There are enough "mind alternating "substances available. This is just another easy way to get high.	8/24/2019 6:25 AM
158	I oppose cannabis sales.	8/24/2019 6:17 AM
159	It's going to be legal. Treat it like alcohol sales and bring some revenue back to Oswego	8/24/2019 5:49 AM
160	If Oswego does not do this we are missing an opportunity. Best to be first and take in the tax cash and employment opportunities.	8/24/2019 5:10 AM
161	I think this is a danger to the community.. People driving "high" to get more cannabis to get "higher".. The high school is close to the downtown area and cause more temptations to the high schoolers.. I am against it. I saw a presentation on the effects of home grown and legalized cannabis. It was not pretty, The Hospitals were crowded with young adult who had pyschotic episodes, I saw streets littered with debris, I saw billboards along the highways advertising where to buy. Gas stations advertising to buy your gas and get your cannabis here at the same time.. What are we doing? This is accident waiting to happen..	8/24/2019 5:01 AM
162	None, if we sell liquor, we should sell pot. It might help our ever rising property taxes which are getting out of control.	8/24/2019 4:53 AM
163	Please be forward thinking!	8/24/2019 4:45 AM
164	Be competitive on the tax. We don't want to price our selves out of the market. Let's be first in the market and capture the revenue. Let's not give our tax dollars to neighboring towns. This could give a reason for people to come to Oswego. Once they are here, they may stop in one of our restaurants and shops.	8/24/2019 4:39 AM
165	Hypothetical: your child is a new driver, your spouse is driving or you are driving and get into an accident with a person high on cannabis. We can test for alcohol can we test for that being impaired by cannabis at that moment? Why increase the risk to the community? Money?	8/24/2019 4:38 AM
166	Please do not approve sale in Oswego!	8/24/2019 4:22 AM
167	I am concerned that the pros and cons of this issue will not be fully discussed with the general public. This has been successfully implemented across the country, and has proven to be a boon in tax revenue and public satisfaction when implemented responsibly. Alcohol is also legal and is readily available everywhere in town at grocery stores and gas stations. We need to give this issue the same consideration.	8/24/2019 4:19 AM
168	Its going to happen somewhere . Might as well get into the manufacturing part and get tax monies	8/24/2019 4:01 AM
169	Stupid and selfish idea to get tax dollars by poisoning our residents. Brilliant! Let Pritzker open up all the pot stores he wants in HIS neighborhood....not going to happen. We could be doing so much more for our community then selling out and allowing harmful drugs to be sold legally. And what type of people will this draw to our village? Do we not have enough crime here already? Absolutely ludicrous idea....take a stand, and don't take this easy way out by harming others and village.	8/24/2019 3:59 AM
170	My opinion is based not only on the positive medical and emotional benefits of cannabis, but also on the revenue that the village will gain.	8/24/2019 3:59 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

171	Not interested in having cannabis in Oswego!	8/24/2019 3:31 AM
172	I wouldn't oppose all of these options, but I have not read anything regarding how people can get in their cars and drive after smoking. It's not like drinking, where you can have one, or a certain amount, before you are impaired and still be ok to drive. And the pot is stronger now also. How will this be monitored / enforced? Also concerned about already out of control traffic and instances of aggressive and distracted driving (I am a long-time Boulder Hill .resident)	8/24/2019 3:22 AM
173	Go slow...we do not know the effects on our community of this legalization yet. We do not need to be at the forefront here. We don't know what the quality or character will be of retail owners and their establishments. Take the high road.	8/24/2019 3:03 AM
174	Please tax the sales and lower property taxes. There is no doubt that our taxes are too high.	8/24/2019 2:24 AM
175	This should be treated in the same or similar manner as alcohol sales.	8/24/2019 2:22 AM
176	I believe we need to use this opportunity to tax cannabis businesses, not outrageously, but enough to LOWER our residential property taxes, which are the highest in the state and among the highest in the country. People are literally moving out because of them.	8/24/2019 2:15 AM
177	It's just one more step in the wrong direction. Nothing can be controlled anymore. We should be able to realize this by now.	8/24/2019 2:05 AM
178	Allowing this in our village is just going to make it easier for kids to get it. Look how out of control vaping is.	8/24/2019 2:02 AM
179	Legalization of cannabis could be an economic opportunity for the city.	8/24/2019 1:58 AM
180	Lower our taxes by using this as a new and profitable taxable revenue source.	8/24/2019 1:57 AM
181	IF the Board should pass growing/sales. etc. for recreation--heavily tax it. Gateway drug to cocaine use. Smoking is banned and govt. is now targeting vaping while allowing marijuana smoking anywhere--makes no sense. How will the police handle accidents caused by "high" on cannabis when it is legal???	8/23/2019 8:08 PM
182	Its time to move past the lies and stereotypes. Medical benefits have been proven and still need to be explored and developed.	8/23/2019 8:00 PM
183	It's legal, and it's ridiculous that so many towns are not allowing dispensaries.	8/23/2019 7:11 PM
184	It's a benefit for residents, it's not another excuse to tax residents	8/23/2019 5:39 PM
185	This is a great opportunity for tax income and for doing the right thing	8/23/2019 5:36 PM
186	About time!!!!!! You can drink your self to death.... But God for bid you smoke a joint!!!!!!	8/23/2019 5:12 PM
187	Any tax should go directly and completely to the schools in perpetuity.	8/23/2019 5:08 PM
188	I am in support of this, especially if the local tax on cannabis sales will go towards the schools and pensions giving us oswego residents some much needed tax relief .	8/23/2019 4:20 PM
189	How are you going to keep all of this pot away from our kids and out of our schools??? It won't fix our budget issues. You are selling our kids futures for 30 pieces of silver. Nothing good will come of this, our financial situation will not improve and all that will result is a bunch of stoned individuals that will contribute nothing to improving our community. Our governor is a fat fool playing with our kids futures	8/23/2019 4:18 PM
190	To each their own. Those who want to partake, should have the option. It's a plant. Safer than Tobacco and alcohol. And cures many illnesses- cancer included! I'm glad the world is finally opening their eyes!	8/23/2019 4:03 PM
191	How will law enforcement check drivers for legal limits? If personal use/growing is allowed, how can it be regulated?	8/23/2019 3:19 PM
192	It makes sense to sell it as it will benefit the city economy. Local cities may very well have it legalized, and it would not be a particularly difficult task to go for a quick drive to obtain it. There fore I believe it makes logical sense to allow the sale and to impose some level of tax. The tax should not be too high though to deter the convince of getting it in oswego. Otherwise the people will travel to get it at a cheaper price somewhere else.	8/23/2019 3:17 PM
193	Should be banned in establishments, or in public, but approved for at home use.	8/23/2019 3:09 PM
194	I don't think this is the image that Oswego wants/needs.	8/23/2019 3:02 PM



## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

195	If you build it, they will come. If You don't build it somebody else will. Marijuana has been legalized in the state, let's get over the past conceptions, and move forward. It should be treated just like alcohol. At some point, we will look back on the past, just like we look back on prohibition, with disbelief that it took so long.	8/23/2019 2:09 PM
196	I live in Chicago and would like to operate a craft grow facility. I am an entrepreneur looking to get involved in the industry in illinois.	8/23/2019 1:52 PM
197	Our taxes are very high in our area. If t we can bring in new businesses to help low the taxes for home owners I am all for supporting and taxing cannabis sales.	8/23/2019 1:45 PM
198	We are raising children in this community. That is the most important job in the world. Having our kids ride bikes and school buses by these shops only makes that job more challenging. Good local govt should not balance their budgets on marijuana, gambling, or pornography period....	8/23/2019 1:44 PM
199	Great opportunity to generate taxes. Tax rate must be competitive. Do it now before other surrounding municipalities beat us to it and the opportunity is lost!	8/23/2019 12:47 PM
200	If you where to go through with this I think your asking for trouble. Oswego has (like other villages) enough problems and police issues as it is! Why add to it!	8/23/2019 12:46 PM
201	You were elected to make this decision on my behalf...please do your job.	8/23/2019 12:03 PM
202	Oswego will experience the downside of legalize cannabis whether or not cannabis is sold or grown locally. The village should benefit from the local taxes, business, and jobs that will be generated by the cannabis industry.	8/23/2019 11:19 AM
203	What benefit could possibly be gained by supporting recreational marijuana production, sale and distribution within the Village of Oswego? If the answer is to gain revenue for the village, that may be a poor decision. It is my opinion that the support of recreational marijuana only increases the probability for occurrences of impaired judgement by users and will likely result in property damage or personal injury occurrences and additional workload on the law enforcement system.	8/23/2019 11:10 AM
204	It should not be hidden in industrial parks - stop the stigma. Great opportunity for revenue generation.	8/23/2019 10:15 AM
205	It's going to be purchased; it's going to be used. Oswego should share in the tax profits.	8/23/2019 9:48 AM
206	As a medical patient for the past 2 years I've noticed that Oswego and the surrounding area (Aurora excluded) have no nearby dispensary locations. Please be mindful with additional taxes on recreational as I think the state already has it set very high at 30%? So a local tax would be additional and might deter people from purchasing. Medical cannabis allows me to deal with my chronic pain from multiple diseases, I was able to stop taking narcotics because of cannabis.	8/23/2019 9:16 AM
207	I feel that, if it is allowed in Oswego, there should be no shops, stores, lounges accessible to people, especially children, who do not want to be exposed to marijuana and its products, the culture and people often associated with marijuana and "getting high," and be subjected to people under the influence of marijuana. Also, lounges should be outlawed as smoking is prohibited within restaurants, bars, and practically anywhere indoors and people should not be subjected to any second hand smoke permeating from such an establishment. I have always been against smoking, vaping, and anything associated with marijuana and its culture. However, I would not be opposed to cultivation facilities and dispensaries for medical marijuana.	8/23/2019 7:47 AM
208	Why not get on board there is a market just waiting for more expansion.Downtown Oswego would get a boost in revenue especially with the new improvements in the future.	8/23/2019 7:41 AM
209	Let's bring more trouble into Oswego!!	8/23/2019 6:57 AM
210	The local tax should be used for funding for schools only	8/23/2019 6:39 AM
211	No control of public use in crowds or areas where public is at risk. The non enforcement of laws already in affect against drug and alcohol use in public. Lack of police presence in areas the will see a climb in criminal activity.	8/23/2019 6:34 AM
212	I see this opportunity to allow sales of marijuana in our community to be a positive impact in our society, and business in oswego. Continuing to prohibit responsible recreational and medical use could not make things better in our communities. Use tax dollars from this to provide education to our young community about issues that matter to our well being.	8/23/2019 5:16 AM
213	I honestly feel like it could free up so much of the police departments time & also support those who use it for pain management.	8/23/2019 4:53 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

214	Medical cannabis has greatly improved my quality of life. I suffer from multiple chronic illnesses including fibromyalgia. Allowing a medical store front in Oswego will compassionately allow residents better access by eliminating long drives while very ill. Many times, I cannot get my medicine as needed because I am too ill to travel to my dispensary Naperville. Keep the tax money while improving our community. Studies have shown crime decreases with a new store front and more foot traffic, regardless of the type of business. I urge you to consider the positive impact both a medical and recreational dispensary can have on our community.	8/23/2019 4:42 AM
215	My oppositions are mainly due to the availability to children/minors. We pay the highest taxes in the country, so no I don't approve of taxing consumption on recreational or medicinal.	8/23/2019 4:36 AM
216	The cultivation and sale of marijuana in our community would pose more problems than benefits, hence my strong opposition. The only good things I see coming out of this are a couple of extra jobs and some more tax revenue. Those two benefits do not nearly make up for the cause and effect logic that clearly demonstrates how dangerous marijuana could become to our community. Marijuana is a drug that, when taken, can induce harmful side effects such as altered senses, impaired memory, hallucinations, and psychosis (National Institute on Drug Abuse). People know this, but they'll still take it anyway, as it is not as strong as other drugs like cocaine, and therefore, more people will justify using it. However, marijuana is an addictive substance, so big problems will become apparent as soon as users start craving larger, more frequent doses and eventually, stronger drugs. This will lead to users getting strong highs and becoming mentally unstable. A lot of very catastrophic events have happened in our country that have been initiated by mentally unstable individuals. I want my community leaders to wake up and see that marijuana can lead to a lot trouble, of which we as a state already have enough. I am even against the sale of medical marijuana, as that can easily be abused. And while I concede that if people really wanted marijuana, they could get it outside of Oswego, we could still send a message that we will rise above and not endanger our citizens by our own doing.	8/23/2019 4:24 AM
217	Oswego would be foolish to not take advantage of this opportunity to create tax revenue and jobs. If we do not take advantage of it other towns will.	8/23/2019 4:09 AM
218	Of you sell alcohol why not cannabis	8/23/2019 3:57 AM
219	Too soon to jump in! I'm sure that there will be no shortage of places to obtain pot so access to supply should not be an issue. Don't think Oswego has the wherewithal to deal with the issue and community just doesn't need the headache.	8/23/2019 3:32 AM
220	Please do not allow this in our village. There will be plenty of places to purchase this product in Aurora and people can go there to buy. Our village needs to be spared the problems associated with this product.	8/23/2019 3:15 AM
221	It's an opportunity to create jobs in our village. We shouldn't turn our backs on this opportunity because of marijuanas shady history. It would be awful for us to turn our backs on. We have liquor stores and a brewery it's no different. I can not drink and personally I would buy recreational marijuana.	8/23/2019 2:25 AM
222	I only support cannabis for medicinal use & sale.	8/23/2019 2:24 AM
223	With neighboring cities such as Naperville and North Aurora adopting policies against recreational marijuana, Oswego is in a position to capture those sales (and tax revenue). This should also boost sales for neighboring businesses. Thank you for surveying the residents to assist in your decision-making! :)	8/23/2019 2:14 AM
224	PLEASE DO IT! It would be the smartest decision and it would bring in a lot of money	8/23/2019 1:52 AM
225	It will be the smartest decision you guys will make by allowing this! That's to good of money to pass up.	8/23/2019 1:33 AM
226	The tax revenue will pull Illinois out of the cellar if yhe monies are handled correctly and the corruption is kept at bay!	8/23/2019 1:19 AM
227	The more businesses the better	8/23/2019 1:11 AM
228	Let the plant be free for all to enjoy and collect your tax revenue, then use it on the streets and and schools.	8/23/2019 12:51 AM
229	I have been using medical cannabis since the program's inception. It's really helped me, in unimaginable ways. We could attract cannabis businesses and tourists, lower our taxes by collecting some taxes from the cannabis industry.	8/22/2019 6:58 PM
230	As a whole, I am strong opposed to the legalization of marijuana in our state.	8/22/2019 6:44 PM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

231	Age enforcement, smelling pot everywhere and having even more idiot drivers in town.	8/22/2019 6:36 PM
232	I think it's a valuable source of tax revenue that we can either keep or send to other neighboring cities.	8/22/2019 5:17 PM
233	This will create jobs and tremendous revenue for the city. It would be a shame not to take advantage of an opportunity to keep people in our city and keep money circulating here.	8/22/2019 5:07 PM
234	Because I would move there	8/22/2019 4:18 PM
235	This is a significant opportunity to embark on a new trajectory that is not ever going to go backward. Get on the bus now!	8/22/2019 4:13 PM
236	No recreational marijuana sale in Oswego.	8/22/2019 3:57 PM
237	Great therapy for physical and mental ailment. Hoping you and the state can tax it to help pay down debt and eventually lower our income and property taxes. Also, could you direct tax revenues to District 308?	8/22/2019 3:57 PM
238	If there is a local tax for individuals to buy cannabis, people will go to other local cities to buy it reducing the prosperity of new business looking to sell cannabis in the city. These businesses are going to thrive which would increase city growth and economy	8/22/2019 3:43 PM
239	It's going to be everywhere. It already is illegally. If you allow it you will be ahead of everyone else and you will be providing a safe environment and product for consumers.	8/22/2019 3:26 PM
240	The only reason someone would be fit this (other than for medicinal reasons) is because of their greed and lack of knowledge pertaining to maintaining someone's health. It's smoking, aren't we trying we trying to get people to stop smoking?	8/22/2019 3:10 PM
241	No additional comments, concerns, or suggestions.	8/22/2019 2:55 PM
242	Allow it and tax it. We need the funds. I don't smoke personally, but the revenue is badly needed since the Village discourages other businesses from opening in town.	8/22/2019 2:39 PM
243	I am not a user of cannabis but feel that the tax revenue will help our general area.	8/22/2019 2:27 PM
244	So not drop the ball and impose a ban. Oswego NEEDS this; we need to collect EVERY SINGLE CENT of taxed sales. This would be a HUGE boost to local economy; obviously these car washes and mattress stores aren't doing the job.	8/22/2019 2:14 PM
245	Remember the affect marijuana has on people. Increasing the number of individuals operating cars, working with children, manufacturing labor, etc. puts people at risk. Having marijuana in our system better still eliminate you from many employment situations increasing the cost of labor while decreasing the pool. I understand the financial draw, sex trafficking and slavery had financial advantages too. Still didn't make them right or morally correct.	8/22/2019 1:51 PM
246	I have lived in Colorado Springs for a good portion of my adult life studying these matters. As long as you have a proper licensing procedure your good. Let in the right people and the right people will do the right thing.	8/22/2019 1:40 PM
247	As a medical card carrier, it would be much more convenient to purchase in the town I live in opposed to going elsewhere. I would much rather support Oswego with the taxes I pay than a town that I don't live in. Oswego may thrive from the additional tax income benefitting all.	8/22/2019 1:38 PM
248	Say yes! Tax revenue is greatly needed!	8/22/2019 1:22 PM
249	legalization and dispensaries will help bring more business to our town. Will raise lots of money if properly taxed and that money can be put back into the community. Wins all around.	8/22/2019 1:13 PM
250	I would hate for us to lose out on this revenue. I strongly support any aspect of the industry. I would like to see guidelines / regulations for appearance of store fronts.	8/22/2019 12:27 PM
251	Oswego needs more tax revenue. If we don't allow cannabis sales in our town, the businesses will flourish elsewhere.	8/22/2019 11:57 AM
252	Making the decision to sell and tax recreational marijuana will bring tax revenue from several towns, Plano is looking to outlaw sale and Naperville already has, these outside sources along with users in town could bring as much tax revenue for the Township(if not more) as a bar or liquor store.	8/22/2019 11:55 AM
253	I am in support of bringing in the revenue!	8/22/2019 11:50 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

254	If it is legal there is no reason to not allow some form in the village, however, perception is reality so care should be taken to not allow it family areas.	8/22/2019 11:48 AM
255	This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of this new venture. The revenue will be a welcome addition to our town.	8/22/2019 11:30 AM
256	Tax the cannabis to help lower our taxes!	8/22/2019 11:19 AM
257	My concern is that is will become so public that young children will be exposed at too young of an age. I have 4 children ages 10,9,6 and 9 months. We participate in a lot of activities in the downtown Oswego area and having something like that so accessible around them is not what I hope for. I don't want to sit outside of our favorite coffee shop or restaurant and smell someone smoking near by .	8/22/2019 11:14 AM
258	Please do this. I can not afford my property taxes going up anymore. If they go up more, I will move.	8/22/2019 11:04 AM
259	As a person who has never even experimented with any type of drug, ever, I'm very torn. I grew up in a home with a father who was a drug addict so I see the negative effects of people and families. However, I now have a disabled child who benefits from CBD and will so be switching to medical marijuana. Morally, it troubles me because of the strong opinion against drug use I've had my whole life. But, I see the positive effects CBD has made on her life and the research that shows how much more improvement we can expect with medical marijuana. For that reason, my responses are all over the board. I don't want to walk the downtown streets and be hit with the smell of marijuana. But, if a plant was located in a business park that would contribute to the Village's tax base while providing much needed medical marijuana for people - I support that. I also think that it is going to increase the revenue of the PD due to more citations/arrests for being under the influence.	8/22/2019 11:01 AM
260	Please don't allow this in our town.	8/22/2019 10:53 AM
261	I am neither a resident or business owner of Oswego, but I do live in Montgomery. The Villages are very close and I do most of my shopping, etc. in Oswego, so I do have an interest in this topic. Please don't add any cannabis establishments!	8/22/2019 10:46 AM
262	I would need more information- I'd love to see example of what has worked and not worked in other parts of the country. But let's be honest - we need another source of review.	8/22/2019 10:41 AM
263	The more cannabis is taxed the more black market sales will be kept alive.	8/22/2019 10:37 AM
264	Use the funds for education	8/22/2019 10:36 AM
265	Let's get onboard early and get tax revenues from this industry.	8/22/2019 10:35 AM
266	Whether or not the village allows the sale, it will be dealing with the increased costs associated it within the police department. By allowing sales, tax revenues will hopefully cover those increased costs.	8/22/2019 10:24 AM
267	If taxed, these funds should be allocated to our schools.	8/22/2019 10:22 AM
268	How about setting aside taxes to care for those impacted by the increased vehicle accidents, domestic abuse, health issues of those who chose to use this drug	8/22/2019 10:06 AM
269	By allowing regulated production and sales to occur locally, one would reasonably expect the black market demand to disappear, thus reducing the crime rate in the Oswego area, while concurrently bringing jobs and tax revenue to Oswego.	8/22/2019 9:45 AM
270	Plz	8/22/2019 9:23 AM
271	We need tax\$\$\$\$ that's what Illinois does..lol	8/22/2019 9:09 AM
272	Please do not all these sales. It will bring more people to the village who may potentially cause more harm then good. Also there is already a large presence of drugs in the schools and this could add more work to school staff members.	8/22/2019 8:46 AM
273	I think we need oversight to make sure the quality is check periodically to avoid contamination of the product so it is safe for consumption. Also, we need to make sure the taxes are reasonable and to have oversight on how the revenue is used.	8/22/2019 8:26 AM
274	If possible, I'd like any local tax on cannabis sales or manufacturing to be expressly earmarked for Public Schools. We are a growing community with a good school system & I want it to stay that way.	8/22/2019 8:23 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

275	Just do it. It will help our community.	8/22/2019 8:18 AM
276	I think bringing in dispensaries will help our community thrive.	8/22/2019 8:16 AM
277	It is a documented fact that property crimes, violent crimes and fatal accidents have increased in communities like Denver that have allowed these types of establishments on top of legalizing cannabis.	8/22/2019 7:57 AM
278	Now that cannabis is legal, our town should maximize on the profit and tax opportunity to help lower our insanely high property taxes.	8/22/2019 7:57 AM
279	Do it	8/22/2019 7:48 AM
280	May as well get the money into our village or it will go elsewhere. I understand some nearby villages are saying no but eventually they will want some of the money and change their minds.	8/22/2019 7:35 AM
281	I think putting cannabis establishments in the area can create jobs for people and make it easier for people to get the products who need them for medical uses. If it is legalized, it's legalized for a reason so there's no point in criminalizing it further in communities. I'm not sure if the tax question is just about when it is purchased or if it's an additional tax that everyone pays - if it's when it's purchased then it makes sense to make the town additional funds and use it to put it towards something USEFUL - not just dump it into political workers pockets. If it's just a general tax that's put on everyone in the city, it doesn't make sense.	8/22/2019 7:34 AM
282	It would be foolish to push business opportunities away from Oswego. The federal legalization of Cannabis is inevitable at this point, I believe. If we do not open ourselves up to it now, we will lag behind in possible job growth and tax revenue. I do not fully support Oswego putting a high local tax on Cannabis sales. This would drive businesses away. If we do put a local tax on sales it should be small. The state tax is already 10%-25%, depending on the product being sold. It would be foolish and dangerous to drive people away from the legal market due to high taxes. It is in the government's best interest to encourage people to purchase Cannabis the safe and legal way. We have an opportunity to be leaders in an industry that will flourish in years to come, let's not screw it up.	8/22/2019 7:28 AM
283	I have spoken up against pot for 20 years online, typing my fingers to the bone, and have CLEARLY shown why pot should be illegal forever, with very stiff penalties! It is not because of marijuana itself, but because of the PEOPLE who use and defend it! There is NO WAY we should ever want people like this walking around actually USING a mind-altering drug! Pot smokers are horrible online! They cuss me out, threaten me with death and bodily harm, attack my looks, my religion, my sex life, make fun of me for collecting dolls as a hobby, tell me to kill myself, etc. They have revealed my personal information and put my life in danger and sent unwanted things to my house. And they ALL tell me to "educate myself" and accuse me of thinking that pot is dangerous and addictive and kills people. It doesn't even OCCUR to them that I am against pot because it's a mind-altering drug! They can't see why it is wrong to use drugs to have "fun"! (Neither can the booze drinkers when I speak up against THEIR precious mind-altering drug!) I could go on and on about this, and will send you a longer email. I should also send you a sample of the THOUSANDS of comments and emails I have saved from pot smokers over the years. And if you want proof as to why pot should be illegal, just watch the videos they have made about me, and read the comments on them. Again, I will send you a longer email about this. Thank you.	8/22/2019 7:20 AM
284	This is insane and will only lead to kids and adults making poor choices and more vehicular accidents. Sale and surely production of cannabis in our town should never be allowed. I chose the "strongly support" option on taxation if the sale is allowed, as we should tax the heck out of the growers and sellers to pay for schooling, and then decrease the ridiculous property taxes we have in Oswego. But, this is only if sale is allowed of course as my preference is to keep in banned.	8/22/2019 7:16 AM
285	Sale and use of cannabis should be regulated much in the same way that alcohol currently is.	8/22/2019 6:59 AM
286	While not a cannabis consumer, I think it is incredibly short sighted to ignore the fact that cannabis is here to stay. The sooner our community can learn to accept it, the sooner we can begin to appropriately tax the product. States that have chosen to appropriately adopt and tax accordingly have seen incredible revenue growth. Without accepting the sale in our community, we are only continuing to encourage illegal sales in the city or encouraging legal purchase in other cities/counties, thus shifting the tax revenue to a competing city. Let's face it, it's a tax that can easily assist in the growth and benefit of our community without raising city or real estate taxes.	8/22/2019 6:58 AM
287	I think recreational and medical marijuana is moving forward with local multiple state and increasing federal support. The additional tax revenue for Oswego would be helpful especially if it was specifically used for the schools.	8/22/2019 6:53 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

288	This country has enough problems on its hands right now. Pot will be just another problem.	8/22/2019 6:42 AM
289	I am afraid of stoned drivers.	8/22/2019 6:28 AM
290	smoking and driving hazard!!!!	8/22/2019 6:20 AM
291	Whether it is deemed ethical or not by the people of this village, it is hard to dispute or ignore all of the benefits other places who have legalized have seen. Having dispensaries, growing facilities, lounges, etc. serves to bring in more taxes, jobs, and tourists, all of which lead to positive growth in the village. Embracing this new law as fully as we can will make Oswego a progressive and healthy destination for many, especially those living in towns in the nearby rural villages, who will unlikely take a more liberal stance. Many in this town may not want these facilities listed here to be put into place, for a variety of reasons. Maybe they think it's unethical or that it will make access easier for their kids. The unfortunate truth is that it is already likely that a teenager can get cannabis if they so choose. Bringing these facilities closer to home will drive business from illegal dealers (a benefit in its own), which will make it harder for underaged Oswegoans to find it.	8/22/2019 6:06 AM
292	This is an Illinois law that should be embraced by the community. This will help residents deal with chronic conditions that they may not have the means to have diagnosed by medical professional. It will also bring revenue to the community through tax dollars.	8/22/2019 6:00 AM
293	Medicinal marijuana use has changed my life drastically for the better and I would love to see our town benefit from the presence of the marijuana industry.	8/22/2019 5:55 AM
294	Use this money to help fund the struggling school district. Use marijuana sales tax instead of potentially going to referendum again.	8/22/2019 5:51 AM
295	I support opening this business opportunity to a wide range of entrepreneurs.	8/22/2019 5:32 AM
296	People will buy it somewhere, shop local. If tax revenues from the sale of cannabis outpace expectations perhaps other village taxes can be decreased.	8/22/2019 5:28 AM
297	This is a big opportunity for tax revenue. If Oswego doesn't have any dispensaries then people will simply spend their money in neighboring towns that do. If Oswego has liquor stores, then Oswego should have cannabis stores.	8/22/2019 5:24 AM
298	As a resident of Oswego for almost 60 years, I feel that safe, well-lit, classy and clean dispensaries are a must and a plus for Oswego. I want residents who need cannabis (medical) or want cannabis (recreational) to not have to drive or search elsewhere for it. Our community can greatly benefit from the tax on sales. If done right, this could and should help to lower taxes in Oswego, as well as bring people to our great town. Residents should reap the benefits of this new endeavor. I think we also need to educate the public of the pluses of this potential revenue generator and stop the misinformation. For example, the idea that dispensaries will be seedy, dark and bring in rif-raf. People I've spoken to are afraid of that very thing.	8/22/2019 5:11 AM
299	The history of outlawing cannabis, a natural medicine was originated in racism. We need to accept cannabis as it as much less deadly and less apt to be linked to crime than legal alcohol which is an addicting depressant that is related to violence and crime.	8/22/2019 5:10 AM
300	I believe Federal laws would be a good parallel for the Village of Oswego to follow. I do not support ANY cannabis sales in violation of Federal laws. God forbid my children or grandchildren are adversely impacted by those who advocate and use illegal substances while driving (or otherwise) while under the influence of any cannabis products.	8/22/2019 4:56 AM
301	It's here. Oswegoans are already using this product. We need to get in front of it and use it to our advantage. We need to tax it so we have the revenue, and use it to embolden our downtown. The economic impact to the surrounding businesses shouldn't be discounted. People are going to travel for it if we don't have it here, might as well be here. Also, I've never tried it. So, this isn't from an aficionado.	8/22/2019 4:56 AM
302	Our community needs so much more than cannabis business.	8/22/2019 4:54 AM
303	I would like to see it regulated as you do video gaming--on a case-by-case basis. Location should be strictly controlled so that main thoroughfares and high-density shopping areas aren't mixed. Actually--I'd like to see this for tobacco shops, too.	8/22/2019 4:29 AM
304	How law enforcement will determine levels while driving and how will they be able to determine duration as I have heard that it stays in your system quite some time.	8/22/2019 4:19 AM
305	Think the jury is still out on the retail sale of this product and its ultimate effect.	8/22/2019 4:10 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

306	I am really not sure how to respond . If we have to support this in our community, we certainly need to tax the transactions to cover what it will cost the community to monitor.	8/22/2019 4:00 AM
307	Cannabis legalization will prevent unnecessary criminalization of Village residents, as well as boost tax revenue. As with any other substance (i.e. alcohol), smart regulation can address public use concerns, help deter abuse, and allow for punishment of misuse. My family has recently relocated to Oswego, after comparing several neighboring towns. I was glad to have moved to Oswego when I recently heard neighboring Naperville was considering a ban to override this new state law. I will have serious regrets if the Village of Oswego decides to pursue a similar effort. Even if the Village does not want to allow businesses to sale, manufacturer, or distribute, the individual right to possess should not be infringed upon.	8/22/2019 3:52 AM
308	How about using the taxes for District 308.	8/22/2019 3:51 AM
309	Please do not allow this to come to Oswego.	8/22/2019 3:42 AM
310	I feel there is no reason to support this ridiculous law. If however the Village opens up to the idea of sales / grow, then I feel it should be taxed very heavily.	8/22/2019 3:33 AM
311	Many other Villages are looking to ban sales. There will be a great deal of money being made and Oswego is in a great position to capitalize on those sales.	8/22/2019 3:09 AM
312	Tax the shit out of it and use the money for schools and the stuff it should be used for.	8/22/2019 3:05 AM
313	I am not a supporter of legalized cannabis except for medical use. Because the state of Illinois is, Oswego may as well collect tax dollars from it. If we don't, surrounding communities will.	8/22/2019 3:04 AM
314	I personally think that this will be abused and just deteriorates the integrity of a neighborhood. Irresponsible people will purchase thos product for others. If it is a medical necessity those few can get the product elsewhere.	8/22/2019 2:58 AM
315	You know Aurora will allow all or most of these things. These are tax dollars we can capture or we can just freely allow them to 2 miles down Ogden. Please don't allow puritanical grandstanding and "Aww shucks, think of the children" nonsense to stand in the way of common sense revenue generation.	8/22/2019 2:54 AM
316	Tax it so high that it balances our budget I was sickened when, with everything that was on the table already, that was the only thing that passed. As a mom & resident of Oswego, & all that I see on social media: in our community; statistics out there regarding states already with legalization; the youth vaping issue here (amongst other youth issues: i.e. 6th/7th graders already starting to drink liquor & have sex; virginity circle at the OHS homecoming dance; drive by shootings, youth anxiety/depression issues — to name a few)... Even before legalization, youths in this community have had access to it (vape retailers are not monitored enough) & with the legalization... I feel it will now only get worse. I feel we already have enough on our plate, than to add another critical task. Let's get all these other issues tackled first. The question should be, "Are we successful in getting done, what needs to be done - with what we already have to do?" If the answer is no, then we should not be considering adding such an enormous responsibility. We have a multitude of serious issues already on our plate already. "Why are we even considering this?", (another great question to ask.). Multitasking only handles tasks at a mediocre level, instead of mastering projects with excellence...1 at a time. My vote is to not allow it here, at all. At least not until we are able to resolve the other issues first. Let's be a leader in our state & put our foot down. "Just say no!" My apology, but from what I witnessed already, I don't have the confidence that we will be able to handle this too. Feel free to educate me on what I might not know.	8/22/2019 2:51 AM
317	Q # 3 requires one to assume it will be legalized. I don't agree with it because it reinforces the bad idea of it becoming a taxable "revenue" for local government. When tax revenue is entered into the decision making ...politicians can be swayed by the money trail.	8/22/2019 2:45 AM
318	If it's going to be legalized, tax the shit out of it	8/22/2019 2:36 AM
319	I would rather the Village get the tax and sales dollars from the sale of cannabis than the drug dealers who push the use of drugs to hook our young people. I am concerned about the rise in crime in our town because people who are hooked on drugs need the money to buy them and they will get it anywhere they can. Please do not allow cannabis lounges anywhere in Oswego. You would be promoting something that can be quite dangerous not just to the users but to the people who do not smoke the stuff.	8/22/2019 2:27 AM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

320	In general, I feel that cannabis should be treated and regulated similarly to alcohol. One caveat is that with any primarily cash businesses, they are vulnerable to a criminal element. So that should be considered in terms of zoning the village for these businesses. Another consideration is that while legal (next year), the effect could lead to more counts of driving under the influence. The zoning of the village will have less of an effect on this factor. These two considerations should be kept in mind in how they may affect law enforcement activities in the village as well as other entities and the public in the village. Thanks	8/22/2019 2:13 AM
321	Cannabis should be regulated, taxed, etc. no different from alcohol. Truth is, alcohol is far more dangerous when used or misused. It should be more heavily taxed and regulated than cannabis.	8/22/2019 1:57 AM
322	Research & understand the difference between alcohol and cannabis on underage consumers; consumption trends, short-, medium- and long-term impacts, etc.	8/22/2019 1:43 AM
323	Need the tax revenue for schools.	8/22/2019 1:25 AM
324	We have enough issues in this village related to drug use. Do not make it worse.	8/22/2019 1:09 AM
325	Why would we want to bring a substance into our home that destroys lives and puts our children at risk? This opposes the very fabric of a healthy and happy environment. Please don't allow this into our town.	8/22/2019 1:03 AM
326	Do not do it	8/22/2019 12:43 AM
327	Institute a local tax on cannabis sales to go toward public schools.	8/22/2019 12:15 AM
328	Cannabis is no different than alcohol yet alcohol is widely consumed and available but with none of the stigma. Drunk drivers kill people. Yet those with DUI's are ticketed multiple times and released back on the road. It's perfectly "acceptable" to chill out with couple of drinks...why is that? Marijuana has that same effect. It's been used medically for hundreds of years. My late husband benefited greatly from it for pain relief of cancer in his final months. It's time to put pot and booze in the exact same category!!	8/21/2019 10:50 PM
329	Legalization will make the drug epidemic worse than it already is and crime will increase.	8/21/2019 10:47 PM
330	Keep the producing and selling of marijuana out of Oswego! The only exception would be for a medical marijuana dispensary. However, if it comes down to it and recreational marijuana is sold here, tax the crap out of it, but not on medical marijuana.	8/21/2019 9:19 PM
331	This is an opportunity for our community to see the health benefits of this plant and to help our residents ween off of addictive prescription medication that is expensive and ineffective. We must allow every opportunity for this all natural alternative to be successful. It is a solution not a threat.	8/21/2019 8:53 PM
332	I do not want weed in our city.. let other cities deal with it. Let's keep our city wholesome and family friendly. As a side note no matter what anyone says weed is a gate way drug... not everyone who smokes weed does harder drugs like heroin. But everyone who does heroin and harder drugs smokes weed. Fact!	8/21/2019 7:19 PM
333	I believe the village should put a limit to how many cannabis dispensaries it allows.	8/21/2019 7:16 PM
334	It should be taxed and all revenues go to the schools.	8/21/2019 6:40 PM
335	Push for orchard or 31	8/21/2019 6:26 PM
336	This is a horrible idea and a poor excuse to garner more taxes. Stop building \$30 million police stations, multi-million dollar courthouses, and palatial firehouses and use our tax dollars to fix our roads, build more parks, pay our school teachers, hire more police officers to stop the ever increasing gang violence and crimes, hire more firefighters and EMT's, build a rec center where kids can play, stop allowing gambling machines in our local businesses...so many other important needs in our community than selling pot to pocket some extra tax dollars. Spend some funds on attracting better restaurants that are not all fast food. Please stop wasting our overly high taxes and put our hard earned dollars to work for our community. I wonder how many pot shops our governor has in his neighborhood?	8/21/2019 5:45 PM



## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

337	I am 100% for all medical use support as medical cannabis is providing an alternative to drugs with much worse side effects (i.e opioids). I also thing manufacturing and cultivation centers could offer a lot, especially since other parts of the hemp plant can be used for other purposes (i.e Hemp extracts/CBD). I also think something that should be taken into consideration is the fact that some surrounding communities such as Naperville have voted against allowing these facilities, meaning Oswego would gain business from residents of surrounding areas by allowing these facilities. A tax is a must if our village integrates cannabis into Oswego, and I believe this would be an immense source of income to better our Village and help continue our current projects. I, as a non-cannabis user, believe that allowing cannabis businesses to come into Oswego would benefit us greatly.	8/21/2019 5:42 PM
338	Have we no moral compass anymore? Drugs have robbed my family of so much. Why inflict this pain on so many other families? Why make it that much easier for our young people to use mood altering substances? Let's help contribute to the success of future generations, not encourage them to go down a destructive path. Please Village Board, do the morally correct thing. Let's make Oswego a place where parents feel comfortable raising their children without the influence of drugs. Let's support our law enforcement also. Why would we purposely make their job more challenging? Do the right thing for the village of Oswego!	8/21/2019 5:28 PM
339	Encourage businesses get taxes for the village and schools	8/21/2019 5:21 PM
340	I support decriminalized but not necessarily open commercial sales. The purpose here is for the corrupt government officials to acquire more taxes to steal/ waste. This is not going to improve safety or minimize crime.	8/21/2019 5:18 PM
341	Get tax dollars for the village and schools.	8/21/2019 5:17 PM
342	In another community with which I am familiar, when marijuana was legalized the legal businesses that immediately sprang up were run by those who had previously been producing and selling it illegally. By welcoming these businesses you end up welcoming some shady characters. Besides that, the marijuana industry lends a trashy atmosphere to the area where it operates. I'd rather that not be Oswego.	8/21/2019 5:00 PM
343	I live in Boulder Hill, but most of our business and travels are in Oswego. We have a say, because, we are governed by Oswego Township. The parameters and its effect on the community has not been fully explored by other towns and cities that have enacted the legal use of recreational cannabis. Our current governor did not do his research on traffic fatalities, crime, and it being a gateway drug to other illicit drugs. Yes, I use the term, "gateway". Human nature develops a tolerance to any form of addictive substance. It is natural to advance to higher levels of narcotics. I was a police office for twenty years, I have seen the progression. Our governor did his research to see how many voters, he would get inboard. I am afraid, his party does not care about safety, values, or human life.....just the most expedient way to garner votes. The tax revenue will not equal the disaster caused by this knee jerk decision. Show us the statistics from towns and cities that have taken this route. Like the so called "free education" and so many other promises, someone has to pay the price. Recreational cannabis serves no purpose in our community.	8/21/2019 4:59 PM
344	This is a very negative direction for our community. Very little benefits to the majority and brings in negative activity we do not need or want	8/21/2019 4:58 PM
345	One of my biggest concerns with this is that Oswego not become the "wet country" in the middle of "dry counties". I think we should wade very very slowly into this. This could become a little more open after we measure how this is going in surrounding municipalities.	8/21/2019 4:55 PM
346	Let's keep Oswego out of the cannabis business all together.	8/21/2019 4:48 PM
347	Oswego is a community of families. We do not need this in our community!!!	8/21/2019 4:36 PM
348	Legitimate medical usage should not be taxed.	8/21/2019 4:26 PM
349	I think it's a bad idea. Pretty sure Naperville is not allowing this and I think Oswego should do the same. Worried about increase in crime, car fatalities, easier access for teens to get as well. Totally against it, bad idea!!	8/21/2019 4:17 PM
350	I think cafe lounges where consumption is inside will lead to potentially more traffic accidents. Can't drive under the influence, but how much "pot" in an hour is fine to then drive? I also think if it is sold in recreational retail areas/stores in our community those under 21 (our high school and Jr. HS kids) will be able to get it and use it as easily as they get and use vape that they buy at our local gas stations. Maybe if they had to travel further to get it illegally it would be a deterrent, maybe not - but I think that as excited as some adults may be to use themselves, it is responsible to also consider how easily our youth can access it coming Jan. 1 and that their brains are still developing and therefore it is harmful.	8/21/2019 4:04 PM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

351	Clear regulation of access for anyone under 18 years of age for non-medical CBD or cannabis products. Strict smoking restriction enforcement, especially for underage smoking. Enforcement of controls for DUI WRT CBD or cannabis	8/21/2019 4:01 PM
352	From a business perspective, looking at the positions of neighboring and area communities may be valuable in determining what business, taxing and other opportunities may be gained by Oswego that are lost by those other communities.	8/21/2019 3:47 PM
353	I'm a Firefighter/Paramedic of 14 years for the city of Aurora and 25 years in the fire service as a whole. When talking to drug addicts in the back of the ambulance, 99% of them say that their addiction started with marijuana and progressed to stronger and more addictive drugs (due to the lack of their high over time). It's truly a "gateway drug," and if you don't believe me, spend a weekend at the Hessed house and talk to some of the addicts there. See for yourself how it destroys individuals. Why give the community and or kids another stumbling block?	8/21/2019 3:45 PM
354	Don't need it in our Village. We have enough problems here and don't need more. I am already seeing Mother's smoking joints in front of their little children, no parenting going on because they are high.	8/21/2019 3:22 PM
355	This is a horrible idea to allow!!! Oswego is a wholesome, family oriented, safe town and i've grown up here since i was 5 and now i'm 18 almost 19. I think this would RUIN the reputation of oswego and encourage bad behaviors.	8/21/2019 3:20 PM
356	As a resident with PTSD I strongly support this. Better than me driving to Naperville and giving them the revenue.	8/21/2019 3:17 PM
357	Spend some honest time researching the impact of marijuana in Colorado. Our community does not need that. I can't believe the Village is considering this and we can't even get proposed restaurants in downtown! We can't get shops outside of antique stores but your want dispensaries.	8/21/2019 3:16 PM
358	I fully support ANYTHING that will help bring the taxes in this city down. We moved here about two years ago, love the community, but we are on the verge of moving out as our taxes are absolutely insane. Surrounding communities are thousands less. Recreational marijuana will be a part of this community no matter what decision is made about where dispensaries are located. We need this business.	8/21/2019 3:15 PM
359	Tax it to help reduce the budget issues for the schools	8/21/2019 3:15 PM
360	I'm a disabled veteran living in Oswego and a card holding medical marijuana patient. The benefits for not only my fellow veterans in the community but i'm also a staunch cannabis advocate for both recreational and medical use. My dispensary is located in North Aurora but i would LOVE to be able to give my business to local growers and dispensaries instead. Taxing it is to be expected, however veterans, seniors and medical marijuana card holders should receive discounts and/or tax breaks. This would also be helpful since the VA will not supply our cannabis and we have to pay out of pocket.	8/21/2019 3:13 PM
361	Colorado's kids are in crisis due to cannabis use on their undeveloped brains. Please do not allow this to be Oswego's story.	8/21/2019 3:11 PM
362	Some type of monitoring would be needed. Undecided on this.	8/21/2019 3:07 PM
363	Don't overprice or overtax If we do either then the black market will thrive!	8/21/2019 3:05 PM
364	I feel Oswego is a very family friendly community and cannabis does not have a place here	8/21/2019 3:04 PM
365	I have autonomic nervous system dysfunction, and small fiber neuropathy. I am 35 years old, a mother of two and suffer tremendously. I currently have a medical cannabis card and would love to be able to purchase my medication (cannabis) closer to home (currently have to drive to naperville). I would also LOVE to have cannabis taxed (gently) *IF* Oswego residents benefit from taxation. Also, I support cultivation but worry that the smell of manufacturing may become an issue. I support a public place for consumption(proper ventilation) as well. Or perhaps leniency for those who use cannabis publicly as their pain relief. It would be nice to be able to take a quick dosage without being behind closed doors. I suffer unnecessarily while waiting to get home to consume my meds.	8/21/2019 3:02 PM
366	If it is legal, regulate and tax the sale of products as we do with alcohol and gaming.	8/21/2019 3:00 PM
367	it will encourage abuse of these drugs	8/21/2019 2:57 PM
368	In support of designated areas for recreational use and bringing jobs to the area through cultivation and processing facilities.	8/21/2019 2:56 PM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

369	Allow it, control it, tax it.	8/21/2019 2:38 PM
370	Abuse among the younger crowds getting their hands on it. Also with second hand smoke, dealing with people doing it in there back yards within close proximity of our neighbors.	8/21/2019 2:32 PM
371	I think this is a great opportunity to generate substantial revenues, create new jobs and to regulate this in a controlled manner.	8/21/2019 2:30 PM
372	Oswego would benefit from properly licensed grow, sale, and refinery centers due to the obvious sales tax revenue as well as the overall increase in "tourist" activity. Looking at states and municipalities that have legalized it in previous years, the industry is capable of generating billions of dollars in tax revenue state wide and the taxes allocated from the medical/recreational sales can be put towards infrastructure and village budget increases for parks or schools.	8/21/2019 2:29 PM
373	Limit the number of businesses if allowed and get revenue from taxes. Do not allow near schools.	8/21/2019 2:22 PM
374	Treat it exactly the same as alcohol enough said it's not rocket science people!	8/21/2019 2:08 PM
375	The Cannabis industry is a booming micro economy and should not be ignored due to social stigma or the like. There is a ton of opportunity both for business owners and the cities that house them, collect taxes etc.	8/21/2019 2:02 PM
376	I am not opposed to legalizing but I have not seen any evidence of a positive community impact. Before I support any of they above I would like the village to provide references of communities they have adopted these standards and their successes	8/21/2019 1:48 PM
377	Possibly a medicinal marijuana dispensary would be ok in an industrial park. Growing only the medicinal plants would be ok. Don't be deceived by the thought of marijuana tax money solving the financial needs of local and state governments.	8/21/2019 1:41 PM
378	I don't like smoke. Cigarettes cause cancer and how can you spot a joint vs a cigarette?	8/21/2019 1:37 PM
379	I do not feel that cannabis is right for the Village of Oswego's overall health, small town character, and family friendly status. We would be inviting more negative connotations than positives from cannabis into our town. Just because it is legal does not mean it is a good fit for Oswego. We are a town rooted in community and cannabis will bring about division. Don't ignore the Vision and Mission Statement of the Village of Oswego: VISION Oswego will continue to be a friendly, caring, and forward-thinking community that provides a high quality of life based upon sustainable growth and a respect for our rich heritage and environment MISSION It is our mission to responsibly grow our community and maintain the public's trust. We do this through the innovative and collaborative delivery of public services that meet the community's quality of life expectations.	8/21/2019 1:31 PM
380	Cannabis is a gateway drug that will result in increased crime. It should only be used under close medical supervision.	8/21/2019 1:31 PM
381	I have had my medical license for two years. It helps me manage my rheumatoid arthritis. I go to the Naperville dispensary which is in a industrial park. I would much rather see Oswego get the proceeds. I can tell you I see mostly seniors when I go to the dispensary. It has helped me stay off of the more dangerous drugs for my condition. I strongly support it!	8/21/2019 1:29 PM
382	Its a good idea & medical cannabis will help many people w pain or PTSD. It is a safe alternative to tx. It has also been shown to reduce mutengic effects of tumor growth in some cancers w radiation tx. I would allow a client to be stoned doing rn yoga as an independent rn consultant. pot smoking is a lot safer on the gut then pain pills too. The conact high is a concern so you probably need to smoke indoors or a regulated space.. It old be helpful if you had after hours vending machines. I have a design if your interested I would share it.	8/21/2019 1:27 PM
383	Increased auto accidents and underage abuse.	8/21/2019 1:26 PM
384	This is not the type of business we need to promote in our community.	8/21/2019 1:15 PM
385	I feel the taxes that could be collected off of these sales will help our schools, roads and other projects that have increased our property taxes	8/21/2019 1:15 PM
386	The extra income will help with our schools which are needing so much support right now with the cost going up for parents and tax payers	8/21/2019 1:13 PM
387	Oswego Township resident	8/21/2019 1:13 PM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

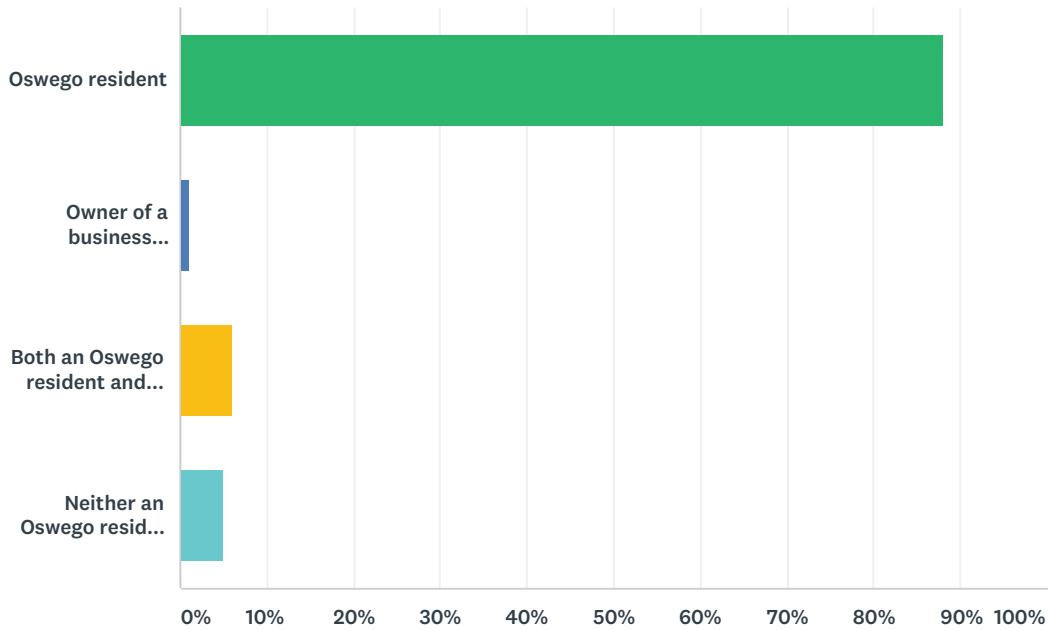
388	I do not want to have anything of this new law in Oswego. If it was voted to have in Oswego, my preference would be to have it in industrial sections of town, not advertised on our local/high populated areas. Again, if it was voted in, I would like it to benefit our community by being taxed. Relieving some of that burden from home owners and small businesses.	8/21/2019 1:11 PM
389	I would prefer to keep cannabis sales out of downtown Oswego because of the libraries, families, farmers markets, festivals, etc. I am a strong supporter of medical and recreational cannabis, however I do not believe that smoking in general is appropriate around children and feel this might encourage people to do so (even though consumption is legal in approved areas and private properties). I am also concerned about industrial parks because of the seclusion. Establishments should be in well lit, public areas, with foot traffic. We want our community and patrons to be and feel safe.	8/21/2019 1:06 PM
390	Oswego is a quiet, small, family town. The revenue is not worth the trouble this brings. Let people drive a few minutes to buy in another town.	8/21/2019 1:05 PM
391	This could certainly be a boon for local businesses. One has to think that local community support will be spotty at best, and being one of the towns that's friendly to these new businesses could really help gain a step up over local towns who oppose anything and everything cannabis.	8/21/2019 1:04 PM
392	Who are you or anyone to keep this from people suffering or in pain when this helps tremendously? I use it for stenosis and arthritis in my neck and no more suffering. Everyone should have the chance to live pain free	8/21/2019 12:56 PM
393	I am totally against recreational marijuana. I think you should tax it like crazy and use those tax dollars for the village.	8/21/2019 12:55 PM
394	Keep that crap out of Oswego..let other communities be Guinea pig for this	8/21/2019 12:54 PM
395	It's going to be legal so keep it in the village for added tax dollars.	8/21/2019 12:50 PM
396	We are always looking for a new tax revenue. Why not take advantage of a new industry that will develop in IL	8/21/2019 12:48 PM
397	Alcohol is much more dangerous and is readily available everywhere. I'd rather citizens get high and be happy rather than getting drunk and angry. I also have a family member in my household that has an incurable disease for which he uses marijuana daily. Again- alcohol is the real problem and it's already everywhere.	8/21/2019 12:47 PM
398	I moved to Oswego 10 years ago with the intent of raising a family. Oswego represents a family-safe environment to me. I'd hate to risk the reputation.	8/21/2019 12:45 PM
399	All taxes go to the schools, police, and fire. Otherwise I oppose a dispensary in this town.	8/21/2019 12:45 PM
400	as long as revenue is used responsibly and helps to get rid of financial burden then a local tax would be OK	8/21/2019 12:42 PM
401	The stigma of cannabis is gone. It's no worse than alcohol. Oswego should lead the way in progressive support of cannabis and embrace it as a tax revenue stream.	8/21/2019 12:42 PM
402	People driving under the influence of cannabis on main roads	8/21/2019 12:41 PM
403	I have always viewed Oswego as a family-centered community with good values. I understand that the village and school district may be struggling financially, but I remain strongly opposed to increasing revenue through cannabis sales. Let's find opportunities to increase revenue in ways we can be proud to talk to our children about.	8/21/2019 12:41 PM
404	I was involved in a draft for MME's in Las Vegas Nevada 2 years ago. And support only if these are for MME use. Though I was to propose to the village the web purchase side. We had plans for cultivation well controlled and regulated, as well as building structure security, and plant hybrid types that produced the highest amounts of THC. The local town gov, will have to regulate all this. I sat at the town hall meetings for licensing approval. And was accepted. The city of Las Vegas then suggested vending machine types, and the market was then flooded with vendors. The makers and vendors will need a solid business plan to submit to the town. I can show samples of those proposals if need be and what to look for. Though I have removed myself from involvement then. I happen to still have all the paperwork, and NYE/Clark county regulation info. If it helps. As we might be able to adapt how others are doing it safe, and the right way. Proper Offerings to the County board and so forth. My contact info: 630-788-0150	8/21/2019 12:38 PM

## Cannabis Establishments in Oswego

405	Police, EMT & Fire Departments are already dealing in high numbers with illegal drug related violence, motor vehicle accidents, overdoses, etc. Legalization will increase this ten-fold costing much more in medical, incarceration, rehabilitation, etc. you might as well collect tax on any sale of cannabis because the revenue is the almighty. Sadly, it will ultimately be more costly as a society. Next it will be legalizing cocaine, meth, heroin & other illegal drugs purely for revenue. Sad situation happening in today's society. time to wake up sheeple!	8/21/2019 12:38 PM
406	I'm totally against any cannabis distribution and or sale in Oswego. It will only lead to more problems for citizens and police.	8/21/2019 12:38 PM
407	I would really prefer to not have any dispensaries in Oswego. I've seen other states and cities with them as I travel for work and they are not impressive. Most seem to be a shack rented for nothing to allow them to maximize profits.	8/21/2019 12:36 PM
408	Oswego needs more jobs and businesses to help alleviate the huge tax burden us residence are dealing with. We have alcohol retail and distribution and marijuana is scientifically proven the be much safer. Don't leave Oswego in the dark ages!	8/21/2019 12:35 PM
409	Wouldn't allow downtown on Main Street, but other areas seem ok.	8/21/2019 12:29 PM
410	Why ask for trouble. Definitely not needed in Oswego! I see nothing positive for Oswego.	8/21/2019 12:28 PM
411	This money will go elsewhere if Oswego doesn't welcome it.	8/21/2019 12:27 PM
412	To help bring down the horrendous taxes we pay here in the village I would love to see the sales of cannabis bring down property taxes!!!!	8/21/2019 12:27 PM
413	We need to protect homeowners, renters, and businesses. I personally do not want my neighbors smoking weed in their backyard and having it blow in my windows or where my family can smell it. I hate cigarette smoke and Cannabis smoke would be worse. If you live in an apartment/townhome/association by default it should not be allowed. The business/landlord/organization should be able to make the rules without having to wait until a new lease or contract is put in place. If you are the renter and the landlord allows smoking weed and smelling the building up you should be allowed to break the lease without penalty. Transition is hard. In summary, by default people should be opted out of having to smell weed. Every stakeholder should be part of the process of opting in.	8/21/2019 12:25 PM
414	I think legalizing cannabis for recreational purposes is a recipe for disaster.	8/21/2019 12:25 PM
415	The village and board should focus more on local, independently owned restaurant/eateries especially in the downtown area rather than cannabis. Look to downtown Plainfield and Yorkville, as a whole, as an example.	8/21/2019 12:23 PM
416	Neighboring towns will allow dispensaries, etc., enabling our citizens to imbibe, so we may as well have it and tax it here.	8/21/2019 12:22 PM
417	Allowing any cannabis in any form will only increase driving under the influence and addictions. It is highly addictive.	8/21/2019 12:18 PM
418	Cannabis is an addicting drug. It can negatively affect a users mental or physical state. Colorado is experiencing more traffic violations and accidents. It is difficult to determine the level of intoxication. We do not want the increased danger to our residents nor the added workload on our police officers.	8/21/2019 12:17 PM
419	As for tax above, if it has to be sold, then it should be taxed. I don't get the whole thing at all. Just saying...	8/21/2019 12:17 PM
420	If this really becomes part of our landscape of Oswego, it should be heavily taxed.	8/21/2019 12:14 PM
421	Tax it, and allow it to b available. It may not be much money, but any help for the Village Budget is help.	8/21/2019 12:12 PM
422	Easy tax revenue. Other surrounding cities will have it. Don't be left out.	8/21/2019 12:11 PM

### Q5 I am a(n)...

Answered: 1,337 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Oswego resident	88.03%	1,177
Owner of a business located in Oswego	0.97%	13
Both an Oswego resident and an Oswego business owner	6.06%	81
Neither an Oswego resident nor an Oswego business owner	4.94%	66
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,337</b>

# National Marijuana Initiative

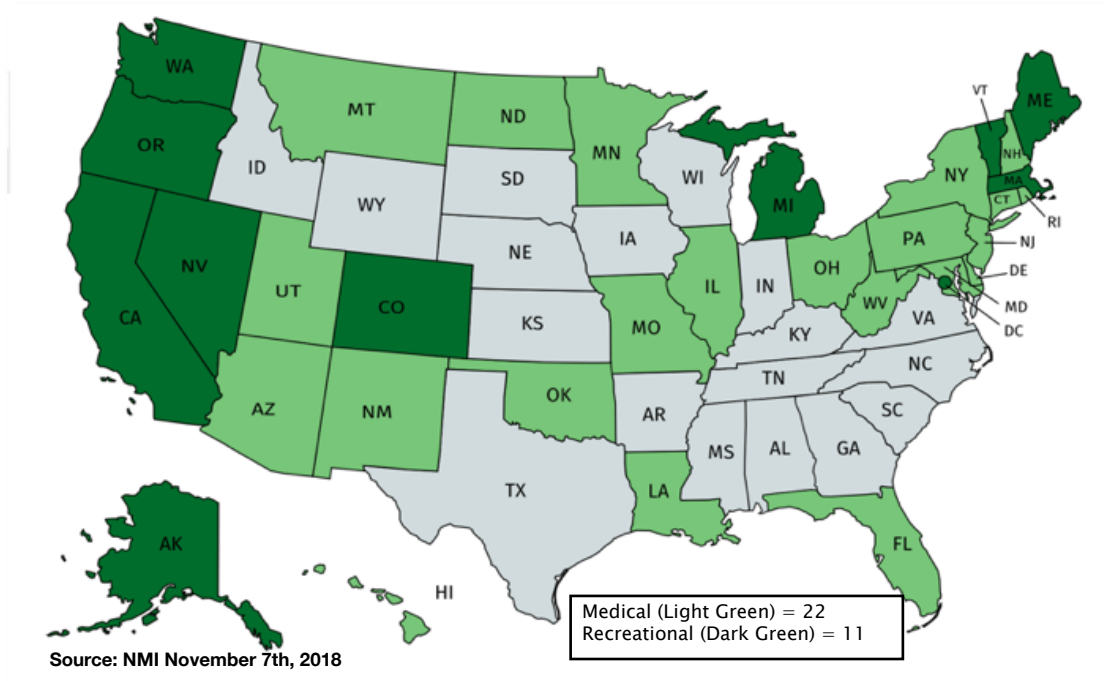
## Information You Should Know

Date: July 11, 2019

### Marijuana in the United States A Status Update

As of November 2018, there are 33 states that permit either the medical and / or recreational use of marijuana as a result of local voter approval. Laws in Vermont and Massachusetts went into full effect in mid 2018. <sup>1</sup>

States that have legalized for recreational (commercial) use still retain a medical use status as well. Voter approval for medical is a key first step in later approval for full commercial legalization.



### Why you need to be aware of these points:

Nationally there are concerns by public health and safety officials over the legalization of today's more potent marijuana and the perception of low risk or harm of its use. People turn to these officials for answers to their questions. When those voices are not heard or a lack of concern on this topic is demonstrated, then the public perception is those officials and agencies must agree with the issue of legalization.

Marijuana is one of the most misunderstood drugs currently in our society. This is due to the fact that many current beliefs are influenced by rhetoric, opinions and information from the past. It remains the first drug where approval for use was "voted in" versus researched and tested for (1) safety, (2) effectiveness and (3) dose guidelines by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

At the core of this issue is marijuana's illegal status as a scheduled I controlled substance; with no current accepted model of regulation that has proven to be effective in reducing adverse consequences to public health and public safety post legalization. The following pages are brief "talking points" to common issues, beliefs and questions concerning marijuana and legalization you might encounter. If you need more information, contact us via our website, [THENMI.ORG](http://THENMI.ORG)

<sup>1</sup> Robinson, Here's where you can legally smoke marijuana in 2018, Business Insider, 04-20-18

# National Marijuana Initiative

## Information You Should Know

### **Q - Has there been any benefit as a result of the legalization of marijuana in America?**

**A** – The answer is yes. *People are asking better questions about the impact marijuana's legalization will have. They are also requiring better answers based on valid research and current data, not rhetoric, in support of those answers. Additionally, there is an increased call for more research to fully understand the health impacts of the more potent forms of marijuana available in today's marketplace.*

### **Marijuana and effective regulation**

*A widely accepted & proven effective model of marijuana regulation does not exist.*

*33 states are doing things in different ways.*

*No proven model exists to:*

- *Resolve conflict between state and federal laws*
- *Create policy based on accurate research and data*
- *Decrease public harm levels while raising awareness of the risks associated to today's potent marijuana*
- *Create greater control and accountability of the industry to prevent diversion out of state*
- *Limit the increasing potency levels of THC being developed*

### **What does “legalization” really mean?**

*“Legalization” has become a synonym for “Commercialization”.*

*Beyond allowing for great potential for use, commercialization allows individuals to make money from sales, allows consumers to spend money with retailers. As such, money is a driving force behind legalization.*

*Legalization allows for:*

- *A reduced public perception of harm or risk*
- *Greater public availability to the drug with reduced risk of arrest or government interference.*
  - *When the sense of harm and risk are down and availability is up, use rates can increase.*
    - *From 2011 - 2017, the marijuana use rate, for age groups 12 - 17, 18 - 25, and 26 and older, in the original recreational states (Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, District of Columbia), were all higher than the national average for the same age groups 2*
- *Opportunities for drug trafficking groups to operate (or hide) in plain sight*

### **Increased THC Levels - Potency is at an all time high, due to the market demand by the users.**

*Potency levels of THC in raw plant material is at an all time high.*

*Increased potency levels drive the profit margins up in response to consumer market demand.*

*This is not the plant God placed on the Earth; as science has modified the original form of the plant.*

*Strains have been selectively modified and cloned to produce higher THC levels 3*

- *This was to meet the public market demand for more potent strains*
- *Some commercially available strains have THC levels up to and in excess 30%*
- *Concentrates touting THC potency levels at 99+ percent*
- *Compare those THC levels to levels 10 years ago in the 5-12 percent range 4*

2 Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Survey on Drug Use and Health Data, by state, by year, by age group, 2011 – 2017

3 Joseph M. Pierre, MD, Risks of increasingly potent Cannabis: The joint effects of potency and frequency, Current Psychiatry, Vol. 16 No 2

4 ElSohly, Mehmedic, Foster (et.al), Changes in Cannabis Potency over the Last Two Decades (1995-2014) - Analysis of Current Data in the United States, Society of Biological Psychiatry, April 2016, 613 – 619



# National Marijuana Initiative

## Information You Should Know

### Marijuana and Opioid Overdoses - Marijuana is not the solution as once claimed

A study in 2014 claimed medical marijuana states had a nearly 25 percent lower opioid death rate from 1999 - 2010. <sup>1</sup> The content of that initial study has since been debunked by additional research into this topic.

A 2018 study by Rand Corporation proved this claim was not accurate and misleading. <sup>2</sup>

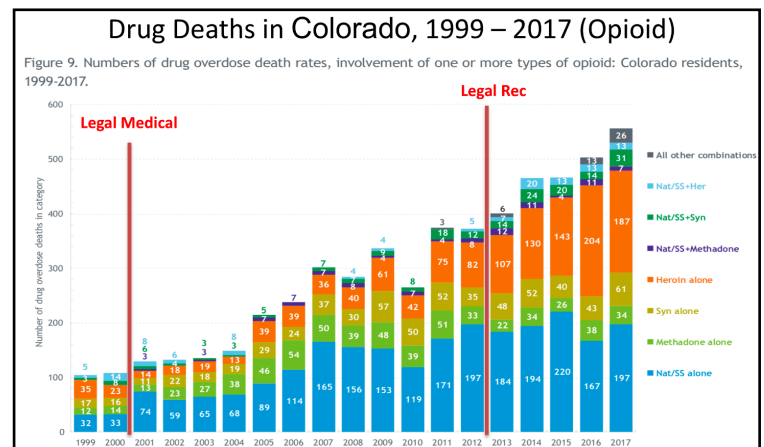
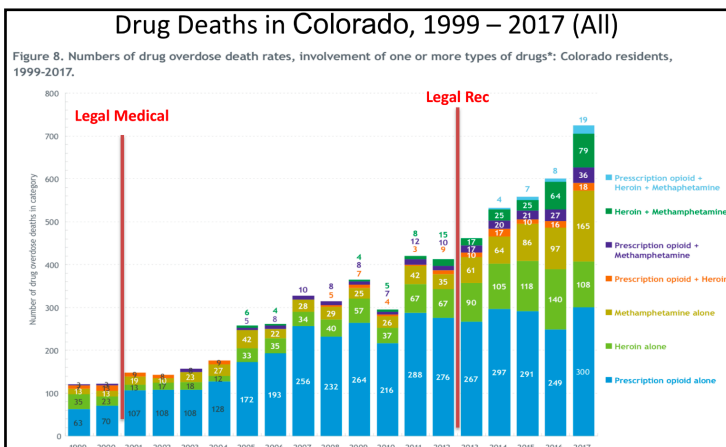
The 2018 study cited:

- Medical marijuana laws in the original states were new and loosely regulated up to year 2010
- After 2010, as regulation and enforcement increased, the trend in lower opioid deaths began to decline
- At the same time, users shifted away from prescription opioid pills (pain killers) to illicit opiate drugs such as heroin and fentanyl as a cheaper and more available option over prescription pills
- By 2013, any possible connection to medical marijuana laws and declining death rates had vanished.

In Colorado, from 2000 - 2017, and since the legalization of marijuana, all drug related deaths increased; including Opioids. (See graphs below) <sup>3</sup>

A 2019 report from by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS) of the United States further emphasized that marijuana is not the answer to America's opioid crisis. They concluded that:

- Despite marijuana's legal status in a state, opioid mortality rates increased
- The claim of an association to a reduction in opioid overdose deaths and marijuana is "spurious" and "should be met with skepticism" <sup>4</sup>



Source: CDPHE, Drug Overdose Deaths in Colorado, 1999 - 2017. December 2018

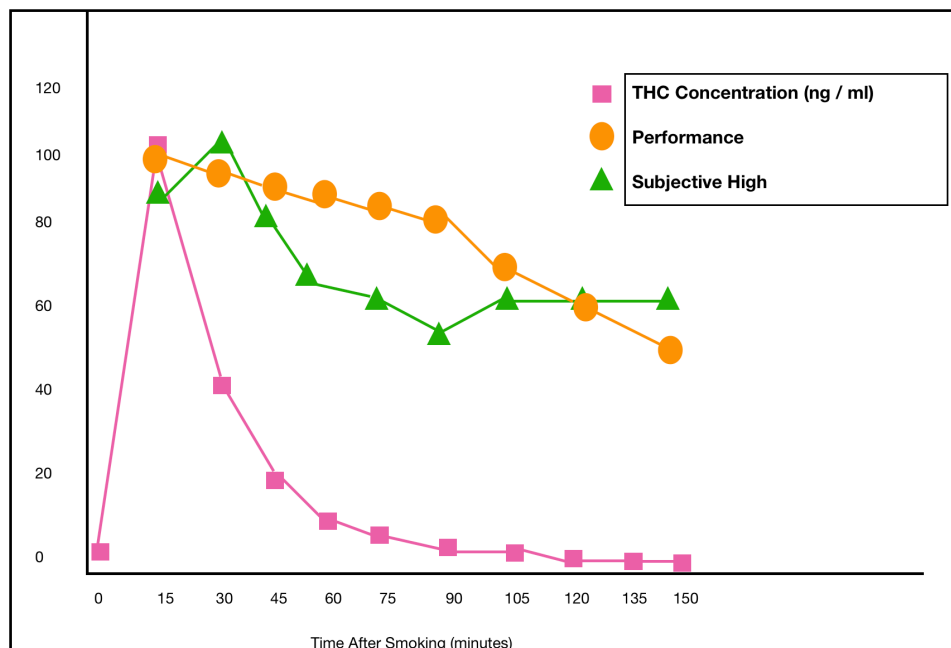
1. Bachhuber (et.al), Medical Cannabis Laws and Opioid Analgesic Overdose Mortality in the United States, 1999 - 2010, JAMA Intern med, 2014;174(10): 1668-1673, August 25, 2014
2. Rand, Link Between Medical Marijuana and Fewer Opioid Deaths Is More Complex Than Previously Reported, [www.rand.org/news/press/2018/02/06.html](http://www.rand.org/news/press/2018/02/06.html), February 6, 2018
3. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Drug Overdose Death in Colorado 1999 -2017, Final Data. December 2018
4. Shover (et.al), Association between medical cannabis laws and opioid overdose mortality has reversed over time. PNAS, June 25, 2019 116 (26) 12624-12626

# National Marijuana Initiative

## Information You Should Know

### Marijuana and Highway Safety Issues - Impairment may persist even though THC levels might be low

- Based on a 2018 report, there was a 6 percent increase in insurance collision claims in states where retail sales of recreational marijuana are allowed. <sup>1</sup>
- Marijuana is the most frequently detected illicit drug found in drivers involved in collisions, often in combination with alcohol. <sup>2</sup>
- Drivers with THC in their blood are nearly twice as likely to be involved in a fatal crash than “sober” drivers. <sup>3</sup>
- Peak THC levels in drivers declines immediately after smoking has stopped, the subjective sense of physical impairment by a driver subsides before the actual physical impairment declines. <sup>4</sup>
- Delta-9 THC is associated with poor driving performance and longer response / reaction times. <sup>5</sup>
- A 2003 study using airplane pilots in a flight simulator, experienced physical impairment immediately after marijuana use (low THC dosage) and during the next 24-hour period. <sup>6</sup>



Source: NHTSA Report to Congress, July 2017

Driver (Pink Line): Actively smoking marijuana from 0 - 15 minutes and stops. THC levels almost immediately decline after quitting.

Driver's Self Perception of Being Impaired (Green Line): Declines over time until driver no longer feels that they are impaired. (Very much like what a driver experiences who has been using alcohol.)

Driver's Actual Physical Impairment (Orange Line): Despite the declining THC levels and self-sense of being safe, the physical impairment (driving and SFSTs) is detectable.

**Note:** Higher potency THC levels could extend this physical impairment period for several hours after use stopped.

1. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Effect of Recreational Marijuana Sales on Police-Reported Crashes in Colorado, Oregon & Washington. October 2018
2. JAMA, Driving Under The Influence of Cannabis, Ramaekers, J. April 20, 2018, Volume 319, Number 13.
3. NIDA, Drugged Driving. NIDA website, June 2016.
4. NHTSA, Marijuana-Impaired Driving, A Report to Congress, July 2017
5. American Journal of Epidemiology, Trends in Fatally Injured Drivers, 1999 - 2010, December 4, 2013
6. Australian Transportation Safety Bureau, Cannabis and it's Effects on Pilot Performance and Flight Safety, Newman, D (et.al) 2003



THE DENVER

# COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

---

LEADING THE WAY IN  
MUNICIPAL  
MARIJUANA MANAGEMENT

2018



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I	Introduction	2
II	Industry	5
III	Tax, Sales & Revenue	8
IV	Budget	12
V	Accomplishments	14
VI	Enforcement	21

## I. INTRODUCTION

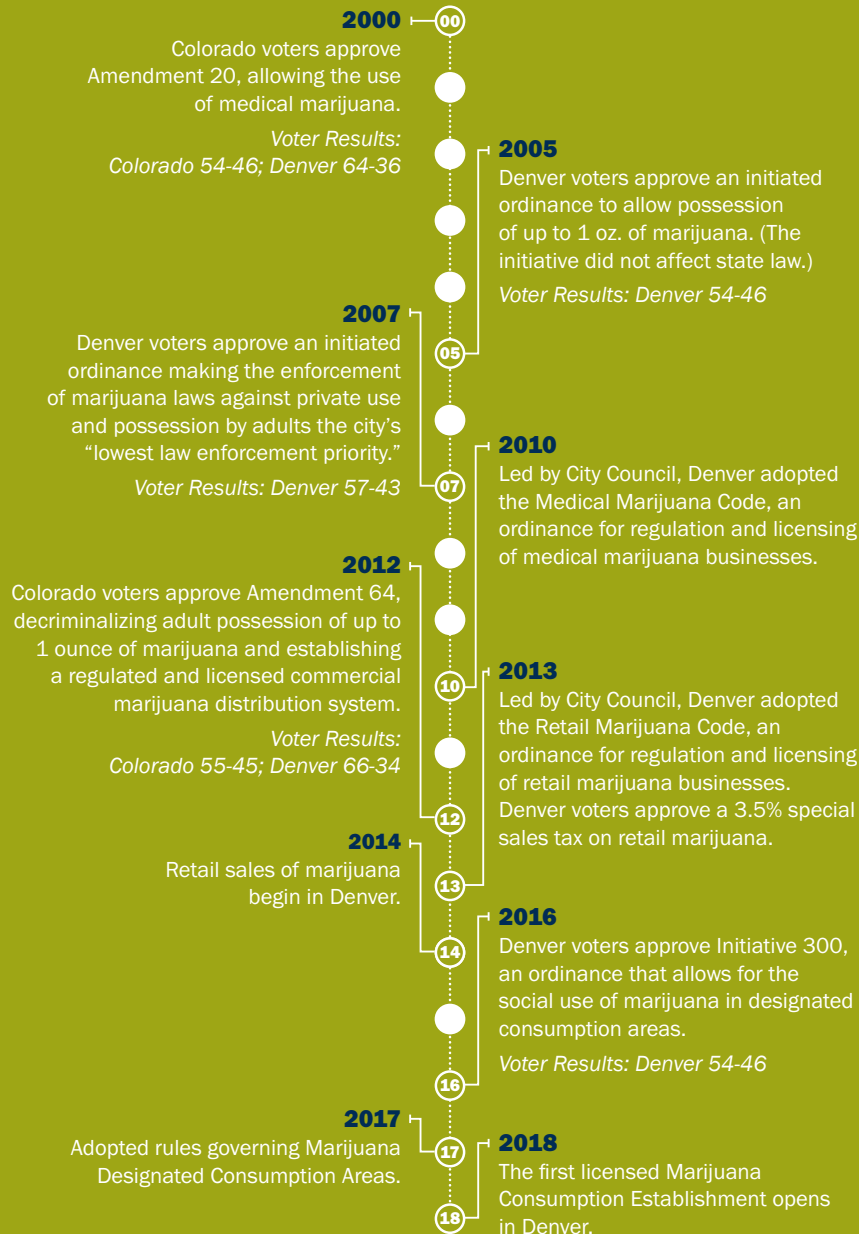
# MARIJUANA IN THE MILE HIGH CITY

The first retail sales of recreational marijuana in the United States began in Denver on Jan. 1, 2014. Under Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Denver created a collaborative model of marijuana management and emerged as a global leader in marijuana regulation. Because the industry is developing and innovating so rapidly, and because the laws are changing and evolving at such a fast rate, Denver has embraced a management model that is quick, responsive and nimble.

Medical marijuana has been legal in Colorado since 2000, when voters approved Amendment 20. In November 2012 the voters of Colorado approved Amendment 64, which legalized retail marijuana. Since the passage of these amendments, the City and County of Denver has adopted ordinances to regulate, license and tax both medical and retail marijuana.



# TIMELINE OF MARIJUANA SALES & MANAGEMENT IN COLORADO



## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

As legalization spreads across the United States, and as other countries debate and prepare for legalization, Denver remains squarely in their focus. More than ever, the city is looked at to provide guidance on how it effectively implemented and continues to manage the first-of-its-kind sales and commercialization of voter-approved retail marijuana.

Through a far-reaching, collaborative approach, Denver's Office of Marijuana Policy, now housed in Denver's Department of Excise and Licenses, supports and coordinates the work of hundreds of city employees. The city's dedicated team of experts manage a complex and ever-changing regulatory and licensing process. This work includes legislation to create, improve and clarify ordinances, management of education and health initiatives, coordination of enforcement efforts, and allocation of sufficient resources – all in concert with the industry and the community.

In 2017, Denver marked the fourth year of retail sales of marijuana and the fourth year of the Office of

Marijuana Policy's operation. The industry grew to more than 1,100 business licenses operating out of nearly 500 locations. Initiative 300, which was approved by Denver voters in 2016, gives business the ability to apply for a permit to allow adult marijuana consumption in a designated area.

In 2017, Denver Excise and Licenses adopted rules and regulations that govern the issuance and enforcement of the city's new Cannabis Consumption Establishment and Cannabis Consumption Special Event permits. Holding public meetings and listening to the communities input was key in creating rules that worked to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

Denver continues its collaborative approach to marijuana management, remaining nimble and flexible to keep pace with the sustained growth of sales and innovation in the marijuana industry, while remaining in constant communication with the industry and residents to ensure balance among many competing interests.

## II. INDUSTRY

# DENVER'S MARIJUANA INDUSTRY

The City of Denver actively coordinates with its departments and agencies, business owners, residents, neighborhood groups and industry representatives to ensure that it has a robust and effective regulatory system for the city's marijuana industry.

There are currently seven types of marijuana business licenses issued by the City of Denver:

1. Medical/Retail Storefront
2. Medical/Retail Cultivation
3. Medical/Retail Infused Product Manufacturer (MIP)
4. Medical/Retail Testing Facility
5. Medical/Retail Transporter
6. Medical/Retail Off-premises Storage
7. Cannabis Consumption Establishment/Special Event

## NUMBER OF ACTIVE LICENSED MARIJUANA BUSINESSES FROM JAN 2014 TO JAN 2018

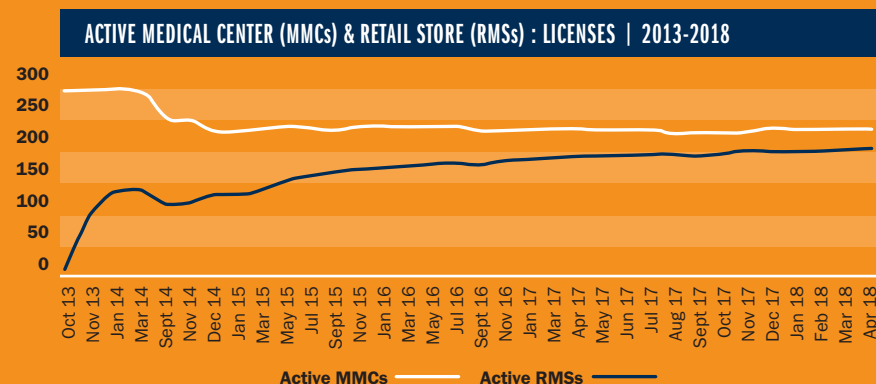
PERIOD	MEDICAL LICENSES	RETAIL LICENSES	UNIQUE LOCATIONS
January 2014	731	270	455
January 2015	621	301	414
January 2016	657	392	454
January 2017	682	429	481
January 2018	671	478	492

\*The decrease from 2014 to 2015 happened in part because medical marijuana businesses that did not obtain both state and city licenses by July 1, 2014 were required to cease operations.

## NUMBER OF ACTIVE LICENSES BY TYPE OVER TIME:

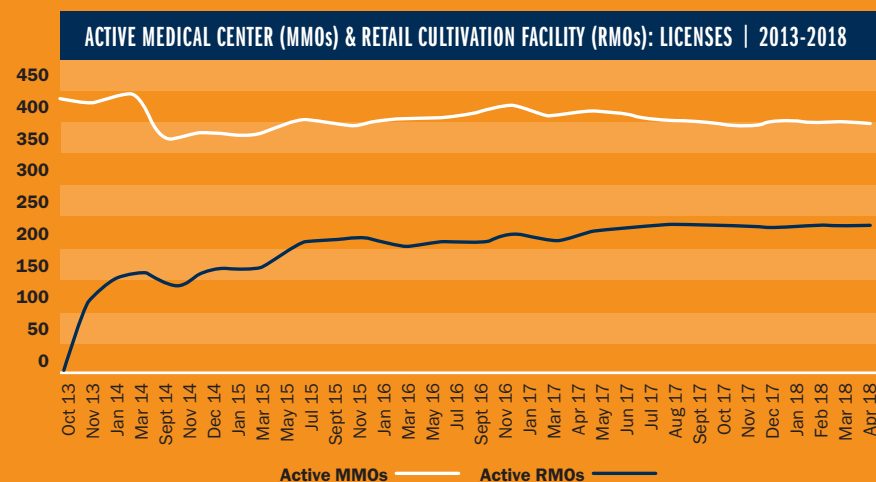
Active Medical Center licenses dipped slightly (down -1%) from 197 in Jan 2017 to 196 in Jan 2018.

Active Retail Store licenses are up 8% over last year, 167 in Jan 2018 compared to 154 in Jan 2017.



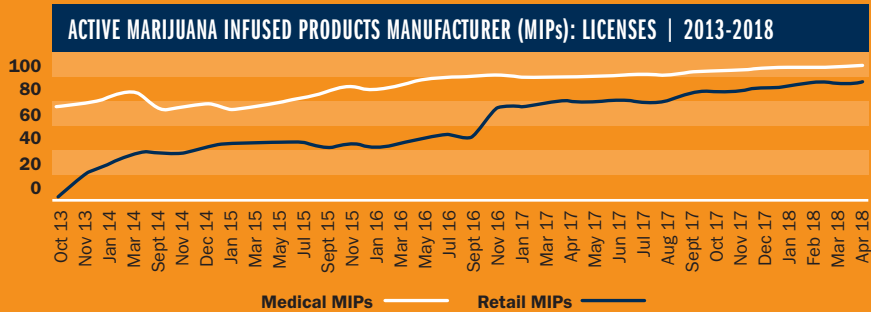
The number of Active Medical Cultivation Facility licenses declined -6% from the prior year, down to 371 in Jan 2018 from 392 in Jan 2017.

Meanwhile, Active Retail Cultivation Facility licenses increased 9% over 2017 – reaching 221 in Jan 2018 compared to 202 in Jan 2017.

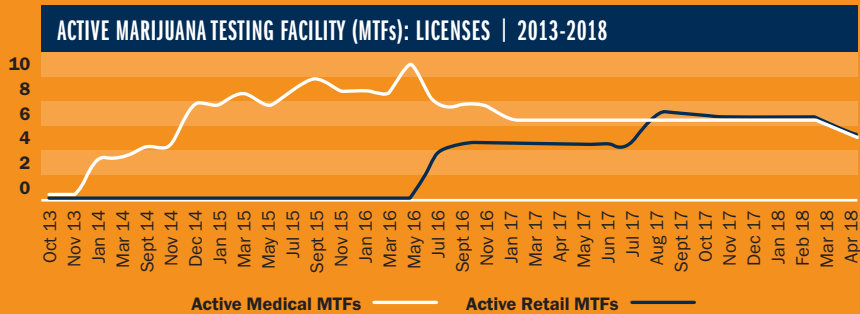


Active Licenses for both Medical and Retail Marijuana Infused Products Manufacturers increased Year over Year.

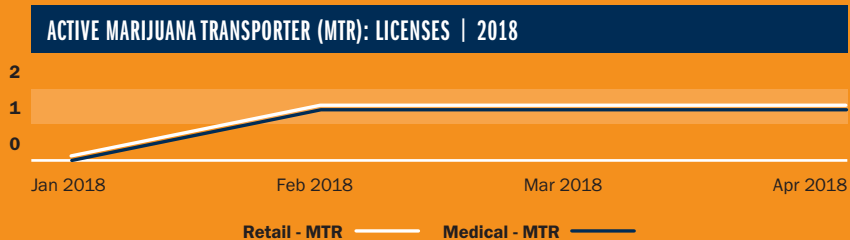
- **Medical:** Up 8% from 87 in Jan 2017 to 97 in Jan 2018
- **Retail:** Up 19% from 67 in Jan 2017 to 83 in Jan 2018



Active Medical Marijuana Testing Facility licenses increased 33% from Jan 2017 to Jan 2018, up from 4 in Jan 2017 to 6 in Jan 2018. Over the same period, Retail Marijuana Testing Facility licenses remained unchanged with 6 active licenses.



Marijuana Transporter licenses (both Medical & Retail) are up 100% from Jan 2017 to Jan 2018 - each going from 0 to 1 active license.



### III. TAX, SALES AND REVENUE

## HOW IS MARIJUANA TAXED IN DENVER?

Medical marijuana is subject to standard state and local sales taxes:

Denver Standard Sales Tax*:	3.65%
State Standard Sales Tax:	2.90%
<b>Medical Marijuana Sales Tax:</b>	<b>6.55%</b>

\*The Denver Preschool Fund directly receives .15% of the city's 3.65% overall standard sales tax.

In November 2013 Denver voters approved adding a special 3.5% sales tax on retail marijuana. The tax is in addition to standard sales tax and all other applicable state taxes. As of 7/1/17, retail marijuana is exempt from the state standard sales tax, but is subject to both state and local special sales taxes:

Denver Standard Sales Tax*:	3.65%
Denver Special Sales Tax on Retail Marijuana:	3.50%
State Special Sales Tax on Retail Marijuana:	15.0%
<b>Retail Marijuana Sales Tax:</b>	<b>22.15%</b>

\*The Denver Special Sales Tax can increase from 3.5 to 15% when authorized by City Council.

- Prior to 7/1/17, 15% of the State Special Sales Tax was shared with local jurisdictions. As of 7/1/17, 10% of the State Special Sales Tax will be shared with local jurisdictions.

## MARIJUANA SALES

**Denver:** From 2016 to 2017, Retail marijuana sales increased by 29% year over year. Medical marijuana sales saw a slight decline of -3% over that same period.

**Colorado:** Retail marijuana sales increased by 27% from 2016 to 2017. Medical marijuana sales for the State declined by -7% from 2016 to 2017.

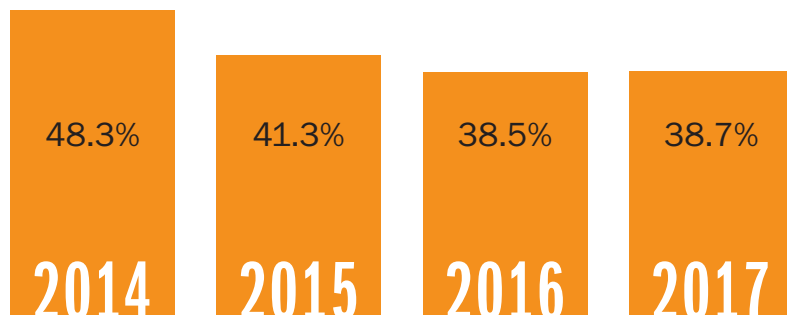
Note: 2014 and 2015 values for Colorado marijuana sales published in previous reports have since been updated with current Treasury data.

DENVER MARIJUANA SALES	2014	2015	2016	2017
Retail	\$149.7M	\$219.3M	\$291.5M	\$377.5M
Medical	\$180.1M	\$191.4M	\$212M	\$206.4M
Total	\$329.8M	\$410.7M	\$503.5M	\$584M
<b>Total YoY% Change</b>	-	<b>25%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>16%</b>

COLO. STATE MARIJUANA SALES	2014	2015	2016	2017
Retail Marijuana Sales	\$303.2M	\$577.5M	\$861.6M	\$1091B
Medical Marijuana Sales	\$380.3M	\$418.1M	\$445.6M	\$416.5M
Total Marijuana Sales	\$683.5M	\$995.6M	\$130.7B	\$150.8B
<b>Total YoY% Change</b>	-	<b>46%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>15%</b>

## DENVER MARIJUANA SALES AS A % OF COLORADO MARIJUANA SALES

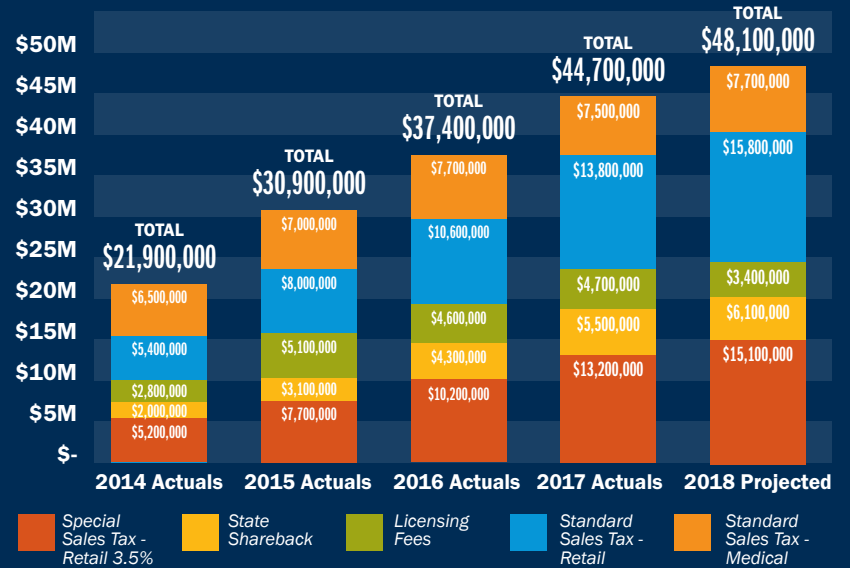
From 2014 – 2017, Denver’s portion of Colorado marijuana sales has declined nearly -10%, from 48.3% in 2014 to 38.7% in 2017. This indicates marijuana sales increased outside of the City (at a higher rate than within the City) during that period.



## HOW MUCH REVENUE IS GENERATED IN DENVER FROM MARIJUANA?

Marijuana is helping to pay for the resources the city must put toward the robust regulation and enforcement involved with the responsible implementation of legalized marijuana.

However, it's important to understand that marijuana revenue constitutes only about 3.5% of the city's general fund revenue.



Total General Fund Revenue/Marijuana Revenue as a % of General Fund Revenue

Year	2014 Actuals	2015 Actuals	2016 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2018 Actuals
Revenue	\$1,124,674,402	\$1,204,306,900	\$1,238,208,804	\$1,309,418,915	\$1,336,466,137
Percentage	1.95%	2.57%	3.02%	3.41%	3.6%

\*2018 revenue projections are based on 2017 actuals and other revenue forecasting tools available in the Fall of 2017 during the development of the 2018 budget. 2018 projections will be updated for the 2019 budget process based on more recent revenue information.

\*"Shareback": The State of Colorado contributes a portion of its 15% special sales tax on retail marijuana back to the City of Denver and other local Colorado jurisdictions with retail marijuana sales

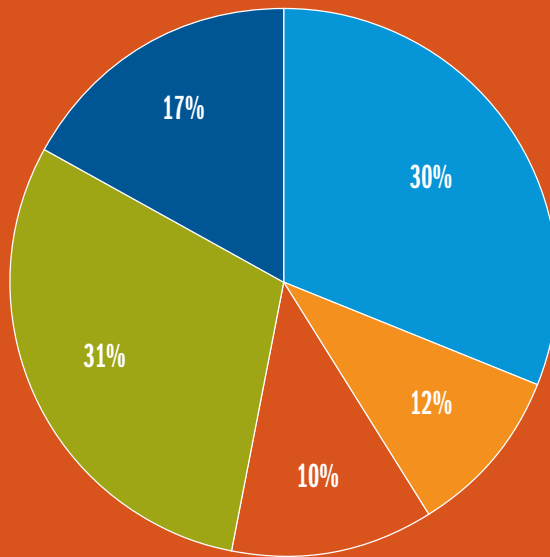
- **Overall – 2017 Revenue from Marijuana in Denver was up about 20% over 2016 totals.**
- Shareback revenue was up about 28% Year over Year.
- 2018 revenue from Marijuana in Denver is expected to grow by 8%.
- 2017 revenue from Licensing Fees was up 2% over 2016.
- Medical Sales Tax revenue declined -3% from 2016 to 2017.
- 2017 Retail Sales Tax revenue increased 30% over 2016 and is expected to grow by 14% in 2018.
- 2017 Retail Special Tax revenue went up 29% over 2016 and is expected to grow by 15% in 2018.



# MARIJUANA REVENUE SOURCES FOR 2017

Total: \$44.7M

- Special Sales Tax - Retail 3.5%
- State Shareback
- Licensing Fees
- Standard Sales Tax - Retail
- Standard Sales Tax - Medical



## THROUGH THE SPECIAL SALES TAX REVENUE AND STATE SHAREBACK FUNDS, THE CITY HAS FUNDED MARIJUANA REGULATION, ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION.

- These funds go into the city’s general fund and are allocated toward Denver’s immediate needs to responsibly regulate the marijuana industry, enforce the law, and educate the public about marijuana with a focus on youth.
- The licensing fees and retail/medical standard sales tax collected goes into the city’s general fund to pay for city services, as is the case with medical marijuana taxes collected.

## IV. BUDGET

# WHAT DOES THE CITY DO WITH THAT REVENUE?

All of Denver’s marijuana-related revenue goes to the city’s general fund to pay for city services. The city first allocates the special retail sales tax and state shareback to fund the key areas of:

- Regulation
- Education
- Enforcement

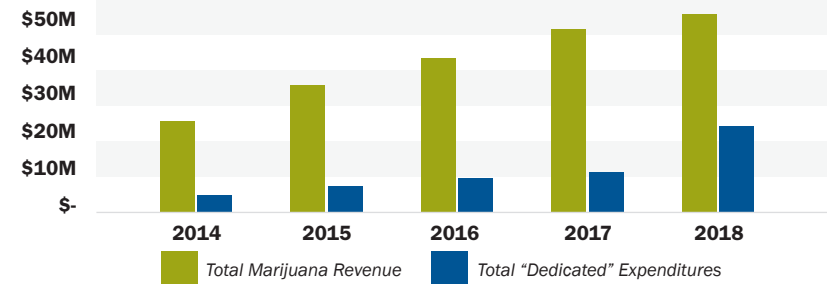
Of the projected \$21.2 million that can be appropriated for marijuana-specific spending in 2018, the city has budgeted **\$8.8 million** in expenditures across city departments and agencies for regulation, enforcement, and education and efforts.

### Eleven CITY AGENCIES working collaboratively on marijuana issues

Additionally, in 2018, \$12.4 million from marijuana-related revenue was appropriated to add investments for deferred maintenance, affordable housing and opioid intervention.

Finally, the standard sales tax received from retail and medical marijuana and the revenue from marijuana licensing fees (\$26.9 million in 2018) is treated the same as the city’s other sales tax revenue sources (such as clothing and other goods) in that it goes into the general fund and is spread across the city for a variety of general operating needs (libraries, parks, recreation programs, street maintenance, auditors, attorneys, etc.).

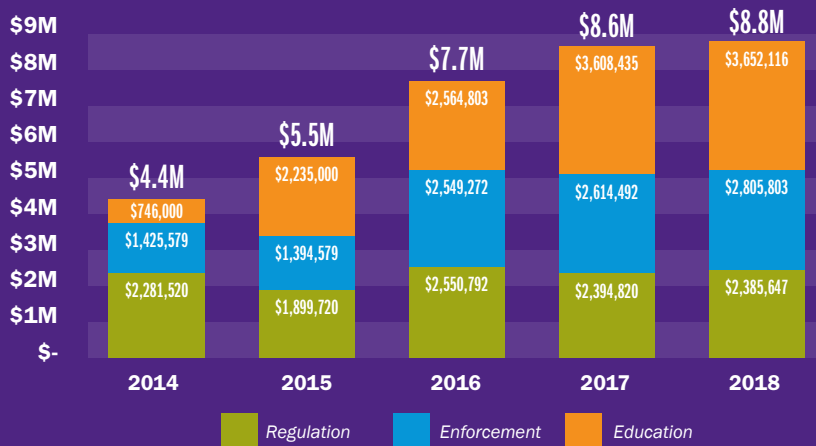
### TOTAL MARIJUANA REVENUE VS. TOTAL “DEDICATED” EXPENDITURES



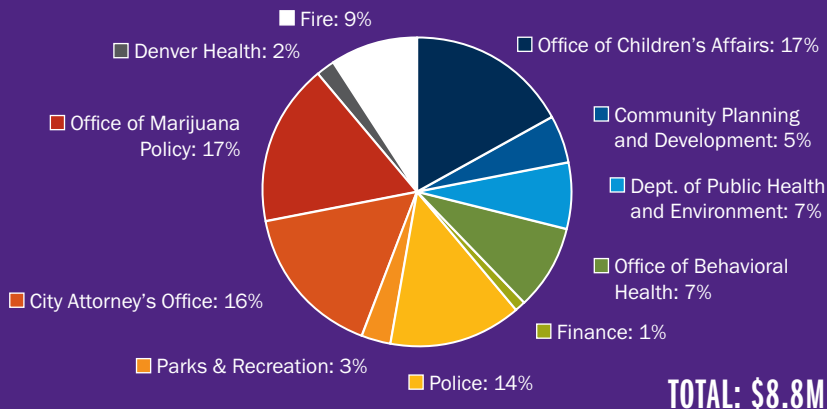
## 2018 RETAIL MARIJUANA SPECIAL SALES TAX AND STATE SHAREBACK ALLOCATION



## REGULATION, ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION EXPENDITURES:



## 2018 DISTRIBUTION OF MARIJUANA REGULATION, ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION COSTS - BY DEPARTMENT:



## V. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# THE DENVER COLLABORATIVE APPROACH IN ACTION

Governments across the U.S. and the world are tackling – or are preparing for – the new and evolving challenges that come with the regulation of legalized marijuana. On the leading edge of this challenge, Denver is committed to ensuring that its regulations address both current and future issues.

Change continues in Denver at a rapid pace and the collaborative approach enables the city to respond quickly and effectively to address issues as they arise.

Denver partners with city agencies, departments, institutional stakeholders and the community to develop sensible policies which balance the needs of industry, consumers, families and neighborhoods and preserve Denver's quality of life, public health and safety.

Under the leadership of Mayor Hancock, the city has adopted a collaborative model to manage marijuana, which includes multiple agencies working together to preserve, protect and enhance Denver's excellent **quality of life**. This work is grounded in the city's priorities of marijuana management, including **robust regulation, strict enforcement, and effective education**.



## PUBLIC EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

### Youth Prevention & Education

Denver once again committed millions of retail marijuana sales tax dollars to be distributed to youth-serving organizations by the city's offices of Children's Affairs and Behavioral Health.

→ **MORE THAN** ←

**\$11 MILLION** of marijuana revenue from 2014-2018 will be granted to these important programs to protect and educate our youth.

The "Healthy Lifestyles for Youth" funds administered by Children's Affairs support quality afterschool and summer programs.

- The funds leverage existing best practices and processes to enhance quality programs and promote pro-social activities to youth living in an environment with legalized marijuana.
- The funds utilize youth development programs as a place for early education and as a first step to preventing marijuana use for fourth-through eighth-grade youth.
- To help youth build the skills they need to make positive, healthy lifestyle choices, existing programs already using effective positive youth development and social-emotional learning strategies were provided additional funding to expand or enhance services.
- With that money we were also able to create a Marijuana Curriculum, designed to teach youth the different facts about marijuana and underage use. The curriculum is available at after school programs.

The Diversion Accountability and Behavioral Health funds administered by the Office of Behavioral Health provide for intervention, treatment, education and alternatives for youth and young adults who have violated a city or state law or school code. **The funds help:**

- Create alternative consequences for unlawful marijuana use or possession.
- Prevent further involvement of youth and young adults in the justice system.
- Improve outcomes for youth through coordinated services.
- Reduce and address the potential harm of substance use.
- Promote sharing of best practices and networking opportunities for youth serving professionals.

### THE CITY CREATED AN EDUCATION CAMPAIGN AIMED AT YOUTH AGES 12-17.

The campaign is called "High Costs", and its goal is to increase accurate knowledge among Denver youth of the legal, health and social consequences of underage marijuana use. Increasing education and awareness is where we start, and good marketing can help with that.



[WWW.THEHIGHCOSTS.COM](http://WWW.THEHIGHCOSTS.COM)

### Information & Outreach

- Sponsored a Denver Police radio campaign educating listeners about Denver marijuana laws, responsible consumption and safe storage.
- Continued collaboration with the State of Colorado's education campaigns and serving on the state's Marijuana Education Oversight Committee.
- Updated Denvergov.org/MarijuanaInfo website
  - Continuous "Know the Law" updates and created a hub for all state and local laws and regulations.
- Attended community meetings of all stripes, including:
  - Registered Neighborhood Organizations
  - City Council district gatherings
  - Inter-Neighborhood Cooperative committee meetings
  - Community meetings
- Continued with the Denver Marijuana Citizens Academy
  - Free, two-part academy provided 50 participants with information relating to various marijuana rules and regulations.
  - Provided education on participating in needs and desires hearings and gave an overview of Colorado amendments and Denver ordinances.



## PUBLIC EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

### Collaboration & Communication

- Participated in Mayor Hancock’s quarterly Cabinet in the Community.
- Continued to present updates to the Downtown Denver Partnership, Visit Denver, the Denver Chamber of Commerce and other groups upon request.
- Continued conference calls with other states with legalized marijuana.
- Continued to host information briefings for other jurisdictions, states and countries requesting information on how Denver regulates and enforces marijuana.
- Supported the “Marijuana Issues in Youth Development Summit” sponsored by the Denver Afterschool Alliance.
- Met with neighborhood groups, SMART Colorado, nonprofits and other entities requesting information about marijuana.
- Coordinated with Denver Health on marijuana impacts to public health and data collection.
- Continued to participate in the Denver Partnership for Youth Success working group.

### Industry Outreach

- Continued to educate the industry through regular Marijuana Informational Bulletins on new and changing regulations.
- Assisted as needed with other efforts including the Denver Fire Prevention Newsletter and Environmental Health’s Cannabis Sustainability Newsletter.
- Held quarterly check-in meetings with the marijuana industry.
- Held special meetings, as needed, on educational topics or for input on policies, procedures and regulations.
  - Invited industry members to participate in the Social Consumption Advisory Committee.
  - Invited industry members periodically to attend internal meetings to brainstorm, report out, and provide an industry viewpoint.
- Attended industry association meetings of the Marijuana Industry Group, Cannabis Business Alliance, and Colorado Cannabis Chamber of Commerce.
- Attended industry-sponsored educational events, tours and briefings.
- Created a Permitting Assistance Team to help businesses navigate the social consumption rules and regulations.

## DENVER MARIJUANA MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

- In 2017 Denver hosted the third annual Marijuana Management Symposium to share information with regulators and policymakers from around the world.
- The three-day event had 427 attendees from 5 countries, 17 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.
- The symposium has become the centerpiece of Denver’s collaboration with other governments, as the city has become a model for those who are adjusting to newly legalized marijuana or facing the possibility of future legalization.
  - The city is committed to exchanging information and best practices with others to contribute to the public good, build better communities and develop common ground for the future.
- The 2018 Denver Marijuana Management Symposium will be held on November 1st and 2nd.



### Customer Service

- The city continues to develop and publish marijuana informational dashboards, that will allow for better public-facing data that will live on the Denver Marijuana Info website.
- Enhanced the city’s licensing database to allow all city inspectors to view each other’s inspection history at any given facility.
- Analyzed 311 inquiries to identify frequently asked questions and provide answers.
- Created the option for scheduled appointments for marijuana licensing transactions.

### Resource Analysis, Efficiency & Economic Impact

- Continued to ensure that marijuana funds are allocated effectively to different city departments.
- Participated in an Indirect Cost Analysis to identify and quantify the indirect costs of marijuana regulation and enforcement incurred throughout the city.
- Created a mechanism to obtain feedback from internal agencies regarding operational efficiencies, effectiveness of policies, and the quality of the decision-making model.

## THE LEADER IN CONSUMER HEALTH & SAFETY PROTECTION

- Denver's Department of Public Health and Environment took the lead globally to address consumer safety issues such as pesticide and mold contamination, evaluating ingredients lacking safety information used in smoking and vaping products, and unregulated hemp derived cannabidiol ingestible products sold for therapeutic or wellness purposes.
  - In the absence of state and federal regulations and guidelines, the city stood in the gap, looking out for its residents and visitors as well as protecting consumer health and safety.

Denver coordinated with other local and state agencies and the marijuana industry to establish protocols and procedures for identifying potentially harmful marijuana products and placing them on hold and/or recalling them when necessary.

- Through its inspection process, Denver discovered that some marijuana products were contaminated with unapproved pesticide residues, mold, pests, and that some businesses were using industrial grade solvent that could pose a threat to consumer health.
  - Denver's Department of Public Health and Environment has overseen more than 39 product recalls to date due to pesticide contamination, unclean equipment, and shelf stability issues.
- Denver created the Cannabis Health & Safety Advisory Committee
  - This committee is comprised of public health experts, scientists, marijuana industry professionals, and consumer advocates and is tasked with providing suggestions to Denver's local public health department regarding health and safety issues associated with the production and consumption of cannabis products.

### Odors

- The city continues to work with neighborhoods and the industry on controlling odors caused by marijuana facilities.
- Denver's updated nuisance odor ordinance includes a provision that requires all marijuana grow operations and infused-products manufacturers to develop, submit and implement an odor control plan approved by the city.
  - Environmental Health takes an active role in advising businesses on developing effective odor control plans, to lessen the negative impacts on quality of life in Denver's neighborhoods.

### Sustainability

The city educates business owners on the importance of actions and technologies that can be used to minimize the environmental impacts of operating a marijuana business.

- Denver Public Health and Environment collaborated with the marijuana industry to put together "best practices" for sustainable growing.
- Individual businesses are pledging to implement these best practices.
- Leading into the fourth annual Denver Marijuana Management Symposium in November 2018, the city will also support the third annual Cannabis Sustainability Symposium that will happen in October 2018.



## VI. ENFORCEMENT

# DENVER REMAINS COMMITTED

to robust regulation and strict enforcement of the laws around marijuana. The city continues its focus on education about the laws and regulations, seeking compliance ahead of enforcement.

Remaining consistent with its commitment to the voters and to the federal government, the city has a high level of focus on illegal marijuana activities outside the boundaries of amendments 20 and 64.

## PATROLLING THE BOUNDARIES OF LAW

The implication of a legal commercial market is not that enforcement needs will necessarily decrease.

- The opposite is true in the short run. The black market will not simply vanish.
- People will continue pushing the boundaries and operating outside of the rules.

## WHAT DOES THE BLACK MARKET LOOK LIKE?

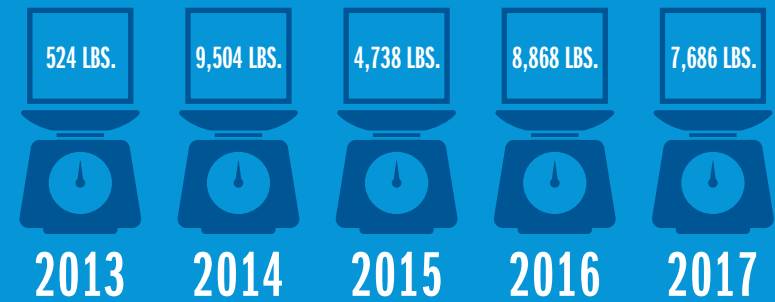
The market for Denver marijuana is lucrative and extends across the U.S. and includes:

- Internet sales (Craigslist, Facebook groups, etc.)
- Mid-level trading: Continuous market of people purchasing \$5,000-\$10,000 of Colorado marijuana and transporting/shipping it out of state for resale.
- Large criminal organizations

**The city has intensified its focus on those who refuse to play by the new rules with increased education and enforcement.**

**The Denver Police Department Marijuana Team's work around illegal marijuana has increased significantly over the last couple of years.**

## MARIJUANA PROCESSED BY DPD CRIME LAB:



- This data reflects only seizures processed through the Denver Police Department (DPD) crime lab.
- DPD's marijuana team has been involved in numerous other operations in which the marijuana was processed by the Drug Enforcement Agency, but those numbers are not reflected here.
  - For example, in 2013 DPD worked with federal agencies and seized more than 10,000 pounds in one case alone, all of which was processed by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

## POLICE OUTREACH

DPD has worked proactively with marijuana business owners to provide them with crime fighting tips.

- Best practices shared with and among marijuana businesses.
- In 2017, DPD continued the district outreach program which allows industry members to meet the commander and officers in their district.
- Continued to educate the industry with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), which provides crime fighting and safety tips.
- Created outdoor grow video for educating voters on marijuana grow rules.
- Marijuana monthly Twitter campaign.

## HOME GROWS

Denver residents can cultivate up to 6 plants per adult in a household and never more than 12 plants total. Additionally, Denver created a limitation of 36 plants on a non-residential zone lot. Over the last several years, the City has received many complaints of home growing that exceeds the legal plant count.

### The City is addressing these issues with:

- Streamlined communications processes between police and city inspectors to help address complaints.
- Increased number of officers working to address illegal home grows.
- Development of an education campaign on home grow safety and how to spot illegal activity.

## MARIJUANA CRIME & ARREST DATA

### 1. Marijuana-Related Crime

Definition: Crimes reported to the Denver Police Department that, upon review, have a clear connection or relation to marijuana. Crimes that have an incidental relation to marijuana are not included.

Note: These data do not include violations restricting the possession, sale and/or cultivation of marijuana (see Arrests on page 26).

- Marijuana-Related Crime accounts for less than 1 percent of overall crime in Denver.
- Total Marijuana-Related Crime (and percentage of crime overall):
  - **2012:** 256 (0.58%)
  - **2013:** 257 (0.53%)
  - **2014:** 293 (0.48%)
  - **2015:** 274 (0.44%)
  - **2016:** 267 (0.42%)
  - **2017:** 199 (0.30%)

### 2. Marijuana Industry-Related Crime

Definition: The subset of Marijuana-Related Crime where licensed marijuana businesses were either the victim or the perpetrator of a crime.

- Marijuana Industry-Related Crime represents less than ½ of 1 percent of overall crime in Denver.
  - **2012:** 191 (0.43%)
  - **2013:** 167 (0.35%)
  - **2014:** 179 (0.29%)
  - **2015:** 192 (0.30%)
  - **2016:** 209 (0.32%)
  - **2017:** 139 (0.21%)

In 2017, burglary or attempted burglary accounted for 67% of Marijuana Industry-Related Crime. Larceny (theft) accounted for another 12% of all Marijuana Industry-Related Crime.

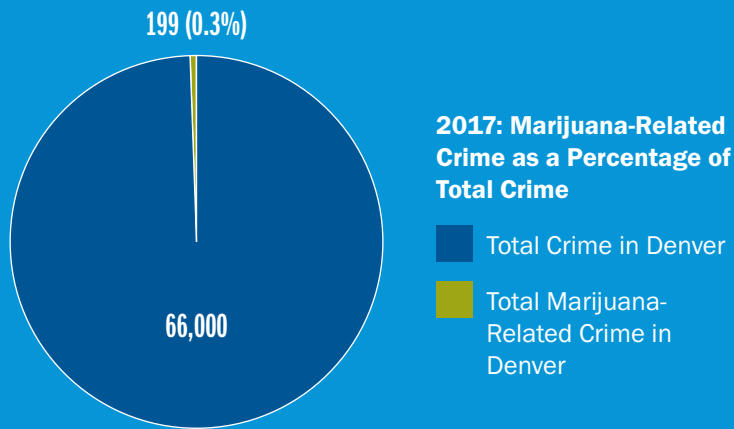
- Marijuana businesses make up less than 1% of all businesses in Denver but account for approximately 10% of all reported business burglaries (2012-2016).
  - **2012:** Of 191 industry crimes, 142 were burglaries and 13 were larcenies
  - **2013:** Of 167 industry crimes, 130 were burglaries and 16 were larcenies
  - **2014:** Of 179 industry crimes, 118 were burglaries and 24 were larcenies
  - **2015:** Of 192 industry crimes, 118 were burglaries and 22 were larcenies
  - **2016:** Of 209 industry crimes, 164 were burglaries and 19 were larcenies
  - **2017:** Of 139 industry crimes, 93 were burglaries and 16 were larcenies.

## MARIJUANA CRIME & ARREST DATA CONTINUED

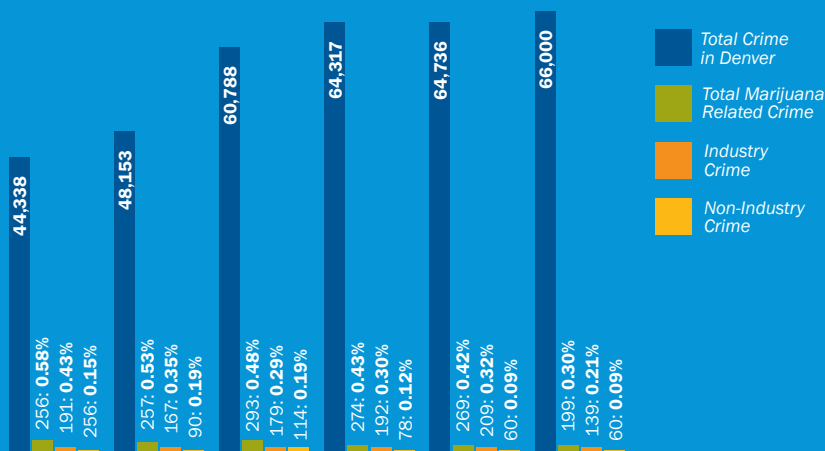
Violent Crime related to the licensed marijuana industry is rare, with seven reported in 2013, 10 reported in 2014, eight reported in 2015, three reported in 2016, and 8 reported in 2017.

Note: Violent Crime includes such things as homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault and arson.

- There were eight violent crimes related to the marijuana industry in 2017, or one violent crime related to the marijuana industry for every 615 violent crimes overall

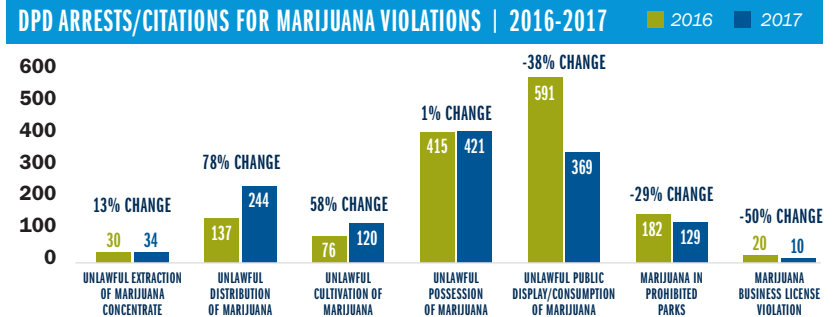


## DENVER: TOTAL CRIME WITH % MARIJUANA CRIME



## ARRESTS

*Definition:* City and County of Denver arrest data include citations and bookings for violations of marijuana laws in State of Colorado statute and/or City of Denver municipal code.



## PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

Since 2014 Denver has tracked public consumption using citations for “Unlawful Public Display or Consumption of Marijuana” and “Marijuana Prohibited in Parks.”

- Public consumption citations declined last year for the third consecutive year, decreasing from 591 in 2016 to 369 in 2017.
- Additionally, the city issued 129 citations for marijuana prohibited in parks in 2017.

MARIJUANA CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS	2014	2015	2016	2017
Public Consumption	762	761	591	369
Prohibited in Parks	248	183	182	129

## DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS - MARIJUANA-RELATED

Marijuana-related DUIs stayed flat at 63 in 2016 and 63 in 2017.

Note: Marijuana-related DUIs are a subset of DUIs, which are a subset of DUIs.

- Marijuana-related DUIs represent a very small portion (3.3%) of overall impaired driving arrests.
- Since 2013, the city has increased the number of trained Drug Recognition Expert officers to better manage the increase in marijuana impaired driving arrests.

IMPAIRED DRIVING CITATIONS	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
DUI	2,896	2,619	2,532	2,262	1,895
DUID	84	129	148	122	119
DUID-Marijuana	33	66	73	63	63



**E M A I L**

[MarijuanaInfo@Denvergov.org](mailto:MarijuanaInfo@Denvergov.org)

**W E B**

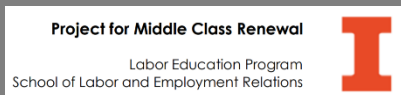
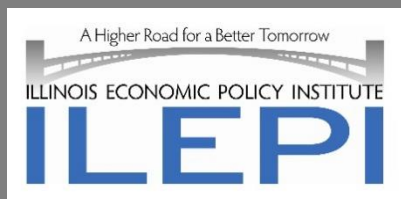
[Denvergov.org/MarijuanaInfo](http://Denvergov.org/MarijuanaInfo)



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

November 9, 2018

# The Financial Impact of Legalizing Marijuana in Illinois



Frank Manzo IV, MPP  
Jill Manzo  
Robert Bruno, PhD



## Executive Summary

There is significant public support for legalizing, regulating, and taxing recreational marijuana in Illinois. Fully 66 percent of registered voters in Illinois support legalizing marijuana, including a bipartisan majority of Democrats and Republicans. Furthermore, 10 states and the District of Columbia have already legalized recreational marijuana.

This report by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI) and the Project for Middle Class Renewal at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign finds that high taxpayer costs for law enforcement and cannabis-related incarceration would be reduced by legalizing recreational marijuana. In total, Illinois taxpayers would save \$18.4 million annually in reduced incarceration costs, law enforcement spending, and legal fees from marijuana legalization. This revenue could be redirected to solve other crimes—such as homicides, robberies, and assaults.

The economy would also grow if Illinois were to legalize recreational marijuana. If marijuana were legalized, regulated, and taxed in Illinois, an estimated \$1.6 billion would be sold in the state, in part due to regional tourism. At a 26.25 percent state excise tax on retail marijuana in addition to the 6.25 percent general sales tax, Illinois would:

- generate \$525 million in new tax revenues, including \$505 million for the state and \$20 million for local governments— a move that credit rating agencies have called “credit positive;”
- create over 23,600 new jobs at more than 2,600 businesses in Illinois;
- boost the Illinois economy by \$1 billion annually; and
- allow the state to make additional pension payments and vital public investments in infrastructure, K-12 public schools, college tuition assistance programs, and drug treatment and prevention programs.

The benefits of legalization outweigh the social costs. While some legislators and constituents are concerned that legalizing recreational marijuana would increase consumption of other illicit drugs, increase motor vehicle crashes, and reduce workplace productivity, there is no evidence to support these claims. In fact, legalized cannabis has been found to reduce opioid use by as much as 33 percent, reduce traffic fatalities by as much as 11 percent, and have no effect on occupational accidents or rates of employee absenteeism. This is because marijuana consumption has not been found to increase after legalization.

Legalizing, regulating, and taxing recreational marijuana would reduce costs to taxpayers, spur economic activity, create jobs, and shrink the black market. While new tax revenues would be modest and would not solve Illinois’ fiscal issues, they would improve the state’s budget situation and credit rating outlook, fund investments in critical infrastructure and public education, and reduce criminal justice costs. Illinois *should* legalize, regulate, and tax recreational marijuana.

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
Table of Contents	ii
About the Authors	ii
Introduction	1
Consumption of Marijuana and Support for Legalization in Illinois	2
Savings for Taxpayers: Reduced Law Enforcement and Incarceration Costs	2
Tax Revenue Impacts of Illinois Legalizing Recreational Marijuana	3
Economic Effects of Illinois Legalizing Recreational Marijuana	7
Addressing Concerns on Alcohol Consumption, Health, and Safety	9
Conclusion	10
Sources	11
Cover Photo Credit	13

## About the Authors

**Frank Manzo IV, M.P.P.** is the Policy Director of the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI). His research focuses on labor market analysis, prevailing wage laws, economic development, infrastructure investment, and public finance. He earned his Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and his Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He can be contacted at [fmanzo@illinoisepi.org](mailto:fmanzo@illinoisepi.org).

**Jill Manzo** is a Midwest Researcher at the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI). Her research focuses on income inequality, education policy, social justice, economic development, and infrastructure investment. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Studies from Iowa State University. She can be contacted at [jmanzo@illinoisepi.org](mailto:jmanzo@illinoisepi.org).

**Robert Bruno, Ph.D.** is a Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Labor and Employment Relations and the Director of the School's Labor Education Program. He also directs the Project for Middle Class Renewal at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research focuses broadly on working-class and union studies issues. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Political Theory from New York University and his Master of Arts in Political Science from Bowling Green State University. He can be contacted at [bbruno@illinois.edu](mailto:bbruno@illinois.edu).

## Introduction

In 2012, Colorado and Washington became the first states to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes. The passage of Colorado Amendment 64 led to the state becoming the first to tax and legalize recreational marijuana, with commercial sales beginning in January 2014. Since marijuana is a relatively safe drug with no documented deaths from a marijuana overdose, support for legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana has only grown over time. Support for legalizing marijuana among American adults was just 12 percent in 1969, 48 percent by 2012, and 64 percent by 2017 (McCarthy, 2017).

Although marijuana remains illegal under federal law, 10 states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational marijuana: Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington. Each state has their own guidelines, with different rates of taxation, age restrictions, packaging regulations, and possession limits. Additionally, 13 states have decriminalized the drug and 33 states— including Illinois— have legalized medical marijuana (Chappell, 2018). Of the states which have legalized recreational use, all except Vermont allow commercial sales by private for-profit businesses (Lopez, 2017a).

The legalization, regulation, and taxation of recreational marijuana has already generated hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues for state and local governments. During the campaign to legalize marijuana in Colorado, proponents claimed that marijuana taxes would increase state revenues by \$70 million per year. Today, tax revenues have exceeded these projections. In 2017, marijuana taxes, licenses, and fees collected in Colorado totaled \$247 million, with \$40 million of these revenues deposited into the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program— which funds public school capital construction projects— every year. The additional \$207 million is allocated to the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund, which is largely used for health care, education, drug treatment, drug prevention, and law enforcement programs (Lopez, 2017b). Colorado has generated more than half a billion dollars in revenues since it legalized recreational marijuana (Pedersen, 2018).

In addition to generating tax revenues that fund public services and programs for social good, marijuana has been a job creator across the United States. In fact, the cannabis industry already employs 165,000 to 230,000 workers across the United States at retailers, wholesalers, testing labs, and related companies (McVey, 2017). In June 2018, Colorado officials approved \$447 million for 35 school construction projects using money that is partially funded by legal marijuana sales, creating thousands of blue-collar construction jobs (Whaley, 2018).<sup>1</sup>

This Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI) and Project for Middle Class Renewal report does not discuss the moral implications of legalizing marijuana, but does present the effect on criminal justice and incarceration costs. The tax revenue and economic impacts of legalizing, regulating, and taxing recreational marijuana in Illinois are also evaluated. Evidence on the social costs of legalizing marijuana are considered. This report differs from previous studies assessing the impact of legalizing recreational

---

<sup>1</sup> In Illinois, every \$500 million in public construction project funding creates about 5,200 total jobs, including 3,000 direct construction jobs (e.g., see Craighead & Manzo, 2017).

marijuana in Illinois because it evaluates the market for legal recreational marijuana in Illinois using actual economic data and evidence from Colorado's experience, updates taxpayer savings estimates from reduced incarceration costs, illustrates potential public investments that could occur using new tax revenues, and forecasts impacts on private sector sales, business openings, and job creation.

## **Consumption of Marijuana and Support for Legalization in Illinois**

Millions of dollars are already spent illegally in Illinois on the purchase of cannabis on the unregulated black market. According to the Marijuana Policy Project, a pro-legalization advocacy organization, an estimated 750,000 adults in Illinois reported consuming marijuana in the past month— representing nearly 6 percent of the total population in the state. Accordingly, proponents contend that the legalization of recreational marijuana would allow the State of Illinois to safely regulate the activity while collecting new tax revenues ([MPP, 2017](#)).

Marijuana is currently decriminalized for recreational use and legally permitted for medical use in Illinois. In 2016, legislators in Illinois decriminalized the possession of up to 10 grams of marijuana for individuals 21 years old or older ([Pedersen, 2018](#)). Illinois' Medical Cannabis Pilot Program, which began accepting applications in September 2014, now has more than 46,000 qualifying patients and 55 licensed medical cannabis dispensaries— about 837 patients per dispensary ([State of Illinois, 2018](#)). On March 22, 2017, state lawmakers proposed bills to legalize marijuana in Illinois ([McCoppin, 2017](#)).

The Illinois General Assembly did not pass legislation to legalize, regulate, and tax recreational marijuana during the 2017-2018 legislative session, despite a clear majority of Illinois voters supporting full legalization. A 2017 survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale found that two-thirds (66 percent) support legalizing, taxing, and regulating marijuana like alcohol in Illinois, including 76 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of Republicans ([Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, 2017](#)). In addition, in March 2018, Cook County residents were asked their opinion on legalizing the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing, and sale of recreational marijuana by adults 21 years old or older at the state-level. Fully 68 percent voted "Yes" in support of legalization ([Pedersen, 2018](#); [Ballotpedia, 2018](#)).

## **Savings for Taxpayers: Reduced Law Enforcement and Incarceration Costs**

Historically, the costs of police, law enforcement, and corrections associated with marijuana possession have been very high in Illinois. A 2013 report by the American Civil Liberties Union found 12,406 marijuana possession arrests were made in the state in 2010, with African Americans 7.6 times more likely to be arrested than white residents. As a result, Illinois taxpayers spent \$127 million to police marijuana consumption, \$72 million in judicial and legal fees, and \$20 million to house individuals in local jails and county correctional facilities for possession of marijuana in 2010 ([ACLU, 2013](#)).

After decriminalization, police made fewer arrests and wrote fewer tickets. In 2012, the City of Chicago decriminalized the possession of 15 grams or less of marijuana for anyone 21 years old or older. In the year prior to decriminalization, Chicago police officers made 21,000 arrests. By 2016, there were just 129 arrests and the Chicago Police Department issued fewer than 300 tickets for possession of small amounts of cannabis. In 2016, the State of Illinois decriminalized possession of 10 grams or less of marijuana for anyone 21 years old or older— making possession of small amounts of weed a civil offense rather than a crime, with fines as the penalty instead of jail time (Main, 2018).

Full legalization and taxation of recreational marijuana will further reduce taxpayer costs. In June 2016, Illinois still had 445 people incarcerated in prison due to a cannabis-related possession, manufacturing, or trafficking offense (IDOC, 2016). According to the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform in a January 2017 report, it costs Illinois more than \$22,000 per year to incarcerate a prisoner (ICJIA, 2017). Using this cost estimate and adjusting it for inflation to constant 2018 dollars, Illinois could conservatively save \$10.2 million annually in reduced incarceration costs alone due to the legalization of recreational marijuana (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Estimated Taxpayer Savings from Legalizing Recreational Marijuana in Illinois**

Taxpayer Savings from Recreational Marijuana Legalization	Annual Estimate
Reduced Incarceration Costs	\$10.24 million
Reduced Judicial and Legal Fees*	\$2.95 million
Reduced Policing Costs*	\$5.21 million
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$18.40 million</b>

\* Estimates have been adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI, 2018).

Source(s): 2013 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU, 2013); Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform (ICJIA, 2017).

Figure 1 presents annual taxpayer savings from full legalization of recreational marijuana in Illinois. Estimates are based on findings from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform adjusted for 2017 data on cannabis-related incarceration in Illinois. The estimates are also adjusted for inflation to today's dollars. The analysis reveals that legalizing, taxing, and regulating recreational marijuana would reduce incarceration costs by \$10.2 million per year, decrease judicial and legal fees by about \$3.0 million per year, and lower policing costs by about \$5.2 million per year. In total, legalizing recreational marijuana would save Illinois taxpayers \$18.4 million annually (Figure 1). This is in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars that were saved from marijuana decriminalization in 2016.

## Tax Revenue Impacts of Illinois Legalizing Recreational Marijuana

Illinois is about twice as large as Colorado (Figure 2). There are 4.8 million households in Illinois compared to 2.1 million households in Colorado. Additionally, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois economy produced 2.4 times as much output as Colorado (BEA, 2016). However, Illinois collects more in state and local taxes than Colorado.

Figure 2 multiplies the total number of households by their average household income in both Colorado and Illinois and then adjusts total income for purchasing power after all state, federal, and local taxes. The result is that Illinois has 2.1 times as much purchasing power as Colorado. This means that recreational marijuana sales in Illinois could feasibly be about 2.1 times as much as in Colorado.

**Figure 2: Purchasing Power of Resident Households, Colorado vs. Illinois, 2016 Data**

2016 Economic Data	Colorado	Illinois
Total Households (2016)	2,108,992	4,822,046
Average Household Income (2016)	\$88,246	\$84,561
Total Household Income After All Taxes*	\$129.89 billion	\$275.20 billion
Illinois Purchasing Power as a Multiple of Colorado		2.12 x
*Based on data from 2015 <i>State and Local Government Finances</i> by the U.S. Census Bureau and average federal income tax rates (Census, 2015). Note that this estimate is not the same as total labor income, which would include benefits, and not the same as gross state product (GSP).		

Source(s): 2016 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau (Census, 2016); 2015 State and Local Government Finances by the U.S. Census Bureau (Census, 2015).

The Colorado Department of Revenue is required by law to report marijuana tax data to the public (Colorado Department of Revenue, 2018a). Colorado currently taxes recreational marijuana at a 32.9 percent effective tax rate. This includes a 2.9 percent state sales tax on both medical and retail marijuana, a 15 percent state retail marijuana excise tax, and a 15 percent state retail marijuana sales tax that was increased from 10 percent on July 1, 2017. Over the fiscal year from July 2017 through June 2018, the state collected \$251.0 million in total marijuana taxes— not including license and application fees paid by retailers and individuals to sell recreational marijuana. Based on the effective tax rate, this means that Colorado residents and visitors spent \$762.8 million legally on recreational marijuana in Colorado over 12 months (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Estimating the Market for Legalized Recreational Marijuana in Illinois, By 2020**

The Markets for Recreational Marijuana in Colorado and Illinois	Data or Estimate
Total Marijuana Sales in Colorado Annually	\$762.81 million
Total Marijuana Tax Rate in Colorado*	32.9%
Total Marijuana Taxes Collected in Colorado Annually	\$250.97 million
Illinois Purchasing Power as a Multiple of Colorado	2.12 x
Total Estimated Annual Sales in Illinois (After Legalization)	\$1,616.20 million
*Total marijuana revenue in Colorado includes a 2.9 percent state sales tax on medical and retail marijuana, a 15 percent state retail marijuana sales tax, and a 15 percent state retail marijuana excise tax.	

Source(s): Authors' estimates based on Marijuana Tax Data from the Colorado Department of Revenue (Colorado Department of Revenue, 2018), using purchasing power estimates from Figure 2.

It is estimated that about \$1.62 billion of recreational marijuana would be sold in Illinois if the state were to legalize, regulate, and tax the substance at similar levels as Colorado (Figure 3).<sup>2</sup> This is based

<sup>2</sup> The \$1.62 billion recreational marijuana market may be a *conservative* estimate. For example, there were 46,018 qualifying patients in Illinois' Medical Cannabis Pilot Program who spent \$10.8 million per month at licensed medical cannabis dispensaries from January 2018 through September 2018— or \$235.40 per patient per month (State of Illinois,



on the total sales in Colorado adjusted for the purchasing power of Illinois households. Additionally, Illinois would benefit from being one of the only states in the region to legalize recreational marijuana. Like Colorado, tourism would be expected to increase modestly as consumers from neighboring states travel to Illinois for legalized cannabis, boosting business sales in Illinois.

Illinois taxes tobacco and alcohol at higher rates than clothes, food, and services. In addition to the 6.25 percent general sales tax, Illinois levies excise taxes of \$0.23 per gallon for beer, \$1.39 per gallon for wine, \$8.55 per gallon for liquor, and \$1.98 per pack of 20 cigarettes ([SalesTaxHandbook, 2018](#)). The legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana would be no different.

Figure 4 presents estimated tax revenues from the State of Illinois levying a proposed 26.25 percent state excise tax on retail marijuana. Combined with the 6.25 percent general sales tax, this would make the total effective tax rate on recreational marijuana 32.5 percent in Illinois— slightly lower than in Colorado (32.9 percent). In general, consumers tend to buy more of a product if it is taxed at a lower rate, but Figure 4 conservatively uses the total marijuana sales estimate of \$1.62 billion for Illinois, based on Colorado’s total effective tax rate.

If the state were to impose a 26.25 percent excise tax on recreational marijuana in addition to the 6.25 percent general sales tax, Illinois would generate an estimated \$525.3 million in new tax revenues (Figure 4). Fully \$505.1 million would go to the state government while local governments would receive \$20.2 million.<sup>3</sup> This revenue estimate falls in the middle of the \$350 million to \$700 million range projected by some proponents of legalizing recreational marijuana in Illinois ([Driscoll, 2018](#)). It also exceeds the \$354 million in revenue projected by researchers at the conservative-learning Tax Foundation ([Bishop-Henchman & Scarboro, 2016](#)). Note, however, that the revenue estimate from Figure 4 does not include tax revenue from licenses and application fees paid by retailers and individuals to sell recreational marijuana.

**Figure 4: Estimated Tax Revenues from Legalizing Recreational Marijuana in Illinois, By 2020**

<b>Estimated Sales, Proposed Tax Rate, and Expected Tax Revenues</b>	<b>Annual Estimate</b>
Total Estimated Marijuana Sales in Illinois	\$1,616.20 million
Illinois State Marijuana Excise Tax (Proposed)	26.25%
Illinois Sales Tax: State Share	5.00%
Illinois Sales Tax: Local Share	1.25%
Total State Taxes Collected	\$505.06 million
Total Local Taxes Collected	\$20.20 million

*Source(s): Authors’ estimates based on Marijuana Tax Data from the Colorado Department of Revenue ([Colorado Department of Revenue, 2018](#)), using purchasing power estimates from Figure 2.*

2018). If 750,000 adults in Illinois consume marijuana at the same monthly quantities as qualified patients ([MPP, 2017](#)), estimated sales would be \$176.5 million per month, or a market size of \$2.12 billion.

<sup>3</sup> In Illinois, the general sales tax is 6.25 percent. The state keeps 80 percent of the revenue from the sales tax (or 5 percentage points of the tax) in the General Fund and transfers 20 percent (or 1.25 percentage points of the tax) to local governments.

State lawmakers could stipulate how new tax revenues collected from legalized marijuana are spent. Figure 5 outlines potential public investments that could occur using the new tax revenue, assuming that half of the revenue is used to reduce pension debts by about \$250 million per year.

The remaining revenue could be distributed evenly at 10 percent to fund five government functions annually at about \$50 million each.

- Lawmakers could follow Colorado's lead and deposit 10 percent of recreational marijuana tax revenues in the **School Infrastructure Fund**. The additional state funding could potentially be used by local school districts to slightly reduce property tax burdens. Compared to actual revenue of \$72.1 million in fiscal year 2017, \$50 million would represent a *70 percent* increase in school construction funding provided by the state ([Illinois Comptroller, 2017](#)).
- Lawmakers could allocate 10 percent of recreational marijuana tax revenues to the **State Construction Account**. This money is used to fund road, bridge, transportation, and similar infrastructure projects. Compared to actual revenue of \$506.6 million in fiscal year 2017, \$50 million would represent a *10 percent* increase in funding ([Illinois Comptroller, 2017](#)).
- 10 percent of recreational marijuana tax revenues could be appropriated to the **Illinois State Board of Education** to support elementary education at Illinois' public schools. The additional state funding could also be used by local school districts to slightly reduce property tax burdens. Compared to an enacted budget of \$6.8 billion for evidence-based funding of schools, \$50 million would represent about a *1 percent* increase in total funding ([ISBE, 2018](#)).
- 10 percent of recreational marijuana tax revenues could be dedicated to the **Illinois Student Assistance Commission** to help students pay for college education through the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants. In the 2019 fiscal year, MAP grant funding was \$401.3 million ([ISAC, 2018](#)). \$50 million in new revenue would represent a *12 percent* increase in higher education tuition assistance for students to attend Illinois' public universities and community colleges.
- 10 percent could be appropriated to the **Department of Human Services** to fund drug treatment and drug prevention programs, including to help combat the current opioid crisis. These programs were among the hardest hit by the 736-day budget impasse in Illinois. Compared to the \$230.7 million enacted for the Division of Addiction Treatment, \$50 million in new revenue would represent a *22 percent* increase in funding for substance abuse treatment and prevention programs ([Illinois OMB, 2018](#)).

Though not shown in Figure 5, the approximately \$20 million in recreational marijuana tax revenues that are transferred to local governments could be used either to fund law enforcement and hire additional officers or to pay down local police and fire pension debt obligations. The administration and regulation of legal marijuana could be funded entirely by license fees and application fees paid by retailers and individuals to sell recreational marijuana. These fees generated \$8.8 million for the State of Colorado from July 2017 through June 2018 ([Colorado Department of Revenue, 2018b](#)). Elected

officials and voters in Illinois could expect to double that revenue to pay for administering and regulating the legalized marijuana law.

**Figure 5: Potential Public Investments Using New Tax Revenues from Legalized Marijuana**

Potential Public Investments Based on New Tax Revenues	Annual Estimate
Total State Marijuana Taxes Collected	\$505.06 million
<u>Potential Public Investments for the Public Good</u>	
50 Percent to Pension Payments	\$252.53 million
10 Percent to School Infrastructure Fund	\$50.51 million
10 Percent to State Construction Account	\$50.51 million
10 Percent to K-12 Public Schools	\$50.51 million
10 Percent to Monetary Award Program (MAP)	\$50.51 million
10 Percent to Drug Treatment and Prevention Programs	\$50.51 million

## Economic Effects of Illinois Legalizing Recreational Marijuana

Convenient access to dispensaries, consumption lounges, and licensed marijuana businesses is essential to a successful and safe market for legal marijuana. If consumers cannot easily purchase cannabis from the regulated legal market because local governments prevent dispensaries or retail stores from selling the substance, they will again turn to the unregulated black market. For example, Denver allows one cannabis retail establishment per 3,091 residents, which has caused the illegal market share to fall to 30 percent. Seattle, on the other hand, limited retail licenses to 21 firms, or one dispensary per 30,373 residents. Illegal activity was still estimated at 70 percent of the total cannabis market in Seattle due to the lack of access to the regulated market. Research finds that states need at least one legal cannabis retail storefront per 7,500 residents to limit the illicit black market (Beals, 2018).

This section uses IMPLAN to assess the economic effects of legalizing recreational marijuana in Illinois. IMPLAN is an input-output software that is considered the “gold standard” in economic impact analyses (Vowels, 2012). IMPLAN uses U.S. Census Bureau data to account for the interrelationship between businesses and households in a regional market, following a dollar as it cycles through the economy. The software uses multipliers to estimate how much a policy change— such as legalizing recreational marijuana— would affect the economy.

The results reveal that legalizing marijuana would boost the Illinois economy (Figure 6). If Illinois were to legalize cannabis at an effective tax rate of 32.5 percent, total recreational marijuana sales would be expected to be \$1.62 billion at over 2,600 businesses— approximately one cannabis dispensary, retailer, or manufacturer for every 4,900 residents in the state. This would be a higher density of points of sale per person than Seattle but a lower density than Denver (Beals, 2018).

Legalization would directly create nearly 19,500 jobs at marijuana dispensaries, retailers, and manufacturers. Additionally, the Illinois workers who are newly employed at marijuana-related businesses would earn incomes that they spend back in the economy. This additional consumer

demand would save or create another 4,100 jobs at restaurants, stores, and other local businesses. Overall, the Illinois economy would grow by an estimated \$1 billion annually due to the consumption of recreational marijuana by both residents and tourists (Figure 6).<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 6: Estimated Annual Economic Impacts of Legalizing Marijuana in Illinois, By 2020**

Impact on Sales, Businesses, Employment, and Gross State Product	Annual Estimate
Total Estimated Marijuana Sales in Illinois	\$1,616.20 million
Number of Establishments (Firms Created)	2,633 businesses
Total Employment (Jobs Created) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct Jobs at Marijuana Dispensaries and Manufacturers</li> <li>• Induced Jobs from Higher Consumer Demand</li> </ul>	23,618 jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19,486 jobs</li> <li>• 4,132 jobs</li> </ul>
Net Economic Impact (Annual Gross State Product)	\$1,000.17 million

Source(s): Authors' estimates from an economic simulation using IMPLAN (IMPLAN, 2018) based on legal recreational marijuana market estimates from Figure 4.

Finally, information from the 2016 *County Business Patterns* dataset by the U.S. Census Bureau is used to compare the estimated number of marijuana dispensaries and related establishments to the current number of smoke shops and alcoholic drinking places in Illinois (Figure 7). As of 2016, the state had nearly 500 tobacco stores primarily engaged in selling cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and other smokers' supplies that employed nearly 1,300 workers. Similarly, the state had nearly 2,700 drinking places serving alcoholic beverages— such as bars, distilleries, and wineries— where over 21,600 bartenders, cooks, servers, barbacks, and other individuals worked. Note that this does not include restaurants which primarily sell food but may also offer alcoholic beverages. The legalization, regulation, and taxation of recreational marijuana would create about the same number of jobs— at a similar rate of pay (about \$19,600 annually for mostly part-time workers)— in Illinois as there are at bars and other alcoholic drinking places.

**Figure 7: Estimated Marijuana Stores Compared to Similar Establishments in Illinois, 2016 Data**

Sector of the Economy (NAICS code)	Number of Establishments	Paid Employees	Annual Payroll	Payroll Per Employee
Estimated: Marijuana Dispensaries	2,633	19,486	\$383.57 million	\$19,588
NAICS 453991: Tobacco Stores	479	1,265	\$24.63 million	\$19,470
NAICS 7224: Alcoholic Drinking Places	2,668	21,623	\$365.97 million	\$16,925

Source(s): Authors' estimates from Figure 6; 2016 *County Business Patterns* from the U.S. Census Bureau (Census, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> The net effect on the overall economy (\$1.00 billion) is less than total sales (\$1.62 billion) because annual gross state product is the difference between all sales and the production cost of all products. As an example, consider a toy bought by an Illinois consumer at a local store for \$10. Suppose that the toy was manufactured in New Mexico for \$4. The difference between the sales price (\$10) and the cost that the local store paid for the toy (\$4) is \$6. In this case, total sales are \$10 in Illinois, but the Illinois economy only grows by \$6 due to the local business activity. The New Mexico economy grows by the remaining \$4 from manufacturing the product. The same logic applies for recreational marijuana.

## Addressing Concerns on Alcohol Consumption, Health, and Safety

Marijuana consumption rates do not rise following legalization. In Colorado, for example, “marijuana use [among Colorado residents] has not changed since legalization either in terms of the number of people using or the frequency of use among users” and marijuana consumption has remained lower than daily alcohol or tobacco use ([Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, 2016](#)). While more research is needed, the evidence suggests that cannabis consumption does not change due to legalization.

Nevertheless, some legislators and constituents in Illinois are concerned about the unintended consequences of legalizing and taxing recreational marijuana. One concern is the relationship between marijuana use and the consumption of other drugs, including alcohol. Studies consistently show that marijuana is less addictive and less risky than alcohol. Alcohol is the leading risk factor for death among people aged 15-49 and is linked with violent behavior. Conversely, there have been no documented deaths from cannabis use and there is some evidence that marijuana users may actually be less likely to commit violence against a partner ([Brodwin, 2018](#)). The research is mixed as to whether legalizing recreational marijuana would increase or reduce alcohol consumption ([Kilmer & Smart, 2018](#)). Of 39 academic studies reviewed on the topic, 16 supported the idea that alcohol consumption would decrease (41 percent), 10 supported the claim that alcohol consumption would rise (26 percent), and 13 found no effect (33 percent) ([Subbaraman, 2016](#)).

Studies have found that legalized cannabis mitigates opioid use and abuse. Over the past two decades, an increasing number of fatal drug overdoses have been related to prescription opioid medications. In 2014, 40 percent of all opioid overdose deaths involved a prescription opioid, with 46 people dying every day from an opioid overdose ([CDC, 2018](#)). A recent study published by researchers at the University of Kentucky and Emory University found that opiate-related deaths decreased by about 33 percent in 13 states in the six years after medical marijuana was legalized ([Wen & Hockenberry, 2018](#)). Additionally, a report conducted by the Minnesota Department of Health found that 63 percent of patients taking opioid medication for pain reduced or eliminated their opioid use once treated with medical cannabis ([Singer, 2018](#)).

Would legalizing recreational marijuana increase the number of car accidents due to motorists driving under the influence of cannabis? Studies have failed to find a correlation between car accidents and marijuana usage in Colorado since legalization ([Ingraham, 2017](#)). In fact, traffic fatalities have been found to drop by between 8 percent and 11 percent on average in states that legalized medical marijuana, although the reason for this finding is unknown ([Cohen, 2016](#)). One explanation may be that marijuana consumption rates do not statistically increase following legalization.

Lastly, some groups say that that marijuana legalization would have negative economic impacts from higher workplace injury rates, increased absenteeism, and additional homelessness— costing the state hundreds of millions of dollars per year ([SAM, 2018](#)). However, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has concluded that there is no evidence to support the claim that cannabis use increases occupational accidents or injuries and academic studies do not corroborate the claim that employee absenteeism would worsen ([Miller, 2018](#)). Meanwhile, there is no evidence that legal

cannabis contributes to an increase in homelessness (Zhang, 2018). Because marijuana consumption does not rise following legalization, each of these social costs is not expected to be any higher than current levels in Illinois.

## Conclusion

There is significant public support for legalizing, regulating, and taxing recreational marijuana in Illinois—where lawmakers have decriminalized possession of up to 10 grams of cannabis for individuals 21 years old and older. Fully 66 percent of registered voters in Illinois support legalizing marijuana. This includes 76 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of Republicans.

Historically, the costs of police, law enforcement, and corrections associated with marijuana possession have been very high in Illinois. After decriminalization, police made fewer arrests and wrote fewer tickets. However, Illinois still has people incarcerated in prison due to a cannabis-related possession, manufacturing, or trafficking offense. By fully legalizing recreational marijuana, Illinois taxpayers would save \$18.4 million annually in reduced incarceration costs, law enforcement spending, and legal fees.

The State of Illinois is also in dire need of revenue enhancements. Following a 736-day budget impasse from the summer of 2015 to the summer of 2017, Illinois still has a \$8.1 billion backlog of unpaid bills and \$130 billion in unfunded pension liabilities (Illinois Comptroller, 2018; CTBA, 2017). One policy change that has been proposed to raise state tax revenues is to legalize and tax recreational marijuana. Moody's Investors Service, a credit rating agency, calls legalizing recreational marijuana a "credit positive" potential change in tax policy (Moody's, 2018). As of November 2018, eleven states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational marijuana.

If Illinois were to legalize marijuana, an estimated \$1.6 billion of recreational marijuana would be sold in the state, in part due to regional tourism. At a 26.25 percent state excise tax on retail marijuana in addition to the 6.25 percent general sales tax, Illinois would generate \$525 million in new tax revenues, create over 23,600 new jobs at more than 2,600 businesses, boost the Illinois economy by \$1 billion annually, and reduce law enforcement and incarceration costs. With new tax revenues, Illinois could fund additional pension payments while making vital public investments in new school construction projects, road and transportation construction projects, K-12 public school education, the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants for tuition assistance for college students, and drug treatment and prevention programs.

Legalizing, regulating, and taxing recreational marijuana would reduce costs to taxpayers, spur economic activity, create jobs, and shrink the black market. While new tax revenues would be modest and would not solve Illinois' fiscal issues, they would improve the state's budget situation and credit rating outlook. Illinois should legalize, regulate, and tax recreational marijuana.

## Sources

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). (2013). *Billions of Dollars Wasted on Racially Biased Arrests: The War on Marijuana in Black and White*. Primary authors: Ezekiel Edwards; Will Bunting; and Lynda Garcia.
- Ballotpedia. (2018). "Cook County, Illinois, Marijuana Legalization Advisory Question (March 2018)."
- Beals, Chris. (2018). "The Best Way to Fight Illegal Pot is With Legal Cannabis." *The Hill*.
- Bishop-Henchman, Joseph and Morgan Scarborough. (2016). *Marijuana Legalization and Taxes: Lessons for Other States from Colorado and Washington*. Tax Foundation.
- Brodwin, Erin. (2018). "We Took a Scientific Look at Whether Weed or Alcohol is Worse for You — and There Appears to be a Winner." *Business Insider*.
- Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). (2016). "Regional Data: GDP & Personal Income."
- Census. (2016). 2016 *American Community Survey* and 2016 *County Business Patterns*. U.S. Census Bureau.
- Census. (2015). 2015 *State and Local Government Finances*. U.S. Census Bureau.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2018). "Prescription Opioid Data."
- Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA). (2017). *New Details Emerge on Illinois' "Tier 3" Pension Plan*.
- Chappell, Bill. (2018). "3 More States OK Easing Their Marijuana Laws: Michigan, Utah, Missouri." *NPR*.
- Cohen, Ronnie. (2016). "After States Legalized Medical Marijuana, Traffic Deaths Fell." *Reuters*.
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment. (2018). "Marijuana Use Trends and Health Effects." State of Colorado.
- Colorado Department of Revenue. (2018a). "Marijuana Tax Data." State of Colorado.
- Colorado Department of Revenue. (2018b). "Marijuana Taxes, Licenses, and Fees Transfers and Distribution Tax Revenue from June 2018." State of Colorado.
- Craighead, Mary and Frank Manzo IV. (2017). *IDOT Shutdown: Understanding the Economic and Transportation Consequences*. Illinois Economic Policy Institute.
- Driscoll, Jaclyn. (2018). "Money And The Legal Weed Debate In Illinois." *NPR Illinois*.
- Illinois Comptroller. (2017). *Illinois Comprehensive Annual Financial Report: For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017*. State of Illinois.
- Illinois Comptroller. (2018). "Estimated General Funds Payable Backlog." State of Illinois.

- Illinois Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform (ICJIA). (2016). *Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform - Final Report (Parts I & II)*. State of Illinois.
- Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). (2016). *Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report*. State of Illinois
- Illinois Office of Management and Budget (OMB). (2018). *Fiscal Year 2019 Proposed Budget*. State of Illinois.
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). (2018). *"Fiscal Year 2019 Investment to Support Educational Excellence: FY19 Operations Enacted Budget"*. State of Illinois.
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). (2018). "Monetary Award Program (MAP)." State of Illinois.
- IMPLAN Group LLC. (2018). IMPLAN System (data and software).
- Ingraham, Christopher. (2017). "What Marijuana Legalization Did to Car Accident Rates." *The Washington Post*.
- Kilmer, Beau and Rosanna Smart. (2018). "How Will Cannabis Legalization Affect Alcohol Consumption?" *The RAND Blog*. RAND Corporation.
- Lopez, German. (2018a). "The Spread of Marijuana Legalization, Explained." *Vox*.
- Lopez, German. (2018b). "Marijuana Taxes are Giving Colorado a Pot of Money to Rebuild its Crumbling Schools." *Vox*.
- Main, Frank. (2018). "Marijuana Arrests in Chicago Plummet, but Blacks Are 'Vast Majority' of Cases." *Chicago Sun-Times*.
- Marijuana Policy Project (MPP). (2017). *Potential Tax Revenue for a Regulated Cannabis Market: Illinois*.
- McCarthy, Justin. (2017). "Record-High Support for Legalizing Marijuana Use in U.S." *Gallup*.
- McCoppin, Robert. (2017). "Illinois Lawmakers Propose Legalizing Recreational Marijuana." *Chicago Tribune*.
- McVey, Eli. (2017). "Chart: Cannabis Industry Employs 165,000-Plus Workers." *Marijuana Business Daily*.
- Miller, Rich. (2018). "Don't Believe Everything You Read." *Capitol Fax*.
- Moody's. (2018). "Moody's" Legal Marijuana Provides Potential Revenue Opportunities, Challenges for North American Governments and Corporates." Moody's Investors Service.
- Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. (2017). *Illinoisans Keen on Marijuana Decriminalization, Legalization*. Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
- Pedersen, Brendan. (2018). "Cook County Votes Yes on Legalizing Marijuana - What's Next?" *NBC Chicago*.



- SalesTaxHandbook. (2018). "Illinois: Alcohol Excise Taxes."
- Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM). (2018). *Working Paper on Projected Costs of Marijuana Legalization in Illinois*.
- Singer, Jeffrey A. (2018). "Yet Another Study Points to The Potential of Cannabis for Reducing Opioid Use." *Cato Institute*.
- State of Illinois. (2018). "Medical Cannabis Pilot Program." Update – October 3, 2018.
- Subbaraman, Meenakshi Sabina. (2016). *Substitution and Complementarity of Alcohol and Cannabis: A Review of the Literature*. Department of Health & Human Services.
- Vowels, Scott Anthony. (2012). *The Economic Impact of NCMSDC Certified Minority Business on Northern California*. Northern California Minority Supplier Development Council.
- Wen, Hefei and Jason Hockenberry. (2018). "Association of Medical and Adult-Use Marijuana Laws with Opioid Prescribing for Medicaid Enrollees," *Health Care Policy and Law*. 178(5): 673-679.
- Whaley, Monte. (2018). "Colorado Schools Get Largest Ever Contribution for Construction." *The Denver Post*.
- Zhang, Mona. (2018). "Legal Marijuana Is A Boon to The Economy, Finds Study." *Forbes*.

## **Cover Photo Credit**

- NORML. (2017). "Illinois Poll Finds Two-Thirds of Voters Support Legalizing Marijuana." *The Daily Chronic*.