

Community Listening Sessions on Cannabis Regulation in LA County



July - August 2017

Welcome



About the Office of Cannabis Management

- Responsible for implementing the Board of Supervisors' policies related to cannabis and coordinating with County departments and other agencies on cannabis issues, including public health and law enforcement agencies
- Conducts public listening sessions on cannabis regulation
- Maintains a public-facing website and responds to public inquiries

cannabis.lacounty.gov



About Community Partners



CommunityPartners.org

Community Partners is helping the Office of Cannabis Management organize and facilitate elements of the public input process regarding cannabis regulations

We work with a diverse array of individuals, groups, foundations, government organizations, and other institutions to create new nonprofit projects, establish coalitions, and manage major philanthropic initiatives to accelerate ideas into action to advance the public good

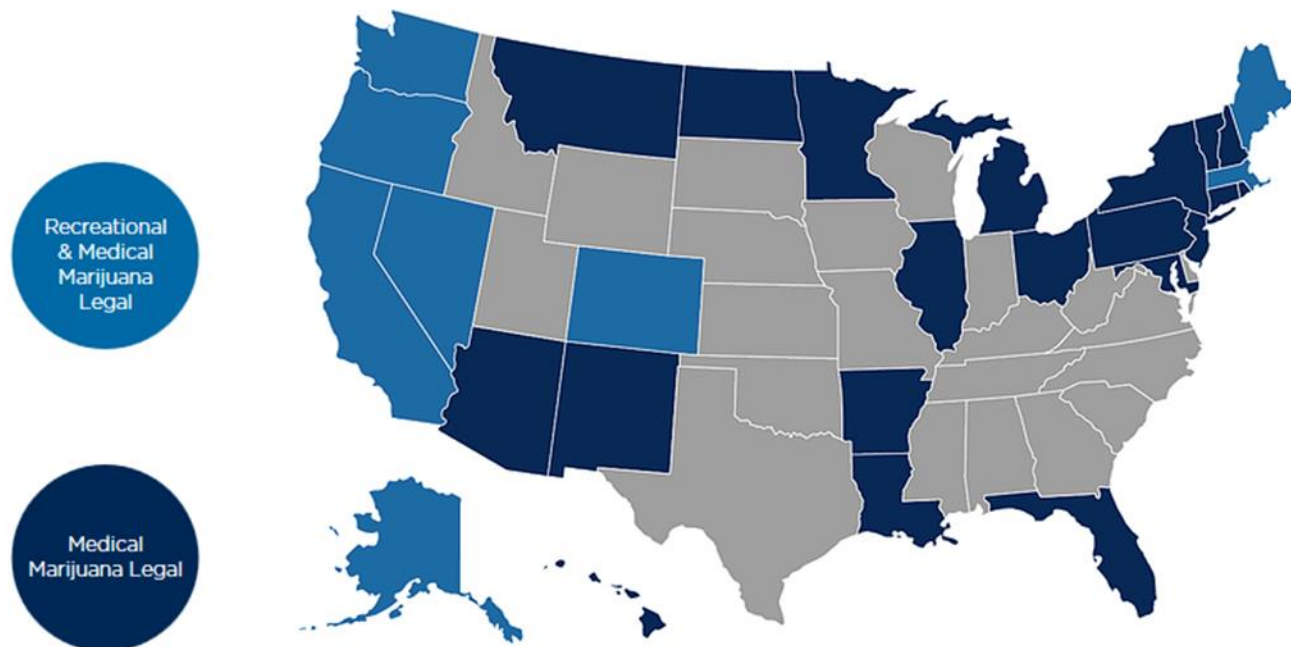
Background

65 MILLION PEOPLE

now live in a state with legalized recreational marijuana

28 STATES

now have legalized medical marijuana



Source: Freedman & Koski

Background

Prop 64 – Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA)



Decriminalizes possession, transportation, and use of cannabis by adults 21+ (up to one ounce dried cannabis and eight grams concentrated)



Adults can grow up to six plants for nonmedical purposes inside/on the grounds of a private residence, out of public view



Businesses can cultivate, distribute, process and sell nonmedical cannabis for commercial purposes, but only with a state license AND local government (city or county) license



State licenses will be issued for nonmedical cannabis businesses no earlier than January 1, 2018

Background

Prop 64 and LA County



Local governments cannot ban personal cultivation but can ban commercial nonmedical cannabis activity within their jurisdictions



Cities and counties are creating an array of policies and procedures to guide the cultivation, sale, distribution and use of nonmedical cannabis






Rules being discussed today will apply to unincorporated Los Angeles County areas. Approximately one million residents live in unincorporated areas, which would be the fourth largest city by population in California



As of June 2017, the LA County Board of Supervisors has banned all cultivation, manufacture, processing, testing, transportation and retail sale of medical and nonmedical cannabis in unincorporated areas until a comprehensive regulatory framework can be put in place

Background

Federal Law Wrinkle...

-  Cannabis is an illegal Schedule 1 drug under the Federal Controlled Substances Act, along with heroin, LSD and other drugs
-  Potential criminal liability under federal law for those who cultivate, manufacture, and sell cannabis even though that activity is licensed by California and local governments
-  Creates regulatory challenges, including limits on the availability of standard banking services

Background

The Board of Supervisors has directed the preparation of cannabis regulations for unincorporated areas. Regulations must:

- Maximize the **transition from unlicensed business activity** to a regulated marketplace
- **Avoid blight** and **prevent overconcentration**
- Address principles of **equitable development**
- Implement **environmental sustainability** measures
- Address the issue of **youth access and exposure** to cannabis
...along with meeting other objectives

Background

Community Voices Matter



The Board of Supervisors has prioritized **community outreach** and gathering **input from stakeholders** BEFORE regulations are developed to ensure that County regulators are able to draw on community concerns and expert insight

Listening Sessions

Listening sessions are designed to obtain and document **the concerns and desires of community members** regarding cannabis legalization and regulation in their communities

- ✓ 18 sessions held in all five Supervisorial Districts in July and August
- ✓ Facilitated small-group discussions to solicit input on specific topics related to developing regulations on cannabis
 - Youth access and exposure to cannabis
 - Where should cannabis businesses locate?
 - Personal cultivation
 - Taxation and revenue
 - Equity and economic development
 - General concerns

Listening Sessions

- Honor discussion agreements on back of the agenda
- Your facilitator is not an expert on the subject so please use question cards for OCM staff
- Each table is dedicated to a different topic
- Four discussion periods of 25 minutes each
- Your facilitator will let you know when the 25-minute period is up and you can move to another table discussion
- Your comments will be recorded for a public report but no comments will be attributed (You won't be quoted)

IT'S TIME TO JOIN A NEW TABLE



CLOSING COMMENTS



Check cannabis.lacounty.gov for more information



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FOR
COMING!**

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