

It is time to tax and regulate marijuana in Massachusetts.



Health and Wellness

Opioid addiction is causing the real drug crisis in Massachusetts. And there's a reasonable way to slow down the epidemic: legalizing and regulating marijuana.

Patients and families can use marijuana to avoid highly addictive prescription painkillers and the devastating side effects that too often ruin lives.



Patients and health care providers should be able to determine the right course of treatment without committing a crime.

Many patients face high prices and difficulty accessing medical marijuana – this initiative will address those challenges.

Social Justice

The war on drugs has disproportionately impacted people of color, who continue to be more than three times as likely as whites to be arrested for possession of marijuana despite the fact that usage rates are the same. This injustice must be corrected.

The current system doesn't make sense: our public safety resources should not be wasted on marijuana — they should be focused on serious crimes.

Marijuana arrests ruin and disrupt lives in Massachusetts. Question 4 will correct this ongoing injustice.



Control and Revenue

Marijuana has been here for decades. We should control the market and make it safer, and prohibit sales to anyone under the age of 21.

Strict regulations for licensing, product testing, labeling and packaging will increase public safety.



Taxing marijuana will generate an estimated \$100 million in annual revenue.

We can put that money to good use to strengthen our schools, fund veteran services, or bolster our law enforcement and treatment efforts.

Vote YES on Question 4 November 8, 2016

For more information visit:

<http://www.regulatemassachusetts.org> | [facebook.com/RegulateMassachusetts](https://www.facebook.com/RegulateMassachusetts)

Paid for by Yes on 4.

What the initiative will do:

- ✓ Create a commission similar to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission to oversee a tightly controlled system of licensed retail stores, cultivation facilities, manufacturing facilities and testing facilities.
- ✓ Require businesses to test marijuana products and adhere to strict packaging and labeling guidelines.
- ✓ Give cities and towns the right to regulate, limit, or prohibit the operation of marijuana establishments.
- ✓ Impose a 3.75% excise tax on marijuana sales on top of the 6.25% MA sales tax, and allow cities and towns to add a local tax up to 2%.
- ✓ Allow adults 21 years of age or older to possess and cultivate marijuana in limited amounts.
- ✓ It will NOT allow marijuana to be used in public.
- ✓ It will remain entirely illegal to drive under the influence of marijuana, and employers will be able to maintain all current employment drug use policies.

"In my perspective, decriminalization doesn't go far enough. We're leaving the door wide open for uneven enforcement and all the other negative impacts of a black market."

—Boston City Council President Michelle Wu

"If anyone is serious about dealing with the opioid issues in Massachusetts, then they're on our side. If they're serious about helping people who have addiction problems and sadly are dying, then they're on our side." —Boston City Councilor Tito Jackson

"I look at how far we've come, and I think there's a real possibility that we'll have a system that works... If you eliminate the black market, make it harder for kids to get marijuana. We can put more money into education for kids." — CO Governor John Hickenlooper

"I'd rather my police department focus on more serious drug offenses in our community, on violent crime and getting guns off our streets." —Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse

"Disabled veterans and civilians stuck in chronic pain would directly benefit from the improved access that would come with the adult-use system proposed by Question 4. I have no doubt that Massachusetts would see the same reductions in opioid deaths that other states have experienced under a regulated adult-use system." —Stephen Mandile, Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran, Founder of Veterans Alternative Healing

"The impacts on people's lives last a lifetime. If you have an arrest record, you can't get housing, student loans, jobs, you might lose your immigration status. The harms of our current marijuana laws are huge." —Carol Rose, Executive Director, ACLU-Massachusetts



"Some politicians claim that cannabis is a gateway drug and that legalizing it will worsen the opioid crisis. It isn't, and it won't. There is no compelling evidence. The real gateway to opiate addiction is prescription medications. Cannabis may help reduce opiate use." —Steve Hatch, RN in a Dual-Diagnosis Substance Abuse Detox Unit