



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Legislative Report

File Number: Res. 0510-22

Agenda Date: 07/19/2022

File Type: Resolution

A Resolution providing for an advisory referendum on the November 8, 2022, election ballot to measure public opinion on allowing adults 21 years of age and older to engage in the personal use of marijuana, while also regulating commercial marijuana-related activities, and imposing a tax on the sale of marijuana.

WHEREAS, criminalizing marijuana or cannabis use has failed to curb its use and, according to a Gallup survey conducted in July 2021, 49 percent of Americans say they have used marijuana, which is an increase from 30 percent in 1985; and

WHEREAS, in a Marquette University Law School poll conducted in February 2022, 61 percent of Wisconsin residents said that marijuana should be “fully legalized and regulated like alcohol,” and recent polls show a majority of Americans favor legalization of adult recreational use of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Democratic, Republican, and Independent voters favor marijuana legalization; and

WHEREAS, thirty-seven states, including the states neighboring Wisconsin of Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota, have legalized the use of some form of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, a study in late 2021 by municipal bond strategists at Barclays and reported in Fortune Magazine suggests that by 2030 states that have legalized marijuana and regulate its sale may realize \$12 billion per year in tax revenue to help balance their budgets; and

WHEREAS, Racine is failing to benefit from marijuana-related small business opportunities and sales tax that neighboring communities in Illinois are increasingly capitalizing on; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use as an alternative to prescription pain killers has been shown to reduce opioid addiction, and 22 percent of U.S. military veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder report using medical marijuana for treatment; and

WHEREAS, legalization would undercut the illicit market, and help ensure that marijuana use and sale are regulated and safe; and

WHEREAS, the time law enforcement spends enforcing existing marijuana laws and ordinances negatively impacts the time available to solve more serious crimes and apprehend more dangerous criminals.

NOW THEREFORE, be it Resolved by the City Council members of Racine, Wisconsin, as follows:

The City Clerk is hereby directed to call an advisory referendum election to be held in the City at the regularly scheduled election to be held November 8, 2022, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City the proposition of whether the State of Wisconsin should legalize and regulate the full adult use of marijuana in Wisconsin.

The ballot to be used at the referendum election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Wisconsin Statutes sections 5.64 (2) and 7.08 (1)(a). The ballot shall be substantially as follows:

ADVISORY REFERENDUM

Should marijuana be legalized for adult-use, taxed, and regulated like alcohol?

Yes

No

Fiscal Note: N/A.