



POLITICS

California Activists Cleared To Col Signatures For Psilocybin Legaliza Ballot Initiative



Published 19 hours ago on September 16, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 






California activists are now cleared to begin collecting signatures for an initiative to legalize the use of psilocybin mushrooms in the state. 


On Thursday, the state attorney general’s office issued an official title and summary of the initiative proposal, which advocates are aiming to place on the 2022 ballot. Decriminalize California group behind the initiative, has a steep task ahead of it to gather enough signatures to get the measure on the ballot—but they’ve been gearing up for the push.

The measure—titled the California Psilocybin Initiative—would allow the “personal, therapeutic, religious, spiritual, and dietary use of Psilocybin Mushrooms” for adults 21 and older. Further, the initiative would allow for the cultivation, retail sale, social sharing and on-site consumption of the psychedelic.

While the [measure](#) would legalize psilocybin sales under state law, the attorney general’s title and summary uses the word “decriminalize,” a term that some advocates view as more palatable to people who might not necessarily be inclined to support a commercial market for the psychedelic.

 Activists must now collect 623,212 valid signatures from registered voters within 180 days to make the ballot.



 Ryan Munevar, campaign director of [Decriminalize California](#), told Marijuana Moment that his team has a multi-pronged approach to make that happen.

They currently have about 2,800 people who've volunteered to assist in the signature collection process, he said.



Volunteers will solicit support at farmers markets and other events across the state. They will fill out a form online to be approved as a circulator, and then they can sign the petition themselves and mail it in to the campaign. Individual stores can sign up to receive petitions and serve as conduits for signature gathering. And the campaign could also use the state voter database to mail out petitions themselves that voters can sign.


“I feel pretty damn good honestly [about the prospects of the initiative]. People are excited for psychedelics,” Munevar said, adding that the recent decision to [pause a psychedelics reform bill in the legislature](#) until next year means “this is the only action that’s really happening and the language is just fantastic.”

If the group is successful, it would be a historic policy change, making California the first in the nation to broadly legalize psilocybin mushrooms for medical and recreational use. Oregon voters approved an initiative last year to [legalize the entheogen for therapeutic use alone](#).


A recent fiscal analysis of the proposed measure [save the state millions in enforcement costs](#) and also generate state and local tax revenue. However, the officials also tempered their expectations by pointing out that setting up the regulatory scheme for a legal psilocybin market could initially cost millions. But that could “eventually be partially or fully offset by revenue.”

Activists [filed the petition with state officials in July](#). That initiated a 30-day public comment period that lasted until August 11.

 The sponsor of that bill, Sen. Scott Wiener (D), recent said that the move is [part of th](#)
[“complicated legislative process”](#) to get reform enacted, and he’s confident it will ulti
 prevail.

 While the California ballot proposal goes further than the Oregon psilocybin measure, it still have a specific medical component.

Healthcare professionals “may recommend Psilocybin or Psilocybin Mushrooms for u
minors and adults under the age of 21, for the treatment of specific and appropriate
indications,” it says.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture would be responsible for oversee
implementation of the program overall. Meanwhile the state Department of Consum
and the Health and Human Services Agency would be required to “adopt and implem
qualification requirements and protocols for Psilocybin Mushroom-assisted th
an independent professional certifying body.” 

Activists made a concerted effort in the measure to ensure the psilocybin products ar
generally treated like other legal commodities. For example, the products would not
to any licensing requirements, fees or taxes that “exceed the amount charged or asse
comparable non-Psilocybin Mushroom related businesses.”

Psilocybin that’s sold for “medical, therapeutic, religious or spiritual purposes” woul
subject to any sales or excise tax at all. Those that are marketed as dietary suppleme
be taxed “at the local sales tax rate at the point of sale.”


“Psilocybin Mushrooms and Psilocybin Mushroom Businesses shall be regulated as c
practicable to non-psychoactive agriculturally produced mushrooms” except for spec
labelling requirements, the measure says. The labels must include a universal symbo
warning statement advising consumers to keep them out of reach of children and adv
about impairment. Packaging must also explain the content of product, including mi
of active ingredients per package and per serving.



“Starting January 1, 2023, any Psilocybin Mushroom Business operating on land that for commercial agricultural production and approved by the COPA for food production begin the cultivation, manufacturing, and wholesale distribution of Psilocybin Mushrooms the measure states. “Starting April 19, 2023, any business that is incorporated in California and possesses a California Seller’s Permit can begin retail sales.”

Local jurisdictions would be able to ban or limit psilocybin businesses from operating in their area if voters approve the restriction via citizen initiative or a petition submitted by a local governing body.

Except for safety-sensitive positions “no person shall refuse to provide services or be charged an increased fee to increase the charge for services or benefits, based on the lawful use, cultivation, possession, storage, or sales of Psilocybin Mushrooms,” it says.

Decriminalize California attempted to get a similar measure on the November 2020 ballot but they faced signature gathering complications due to the coronavirus pandemic and abandoned that effort. 

Read the full title and summary of the psilocybin measure below:



[CA psilocybin initiative su...](#) by [Marijuana Moment](#)

Washington State Activists Announce 2022 Drug Decriminalization Ballot Campaign

Photo courtesy of [Wikimedia/Workman](#).

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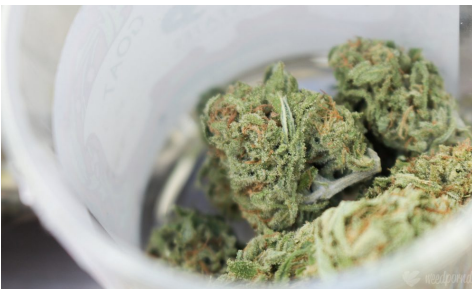


Kyle Jaeger



Kyle Jaeger is Marijuana Moment's Sacramento-based senior editor. His work has also appeared in High VICE and attn.

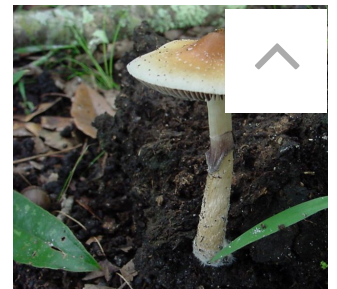
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CA psilocybin ballot measure to collect signatures (New September 17, 2021)



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Former GOP Congressman Who Actually Supported Marijuana Reform Enters The Cannabis Industry



Published 1 hour ago on September 17, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger 



Lately it's come to seem as if most of the former politicians who've entered the marijuana industry were unhelpful or downright hostile to legalization when they were in office. But Friday, a cannabis company announced an addition to its board who disrupts that narrativ

former Rep. Ryan Costello (R-PA) to help it navigate the complicated regulatory space,

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Published 5 hours ago on September 17, 2021

By Marijuana Moment



“In the middle of a difficult (cross examination), she was detained, interrogated, ar. removed from the courtroom.”

By Ned Oliver, Virginia Mercury

A judge in Loudoun County interrupted the testimony of the alleged victim in a felony domestic violence trial last week to question her drug use, sentencing her to 10 days in jail in contempt of court after she said she had smoked marijuana earlier in the day.

She was then “physically removed from the witness stand by multiple deputies,” according

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For Large-Scale 2022 Legalization Ballot Push



Published 22 hours ago on September 16, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger 



South Dakota marijuana activists are ramping up for a signature gathering effort to put legalization on the 2022 ballot as the state Supreme Court continues to consider a case on fate of the legal cannabis measure that voters approved last year.

collection drive on any of the four proposed legalization initiatives that the group has filed

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