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POLITICS

Detroit Voters Will Decide On Psychedelics Decriminalization Ballot Measure In November



Published 1 month ago on September 14, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger



Detroit could become one of the next Michigan cities to decriminalize psychedelics, with the reform proposal making the local ballot for this November.

While Detroit is the largest city in the state in terms of population, it isn't the only jurisdiction that activists are targeting.

The Ann Arbor City Council has already elected to make enforcement of laws prohibition psychedelics like psilocybin, ayahuasca and DMT among the city's lowest priorities—and lawmakers recently followed up by declaring September Entheogenic Plants and Fungi Awareness Month. Advocates also plan to introduce a reform resolution to the Grand Rapids City Council on Tuesday.

After Ann Arbor legislators passed a decriminalization resolution last year, the Washtenaw County prosecutor announced that his office will not be pursuing charges over possessing

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State Attorneys General Warn About Marijuana-Infused Candy And Snacks Ahead Of Halloween: "These look-alike cannabis products are unregulated, unsafe, and illegal... Please report them to my office."

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entheogenic plants and fungi, “regardless of the amount at issue.”

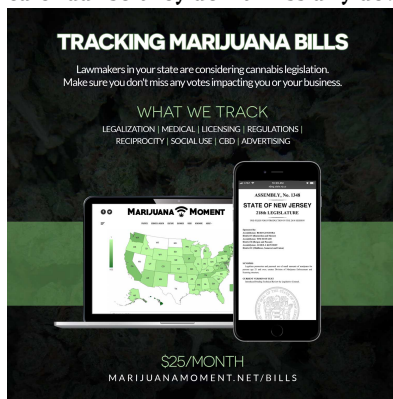
It’s not clear who oversaw the drafting of the initiative that will now appear on the ballot, but advocates with Decriminalize Nature Michigan, who are coordinating other efforts across the state, said at a recent meeting that there was room for improvement down the line if the Detroit measure is approved by voters.

Here’s the [text](#) of the Detroit psychedelics initiative, Proposal E:

“Shall the voters of the City of Detroit adopt an ordinance to the 2019 Detroit City Code that would decriminalize to the fullest extent permitted under Michigan law the personal possession and therapeutic use of Entheogenic Plants by adults and make the personal possession and therapeutic use of Entheogenic Plants by adults the city’s lowest law-enforcement priority?”

At the same time that local activists are pursuing decriminalization, a pair of state senators introduced a bill earlier this month to [legalize the possession, cultivation and delivery](#) of an array of plant- and fungus-derived psychedelics like psilocybin and mescaline.

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Marijuana Moment is already [tracking more than 1,200 cannabis, psychedelics and drug policy bills](#) in state legislatures and Congress this year. [Patreon supporters](#) pledging at least \$25/month get access to our interactive maps, charts and hearing calendar so they don’t miss any developments.



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Relatedly, a bill to legalize psychedelics in California advanced through the Senate and two Assembly committees this year before being pulled by the sponsor to [buy more time to generate support among lawmakers](#). The plan is to take up the reform during next year’s second half of the legislative session, and the senator behind the measure [says he’s confident it will pass](#).

California psychedelics activists recently [filed a petition for the 2022 ballot](#) to make the state the first in the nation to legalize psilocybin mushrooms for any use. And a fiscal analysis of the proposal found that it would [save the state millions in enforcement costs](#) and also generate state and local tax revenue.

In California, [Oakland](#) and [Santa Cruz](#) have already enacted psychedelics decriminalization.

Oregon voters passed an initiative last November to [legalize psilocybin therapy](#).

Washington, D.C. voters also approved a ballot measure last year to [deprioritize enforcement of laws criminalizing psychedelics](#).

Meanwhile, Denver activists who successfully led a 2019 campaign to make the city [the first in the U.S. to decriminalize psilocybin possession](#) have their eyes set on broader reform, with plans in the works to end the criminalization of noncommercial gifting and communal use of the psychedelic.

Massachusetts cities that have enacted the policy change are: [Northampton](#), [Somerville](#) and [Cambridge](#). In July, state lawmakers heard testimony about a bill to create a task force charged with [studying the implications of legalizing psychedelics like psilocybin and ayahuasca](#).

The governor of Connecticut recently signed legislation recently that includes language requiring the state to carry out [a study into the therapeutic potential of psilocybin mushrooms](#).

Texas also recently enacted a bill to require the state [study the medical benefits of psychedelics for military veterans](#).

A New York lawmaker introduced a bill in June that would require the state to establish an institute to similarly [research the medical value of psychedelics](#).

In Oakland, the first city where a city council voted to broadly deprioritize criminalization of entheogenic substances, lawmakers [approved a follow-up resolution](#) in December that calls for the policy change to be adopted statewide and for local jurisdictions to be allowed to permit healing ceremonies where people could use psychedelics.

The Aspen, Colorado City Council [discussed the therapeutic potential of psychedelics](#) like psilocybin and proposals to decriminalize such substances at a meeting in May. But members said, as it stands, enacting a reform would be more better handled at the state level while entheogens remain strictly federally controlled.

Seattle lawmakers also recently sent a letter to members of a local task force focused on the opioid overdose epidemic, imploring the group to [investigate the therapeutic potential of psychedelics](#) like ayahuasca and ibogaine in curbing addiction. In response, the task force issued a recommendation for [the widespread decriminalization of all drugs](#). The group said psychedelics in particular could represent a promising treatment to address substance abuse disorders and mental health issues.

Meanwhile, Portland, Oregon activists are mounting [a push to have local lawmakers pass a resolution](#) decriminalizing the cultivation, gifting and ceremonial use of a wide range of psychedelics.

In a setback for advocates, the U.S. House of Representatives recently voted against a proposal from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) that [would have removed a spending bill rider](#) that advocates say has restricted federal funds for research into Schedule I drugs, including psychedelics such as psilocybin, MDMA and ibogaine. However, it picked up considerably more votes this round than [when the congresswoman first introduced it](#) in 2019.

Report provisions of separate, House-passed spending legislation also touch on the need to [expand cannabis and psychedelics research](#). The panel urged the National Institute On Drug Abuse (NIDA) to support expanded marijuana studies, for example. It further says that federal health agencies should [pursue research into the therapeutic potential of psychedelics](#) for military veterans suffering from a host of mental health conditions.

When it comes to broader drug policy reform, Oregon voters also approved an initiative in November to [decriminalize possession of all drugs](#). This year, the Maine House of Representatives [passed a drug decriminalization bill](#), but it later [died in the Senate](#).

In May, lawmakers in Congress filed the [first-ever legislation to federally decriminalize possession](#) of illicit substances.

New York's First Marijuana Retail License Applications Are Now Being Accepted By An Indian Tribe



The first recreational marijuana retailers in New York will likely be located on Indian territory, with one tribe officially opening applications for prospective licensees on Monday. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe stands to beat non-Indian competitors to the market by about a year. Former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) signed an adult-use

legalization bill ... [Continue reading](#)

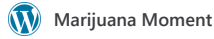


Photo courtesy of [Dick Culbert](#).

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Kyle Jaeger

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

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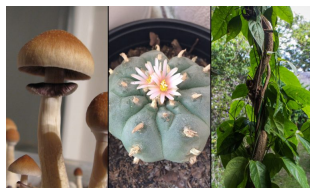
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POLITICS

State Attorneys General Warn About Marijuana-Infused Candy And Snacks Ahead Of Halloween



Published 2 hours ago on October 26, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger



As Halloween approaches, attorneys general from multiple states across the U.S. are warning parents about illicit marijuana products that resemble popular candies and snacks like Cheetos, Nerds and Oreos, which could confuse kids and lead to accidental intoxication.

In an apparently coordinated effort using identical imagery of the products in question, at least four state attorneys general recently issued advisories about edibles that are misleadingly marketed. The officials aren't necessarily suggesting that people are intentionally handing out the THC-infused candies to trick-or-treaters—a myth that cannabis advocates have long worked to debunk—but it does fit within a theme of messaging that seems to crop up every year around Halloween.

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Marijuana Legalization Is More Popular In Maryland Than President Biden, Poll Finds



Published 4 hours ago on October 26, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger



Marijuana legalization is more popular in Maryland than President Joe Biden and the state's two U.S. senators, a new poll found.

As lawmakers work to enact cannabis reform in the coming year, the survey from Goucher College shows a strong majority of the public (60 percent) is in favor of the policy.

But while legalization earned more support than Biden (53 percent) or either Democratic senators, Chris Van Hollen (44 percent) and Ben Cardin (46 percent), that majority support is seven percentage points lower than when Marylanders were last asked about it in March.

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DC Voters Strongly Support Drug Decriminalization, Poll Finds As Activists Launch Campaign



Published 7 hours ago on October 26, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger



Washington, D.C. voters are strongly in favor of proposals to broadly decriminalize drugs and establish harm reduction centers, a new poll found.

One week after activists [announced an effort to pressure local lawmakers enact the reforms](#), a coalition of activists group organized under the banner of DecrimPovertyDC released a survey showing just how popular the policy changes are among D.C. residents. It also found that voters would be more likely to elect local legislators who embrace decriminalization.

At a top level, 83 percent of respondents said that they favor having the D.C. Council pass an ordinance to “remove criminal penalties for possession of small amounts of commonly-used

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