



# MARIJUANA MOMENT

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POLITICS

## Italian Referendum To Decriminalize Marijuana, Psilocybin And Other Drug Plants Gets Half A Million Signatures



Published 1 month ago on September 20, 2021  
By Ben Adlin




Activists in Italy say they’ve gathered enough signatures to qualify a ballot measure that would decriminalize personal cultivation and use of not only marijuana but also psilocybin mushrooms and certain other psychoactive plants for personal use.

✉ The campaign behind the proposal announced over the weekend that it has collected the necessary 500,000 signatures to begin qualifying the measure in just seven days, thanks in part to a new law that allows petitions to be signed digitally rather than only in person. If the referendum clears its remaining procedural hurdles, the public is expected to vote on the nationwide reform in spring 2022.

“Here we are, here’s the number that makes it all true! More than 500,000 online signatures in one week for the #ReferendumCannabis,” the campaign posted on social media accounts on Sunday.

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Supporters called the overwhelming response “an extraordinary but not surprising result.”

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about a month ago

e l'Italia libera dalle mafie

**500**  
**MILA FIRME**  
**E NON CI FERMIAMO**

**PUOI ANCORA FIRMARE**  
**REFERENDUM**  
**CANNABIS**  
**LEGALE**  
ReferendumCannabis.it

Eccoci qui, ecco il numero che rende tutto vero!  
Più di 500mila firme online in una sola settimana per il #ReferendumCannabis.

Le festeggiamo ringraziandovi una ad una perché una cosa del genere non si era mai vista e non solo in Italia. ... [See More](#)

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Advocates behind the push are calling on Italian voters to keep adding their names to the petition before the end-of-month deadline, with the goal of building a 15-percent buffer in case some signatures are invalidated.

If approved by voters, the proposal would eliminate prison sentences around most conduct relating to cannabis.

The ballot referendum would also delete Italy’s prohibition on cultivating psychoactive substances, although production and manufacture would still be forbidden. The campaign says on its website the change would not legalize all drugs, because most require further processing after cultivation.

“It is also worth remembering that with the exception of cannabis flowering plants (and mushrooms), all other narcotic substances necessarily require subsequent steps for the substance to be consumed,” says a translated version of the campaign’s [website](#), “activities which continue to be punished.” The website does not appear to acknowledge other psychoactive substances that can be consumed after cultivation and harvest, such as peyote buttons or coca leaves.

The referendum would also remove a penalty that currently prevents people from legally driving or using a moped for up to three years if they’re found to have used drugs. Operating a motor vehicle while actually under the influence would remain illegal.

The proposal has been variously described in media reports as legalization or decriminalization of cannabis. Under Italy’s popular referendum process, advocates can only delete the nation’s existing laws, meaning supporters are unable to replace prohibition with regulations or oversight of sales and commercial production.

Once supporters submit their signatures by the September 30 deadline, the Court of Cassation and the Constitutional Court will both review the petitions. If they sign off on the measure, a vote would happen in spring of next year, on a date set by the country’s president.

The campaign behind the referendum comprises a number of pro-legalization groups, including the Luca Coscioni Associations, Meglio Legale, Forum Droghe, Società della Ragione, Antigone as well as Italy's +Europa, Possible and Radical parties, according to Italian wire service [Agenzia Giornalistica Italia](#).

“This is an extraordinary day, not only for the promoters but also for the citizens,” said Italian Radicals member Sen. Emma Bonino, the news agency reported. “The incredible participation of young people in the extraordinary mobilization on the Cannabis Referendum shows that when they are given a voice, they are ready to take action.”

Sen. Stefano Ceccanti, the deputy of the Democratic Party, which has not taken an official stance on the proposal, said the 500,000-signature threshold “would probably have been reached even without the digital signature” process offering a more convenient way to muster support.

Earlier this month, Italy's House Justice Committee advanced a separate [reform](#) that would decriminalize small-scale home cultivation of marijuana for personal use.

As more jurisdictions across the globe move to relax restrictions on marijuana and related commerce, meanwhile, the drug division of the United Nations this summer [urged a global ban on cannabis advertising](#) “to ensure that public health interests prevail over business interests.” Some advocates have interpreted that as a sign the prohibitionist body is coming to terms with the fact that widespread legalization is inevitable.

### World Anti-Doping Agency Reviews Marijuana Ban For Athletes Following Pushback On Richardson Suspension



The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) will conduct a scientific review of marijuana next year to determine whether it should continue an international ban on cannabis use by athletes. WADA's marijuana policy became a major focus this summer following the suspension of U.S. runner Sha'Carri Richardson from participating in the

Olympics over a positive THC test. The ... [Continue reading](#)



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Image element courtesy of [Kristie Gianopulos](#)

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**Ben Adlin**

Ben Adlin is a Seattle-based writer and editor. He has covered cannabis as a journalist since 2011, most recently as a senior news editor for Leafly.

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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



weedporndaily

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 comes 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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