



Benefit from widespread cannabis legalization today.

Prospectus available at: etfmg.com. Distributed by ETFMG Financial, LLC.

POLITICS

Oakland Psychedelics Activists Launch Initiative To Legalize Community-Based Sales With Support From City Council



Published 1 week ago on October 18, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger



MARIJUANA NEWS IN YOUR II

Email address:

[Sign up](#)



SUPPORT MARIJUANA MOM

[Become a patron](#)

f Oakland activists are hoping to expand upon the city’s current psychedelics decriminalization ordinance by creating a community-based model through which people could legally purchase entheogenic substances from local producers.

e In 2019, the California city became the first in the U.S. to [broadly decriminalize a wide range of psychedelics](#) like psilocybin and ayahuasca.

Now, advocates are announcing a “Go Local” Legislative Initiative to build upon their progress, and they have the backing of a key member of the City Council. Essentially, they are staging a year-long project to solicit feedback on how best to provide people with lawful access to entheogenic substances, leading up to the planned introduction of city-level legislation that would accomplish that goal in 2022.

[View More on Instagram](#)

183 likes

decriminalizenature

In gratitude to all of the speakers and community who came out today to rally for Oakland's Go Local Initiative and to honor Indigenous People's Day. Special thank you to Councilmember Noel Gallo @noel.gallod5 who sponsored Oakland's original #DecriminalizeNature resolution and continues to champion for the people with the Go Local Initiative!

[view all comments](#)

Add a comment...

Decriminalize Nature and related groups have been behind a multitude of local psychedelics reform efforts across the country, enacting decriminalization ordinances in cities in states like California, Massachusetts, Michigan and Washington.

Building upon the initial Oakland decriminalization of the personal use and cultivation of entheogenic plants and fungi, [local lawmakers there approved a second resolution in late 2020](#) that urges California legislators to allow local jurisdictions to permit healing ceremonies where people could use entheogenic substances.

Advocates are now preparing to push Oakland to make the move on its own in the interim.

Carlos Plazola, chair of Decriminalize Nature, told Marijuana Moment in a phone interview last week that “part of [the future legislation] is sales and distribution and testing and holding space” for psychedelics ceremonies. But unlike with cannabis commercialization that’s been enacted in California and elsewhere, this would be focused on support the local economy, he said.



[View More on Instagram](#)

75 likes

decriminalizenature

@carlos.plazola introduction to Go Local Initiative press conference

Add a comment...

By doing so, “you actually do bring other values into the equation beyond profiteering, because it becomes part of the story that people want to support in the community,” Plazola said.

The process of drafting the legislation, which will be championed by Councilmember Noel Gallo (D), will begin with a series of public workshops and getting input from stakeholders and advocates across the country. The goal is to have a measure presented to the Oakland City Council early in the summer of 2022. And, ideally, other activist chapters in additional cities across the U.S. will follow suit, Plazola said.

Here’s an outline of possible reforms that are being considered for the forthcoming legislation:

Examples of Zoning Changes

- Change residential zones to allow small scale commercial agriculture
- Change mixed used commercial zones to allow indoor nursery, testing labs, and distribution
- Allow community-based gatherings in residential and commercial zones

- Fee waivers in low-income census tracts
- No limits on number of business permits
- Fee waivers for non-profit businesses
- Permit fees used to provide business training for people who live in low-income census tracts

Examples of New Regulations

- Creation of sacred plant adult farmer's market permits
- Limits on sizes of cultivation areas
- Limits on investors with primary residency outside of Oakland
- Limits on size of investments
- Zoning and building permit processes to fit into existing, non-cannabis, processes. Cannabis process for permitting and building permit processing too onerous. Fit into food or agriculture existing processes.
- No limits on number of local businesses engaging in sales of entheogens. Sales only in business mixed use business districts, and adults only allowed if sold in retail spots
- No local consumption of entheogens where sales occur

Examples of disincentives to outside control and value extraction

- Limits on outside capital allowed
- All capital must originate from within Oakland city limits, proof of residency required
- Only cannabis dispensaries with 100% local ownership to qualify for sales of entheogens
- No sales of synthetics in powder form.
- All products must identify local source of cultivation and production. "grown by: ____" "produced by ____" "tested by ____". All must be local Oakland locations.
- Allowable products include original plant materials, actual plants or fungi in wet or dry form, mixed teas or elixirs, or powder form one step from dried material (i.e. No synthetics from extracted molecular compounds).

"Our indigenous ancestors have used these plant medicines safely and successfully for thousands of years, despite efforts to oppress and extinguish their use," Gallo said in a press release. "So, it makes sense that the benefits of the discovery or rediscovery of the healing power of these entheogens by the west are enjoyed first and foremost by indigenous people, communities of color, and local communities, in general."



[View More on Instagram](#)

71 likes

[decriminalizenature](#) Councilmember Noel Gallo Go Local

Councilmember Noel Gallo sponsor of the 2019 #DecriminalizeNature resolution in Oakland and champion for the Go Local Initiative. Thank you Councilmember Gallo! @noel.gallo5

[view all 5 comments](#)

Add a comment...

Beyond Oakland, local officials in two other California cities— [Santa Cruz](#) and [Arcata](#)—have effectively decriminalized a wide range of psychedelics

Statewide, 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 activists are separately collecting signatures for a [ballot initiative to legalize psilocybin mushrooms](#) in the state.

Seattle’s City Council recently approved a resolution to [decriminalize noncommercial activity around a wide range of psychedelic substances](#), including the cultivation and sharing of psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca, ibogaine and non-psychoactive-derived mescaline.

Detroit could be [one of the next to enact a policy change](#), with voters set to weigh in on a local ballot measure next month to decriminalize entheogenic substances.

At the same time that local advocates are pursuing reform, a pair of Michigan state senators introduced a bill last month to [legalize the possession, cultivation and delivery](#) of an array of plant- and fungus-derived psychedelics like psilocybin and mescaline. If voters in the state’s most populous city approve the local measure, it could make state lawmakers take a more serious look at broader reform.

Also in Michigan, the Grand Rapids City Council approved a resolution last month [calling for decriminalization of a wide range of psychedelics](#). 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](#).

After Ann Arbor legislators passed that decriminalization resolution last year, the Washtenaw County prosecutor announced [that his office will not be pursuing charges](#) over possessing entheogenic plants and fungi, “regardless of the amount at issue.”

—

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.



Learn more about our [marijuana bill tracker](#) and become a [supporter on Patreon](#) to get access.

—

The top Democrat in the Florida Senate filed a bill last month that would require the state to [research the medical benefits of psychedelics](#) such as psilocybin and MDMA.

Earlier this year, Texas enacted a law directing state officials to [study psychedelics’ medical value](#).

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

Connecticut's governor signed a bill last November to legalize recreational

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

In Massachusetts, [the Northampton City Council](#) passed a [resolution](#) in April stipulating that no government or police funds should be used to enforce laws criminalizing people for using or possessing entheogenic plants and fungi. [Somerville](#) and [Cambridge](#) have also moved to effectively decriminalize psychedelics.

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](#).

The Maine House of Representatives [passed a drug decriminalization bill](#) this year, but it later [died in the Senate](#).

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

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 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.

There was an attempt by a Republican congressman to attach language into a defense spending bill that would promote research into psychedelics therapy for active duty military members, [but it was not made in order](#) in the House Rules Committee last month.

For what it's worth, Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), a longstanding champion of marijuana reform in Congress, said this month that he intends to [help bring the psychedelics reform movement to Capitol Hill](#) "this year."

Report provisions of separate, House-passed spending legislation also touch on the need to [expand cannabis and psychedelics research](#). The panel urged 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.

NIDA also recently announced it's funding a study into [whether psilocybin can help people quit smoking cigarettes](#).

An official with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs also said at a recent congressional hearing that the agency is "very closely" following research into the [potential therapeutic benefits of psychedelics](#) like MDMA for military veterans.

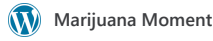
In May, lawmakers in Congress filed the first-ever legislation to federally decriminalize

Year, Officials Report



Nevada retailers sold more than \$1 billion in medical and recreational marijuana over a one-year period, state officials announced on Wednesday. The Nevada Cannabis Compliance Board (CCB) and the Nevada Department of Taxation released the data, which shows \$1,003,467,655 in taxable cannabis purchases in Fiscal Year 2021, which ran

from July 1, 2020 to June ... Continue reading



Marijuana Moment is made possible with support from readers. If you rely on our cannabis advocacy journalism to stay informed, please consider a monthly Patreon pledge.



RELATED TOPICS: #FEATURED

- DON'T MISS**
Virginia Has Sealed 64,000 Marijuana Distribution Charges Since Legalization Took Effect This Summer
- UP NEXT**
States Promote Federal Hemp Survey Being Mailed Out This Week To More Than 20,000 Farmers



Kyle Jaeger



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

YOU MAY LIKE



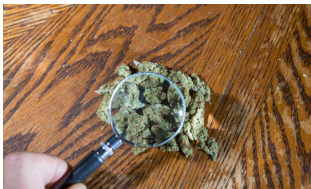
Psychedelics Group Issues First Round Of Grants For Community-Based Entheogenic Education In DC



Feds Must Legalize Marijuana, Top Nevada Lawmaker Says (Op-Ed)



Texas Judge Upholds Delta-8 THC Ban In Initial Ruling, But The Fight Isn't Over



Top Federal Drug Agency Tells Congress About Marijuana Research Barriers Caused By Restrictive Scheduling



Cannabis banking would make IRS's job easier, official says (Newsletter: October 25, 2021)



Top IRS Official Says Marijuana Banking Reform Would Help Feds 'Get Paid'

Psychedelics Group Issues First Round Of Grants For Community-Based Entheogenic Education In DC



Published 2 hours ago on October 25, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger 



A Washington, D.C.-based psychedelics organization has issued about \$50,000 in its first round of grants for various community groups to support efforts to educate and organize people around plant medicine.

The Plant Medicine Coalition (PMC)—[founded by the head of the D.C. campaign that got psychedelics decriminalization passed locally](#) in last November’s election—dolled out grants to about a dozen groups as part of its Community Grants Program. Funding for the grants was provided by Dr. Bronner’s, a wellness company that’s been involved in a number of marijuana and psychedelics reform efforts across the country.

CONTINUE READING

POLITICS

Feds Must Legalize Marijuana, Top Nevada Lawmaker Says (Op-Ed)



Published 3 hours ago on October 25, 2021



“In Nevada, we’ve shown that it is possible to create an equitable and business friendly framework that benefits both cannabis business owners and consumers. With federal action, we can take this work to the next level.”

By Rep. Steve Yeager for Nevada Current

With gridlock at the federal level, states have truly become the laboratories of democracy—often leading on legislative policy when Congress is unable. When it comes to cannabis, these laboratories of democracy operate at breakneck speed, with 18 U.S. states legalizing it for both medical and adult “recreational” use and at least some legal use in 37 states and the District



CONTINUE READING

POLITICS

Texas Judge Upholds Delta-8 THC Ban In Initial Ruling, But The Fight Isn’t Over



Published 4 hours ago on October 25, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger 

A Texas judge has ruled that the state's ban on hemp products containing more than 0.3 percent delta-8 THC can remain in effect as a legal challenge moves through the process.

The cannabis company Hometown Hero filed a suit against the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) last week, arguing that it [improperly revised its hemp policy](#) this month to specifically prohibit products with more than trace amounts of forms of THC other than delta-9, the most commonly known psychoactive compound in cannabis.

In a ruling dated Friday and announced on Monday, the court decided against the plaintiffs' request to have a temporary restraining order imposed on the state. Subsequently, the hemp



CONTINUE READING



