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*POLITICS*

## Third California City Moves To Decriminalize Psychedelics As Reform Movement Expands



Published 2 weeks ago on October 7, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 

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Another California city has effectively decriminalized a wide range of psychedelics, with the Arcata City Council unanimously approving the reform on Wednesday.



The 5-0 vote means that the possession, cultivation and distributions of entheogenic substances like psilocybin and ayahuasca will be among the city's lowest law enforcement priorities.



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The measure further calls on the Humboldt County District Attorney “to consider the spirit and intent of this resolution when evaluating whether to prosecute persons involved in the use of Entheogenic Plants and Fungi.”

It explicitly states that the commercial sale and manufacturing of psychedelics, as well as driving under the influence, will remain prohibited.

Arcata City Council Meeting - 10/6/2021



Danielle Daniel, lead organizer of Decriminalize Nature Humboldt, told Marijuana Moment that this reform represents “a pivotal point in history by reclaiming our sovereign right to explore our consciousness, and to choose the path of healing that we see best fit for ourselves.”

“With decriminalization, Arcata residents will be able to ingest, gift, gather, grow, and share entheogens without fear of arrest,” she said. “By destigmatizing entheogens, the community will have more openness to conversing about the healing potential of psychoactive plants and fungi.”



Decriminalize Nature Humboldt

about 2 weeks ago

# Breaking News

Arcata City Council  
unanimously voted  
yes to decriminalize  
entheogens in Arcata!!

## Congratulations to all

Tonight there was an unanimous vote by the Arcata City Council to decriminalize entheogens in Arcata!

Thank you to everyone for their hard work and involvement in this movement!! So much gratitude for the Arcata community, for the abundant emails sent to the council, and over 300 letters of support that were signed in support of decriminalization. Our hard work and efforts paid off.

So much gratitude for the willingness of the City Council, City Manager, and Chief of Police ... [See More](#)

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This marks the third California city to decriminalize psychedelics, following similar reforms that lawmakers have enacted in [Oakland](#) and [Santa Cruz](#).

In Oakland, the first city in the country 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.

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.

But reform efforts concerning entheogenic plants and fungi are hardly limited to California.

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

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.

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

Elsewhere in Michigan, 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.

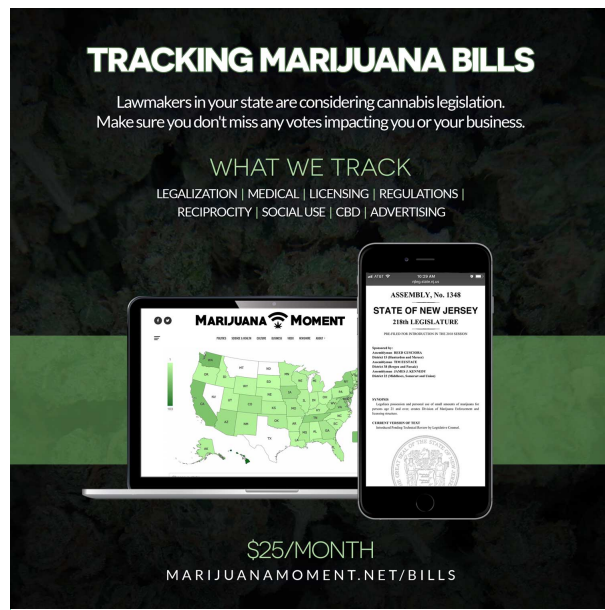
After Ann Arbor legislators passed that decriminalization resolution last year, the Washtenaw County prosecutor announced that his office will not be pursuing charges over possessing entheogenic plants and fungi, “regardless of the amount at issue.”

A local proposal to decriminalize various psychedelics will also appear on Detroit's November ballot.

At the same time that local activists are pursuing decriminalization, a pair of Michigan senators introduced a bill earlier this month to legalize the possession, cultivation and delivery of an array of plant- and fungi-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.**



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

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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](#).

Oregon voters passed a pair of initiatives last November to [legalize psilocybin therapy](#) and [decriminalize possession of all drugs](#). On the local level, activists in Portland are mounting [a push to have local lawmakers pass a resolution](#) decriminalizing the cultivation, gifting and ceremonial use of a wide range of psychedelics.



Washington, D.C. voters also approved a ballot measure last year to deprioritize enforcement of laws criminalizing 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.

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 on Wednesday that he intends to help bring the psychedelics reform movement to Capitol Hill "this year."

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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 possession of illicit substances.

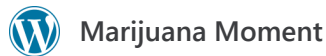
**Read the Arcata psychedelics decriminalization resolution below:**





## California Governor Signs Bill Legalizing Smokable Hemp And Sale Of CBD-Infused Foods And Drinks

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) on Wednesday signed a bill that stands to dramatically expand the state's hemp industry by legalizing retail sales of a wide range of consumable products derived from the plant. Until now, the lack of explicit regulations has inhibited the hemp market, stakeholders say. The governor's signing of AB 45 means ... Continue reading



*Image courtesy of [Kristie Gianopulos](#).*

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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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*POLITICS*

# Activists Push D.C. Lawmakers To Decriminalize Drugs And Promote Harm Reduction With New Campaign



Published 1 hour ago on October 21, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 



Activists in Washington, D.C. on Thursday launched a new campaign to urge local lawmakers to broadly decriminalize drugs, with a focus on expanding treatment resources and harm reduction services.

DecrimPovertyDC—a coalition of advocacy groups like the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) and Students for Sensible Drug Policy—will be imploring the District Council to take up the cause, and members have already met with the offices of each legislator and have gotten a generally positive reception.

#DecrimPovertyDC



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*POLITICS*

# Fourth Massachusetts City Approves Psychedelics Reform As Movement Grows



Published 5 hours ago on October 21, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 





A fourth Massachusetts city has enacted a psychedelics policy change, with members of the Easthampton City Council voting on Wednesday in favor of a resolution urging the decriminalization of certain entheogenic substances and other drugs.

The measure, introduced by Council Member At-Large Owen Zaret (D), passed in a 7-0 vote, with two abstentions, on Wednesday night.

“I’m grateful to the Council for being so forward thinking about a cutting edge topic,” Zaret

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*POLITICS*

# USPS Releases Final Rule Banning Mailing Of Hemp, CBD And Marijuana Vapes



Published 22 hours ago on October 20, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 



The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) on Wednesday released its final rule on the mailability of vapes, asserting that even devices designed for federally legal hemp derivatives like CBD generally cannot be shipped through the U.S. mail.

The agency has been developing the regulations to comply with a bill passed by Congress last year that is mostly aimed at stopping nicotine vaping devices from being mailed—though it has broader implications. Despite significant public comment on an earlier proposed version of the rules that urged USPS not to interpret the law in a way that restricts hemp businesses,

the agency ultimately said that cannabis vapes fit the definition of what lawmakers moved to

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