



POLITICS

# Another Washington City Moves To Decriminalize Psychedelics, With Unanimous Council Vote



Published 3 days ago on December 21, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger



Another city has joined the movement to decriminalize psychedelics, with lawmakers in Port Townsend, Washington unanimously approving a reform resolution on Monday.

The proposal, which was crafted with input from a coalition of psychedelics activists, makes it so enforcement of laws against entheogenic substances like psilocybin, ayahuasca and ibogaine are among the city's lowest priorities.

It also expresses the support of the City Council for broader decriminalization in Washington State and at the federal level.

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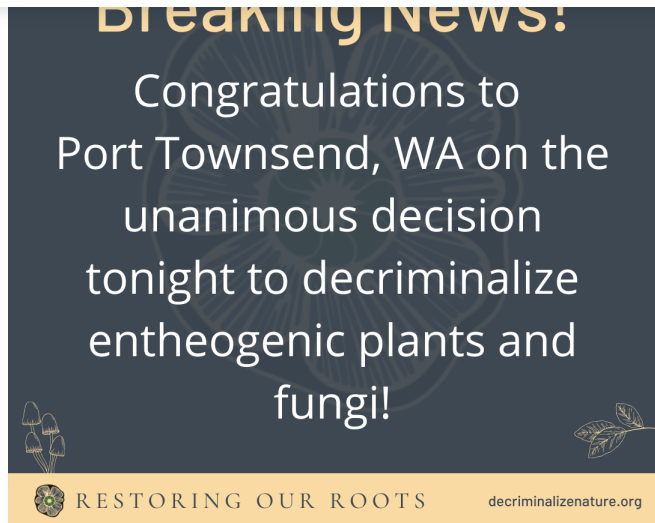


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Breaking News! Congratulations to Port Townsend, WA on the unanimous decision tonight to decriminalize entheogenic plants and fungi!

Resolution 21-088 Declaring that the Investigation, Arrest, and Prosecution of Adults Engaging in Entheogen-Related Activities Should be Amongst the Lowest Enforcement Priority for the City of Port Townsend and Stating the Council's Support for Full Decriminalization of These Activities

Big shout out to Erin Redding and the Port Townsend Psychedelic Society and community for all of your two years of hard work! Patience and persistence pays off! Well done!

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Port Townsend “maintains that the abuse of controlled substances should be understood primarily as a public health issue,” the text of the resolution says.

Prior to Monday’s [vote](#), activists with the Port Townsend Psychedelic Society (PTPS) expressed [concern](#) about certain language in an initial draft resolution and said they would support potentially tabling the legislation if their proposed amendments weren’t adopted.

That included changing the text to say that enforcement of laws against psychedelics activities for adults is “among the lowest” priorities, rather than just a “low” priority. The revision was [adopted](#) by the body.

There was also language added stipulating that the city, to the best of its ability, won’t direct funding to police specifically for entheogen-related enforcement activities.

“After two and a half years working on this issue, we are extremely excited that the City of Port Townsend has passed a resolution supporting the decriminalization of entheogens,” Erin Reading of PTPS told Marijuana Moment after the vote. “We received only support in the passing of this resolution and are grateful for the vibrant community that has congealed around this work.”

“Now, we can focus more of our energy on the other facets of the PT Psychedelic Society which include increasing accessibility to these medicines, providing educational workshops and trainings, developing support structures (such as our monthly integration groups), and strengthening community connections,” she wrote in an email.

The whereas section of the newly adopted measure discusses the therapeutic potential of certain psychedelics, the clinical trials that are underway to investigate their medical value and the reforms that have been enacted in cities across the country.

That includes nearby Seattle, where the [city council passed a resolution in October](#) to decriminalize a variety of entheogenic plants and fungi.

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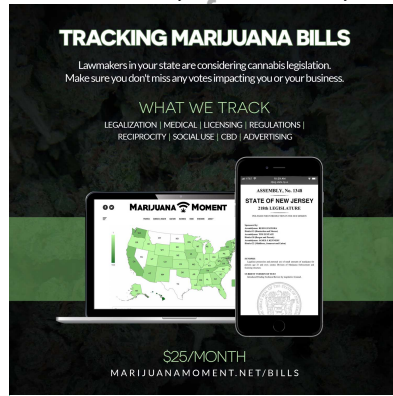


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calendar so they don't miss any developments.



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But the psychedelics reform movement is by no means limited to Washington's borders. Activists have successfully enacted policy changes—and continue to mount new campaigns—around the U.S.

For example, a national advocacy group recently filed [two separate psychedelics reform initiatives](#) for Colorado's 2022 ballot. Voters in the state voters could have the chance to weigh in on legalizing possession and personal cultivation of psychedelics, and creating a system of licensed businesses to produce psilocybin, DMT, ibogaine and mescaline for supervised use at "healing centers."

The filing comes more than two years after Denver became the first city in the U.S. [to decriminalize psilocybin mushrooms](#). Various activists, including those involved in the 2019 campaign, have [signaled interest in building upon the reform](#).

The Colorado initiatives seek to accomplish something similar to what California activists are actively pursuing. California advocates are in the process of collecting signatures for a [ballot initiative to legalize psilocybin mushrooms](#) in the state.

Virginia activists have also launched a push to [decriminalize a wide range of psychedelics](#) in the Commonwealth, and two state lawmakers recently touted the therapeutic potential of entheogenic substances like psilocybin mushrooms.

Last month, Detroit voters [approved a ballot initiative to widely decriminalize psychedelics](#), making it the latest in a growing number of jurisdictions to enact the reform.

In October, lawmakers in a fourth Massachusetts city, Easthampton, voted in favor of a resolution urging the [decriminalization of certain entheogenic substances and other drugs](#).

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

The local measures also express [support for two bills introduced in the Massachusetts state legislature](#) this year. One would remove criminal penalties for possession of all currently illicit drugs and the other would establish a task force to study entheogenic substances with the eventual goal of legalizing and regulating the them.

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](#)

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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. Activists in the city are also hoping to expand upon the local decriminalization ordinance by creating a community-based model through which [people could legally purchase entheogenic substances](#) from local producers.

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.

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

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](#).

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.

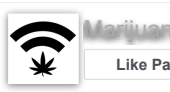
There was an attempt by a Republican congressman to attach language into a defense bill that would promote research into psychedelics therapy for active duty military members, [but it was not made in order](#) in the House Rules Committee in September.

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.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), a longstanding champion of marijuana reform in Congress, said in October that he intends to [help bring the psychedelics reform movement to Capitol Hill](#), and he reiterated that point in response to a question from Marijuana Moment on Thursday. The congressman is also circulating a letter to get his colleagues to demand that the Drug Enforcement Administration [stop preventing terminal patients from accessing psilocybin](#) as a right-to-try investigational drug.

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



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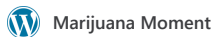
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### Ohio Marijuana Activists Submit Signatures To Force Legislature To Consider Legalization

Ohio marijuana activists on Monday submitted to the state what they say are enough signatures for an initiative to force lawmakers to take up the issue of legalization. The Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol (CTRMLA) said it turned in petitions with 206,943 signatures to the secretary of state's office—more than required to get the ... Continue reading



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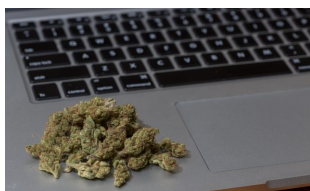
Kyle Jaeger

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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Published 2 hours ago on December 24, 2021  
By Marijuana Moment



*“There may not be much product available after the first couple of days, for several weeks.”*

By Max Savage Levenson, Montana Free Press

On January 1, 2022, adult-use recreational marijuana will become available for purchase in Montana. The launch of the new market raises a wide range of questions, from how much marijuana an individual can possess, to whether they can consume it in a national park, to the types of products that will be available for purchase.

Read on for answers to those questions, and many more, in this Montana Free Press guide to

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# GOP Congressman Blames Marijuana Legalization Delay On Democrats And Congressional Black Caucus



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A GOP congressman says Democrats—and specifically the Congressional Black Caucus—are to blame for Congress’s inability to pass a federal marijuana legalization bill. That’s despite the fact that nearly every Democrat in the House voted to legalize cannabis last year while all but five Republicans voted against it.

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) talked about the history of drug criminalization and the congressional response to the opioid epidemic during an episode of his “Firebrand” podcast that was released last week. He lamented that the 1970 Controlled Substances Act made “marijuana and other psychedelics more illegal than hard drugs such as the illegal, opioid-based drug heroin.”

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# Pakistani Government Official Harvests Nation’s First Legal Hemp Crops



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A top Pakistani cabinet official on Thursday harvested hemp in a ceremonial event for the nation's first legal cannabis plants under the government's new program for the crop.

Minister for Science and Technology Shibli Faraz marked the occasion at the Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, which is authorized to grow cannabis under a license issued by the ministry.




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