

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
City of Kenosha
November 8, 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in the City of Kenosha on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, the following proposed resolution of the City Council will be submitted to a vote of the people:

WHEREAS, criminalizing marijuana or cannabis use has failed to curb its use and, according to a Gallup survey conducted in July 2021, 49 percent of Americans say they have used marijuana, up from 30 percent in 1985; and

WHEREAS, in a Marquette University Law School poll conducted in February 2022, 61 percent of Wisconsinites said that marijuana should be “fully legalized and regulated like alcohol”, and recent polls show a majority of Americans favor legalization of adult recreational use of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Democratic, Republican, and Independent voters favor marijuana legalization; and

WHEREAS, thirty-seven states, including every state surrounding Wisconsin, have legalized some form of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, a study in late 2021 by municipal bond strategists at Barclays and reported in Fortune Magazine suggests that by 2030 states that have legalized marijuana and regulate its sale may realize \$12 billion per year in tax revenue to help balance their budgets; and

WHEREAS, Kenosha is failing to benefit from marijuana-related small business opportunities and sales tax that neighboring communities in Illinois are increasingly capitalizing on; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use as an alternative to prescription pain killers has been shown to reduce opioid addiction, and 22% of U.S. military veterans report using medical marijuana to treat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; and

WHEREAS, legalization would undercut the illicit market, and ensure that marijuana use and sale are regulated and safe; and

WHEREAS, the time law enforcement spends enforcing existing marijuana laws and ordinances negatively impacts the time available to solve more serious crimes and apprehend more dangerous criminals.

WHEREAS, legalization of medicinal marijuana received overwhelming support from the residents of the eighteen counties and two cities that included a medical marijuana referendum question on the 2018 ballot; and

WHEREAS, 88% of Kenosha County residents voted to legalize medical marijuana in its 2018 advisory referendum; and WHEREAS, marijuana legalization is gaining partisan momentum in Wisconsin with proposed medical marijuana bills AB 1067 and SB1034 and one proposed full legalization bill AB846 and SB545.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council members of Kenosha, Wisconsin, that the Common Council directs that the question of legalizing the personal use of marijuana by adults 21 years of age and older, regulating commercial marijuana related activities, and imposing a tax of the sale of marijuana, shall be submitted to the electors in an advisory referendum coincident with the general election on November 8, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Kenosha, Wisconsin, that an Advisory Referendum be held coincident with the general election on November 8, 2022, asking the citizens of Kenosha to answer the following question:

“Should marijuana be legalized for adult use, taxed, and regulated like alcohol?”

Explanation

“Should marijuana be legalized for adult use, taxed, and regulated like alcohol?”

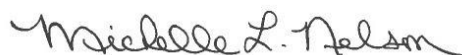
Pursuant to the restrictions in Chapter 961 of the Wisconsin Statutes, it is illegal for a person to possess or use tetrahydrocannabinol, which is a substance found in the plant *Cannabis sativa*, which plant is commonly called “marijuana.”

This is an advisory referendum by which citizens may provide their opinion as to whether the possession and use of marijuana should be allowed, subject to regulation and taxation. Further, that regulation is proposed to be similar in nature to the regulation for alcohol possession and use found generally in Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Among the regulations applicable to alcohol are that generally only persons over the age of 21 may drink or purchase alcohol, and the sale of alcohol is limited to licensed sellers. The changes in the laws relative to marijuana use and possession would have to be made at the Wisconsin State legislature.

A "yes" vote indicates that you support a change of the state law, legalizing the possession and use of marijuana by adults, subject to taxation and regulation.

A "no" vote indicates that you do not support a change of the state law, legalizing the possession and use of marijuana by adults, subject to taxation and regulation.

Done in the City of Kenosha, on September 2, 2022



Michelle L. Nelson, City Clerk - Treasurer