

Oklahoma voters to decide on medical marijuana

State Question 788, the Medical Marijuana Legalization Initiative, is set for a vote on the June 26 State Primary ballot. The issue was put on the June 26 ballot after supporters gathered the required number of signatures. The question is reprinted below as it will appear on the ballot followed by a brief summary.

STATE QUESTION NO. 788

This measure amends the Oklahoma State Statutes. A yes vote legalizes the licensed use, sale, and growth of marijuana in Oklahoma for medicinal purposes. A license is required for use and possession of marijuana for medicinal purposes and must be approved by an Oklahoma Board Certified Physician. The State Department of Health will issue medical marijuana licenses if the applicant is eighteen years or older and an Oklahoma resident. A special exception will be granted to an applicant under the age of eighteen, however these applications must be signed by two physicians and a parent or legal guardian. The Department will also issue seller, grower, packaging, transportation, research and caregiver licenses. Individual and retail businesses must meet minimal requirements to be licensed to sell marijuana to licensees. The punishment for unlicensed possession of permitted amounts of marijuana for individuals who can state a medical condition is a fine not exceeding four hundred dollars. Fees and zoning restrictions are established. A seven percent state tax is imposed on medical marijuana sales.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?
FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES
AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO

A "YES" vote is a vote in favor of this measure.
A "NO" vote is a vote against this measure.

SUMMARY: If approved, Oklahoma would become one of 30 states that allow, tax and regulate some form of marijuana use. SQ 788 does not decriminalize recreational marijuana use as some states have done. It tasks the State Health Department with overseeing patients, production and retail sales of medical marijuana to treat medical ailments. To be eligible for a license, an Oklahoma board-certified physician would have to prescribe the treatment.

There are no specific qualifying conditions to receive medical marijuana. Licensed users can possess up to three ounces of marijuana on their person and eight ounces in their home.

Supporters say denying science-based marijuana therapy options is cruel and forces Oklahomans to seek legal treatment in other states or to illegally treat themselves here. Supporters also claim state and local economies would be improved with the addition of growers, packagers and retail stores which would collect a 7 percent sales tax.

Opponents of the legislation say SQ 788 would be a gateway to recreational marijuana use. Some business organizations have argued it will impose an unreasonable burden on employers trying to accommodate workers who are licensed to use marijuana.

***** For more information about state questions, see the Oklahoma Secretary of State website at www.sos.ok.gov/gov/state_questions.aspx or the Oklahoma State Election Board website at www.ok.gov/elections/Election_Info/State_Question_info.html *****
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