



2022 Adult-Use Cannabis Legalization Priorities

As the Maryland General Assembly crafts its approach to legalizing and regulating cannabis for adults, the Maryland Cannabis Policy Coalition urges it to incorporate the following:

1. Any voter referendum should be self-executing and legalize possession and home cultivation with no further legislative action needed.
2. If legalization is referred to the ballot in 2022, the legislature should also enact contingent legislation in 2022 to ensure legalization is rooted in social equity and reparative justice. It should include:
 - a. Home cultivation
 - b. Provisions to create an inclusive, diverse industry. This should include:
 - setting aside a significant percent of licenses for social equity applicants;
 - giving social equity applicants a head start;
 - providing technical assistance to social equity applicants;
 - providing free and/or low-cost cannabis industry training with a focus on re-entering citizens and individuals from disproportionately impacted communities;
 - providing start-up funding for social equity applicants; and
 - creating opportunities for small businesses without deep pockets, including microgrows.

At least some application types (such as product manufacturer and microgrow) should be issued to all qualified applicants and should avoid a numerical cap. Scored applications should be avoided for most or all license types.
 - c. Reinvesting the bulk of tax revenue into disproportionately impacted communities
 - d. Dramatically reducing criminalization and collateral consequences, including:
 - no-cost expungement, release, and resentencing for all cannabis offenses, which should be automatic in the vast majority of cases;
 - no parole/probation revocation for cannabis; and
 - removing discrimination in public benefits, child custody, organ transplants, and professional certifications.

The Maryland Cannabis Policy Coalition advocates for the legalization, regulation, and taxation of cannabis for adults 21 and older, with a focus on reparative justice and inclusion for communities and individuals most impacted by cannabis enforcement. More than 25 organizations are members of the coalition, including the Marijuana Policy Project, Progressive Maryland, Maryland NORML, 1199 SEIU, UFCW Local 400, Working Families Party, Law Enforcement Action Partnership, and Doctors for Cannabis Regulation.