

Vote NO on Question 4: Legalizing Psychedelic Drugs

This Initiative Petition "...is Reckless, Irresponsible and Dangerous to the Public."^[1]

Stop Big Money's National Rollout of Recreational Drugs...Now Targeting MA Citizens

In Nov., MA voters decide on Q4: *Limited Legalization & Regulation of Certain Natural Psychedelic Substances* ^[2]

Be Aware of the Deceptive Drug Legalization Playbook: Medical → Recreational → Commercial

This profit-driven initiative petition is backed by Big Money, wealthy elites, and corporate donors—not grassroots interests. Washington DC-based New Approach PAC has invested over \$26 million to legalize recreational drugs in strategic, coordinated nationwide campaigns over the past decade, including \$8 million in funding targeting Massachusetts voters. ^{[3], [4], [5], [6], [7]}

Oregon and Colorado led the way in legalizing medical marijuana, followed by recreational marijuana. Massachusetts then followed suit. The same playbook is now being used for psychedelics. The New Approach PAC that funded the efforts to legalize psychedelics in Oregon (2020) & Colorado (2022), citing medical use, is now trying to legalize psychedelics in Massachusetts, raising over \$4 million for this campaign. ^[3]

"Clinical treatments should be determined by scientific evidence...not by ballot initiatives or popular opinion."
– The American Psychiatric Association ^[8]

If Question 4 Passes

- ❖ It will legalize the use of 5 psychedelic drugs: psilocybin, psilocyn, dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and ibogaine. ^[2]
- ❖ It will legalize for-profit psychedelic facilities with no ability for towns to ban these facilities. ^[2]
- ❖ It will allow psychedelics to be grown at home and given away to others (effectively creating a black market). ^[2]

Why You Should Vote NO

1. Experts Sound the Alarm

- ❖ **Massachusetts Psychiatric Society** President and President-Elect testified before the Special Joint Committee (MA Legislature) that this psychedelic initiative petition "...is reckless, irresponsible, and dangerous to the public." ^[1]
- ❖ **Massachusetts Medical Society** "[These drugs] have been documented to cause psychosis (both new-onset psychosis and exacerbation of psychotic symptoms), mania, and new-onset mania in persons with no previous history of bipolar disorder, and mental health symptoms that may be long-lasting after ingestion." ^[9]
- ❖ **Majority Report of the Special Joint Committee on Initiative Petitions (MA Legislature)** concluded, "These promising findings, however, have not provided evidence that the wide scale recreational legalization of these substances would be beneficial, let alone safe." They do not support this initiative petition at this time. ^[1]
- ❖ **Journal of Psychopharmacology** article notes psychedelic studies "are limited by biases & small sample sizes." ^[10]
- ❖ **American Psychiatric Association** stresses "There is currently inadequate scientific evidence for endorsing the use of psychedelics to treat any psychiatric disorder except within the context of approved investigational studies." ^[8]

2. Mental Health and Public Safety Risks

- ❖ Legalization reduces perception of harm and increases youth drug use. ^[11]
- ❖ Psychedelics can alter perception of reality and can cause extreme feelings of euphoria or despair. ^{[12], [13], [14]}
- ❖ Psychedelics can worsen or intensify mental health issues, particularly for people with certain pre-existing mental health conditions, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. ^[9]
- ❖ The petition includes:
 - NO requirement for licensed facilitators to be mental health professionals or for facilities to be medical clinics. ^{[2] [9]}
 - NO requirement for a mental health professional to provide patient counseling, support, or accompaniment during attempts to therapeutically employ psychedelics for psychiatric conditions, something that preliminary studies have indicated may be critical if such medical use is ever to be helpful. ^{[2], [9]}
 - NO requirement for medical screening or supervised use for home-grown users. ^[2]
- ❖ Legalization creates new public safety concerns around impairment while driving or operating heavy machinery. ^[12]

Only professionally licensed medical or mental health facilities, under the strict supervision of a physician, should be able to engage in medical or experimental use of psychedelics.

For references and more info: click on the link or use the QR code: <https://stjohnsclinton.org/no-on-question-4>
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