

RESOLUTION to add legalization advisory referendum to Fall Election Ballot

providing for an advisory referendum on the November 8, 2022, election ballot to measure public opinion on allowing adults 21 years of age and older to engage in the personal use of marijuana, while also regulating commercial marijuana-related activities, and imposing a tax on the sale of marijuana

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.

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, Appleton is failing to benefit from marijuana-related small business opportunities and sales tax that neighboring states 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 Appleton law enforcement officers spend enforcing existing marijuana laws and ordinances negatively impacts the time they have available to solve more serious crimes and apprehend more dangerous criminals.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of Appleton, Wisconsin, request the following:

Section 1. Referendum Election. The City Clerk is hereby directed to call an advisory referendum election to be held in the City of Appleton at the regularly scheduled election to be held November 8, 2022, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of Appleton the proposition of whether the State of Wisconsin should legalize and regulate the full adult use of marijuana in Wisconsin.

Section 2. Official Referendum Ballot Form. The ballot to be used at the referendum election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Sections 5.64 (2) and 7.08 (1)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes. The ballot shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

EXHIBIT A

OFFICIAL REFERENDUM BALLOT

November 8, 2022

ADVISORY REFERENDUM

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

Yes

No

Submitted July 20, 2022

Alderspersons:

Schultz, District 9
Meltzer, District 2
DeToro, District 4
Thyssen, District 8
Fenton, District 6
Wolff, District 12
Jones, District 10

Referred to the Safety & Licensing Committee