

Support for Recreational Cannabis in Florida Declines

Support for Legalizing Recreational Cannabis in Florida Remains Strong, But Falls Short of the Supermajority Needed and Shows Signs of Weakening

Public support for legalizing recreational marijuana in Florida remains significant but is losing momentum, with the latest poll showing it still falls short of the 60% supermajority needed for passage. Despite a well-funded campaign and growing national acceptance of marijuana legalization, Floridians appear divided on the issue, with opinions shifting since last year's ballot.

Amendment 3: How Florida Voters Supported Medical Cannabis but Stopped Short on Recreational Use

Florida voters approved medical marijuana in 2016 by a landslide, with 71% voting in favor. This landmark decision legalized medical marijuana and low-THC cannabis for qualified patients across the state.

However, recreational use remains illegal. Amendment 3, which appeared on the November 2024 ballot, sought to change that by allowing adults 21 and older to purchase and possess marijuana for personal use. Despite receiving 55.9% of the vote, Amendment 3 failed to meet the state's 60% supermajority requirement.

Had Amendment 3 passed, adults could have legally:

Possessed up to three ounces of marijuana.

Held up to five grams of cannabis concentrate.

Purchased marijuana from licensed Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs) for personal use.

Recent Poll Shows Declining Support for Recreational Cannabis Legalization in Florida Despite Major Campaign Spending

A new statewide poll conducted by the Florida Chamber of Commerce from February 2 to 8, 2025, among 600 likely voters, reveals that support for recreational marijuana legalization has dropped to 53%. This is the sixth consecutive poll showing that voter support falls short of the crucial 60% needed for future passage.

The Chamber of Commerce highlighted that this decline came despite more than \$150 million spent during the 2024 campaign to promote Amendment 3.

Opposition From the Florida Chamber of Commerce and Governor Ron DeSantis Contributed to the Amendment's Defeat

The Florida Chamber of Commerce played an active role in opposing Amendment 3. The organization launched a website explaining its opposition and invested heavily in outreach campaigns urging voters to reject the measure.

Governor Ron DeSantis also voiced strong opposition to recreational marijuana legalization. Speaking on the proposed amendment, he argued it would create a chaotic environment with no proper restrictions.

DeSantis had previously predicted that Amendment 3 would fail, expressing concerns that it would erode public order and impact the quality of life in Florida's communities.

Despite Declining Support for Recreational Cannabis, Lawmakers Push for Expanded Medical Marijuana Access

While recreational marijuana legalization has stalled, Florida lawmakers continue to refine the state's medical marijuana program.

Recently, **State Senator Joe Gruters (R)** introduced two significant bills aimed at expanding access and rights for medical marijuana patients:

Senate Bill 552 (SB 552): Proposes expanding the list of qualifying medical conditions. Under the bill, patients prescribed Schedule II opioids for chronic conditions would become eligible for medical marijuana treatment. This expansion would make medical marijuana accessible to more patients suffering from severe and chronic pain.

Senate Bill 546 (SB 546): Refiled by Senator Gruters, this bill seeks to allow qualified medical marijuana patients to cultivate up to two cannabis plants at home for personal use. The measure aims to provide patients with an affordable and accessible option for their medical needs.

Public Opinion Split: What the Latest Florida Polls Reveal About Voter Concerns Over Recreational Marijuana

The declining support for recreational marijuana legalization highlights a growing divide among Florida voters. Key concerns contributing to the lack of a supermajority include:

Public Safety: Fear of impaired driving and increased crime rates.

Youth Exposure: Worries about easier access to marijuana for teenagers.

Community Impact: Concerns about public use and the overall effect on neighborhoods.

However, supporters argue that legalizing recreational marijuana would:

Generate significant tax revenue for the state.

Reduce the burden on the criminal justice system.

Eliminate the illegal cannabis market.

What's Next for Recreational Cannabis in Florida? A Look Toward the 2026 Ballot

With recreational marijuana still falling short of approval, advocates are expected to regroup and push for another ballot measure in the 2026 election. Campaign leaders believe that public opinion may shift further

with continued education and outreach, especially if neighboring states successfully implement their legalization programs.

Final Thoughts: The Road to Recreational Cannabis Legalization in Florida Remains Uncertain

While support for recreational marijuana remains strong, Florida's 60% supermajority requirement continues to be a significant obstacle. The latest poll results reflect a complex mix of public concerns, political opposition, and shifting attitudes.

However, ongoing efforts to expand access to medical marijuana and legislative proposals for patient rights signal that cannabis reform remains a key issue in Florida's future.

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