

# Florida's Cannabis Legalization Ballot Initiative Inches Close to Passage in Latest Poll

Despite ongoing majority support, a recent poll commissioned by an organization opposing Florida's marijuana legalization initiative reveals that the measure is once again struggling to reach the 60 percent threshold needed for passage under the state's Constitution.

## Poll Results

The survey, conducted by Cherry Communications for the Florida Chamber of Commerce, shows that 58 percent of likely voters in Florida back the legalization measure, with 37 percent opposing it and five percent undecided. However, this falls short of the necessary threshold for approval. In contrast, a separate abortion rights measure on the November ballot has garnered 61 percent support, ensuring its passage.

## Chamber of Commerce's Opposition

Mark Wilson, President of the Chamber of Commerce, reiterated the organization's opposition to the measure, emphasizing concerns about altering Florida's constitution and advocating for legislative solutions instead.

## Varied Polling Results

This marks the third poll indicating the measure's shortfall of required support since the state Supreme Court cleared the cannabis initiative for the ballot. Internal polling from Tulieve, a major financial contributor to the initiative, suggests a lead well over 60 percent, contradicting recent public polling.

## Political Opposition

The Florida Republican Party officially declared its opposition to the initiative, enabling Governor Ron DeSantis to raise funds for an opposition campaign. DeSantis has expressed concerns about the potential impact of legalization on the state's quality of life.

## Economic Impact

Analysts estimate that the initiative could generate significant new sales tax revenue annually if enacted, potentially between \$195.6 million and \$431.3 million. However, concerns persist regarding the absence of provisions for home cultivation, expungement of prior records, or social equity.

## Campaign Finance

The initiative has received substantial financial backing from existing medical marijuana businesses, primarily Trulieve. Despite recent polling challenges, Trulieve's CEO asserts strong support, indicating internal polling results well above the required threshold.

## Initiative Details

If approved, the initiative would allow adults over 21 to purchase and possess limited amounts of cannabis for personal use. Medical cannabis dispensaries would be authorized to sell marijuana products to adults, with potential legislative authorization for additional entities. However, the proposal lacks provisions for home cultivation or social equity measures.

## **Future Outlook**

As the campaign unfolds, the fate of marijuana legalization in Florida remains uncertain, with proponents and opponents gearing up for a contentious debate leading up to the November vote. Governor DeSantis, despite personal opposition, accurately predicted the initiative's placement on the ballot and has expressed respect for states' decisions on marijuana legalization.

While the road to legalization may be challenging, the dialogue surrounding the initiative continues to evolve, reflecting the complex interplay of political, economic, and social factors shaping cannabis policy in Florida.

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