

# AMENDMENT 3: BAD FOR FLORIDA BUSINESS

Learn why local businesses are against Amendment 3

[www.flbizagainsta3.com](http://www.flbizagainsta3.com)

# “Recreational drugs, like pigs, don’t belong in Florida’s constitution.”



## Updates and reaction: Recreational marijuana amendment approved for Florida ballot



**Douglas Soule**

USA TODAY NETWORK - Florida

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### Florida Chamber of Commerce said measure shouldn't be in Constitution

Mark Wilson, president and CEO of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, told Florida Politics that his team "respectfully" disagrees with the decision.

"The Florida Chamber will **continue fighting to protect our constitution from out of state and special interests trying to buy their way into Florida’s Constitution,**" he said in a statement.

His organization has levied its influence against various initiatives for years: **"Recreational drugs, like pigs, don’t belong in Florida’s constitution."** He's referring to a decades-old amendment that banned confinement of pregnant pigs.

# Drugs Don't Belong in the Constitution

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The Florida Constitution is meant to protect fundamental rights, establish the framework of government and outline basic principles - not to serve the financial interests of a specific industry or group.

Amendment 3, if passed, would give big marijuana an unfair advantage over others, distorting the free market and stifling competition.

Further, constitutional amendments are almost impossible to change once adopted. A Yes vote is basically forever. The industry-specific provisions in Amendment 3 would virtually prevent the state from adapting to changing circumstances, evolving technology, or market dynamics. Importantly, it would limit the legislature's ability to make necessary adjustments or reforms in response to unforeseen issues or evolving public needs from the smell of pot in public and private places to the unsafe roads created by pot-impaired drivers.

# Amendment 3 Means Drug Use Whenever, However and Wherever

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Amendment 3 does not have any time, place, or manner restrictions. That means effectively unrestricted marijuana use – anytime, anywhere and by any method. This will have a detrimental impact on local businesses, workplace environment, safety, and customer experience.

- **Increased Risk of Accidents:** More employees consuming marijuana during work hours or before coming to work increases the risk of accidents, particularly in industries that rely on heavy machinery, warehouse operations, and transportation.
- **Higher Liability for Employers:** One reason the billboard trial lawyers are in favor of more drugs on our streets and in our businesses is because businesses will face higher liability, legal and insurance costs if accidents occur due to, or allegedly due to, employees being under the influence of marijuana.
- **Negative Customer Impression and Experience Because Pot Stinks:** Customers who encounter the smell of pot smoke or employees who are under the influence can lead to a negative perception of the business and drive customers away. Many business leaders in Colorado, New York, California, and other states that have legalized pot seriously regret legalizing it and encourage us to stop this bad idea at all costs.
- **Uncertainty and Legal Challenges:** The absence of standardized restrictions creates uncertainty and potential legal challenges for businesses trying to comply with inconsistent local regulations, which is one more reason the billboard trial lawyers are in favor of this bad idea.

# Amendment 3 Will Reduce Florida's Quality of Life

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Florida stands out as a beacon of both freedom and quality of life, offering a unique blend of natural beauty, economic opportunity, and family values. It's a state where businesses can thrive, and families can grow and prosper. Amendment 3 puts all of that at risk and will make Florida more like California, New York and Colorado, where recreational marijuana, and its smell, is everywhere.

- **Increased Exposure:** Amendment 3 will lead to increased public use and visibility of marijuana, exposing children and families to drug use while normalizing drug use in everyday settings such as parks, streets, and other public places.
- **Higher Risk of Secondhand Smoke:** Families will be more likely to encounter secondhand marijuana smoke in public places, which can pose health risks, particularly to children, the elderly, and those with respiratory issues.
- **Increased Access and Appeal to Youth:** Despite age restrictions, Amendment 3 would make it easier for minors to access marijuana, and many marijuana companies even use marketing tactics, such as gummies, that appeal to kids. This has resulted in increased hospitalizations and emergency room visits in states with recreational marijuana.



# Florida Sheriffs Say Amendment 3 Will Make Florida Communities Less Safe

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The proponents of Amendment 3 claim it will increase safety and reduce crime; however, the facts and data prove otherwise. That is one of the reasons why the Florida Sheriffs Association opposes Amendment 3 and is urging local businesses to get the word out about the negative impacts recreational marijuana has on communities, businesses, schools and families.

- **Black Market and Crime:** While the proponent's reported goal of legalization is often to reduce illegal sales, most areas have actually seen an increase in illegal activities, such as black market sales or trafficking, especially in areas where marijuana is grown or distributed.
- **Increased Impaired Driving:** As other states that have legalized pot have found, legalization will lead to more incidents of impaired driving, putting families and children at greater risk on the roads and increasing traffic accidents and fatalities, not to mention higher auto insurance rates.

# Amendment 3 Will Make Florida More Expensive

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While Amendment 3 claims that it will generate millions of dollars in tax revenue – it will actually introduce new costs for families, businesses, and law enforcement.

## *For Families:*

- **Health Insurance Premiums:** Increased marijuana has been tied to higher instances of health issues such as respiratory problems, mental health disorders, or substance abuse treatments, leading insurance companies to raise premiums to offset the higher cost of these medical services.
- **Auto Insurance Rates:** States with recreational marijuana have seen an increase in impaired driving due to marijuana consumption which has caused auto insurance companies to increase premiums for all drivers in an area to compensate for the higher risk of accidents.

## *For Businesses:*

- **Workers' Compensation Insurance:** Employers may see higher premiums if workplace injuries increase due to accidents resulting from employees being under the influence of marijuana.
- **Liability Insurance:** Businesses, especially those open to the public, could face higher liability insurance rates to protect against claims related to accidents involving impaired individuals on their premises.
- **Operational Costs:** Businesses will need to invest in updating policies, providing employee training on marijuana use, implementing drug testing programs or dealing with issues related to marijuana use.

# Amendment 3 Can Be Beat

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Despite over \$75 million in special interest funding from one marijuana company alone, Amendment 3 can be beat.

While almost half the country has fallen for the false promises of drug legalization proponents, only 3 states have passed pot legalization constitutional amendments with the level of support required in Florida (60%). It is also still polling just under that threshold despite millions in political advertisements. If employers get the word out to their friends, families and employees, we can keep Florida, Florida and defeat this bad for Florida families, businesses and community's plan.



# Public Misconceptions

Marijuana legalization does not decrease or eliminate the criminalization of marijuana.

This amendment is profit driven commercialization, and does not address de-criminalization.

- *"Various false claims have emerged suggesting that many inmates are serving time solely for low-level marijuana offenses. These assertions are untrue, and in some cases, intentionally disingenuous."*
- *"If Amendment 3 passes, however, it is highly likely that we will see an increase in our state's prison population thanks to increased crime surrounding the legalization of marijuana."*

**-- Ricky Dixon, Secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections in his Tampa Bay Times op-ed on August 12, 2024**



# The Estimated Revenue for Big Businesses in Florida

*The Amendment currently gives Florida's 25 Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTC) license holders a leg up with an automatic recreational license.*

and these big marijuana companies are set to make

# \$6 BILLION

“By limiting an individual’s personal possession of marijuana to 3 ounces, the amendment aids corporate interests like Trulieve in entrenching their monopoly of the marijuana market,” **Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody**



# Florida wants to legalize 3 ounces

How much is 3 ounces of marijuana?

Did we mention that California and Colorado legalized 1 ounce? So Florida wants 3X that.







**THE LARGEST LEGAL LIMIT IN AMERICA**

**Proposed legal limit in Florida = 3oz**



**Legal limit of California and Colorado**

**1 Ounce**

# Not your parents marijuana

Former U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams

"This isn't your mother's marijuana; the marijuana of today is significantly more potent"





# and not just a plant

Rise of contamination and THC



From an average of  
3.75% THC in 1995 to  
15.80% THC in 2018



# Tax revenue as a percentage of state budgets for FY 21-22

## Marijuana-State Income

*Marijuana accounts for less than 1% of state budgets in states that have legalized it, and no state has made the money that advocates projected.*





**70%**

cannabis companies have accumulated huge debt & are either breaking even or losing money



**\$4.50**

taxpayer cost  
for every \$1 in tax revenue from the sale  
of marijuana



**\$ 1.8 BILLION**

Invested in Big Marijuana from a single  
Canadian company



# Crime & the Black Market

The legalization and commercialization of marijuana have led to greater black-market activity than ever before. States do not see a surplus in funds, consumer and environmental protections prove meaningless, and Drug Trafficking Organizations are operating in legal states and not trying to hide it, but because of legalization, now law enforcement officers have fewer tools to combat illegal activity.



**A surge in the illegal street drug market**



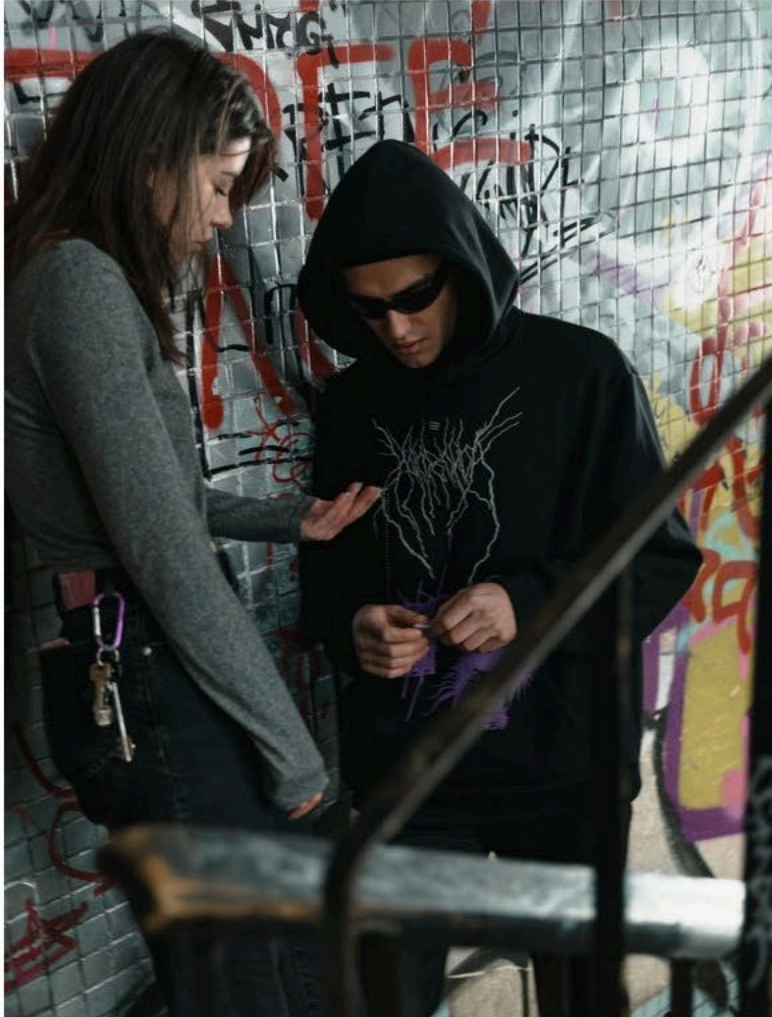
**Dangerous drug dealers roaming our streets without fear**



**Cartels continue illicit marijuana production and trafficking**

# Crime by the Numbers

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Marijuana sold in California was produced and grown illegally

70%

Increase in intimate partner violence incidents per 100,000 individuals

20%

Lifetime marijuana users also use other drugs

45%

Drivers impaired by both marijuana and alcohol more likely to cause a fatal crash than non-impaired drivers.

25X



# Traffic Safety Concerns

**DID YOU KNOW:** *Marijuana legalization has flooded the market with THC edibles, posing a significant risk for impaired driving. Edibles pose a greater risk because they take longer to process, leading to delayed, prolonged effects, and excessive consumption.*



fatally injured drivers tested positive for marijuana in states with legalized recreational and medical marijuana



increase in emergency visits due to marijuana-related traffic incidents in Canada 2010-2021



THC-involved driving fatalities increased in Colorado since legalization

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 2022

**BUT  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
OUR  
TEEN  
DRIVERS?**



**48.7%**

OF TEEN MARIJUANA  
USERS ADMIT TO  
DRIVING UNDER THE  
INFLUENCE

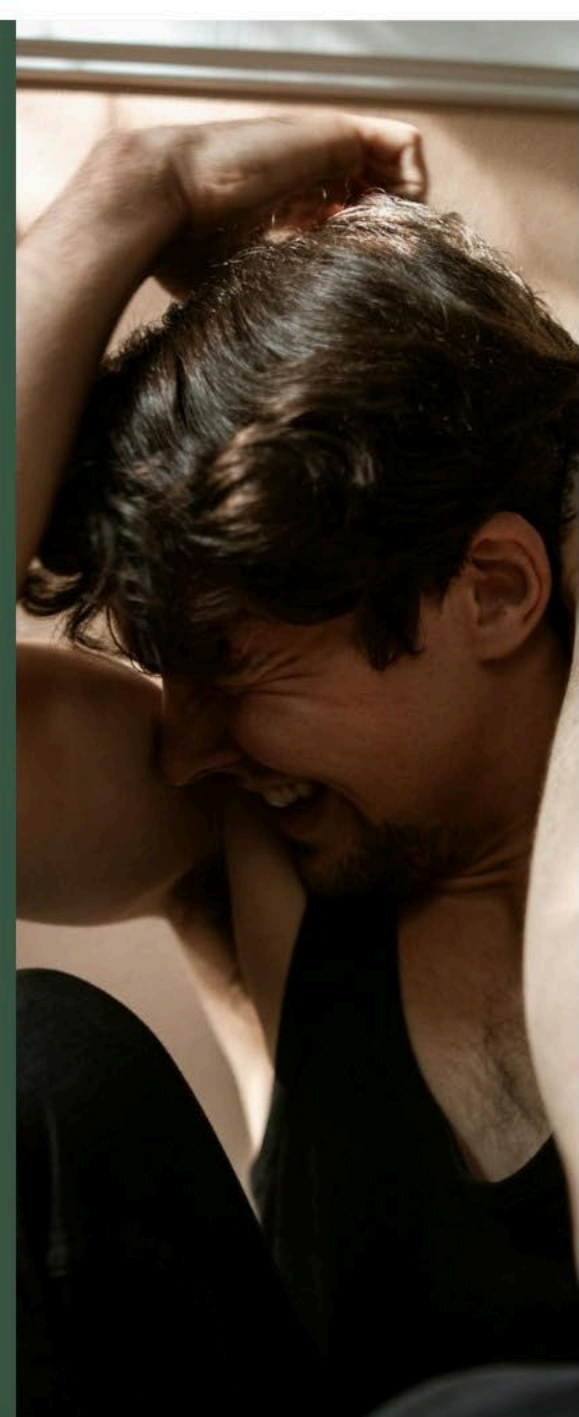


# THC & Psychosis

Study analyzed 780 people ages 18-65, 410 with first-episode psychosis and 370 healthy controls

**High potency THC users (15% THC or more) have a 3X increased risk of psychosis**

**Daily high potency users (15% THC or more) have a 5X increased risk of psychosis**





**Legalization is associated with a 25% increase in marijuana use disorder among 12-17 year old**

**Nearly half of adolescent males with marijuana-induced psychosis develop a schizophrenia spectrum disorder**

**Marijuana edible-related poison control calls among children ages 0-12 increased 3,311% from 2016 to 2022**

# Youth Impacts

Cohort study of 9.8 million people published in JAMA Psychiatry found that cannabis induced psychosis had the highest risk of transition to schizophrenia

## Brain Development

59% of current high school students consume high potency marijuana

## Health

Marijuana users aged 12-17 have double the prevalence of addiction and use disorders. More so than nicotine, alcohol, and most prescription drug misusers.

## Suicide

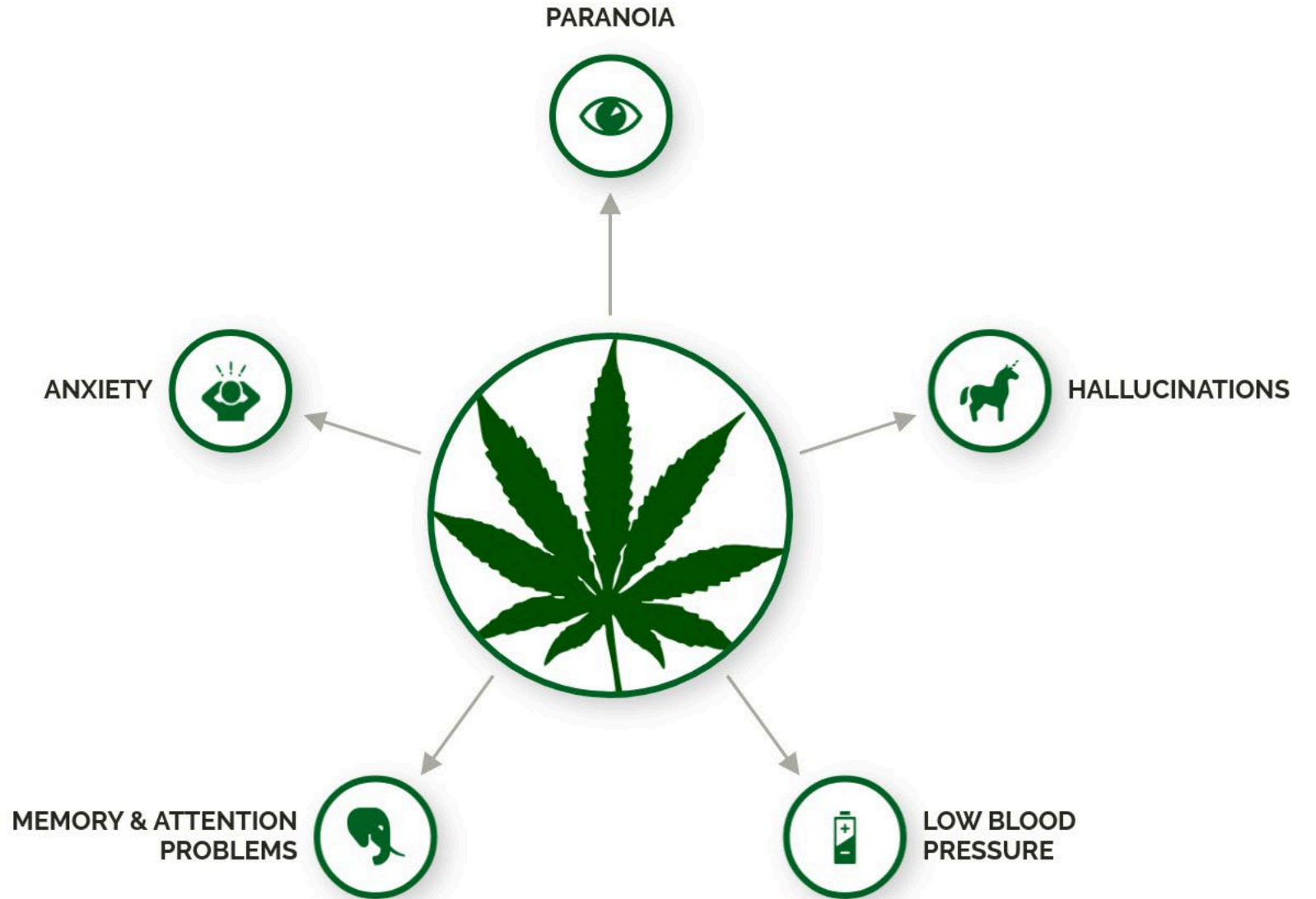
#1 cause of death in ages 10-24 in Colorado

Marijuana was found in the toxicology results of 43% of teen deaths by suicide in 2021

What is

# Cannabis Use Disorder

2020 to 2022, the number of Americans with cannabis use disorder increased from 14.2 million to 19.0 million





# Marijuana and Mental Health

Marijuana use has been linked to increased rates of

**Depression**

**Anxiety**

**Psychotic disorders**

**Addiction**

**Suicide**



# **1 in 3 past year users have Cannabis Use Disorder**

Emergency room visits related to marijuana abuse in California increased by 89% after recreational marijuana laws were enacted; marijuana-related hospitalizations in Colorado surged by 148%

People who used marijuana were more than 3X as likely to use any opioid and more than twice as likely to abuse prescription opioids

Marijuana users need more anesthesia during surgery and 58% more opioids following surgery

By 2019, the death rates from all opioids and fentanyl were 44% and 50% higher, respectively, in areas where marijuana had been legalized compared to those where it had not



# What does the medical field have to say?

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**This isn't the cannabis of 20, 30 years ago, up to 20% of my caseload is patients for whom I suspect cannabis use triggered a psychotic episode.**

Dr. Deepali Gershan, IL addiction psychiatrist

**This is a lot of my life, figuring out what to do with these kids**

Dr. Sharon Levy, Boston Children's Hospital

**This is attacking young brains**

Dr. Roneet Lev, San Diego ER physician

**We're just making this huge population of people who we can no longer fix**

Dr. Karen Randall, Pueblo, CO

# Prenatal Marijuana Exposure

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## Adverse Utero Outcomes

- Small for gestational age
- Higher incidents neonatal intensive care unit admissions
- Preterm birth
- Low birth weight
- Higher incidents of death within 1 year of birth

## Adverse Childhood Outcomes:

- Autism spectrum disorder
- ADHD
- Symptoms of psychopathology
  - psychotic like experiences ◦
  - internalizing/externalizing
  - attention problems
  - thought and social problems





# Where did this information come from?

Real research by subject matter experts

① ***The American journal of psychiatry*, 177(7), 619–626.**

<https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2020.19101008>

Dellazizzo, L., Potvin, S., Dou, B. Y., Beaudoin, M., Luigi, M., Giguère, C. É., & Dumais, A. (2020). Association Between the Use of Cannabis and Physical Violence in Youths: A Meta-Analytical Investigation.

② ***Drug and alcohol dependence*, 174, 47–57.**  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2017.01.012>

Johnson, R. M., LaValley, M., Schneider, K. E., Musci, R. J., Pettoruto, K., & Rothman, E. F. (2017). Marijuana use and physical dating violence among adolescents and emerging adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

③ ***RAND Corporation*.**

Kilmer, B., Everingham, S. S., Caulkins, J. P., Midgette, G., Pacula, R. L., Reuter, P. H., ... & Lundberg, R. (2010). Altered State? Assessing How Marijuana Legalization in California Could Influence Marijuana Consumption and Public Budgets.

④ <https://learnaboutsam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-Report.pdf>

⑤ <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260512468234>

Mercado-Crespo, M. C., & Mbah, A. K. (2013). Race and ethnicity, substance use, and physical aggression among U.S. high school students. *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 28(7), 1367–1384.

⑥ ***Journal of Criminal Justice*, 63, 58–69.**  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2019.04.004>

In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.

⑦ ***Whitney Economics*.**

Barcott, B. and Whitney, B. (2024). Jobs Report 2024: Positive growth returns.

⑧ <https://www.insidermonkey.com/blog/20-cities-with-the-highest-weed-consumption-in-the-us-1326337/>

Khalid, S. (July 30, 2024). 20 Cities with the Highest Weed Consumption in the US. Insider Monkey.

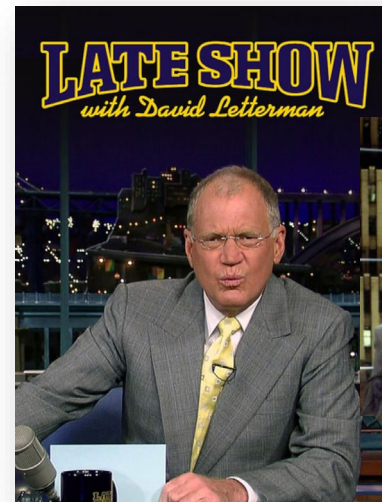
# Protecting Florida's Constitution from Special Interests



- ✓ 60% threshold for passage
- ✓ Ending “paid by the petition” gatherers
- ✓ Cutting “life” of petitions from 4 years to 2 years
- ✓ Limiting opportunity for petition fraud with enhanced transparency requirements
- ✓ Additional information to educate voters

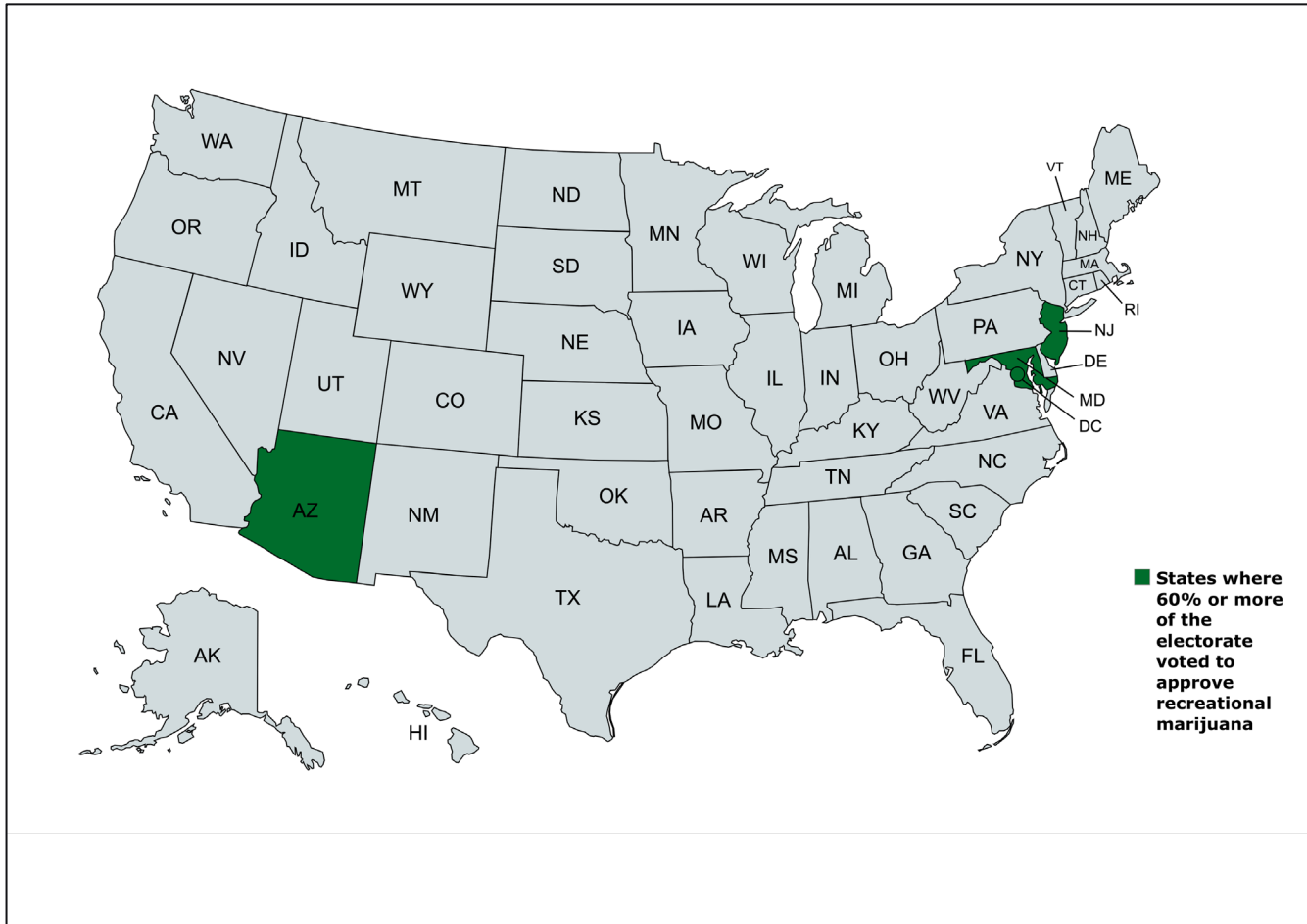
Out-of-state special interests successfully passed the infamous “pregnant pigs” amendment in 2002...

...the next morning, Florida became the nation’s laughingstock, fodder for late night TV hosts and editorial boards.





# ...Recreational Marijuana Legalization Can Be Beat



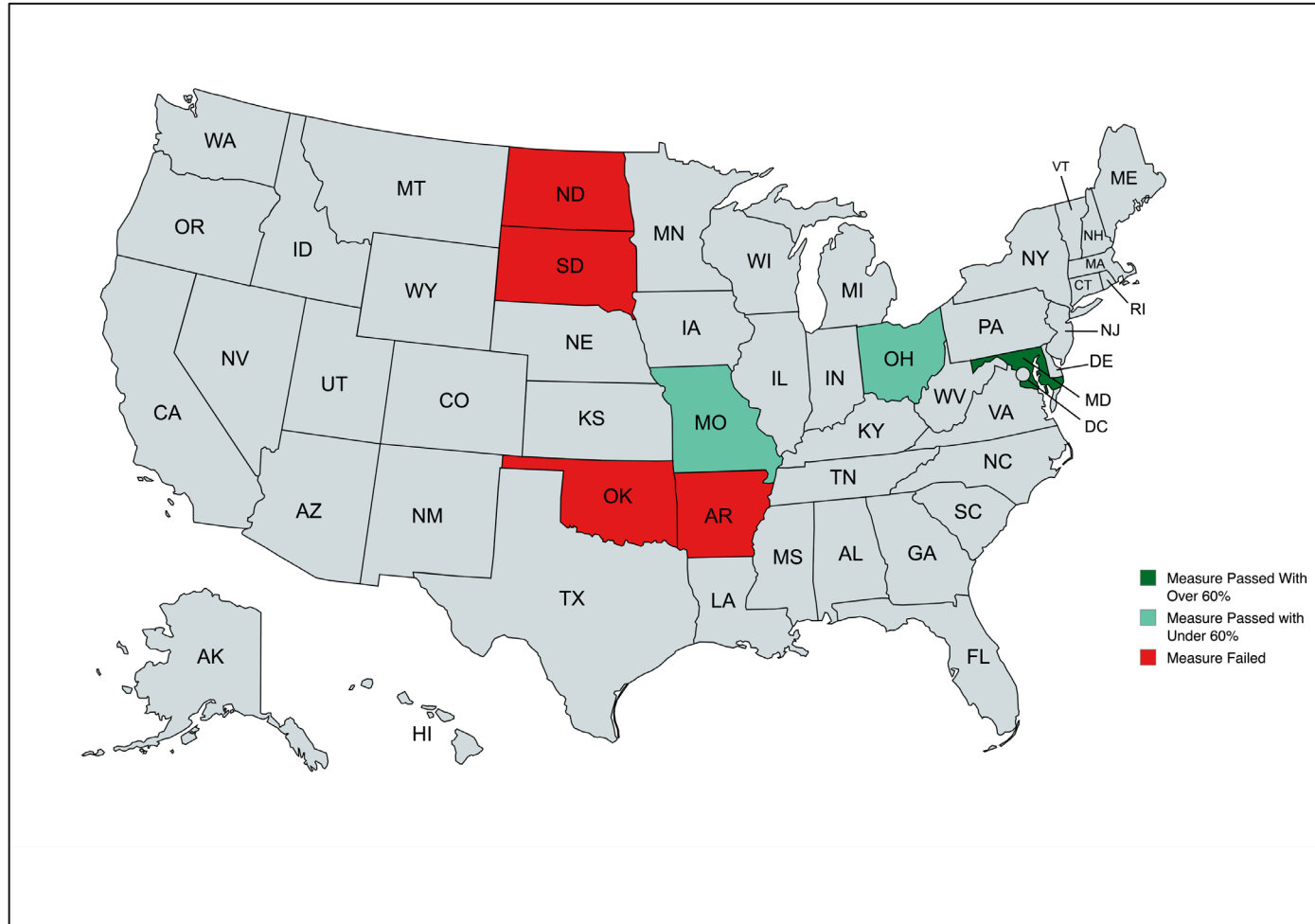
Florida's 60 percent requirement for constitutional amendments ensures that only those matters which have broad public support are enshrined in Florida's foundational document.

**Nationwide, recreational marijuana legalization has only reached this 60% threshold in *three* states + D.C.**



# Recreational Marijuana On the Ballot in '22/'23: Mixed Results

Seven States had Ballot Initiatives/Amendments on the Ballot in 2022 & 2023 to Legalize Recreational Marijuana



- Maryland, Missouri and Ohio passed recreational marijuana.
  - **BUT only in Maryland did it pass with the 60% required to amend Florida's constitution.**
- Arkansas, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota voters all rejected recreational marijuana measures.
  - *This is despite all four states voting to legalize medicinal marijuana in previous ballot proposals.*

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