

MISSISSIPPI HORIZON



Get the Real Story about Initiative 65

It is NOT a question of being “for or against” marijuana but rather that the Constitution is not the place to put a product to be sold, medical or otherwise. There is NO other product in the Constitution.

If placed in the Constitution it will override and supersede the Codified Laws of Mississippi and will ONLY benefit Big Marijuana! Our Legislative, Executive and Judicial rule of law will be overruled.

It provides that No tax can be assessed to the sale of marijuana. There will be No financial benefit for our state and municipalities!

We understand how medical marijuana may sound appealing, but Initiative 65 goes about this completely the wrong way. There are serious consequences that could do real harm to kids, communities, schools, drivers, workers and all Mississippians.

Mississippi needs to take a cautious approach to marijuana. Initiative 65 is an effort by the \$14 billion marijuana industry to legalize marijuana in Mississippi by writing their own regulations and embedding them in our State Constitution – in effect, protecting Big Marijuana in our Constitution by means of overriding and superseding our states laws. If we vote to pass this on November 3rd, we will open a Pandora’s Box and there will be no turning back since it will then be in our Constitution and out of the reach of our Legislature and Governor.

1. Presented as healthy, but dangerous.
 - a. Initiative 65 would easily allow marijuana use for broad reasons stating any “debilitating condition such as pain”. This is not about compassionate care – it’s about creating constitutional protections for an industry that wants as many people as possible to use their drug and profit from them doing so.
 - b. Studies show permanent brain damage if marijuana is used regularly under age 25
 - c. Negatively affects processing speed, reasoning, executive function, memory

- d. It's more potent and addictive today than previous generations; it used to have 2% THC – now growers have bred strains to enhance THC content much like Big Tobacco did with nicotine to make it more addictive – popular strains sold in CO now have 17-28%. Some edible products have 80-90% THC.
 - e. US Surgeon General Jerome Adams says there is no such thing as medical marijuana and emphasizes its danger to brain development and how potent it has become.
 - f. CO and OR have seen spikes in car accidents due to drugged drivers, who are slower to react and poorer judges of their surroundings. Driver's use of Marijuana has exponentially increased fatalities in car accidents.
 - g. Specific examples of marijuana causing youth suicides in CO after consuming marijuana cookie or using concentrated form of marijuana even though no history of depression.
2. If you liked Big Tobacco, you'll love Big Marijuana...
- a. Big Tobacco said cigarettes were good for you. Their advertising said "More Doctors Smoke Camels," or that Lucky Strike would help with your digestion. That was a big lie and now we spend millions of dollars each year trying to get people to not smoke. Thank goodness Mississippi didn't make the mistake of protecting Big Tobacco in our constitution.
 - b. Now, Big Marijuana is telling the same sort of lie. Our young people will believe them – just like people believed Big Tobacco - and it will be very hard to undo the damage that will be done if marijuana is protected in our constitution.
 - c. The Initiative 65 campaign is being funded by a marijuana industry that is as big as the NFL and is growing fast. Out of state marijuana industry investors have contributed nearly \$1,000,000 to bring marijuana to Mississippi! They intend to sell a product that can cause permanent damage to people and make as much money as they can for as long as they can. And then leave MS with the tragic impact on families, teachers, law enforcement and children with no tax revenue from marijuana sales for use in addressing these detrimental effects.

3. If marijuana is medicine, then we should treat it like any other medicine with research and testing. We must know what is in it and be able to control the dosage. There can be a medicinal benefit from components of marijuana. Mississippians can use four FDA approved drugs now that are based on CBD and THC being used to treat seizures, AIDS patients and cancer patients. Let's have more research and more safe medicines. But smoking and vaping anything – including marijuana – is not medicine. Not to mention gummies and brownies!
4. Initiative 65 would create two sets of drug users– medical marijuana for the wealthy and well connected and old-fashioned weed for poorer folks. It would be a constitutional right to smoke ~10 joints per day if you are well connected enough to have a doctor certify you and rich enough to afford to pay cash for medical marijuana that costs 40% more than what it costs on the street. But if you don't have access to the certificate or enough cash – because Medicaid, Medicare and private health insurance won't pay for marijuana – then you're still at risk of going to jail for smoking pot. It will force people to buy street drugs that are cheaper. A scheme like this is bad public policy and it certainly shouldn't be embedded in our constitution.
5. Would be a nightmare for law enforcement. That's what we heard recently from Sheriff Tucker in Madison County, Sheriff Sims in Forrest County, and Sheriff Ezell in Jackson County.

Your 2nd Amendment rights will be affected as anyone who wants to buy , possess or own a firearm or has a concealed permit can lose their right to do so if they have a marijuana card or are known to use or possess marijuana. U.S. Department of Justice – ATF Bureau letters notifying all Federal Firearms Licensees.

6. Doctors could certify Mississippians the legal right to smoke 5 ounces of marijuana every four weeks – the legal equivalent to about 300 joints a month or 10/day. There is NO prescription for it.
 - a. Studies show marijuana negatively affects processing speed, reasoning, executive function and memory. The potential negative impact on workforce, drivers and children is incalculable.
7. The marijuana industry knows that communities don't want pot shops on their street corners. That's why they worded their constitutional amendment in such a way that if Initiative 65 passes, then no mayor and no city council could specially restrict where marijuana dispensaries – pot shops – could open.
 - a. The State of Oklahoma has over 2,200 pot shops; a comparable number in MS would yield 20 per county.

8. Initiative 65 would empower 11 unelected political appointees to run this new industry with unprecedented taxing cleverly termed FEES as high as 7% on sales, spending and regulatory authority inconsistent with our form of government.
 - a. Not answerable to the State Legislature or any elected official.
9. We should learn from the mistakes of other states. A vote for initiative 65 is gambling with our young people's lives and Mississippi's future. Vote against it!
10. If you still believe that Mississippi should legalize marijuana, then you can send that message by voting for Alternative Initiative **65A** - but NOT 65. Alternative Initiative 65A would instruct the Legislature to develop a sensible and disciplined program based on science, with pharmaceutical grade products overseen by doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

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