

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM KENOSHA COUNTY NOVEMBER 6, 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in a town, village, or city in the County of Kenosha), November 6, 2018 the following proposed Resolution of the County Board, will be submitted to a vote of the people:

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is suffering from an "opioid epidemic" with 800 overdoses reported last year alone; and

WHEREAS, research shows cannabis is an effective option for pain management and states that legalize its use see opioid prescriptions and dosages plummet; and

WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration has now approved the first ever cannabis-derived treatment for epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, criminalizing cannabis use has failed to curb its use and more than 100 million Americans say they have used cannabis; and

WHEREAS, 59 percent of Wisconsinites in a 2016 poll said that cannabis should be "fully legalized and regulated like alcohol," and recent polls show a majority of Americans favor legalization of adult recreational use of cannabis; and

WHEREAS, an estimate by the Congressional Research Service suggests that cannabis prohibition with a system of taxation and regulation could yield \$6.8 billion in federal excise taxes alone; and

WHEREAS, legalizing and taxing cannabis could significantly increase state and local revenue noting that the state of Colorado generate over \$300 million in 2017 from cannabis taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, thirty states have legalized medicinal cannabis; and

WHEREAS, Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington have legalized adult personal use of cannabis and regulate the production, distribution, and sale of cannabis; and

WHEREAS, Vermont and the District of Columbia have legalized limited personal possession and cultivation of cannabis by adults; and

WHEREAS, neighbors of Wisconsin have either decriminalized possession, or will be doing so in the near future, including Minnesota, Michigan, and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the time law enforcement spends enforcing existing cannabis laws and ordinances negatively impacts the time available to solve more serious crimes and apprehend more dangerous criminals; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Legislature has failed to act on legislation to legalize and regulate cannabis and has not allowed hearings on such legislation; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute 59.52(25) allows for a county board to conduct a county-wide referendum for advisory purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors does resolve to conduct a county-wide advisory referendum, to be held with the November 2018 general election, to advise the State of Wisconsin as to the level of support within the Kenosha County population for allowing the use of marijuana for medical purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said advisory referendum read as follows:

Should the State of Wisconsin allow individuals with debilitating medical conditions to use and safely access marijuana for medical purposes, if those individuals have a written recommendation from a licensed Wisconsin physician?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Corporation Counsel's Office shall fulfill its statutory obligations with respect to drafting an explanation of the above referendum question and that the Clerk be directed to place said question and explanation on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

“Should the State of Wisconsin allow individuals with debilitating medical conditions to use and safely access marijuana for medical purposes, if those individuals have a written recommendation from a licensed Wisconsin physician?”

EXPLANATION

Several states have taken steps to decriminalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes. These have included the treatment of chronic pain, glaucoma, and various forms of anxiety. There is significant debate over the appropriateness and efficacy over what is typically termed “medical marijuana.” To date, the Wisconsin State Legislature has not approved the use of medical marijuana.

A YES vote means that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors should advise the Wisconsin State Legislature to enact legislation which would permit the use of marijuana for medical purposes under certain conditions.

A NO vote means that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors should not advise the Wisconsin State Legislature to enact legislation which would permit the use of marijuana for medical purposes under certain conditions.

Done in the County of Kenosha, on October 9, 2018.
Mary T. Kubicki – Kenosha County Clerk