

LEGALIZING MARIJUANA: FROM PLANT TO PRODUCT



A who, what, where and how guide on the production and sale of legal marijuana in Ohio should Issue 3 pass on Nov. 3.

MGCE FACILITIES

- Marijuana will only be grown for public sale and medical use in 10 Marijuana Growth, Cultivation and Extraction, or MGCE, facilities.
- These will be indoor facilities.
- The facilities will run independently of each other to prevent collusion, as required by the Sherman Antitrust Act.

GROWING LOCATIONS

ResponsibleOhio hired real estate agents to find 10 properties capable of industrial indoor marijuana production. These will be the only cites where marijuana will be produced for retail or medicinal usage in Ohio:

- Butler County: 40 acres
- Clermont County: 13 acres
- Delaware County: 25 acres
- Franklin County: 19 acres
- Hamilton County: 24 acres
- Licking County: 35 acres
- Lorain County: 77 acres
- Lucas County: 28 acres
- Stark County: 27 acres
- Summit County: 29 acres

INVESTORS

A \$2 million donation to help get Issue 3 on the ballot was required of each of the 10 limited liability companies (LLCs) chosen by ResponsibleOhio. Among the investors in an LLC are:

- Barbara Gould: a philanthropist based in Indian Hills
- Paul Heldman: former general counsel of The Kroger Co.
- Suresh Gupta: Dayton pain specialist
- Oscar Robertson: former NBA and University of Cincinnati basketball star
- Frostee Rucker: former Cincinnati Bengal
- Nick Lachey: former 98 Degrees singer
- Woody Taft: a descendant of President William Howard Taft
- Frank Wood: WEBN radio host

Little known fact: The reference number of each LLC begins with "768," which spells "Pot" on a telephone dial.

RETAIL OUTLETS

- 1,159 retail outlets will be allowed in Ohio. That is based on a ratio of one store per every 10,000 Ohioans.
- Only people over the age of 21 can purchase marijuana.
- The stores can sell marijuana for smoking as well as marijuana food products, such as candy and baked goods, and sprays and ointments.
- Stores cannot locate within 1,000 feet of "pre-existing" churches, schools, libraries or day-centers.
- Medical marijuana will be sold only by licensed dispensaries to individuals with a doctor's prescription.

TAXES

A flat tax of 15 percent of gross revenue will be assessed to growers and 5 percent to retail stores. This is on top of general business taxes and fees. Revenue will be distributed as follows:

- 55 percent to municipal and townships
- 30 percent to the counties
- 15 percent to the Marijuana Control Commission

REGULATION

A seven-member Ohio Marijuana Control Commission will be appointed by the governor to regulate industrial and homegrown marijuana production, the chemical content of marijuana products, retail sales and marijuana taxation.