



The Truth About Issue 3

The FACTS about marijuana legalization

- ➔ People using marijuana for medicinal purposes would be allowed to use marijuana in daycares, schools, the workplace, and in public.
- ➔ Children of any age could receive marijuana with only the written consent of a parent.
- ➔ The number of pets poisoned from ingesting marijuana has increased four-fold since the legalization of marijuana in Colorado.
- ➔ 28% of driver fatalities and more than 11% of the general driver population tested positive for non-alcohol drugs, with marijuana being the most commonly detected substance.ⁱ
- ➔ In the U.S., cannabis emergency rates have been rising sharply for cannabis-related admissions. Visits to hospital emergency departments have risen from 16,251 visits in 1991 to 374,000 in 2008.ⁱⁱ
- ➔ 1159 legal pot shops would be allowed in Ohio. Comparatively, there are only 203 Starbucks.
- ➔ Landlords beware – There will be four plants allowed to be grown. Home grows lead to mold, mildew and other issues which damage the property.
- ➔ Regular use of marijuana, has been proven to permanently lower the user's IQ , increase the risk of developing psychosis and schizophrenia, and has been correlated with suicidal tendencies.^{iii iv}



Mission of OTFCA: The Ohio Task Force Commanders' Association exists and operates as a unified body, which partners with the State of Ohio to promote professionalism and cooperation through the sharing of information and resources in order to target the flow of illegal drugs and organized criminal activity into Ohio communities, ensuring the safety and security of Ohio's citizens.

ⁱIbid

ⁱⁱ DFAA – Drug Free Action Alliance

ⁱⁱⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality.

ⁱⁱⁱ Meier, M.H., Caspi, et all. "Persistent Cannabis Users Show Neuropsychological Decline from Childhood to Midlife."

^{iv} Copeland J, Rooke S, Swift W. Changes in Cannabis Use in Young People: Impact on Mental Health.

Editorial: Ohio marijuana issue clearly a monopoly

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Imagine the outrage if the following proposal came before Ohio voters.

Instead of allowing every farmer to grow corn, the state's constitution will now allow only a specific number of people who have invested together to grow the crop on specific properties sprinkled throughout Ohio. Everyone else is out of luck — unless they can spend millions ([/story/news/politics/elections/2015/07/31/spent-already-responsibleohio-push-pot/30928613/](http://story/news/politics/elections/2015/07/31/spent-already-responsibleohio-push-pot/30928613/)) to change the constitution.

That's one valid comparison Ohio Secretary of State John Husted is using to defend his decision declaring Issue 3 a "monopoly" in the official ballot language ([/story/news/2015/08/18/ohio-board-oks-ballot-wording-redistricting-pot-issues/31940033/](http://story/news/2015/08/18/ohio-board-oks-ballot-wording-redistricting-pot-issues/31940033/)) voters will see this fall.

Of course, Issue 3 is not about corn. Nor is it completely about marijuana.

Proponents claim Issue 3 would decriminalize marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes, not to mention an opportunity for residents to grow and use four plants a year. If that were 100 percent true, we would welcome the debate knowing public acceptance of marijuana continues to grow based on what's happened in Colorado and Washington.

But Issue 3 is really about giving a private group that should be called "Irresponsible Ohio" complete control of a new legal marijuana industry in Ohio. These are the same people pushing a green cartoon character named Buddie, who's clearly targeting children, as they seek pro-marijuana votes.

Issue 3 would limit marijuana farms to 10 locations across Ohio who happen to be owned or controlled by investors in the group backing Issue 3. It would be impossible for anyone else to participate in the growing economy unless they somehow invested in the organizing group. These growers would completely control the marijuana supply provided to newly licensed stores for sale.

Most dictionaries define monopoly as "complete control of the entire supply of goods or of a service in a certain area or market (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/monopoly>)" or "the exclusive possession or control of the supply or trade in a commodity or service. (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/monopoly>)"

That's clearly a fair description of Issue 3. Case closed.

Although Husted, as the state's chief elections officer, must walk the very fine line between taking sides, the people of Ohio deserve the truth, which they're unlikely to receive in the election advertising.

It may be time to legalize marijuana, but this is clearly the wrong proposal.

Even kids know that, when you own all of the green properties in the game "Monopoly," it's time to cash in on everyone else.

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