

# 10 Good Reasons for VERMONT Cannabis Regulation

Rob Williams, Ph.D. – Town of Waitsfield

rob.williams@madriver.com

- 1. Cannabis Prohibition has Been A Failure:** The “War On Drugs” has done nothing to stop the widespread use of cannabis among adults and kids. It’s time for a saner approach in Vermont – legalize, regulate, and control the production of cannabis.
- 2. Cannabis Regulation Means Economic Growth:** Instead of spending hundreds of millions of dollars every year buying illegal marijuana from the black market, Vermonters will spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year buying cannabis from state-regulated and taxed cannabis businesses.
- 3. Cannabis Regulation Means a Safer Vermont For Our Kids:** In poll after poll, young Vermonters tell us that cannabis is easier to access than alcohol or tobacco (both legal and regulated drugs). Regulating cannabis will not only make it harder to obtain for Vermont youth, it means that products will be tested for potency, chemicals, and contaminants.
- 4. Cannabis Regulation Means a Healthier Vermont:** Cannabis legalization will provide more natural, organic and plant-based options for Vermonters suffering from chronic pain, glaucoma, stress, PTSD, and other medical conditions treatable with cannabis.
- 5. Cannabis Regulation Means a More Honest Vermont:** Cannabis legalization means we can dispense with the hypocritical “wink wink, nudge nudge’iness” surrounding illegal marijuana use, from doctors’ offices to school health classrooms to weekend parties, and instead have frank, honest and open public conversations about cannabis use and abuse.

6. **Cannabis Regulation Means New Vermont Jobs:** As many as 4,000 new Vermont jobs, according to the RAND Report commissioned by the Vermont State government.
7. **Cannabis Regulation Means New Vermont Agricultural Opportunities:** Cannabis (and Hemp!) cultivation will ensure a more diverse working landscape and more crop options for hard-working Vermont farmers.
8. **Cannabis Regulation May Mean Decreased Opiate Use Among Vermonters:** A 2014 Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine Study found that states with more expansive medical marijuana laws experienced 25% fewer fatal opioid overdoses than states without such laws. Evidence indicates that cannabis, rather than serving as a “gateway” drug, may assist opiate addicts in overcoming their opiate addiction.
9. **Cannabis Regulation Means More Net Vermont Tax Revenue:** Tax money that will be used to fund drug prevention, education, and treatment programs for Vermonters, with a focus on opiate addiction, plus cover all administrative costs.
10. **Cannabis Regulation is Supported by a Majority of Vermonters:** Polls reveals that a majority of Vermonters across the state support cannabis legalization and regulation. It is time to thoughtfully legislate cannabis regulation on behalf of the citizens of Vermont. Now is the time.

NOTE: All of these changes will phase in over time in Vermont with a comprehensive and evolving legislative approach. To do NOTHING is to kick the cannabis can down the road when the North American road map re: cannabis is dramatically changing. Let's be proactive and collaborative, Vermont! We can do this.