



Plymouth Liquor License Review Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 27, 2025 4:30 p.m.

Plymouth City Hall 201 S. Main St. Plymouth, MI 48170

City of Plymouth
201 S. Main
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-1637

www.plymouthmi.gov
Phone 734-453-1234
Fax 734-455-1892

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2024 - LLRC Meeting
4. Discussion of current status of Liquor License Operations Reviews and Past Due Payments
5. Discussion of Liquor License Cap – Annual Review per Ordinance
6. Discussion and Review of Marijuana Opt In/Opt Out issues
7. Adjournment



City of Plymouth LLRC Meeting Minutes

ITEM #3

April 1, 2024 6:15 p.m.

Plymouth City Hall 201 S. Main St. Plymouth, MI 48170

201 S. Main St.
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-1637

Phone 734-453-1234
Fax 734-455-1892

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Alanna Maguire called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Maguire and Nick Moroz

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Paul Sincock, Director of Public Safety Al Cox, and City Attorney Bob Marzano

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moroz offered a motion, seconded by Maguire, to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 LLRC meeting.

There was a voice vote.

MOTION PASSED

4. Annual Review for Renewal, Revocation, and Non-Renewal of Licenses

The following resolution was offered by Moroz and seconded by Maguire.

WHEREAS The City of Plymouth has a Liquor Management Ordinance related to the operation of all Class C Type Liquor Licenses in the city; and

WHEREAS On April 1, 2024, the City Administration presented the Liquor License Review Committee with information about the various liquor licensed establishments in the city; and

WHEREAS The Local Liquor License Review Committee is required to make a recommendation to the City Commission related to the renewal, revocation and non-renewal of all liquor licenses in the City.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liquor License Review Committee of the City of Plymouth does hereby recommend to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission that the following licenses be renewed:

Aqua – 413 N. Main

Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria – 555 Forest

Bearded Lamb Brewing Company – 149 W. Liberty

Bigalora – 777 W. Ann Arbor Trail

Compari's/Fiamma/Sardin Room – 350, 370, & 380 S. Main

Plymouth Community Cultural Center – 525 Farmer

E.G. Nicks – 500 Forest

Hermann's Olde Town Grille – 195 W. Liberty

Highline Spirits – 380 S. Main – License awaiting approvals
Ironwood Grill – 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail
VFW – Mayflower Lt. Gamble Post – 1426 S. Mill
Mayflower Meeting House – 499 S. Main
Nico & Vali – 744 Wing
Pakwaan Restaurant – 447 Forest
Penn Grill – 820 Penniman
Plymouth – Ann Arbor Elks – 110 W. Ann Arbor Trail
Knights of Columbus Council 3292 – 150 Fair
Pizza E Vino – 849 Penniman
Plymouth ROC – 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road – Escrow
Sean O’Callaghan’s – 821 Penniman
Sidecar – 340 N. Main
Chicane – 885 Starkweather – Escrow
Stella’s Black Dog Tavern – 860 Fraick
Tai Basil – 983 W. Ann
Red Ryder – 584 Starkweather - License being transferred to escrow by previous owner
Post Local Bistro – 844 Penniman
Westborn Market – 860 – 870 Penniman
Park Place Gastro Pub – 336 S. Main
The Ledger/Ebenezer – 306 S. Main

There was a voice vote.
MOTION PASSED

The following resolution was offered by Maguire and seconded by Moroz.

WHEREAS The City of Plymouth has a Liquor Management Ordinance related to the number of allowable liquor licenses in a particular zoning district; and

WHEREAS Annually the Local Liquor License Review Committee must make a recommendation to the City Commission related to the number of allowable liquor licenses per zoning district.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liquor License Review Committee of the City of Plymouth does hereby recommend to the City Commission that no changes in the number of available liquor licenses (29) *(33 establishments due to shared licenses)* under the cap in the City of Plymouth, based on Zoning Classification. The Liquor License Review Committee confirms that the number of licenses remain the same as in the current Liquor Management Ordinance, which is a cap of 18 licenses, as defined in the Liquor Management Ordinance for the B-2 Zoning District (DDA Area), and a cap of 11 licenses in total *(for all three zoning districts)* in any of the following the B-1, ARC and B-3 Zoning Districts.

There was a voice vote.
MOTION PASSED

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moroz offered a motion, seconded by Maguire, to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

There was a voice vote.
MOTION PASSED

ITEM #4 & 5



LLRC Administrative Recommendation

City of Plymouth
201 S. Main
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-1637

www.plymouthmi.gov
Phone 734-453-1234
Fax 734-455-1892

To: Liquor License Review Committee
From: Paul J. Sincock, City Manager
CC: S:\Manager\Sincock Files\Memorandum - LLRC - Annual Review of Liquor Licenses & License Cap for 2025 - 02-27-25.docx
Date: February 24, 2025
RE: Annual Review of Liquor Licenses - 2025

Background

The members of the Local Liquor License Review Committee (LLRC) are required to meet prior to a City Commission meeting to make a recommendation to the City Commission related to the review of the annual report and the renewal, revocation, and non-renewal of licenses in the city. In addition, the LLRC must make a recommendation related to the number of licenses allowed by zoning classification.

This is a normal part of our liquor workload during this time of year. We are required to review all our records related to each establishment. Often, we find that a few establishments owe the city either past due taxes, utility bills or other invoices. This year we are letting establishments know if they do not pay by the time of our hearing we will start a revocation process at the Public Hearing.

During our agenda preparations we have found most of our establishments are in compliance with our ordinance and there are no significant issues. We have one establishment who has a history of higher call volumes, but nothing of significance. Police Chief Al Cox has had discussions with the ownership group, and this seems to have addressed the issue.

Related to the Liquor License Cap, there are currently no licenses inside of the DDA or outside of the DDA that are "available" under the Liquor License Cap in the Ordinance. DDA District has 18 licenses, but 21 Establishments. Outside of the DDA or all other Zoning Districts there are 12 licenses, but only 11 establishments. This year there is only one establishment that is not currently open.

- The old ROC, now the Drift on Ann Arbor Road and Harvey

There does seem to be some possible additional demand for licenses currently.

The City Administration does recommend that the LLRC discuss and make recommendations to either keep the cap as is, increase the cap, or delete the cap. The DDA Board has recommended an increase of one license in the DDA.

Recommendation

Administrative recommendations are updated and current as of February 24, 2025, and are subject to changes pending additional information, corrections, adjustments, or payments that have been made since that time. This notice may be added to, changed, or amended.

The following establishments are recommended for renewal.

Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria – 555 Forest
Bearded Lamb Brewing Company – 149 W. Liberty – Two Licenses – Microbrew/Small Wine Maker
Bigalora/Arbor Brewing – 777 W. Ann Arbor Trail
Chicane – 885 Starkweather –
Compari's/Fiamma/Sardin Room – 350, 370, & 380 S. Main
Plymouth Community Cultural Center – 525 Farmer
E.G. Nicks – 500 Forest
Hermann's Olde Town Grille – 195 W. Liberty
Highline Spirits – 380 S. Main –
Ledger/Ebenezer – 306 S. Main
Mayflower Lt. Gamble Post – VFW - 1426 S. Mill
Mayflower Meeting House – 499 S. Main
Nico & Vali – 744 Wing
Pakwaan Restaurant – 447 Forest
Penn Grill – 820 Penniman
Pizza E Vino – 849 Penniman
Plymouth – Ann Arbor Elks – 110 W. Ann Arbor Trail
Plymouth Knights of Columbus Council 3292 – 150 Fair
Plymouth ROC – 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road – Escrow
Post Local Bistro – 844 Penniman
Red Ryder – 584 Starkweather -
Sean O'Callaghan's – 821 Penniman
Sidecar – 340 N. Main
Tai Basil – 983 W. Ann
Westborn Market – 860 – 870 Penniman

The following establishments are NOT recommended for renewal as of February 24, 2025, pending additional information, corrections, adjustments, or payments that have been made since that time. This notice may be added to, changed, or amended.

Aqua – 413 N. Main – Past Due Water Bill
Ironwood Grill – 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail – Past Due Concert, Patio, Summer Tax
Park Place Gastro Pub – 336 S. Main – Past Due Water bills
The Downtown Pourhouse/ Stella's Black Dog Tavern – 860 Fralick – Past Due water

In order to assist the LLRC with their renewal/non-renewal recommendations to the State of Michigan, we have prepared a proposed Resolution approving the renewals as indicated and holding recommendations the one establishment.

Should you have any questions in advance of the meeting please feel free to contact either Chief Al Cox or myself.

LLRC Resolution #1

Renewal

The following Resolution was offered by _____ and seconded by _____.

- WHEREAS The City of Plymouth has a Liquor Management Ordinance related to the operation of all Class C Type Liquor Licenses in the city; and
- WHEREAS On February 27, 2025, the City Administration presented the Liquor License Review Committee with information about the various liquor licensed establishments in the city, and
- WHEREAS The Local Liquor License Review Committee is required to make a recommendation to the City Commission related to the renewal, revocation and non-renewal of all liquor licenses in the City.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liquor License Review Committee of the City of Plymouth does hereby recommend to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission that the following licenses be renewed:

Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria – 555 Forest
Bearded Lamb Brewing Company – 149 W. Liberty - Two Different Licenses Micro Brewer & Small Wine Maker
Bigalora/Arbor Brewing – 777 W. Ann Arbor Trail
Chicane – 885 Starkweather –
Compari's/Flamma/Sardin Room – 350, 370, & 380 S. Main
Plymouth Community Cultural Center – 525 Farmer
E.G. Nicks – 500 Forest
Hermann's Olde Town Grille – 195 W. Liberty
Highline Spirits – 380 S. Main –
Ledger/Ebenezer – 306 S. Main
Mayflower Lt. Gamble Post – VFW - 1426 S. Mill
Mayflower Meeting House – 499 S. Main
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Plymouth ROC – 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road – Escrow
Post Local Bistro – 844 Penniman
Red Ryder – 584 Starkweather -
Sean O'Callaghan's – 821 Penniman
Sidecar – 340 N. Main
Tai Basil – 983 W. Ann
Westborn Market – 860 – 870 Penniman

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liquor License Review Committee does not recommend the following liquor licenses be renewed, pending resolution of payment issues in order to comply with City Ordinances.

Aqua – 413 N. Main
Ironwood Grill – 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail
Park Place Gastro Pub – 336 S. Main
The Downtown Pourhouse/ A.K.A. -Stella's Black Dog Tavern – 860 Fralick

LLRC Resolution #2

Liquor License Cap

The following Resolution was offered by _____ and seconded by _____.

WHEREAS The City of Plymouth has a Liquor Management Ordinance related to the number of allowable liquor licenses in a particular zoning district; and

WHEREAS Annually the Local Liquor License Review Committee must make a recommendation to the City Commission related to the number of allowable liquor licenses per zoning district.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liquor License Review Committee of the City of Plymouth does hereby recommend to the City Commission that no changes in the number of available liquor licenses (29) (33 establishments due to shared licenses) under the cap in the City of Plymouth, based on Zoning Classification. The Liquor License Review Committee confirms that the number of licenses remain the same as in the current Liquor Management Ordinance, which is a cap of 18 licenses, as defined in the Liquor Management Ordinance for the B-2 Zoning District (DDA Area), and a cap of 11 licenses in total (for all three zoning districts) in any of the following the B-1, ARC and B-3 Zoning Districts.

ALTERNATES:

- Add licenses in either one of the Zoning Districts
- Drop the cap on licenses city wide.

Section 11.4. - Management of Utilities of the City.

The Commission shall provide by ordinance for the management, maintenance, improvement, and operation of the utilities of the city, which management and operation shall be under the general supervision and responsibility of the City Manager.

Sec. 6-31. - Short title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Liquor Management Ordinance."

(Ord. No. 2010-01, 4-5-10)

Sec. 6-32. - Statement of purpose.

- (a) The purpose of this article is to allow the city to establish and administer a policy for the issuance and transfer of liquor licenses and permits which allow the service by the glass of any alcohol (beer, wine, spirits) to be consumed on the premises, to provide for the enforcement of liquor laws, regulations and ordinances, and to manage the number of on-premises retail liquor licenses in the city.
- (b) This article shall also create the liquor license review committee (LLRC), which shall be composed of at least three members of the city commission. The purpose of the LLRC is to review applications and make recommendations to the city commission as required by this article.
- (c) It shall be the policy of the city to notify all known existing service by the glass also known as on-premises retail type liquor license holders of proposed changes in this article via first class mail at least ten business days in advance of the city commission acting on a change.

(Ord. No. 2010-01, 4-5-10)

Sec. 6-33. - Licensing policy.

- (a) New licenses or liquor license permits, transfer of ownership of existing licenses, transfers into the city of new licenses, will be approved at the sole discretion of the city commission. This shall include liquor license permits proposed within the B-1, B-2, B-3, and ARC zoning districts within the city.
- (b) Within the B-2, central business district, as indicated on the city zoning map, the city shall have a cap or total of not more than 18 state standalone liquor licenses of any type of on-premises retail licenses that would allow for the service of any alcohol (beer, wine, spirits) by the glass or for consumption on premises of any establishment. This section would not apply to non-standalone state licenses.
- (c)

Within the B-1, B-3 and ARC zoning districts within the city, as indicated on the city zoning map, the city shall have a cap or total of not more than 12 state stand alone liquor licenses of any type of on-premises retail licenses that would allow for the service of any alcohol (beer, wine, spirits) by the glass or for consumption on premises of any establishment. This section would not apply to non-stand alone state licenses.

- (d) The city commission shall not recommend to the state liquor control commission the approval of any on-premises retail liquor license in excess of 18 within the B-2 district as outlined here.
- (e) The city commission shall not recommend to the state liquor control commission the approval of any on-premises retail liquor license in excess of 12 within the B-1, B-3, and ARC districts as outlined here.
- (f) The city shall conduct an annual review of all 30 on premises retail liquor licenses within B-1, B-2, B-3, and ARC zoning districts in accordance with the liquor management ordinance. This review shall be conducted by the local liquor license review committee and a recommendation shall be forwarded to the city commission.
- (g) If the designation of a non-stand alone license changes to one of a stand alone license, no such license can be operated, sold or transferred in the city unless there is space available under the cap as defined in 6-33(b) and (c).

(Ord. No. 2003-4, 5-19-03; Ord. No. 2011-05, §§ 1, 2, 6-26-11; Ord. No. 17-04, 4-17-17; Ord. No. 18-03, 3-5-18; Ord. No. 2022-03, 11-21-22)

Sec. 6-34. - Plan of operation required.

- (a) *Business operation.* All new requests for permits, requests for transfers of ownership of existing licenses or requests for transfers of licenses into the city of on-premises licensees shall operate in accordance with a plan of operation approved by the city commission.
- (b) *Plan of operation.* A plan of operation shall contain an operational statement outlining the proposed manner in which the establishment will be operated, including, but not limited to, the format, schedule of the hours of operation, crowd control, security, alcohol management, use of the facilities, parking provisions, plan for interior use and layout, and any other pertinent information as requested by the city or city's liquor license review committee (LLRC).
- (c) *Compliance.* Licensees shall comply with all applicable state and city regulations, this general policy, and a plan of operation as approved by the city commission. Any change to a plan of operation shall be approved by the city commission prior to implementation of the change by the licensee. Failure of such compliance or variance from an approved plan is a violation of this ordinance and may result in the city commission recommending to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission that the license be revoked or not renewed.

(Ord. No. 2010-01, 4-5-10)

Sec. 6-39. - Criteria for non-renewal or revocation.

- (a) The city commission may recommend non-renewal or revocation of a license or permit originally authorized on or after July 1, 2003 to the liquor control commission upon a determination based upon a preponderance of the evidence presented at the hearing that any of the following exists:
- (1) Failure to comply with all standards, plans or agreements entered into in consideration for the issuance, transfer or continuance of the license or permit, or failure to comply with all agreements or consent judgments entered into subsequent to the issuance of the license or permit.
 - (2) Failure to comply with an approved plan of operation and other plans, specifications, or representations made or submitted to the city by the licensee.
 - (3) Violations of the state liquor laws or regulations of the liquor control commission.
 - (4) Violations of state laws or local ordinances including, but not limited to those laws or ordinances concerning the public health, safety or public welfare.
 - (5) Maintenance of a nuisance upon or in connection with the licensed premises including, but not limited to, any of the following:
 - a. Failure to correct violations of building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, zoning, health, fire or other applicable regulatory codes, to include the history thereof;
 - b. A pattern of patron conduct in the neighborhood of the licensed premises, which is a violation of the law and/or disturbs the peace, order and tranquility of the neighborhood; including types of police, fire or medical services related to this operation.
 - c. Failure to maintain the grounds and exterior of the licensed premises, including litter, debris or refuse blowing or being deposited upon adjoining properties;
 - d. Entertainment on the premises or activity in connection with the licensed premises which by its nature causes, creates or contributes to disorder, disobedience to rules, ordinance or laws, or contributes to the disruption of normal activity of those in the neighborhood of the licensed premises.
 - (6) Failure by the licensee to permit the inspection of the licensed premises by the city's agents or employees in connection with the enforcement of this article.
 - (7) Failure to pay taxes or make other payments due to the city in a timely manner.
- (b) The city commission may recommend non-renewal or revocation of a license or permit originally authorized to operate in the city on or before June 30, 2003 to the liquor control commission upon a determination based upon a preponderance of the evidence presented at the hearing that any of the following exists:

- (1) Violations of the state liquor laws or regulations of the liquor control commission.
- (2) Violations of state laws or local ordinances including, but not limited to those laws or ordinances concerning the public health, safety or public welfare.
- (3) Maintenance of a nuisance upon or in connection with the licensed premises including, but not limited to, any of the following:
 - a. Failure to correct violations of building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, zoning, health, fire, property maintenance or other applicable regulatory codes, to include the history thereof;
 - b. A pattern of patron conduct in the neighborhood of the licensed premises, which is a violation of the law and/or disturbs the peace, order and tranquility of the neighborhood;
 - c. Failure to maintain the grounds and exterior of the licensed premises, including litter, debris or refuse blowing or being deposited upon adjoining properties;
 - d. Entertainment on the premises or activity in connection with the licensed premises which by its nature causes, creates or contributes to disorder, disobedience to rules, ordinance or laws, or contributes to the disruption of normal activity of those in the neighborhood of the licensed premises.
- (4) Failure by the licensee to permit the inspection of the licensed premises by the city's agents or employees in connection with the enforcement of this article.
- (5) Failure to pay taxes or make other payments due to the city in a timely manner.

(Ord. No. 2010-01, 4-5-10)

Sec. 22-328. - Standards of conduct.

The following standards of conduct shall be adhered to by managers and employees of any smoking lounge business.

- (1) No manager, employee or representative of the licensee shall serve or engage in the sale of alcoholic beverages on the premises, including but not limited to: any spirituous, vinous, malt or fermented liquor beverages, liquids or compounds.
- (2) It shall be unlawful to permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages in any smoking lounge business. The licensee's manager and/or employees shall immediately remove any person who opens or consumes alcoholic beverages on the premises or parking areas of the smoking lounge business.
- (3) It shall be unlawful to permit the use, sale or presence of controlled substances (as defined under MCL 333.7212, et seq, of Public Health Code as amended, or a rule promulgated under the Act or Code) on the licensed premises. The manager and/or employees shall immediately

**CLASS C LIQUOR LICENSE REVIEW
2025**

OUTSTANDING ITEMS DUE

2/25/2025

BUSINESS	UB ACCT/PARCEL NUMBER	WATER 2/20/2025	TAXES		Misc Inv.
			SUMMER DUE 8/10/2024	WINTER DUE 2/28/2025	
1 Pizza E Vino 849 Penniman	PENN-000849-0001-1 49 009 14 0001 000	\$ -	PD	PD	\$ -
2 Parkside Gastro Pub 336 S Main	MAIS-000336-0000-01 49 009 05 0142 000 49 999 00 2018 006	\$ 9,258.29	PD NA	PD NA	\$ -
3 Compari's on the Park 350 S Main	MAIS-000354-0000-01 49 009 05 0144 002 49 999 00 0433 000	\$ -	PD NA	PD NA	\$ -
4 Barrio's 555 Forest	FORE-000555-0000-01 49 009 06 0317 301 49 999 00 2015 022	\$ -	PD PD	PD PD	\$ -
5 Hermanns Old Towne Grill 195 W Liberty	LIBW-000195-0000-01 49 005 03 0046 000 49 999 00 1286 000	\$ -	PD NA	PD NA	\$ -
6 Ironwood Grill 840 W Ann Arbor Trail	ARTW-000840-0000-02 49 009 05 0150 303 49 999 00 2010 019 2021 Deliquent Personal	\$ -	PD NA \$ 222.41	PD NA	\$ 1,000 DDA Concert 2,353.00 POD24-05
7 Mayflower Meeting House/ Exclusive Catering 499 S Main	MAIS-000499-0000-01 49 999 00 2016 107	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
8 Mayflower VFW 1426 S Mill	MILS-001426-0000-01 49 011 02 0153 000	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
9 Nico & Vali 744 Wing	WING-000744-0000-03 49 006 10 0753 000 49 999 00 2009 048	\$ -	PD NA	PD NA	\$ -
10 Plymouth K of C 150 Fair	FAIR-000150-0000-01 49 006 15 0837 000	\$ -	PD	PD	\$ - Parcel retired for 2025, new parcel number 006 15 0837 301
11 Bigalora 777 W Ann Arbor Trail	ARTW-000777-0000-02 49 006 10 0704 000 49 999 00 2020 006	\$ -	PD PD	PD PD	\$ -
12 THE PENN GRILL 820 Penniman	PENN-000820-0000-01 49 006 02 0206 002	\$ 70.17	PD	363.95	\$ -
13 Bearded Lamb 149 W Liberty	LIBW-000149-0000-01 49 005 03 0051 001 49 999 00 2009 009	\$ -	PD NA	PD NA	\$ -
14 AQUA (JJA INC) 413 N Main	MAIN-000413-0000-01 49 005 04 0018 003	\$ 305.31	PD	PD	\$ -
15 Pakwaan 447 Forest Ave	FORE-000447-0000-01 49 009 06 0314 311 49 999 00 2017 016 2023 Deliquent Personal	\$ -	PD PD \$ 6.17	PD PD	\$ -
16 Framo Enterprise LLC 1020 W Ann Arbor Rd	ARRW-001020-0000-01 49 010 05 0116 002	INACTIVE	PD	PD	\$ -
17 E G Nicks 500 Forest Ave	FORE-000500-0000-02 49 009 06 0309 000	\$ -	PD	2,418.23	\$ -
18 Side Car Slider 340 N Main	MAIN-000340-0002-01 49 005 01 0362 007	\$ -	PD	PD	\$ -
19 The Post 844 Penniman Ave	PENN-000846-0000-01 49 006 02 0209 000 49 999 00 2015 052	\$ - Needs meter change	PD NA	1,332.21 NA	\$ -
20 Sean O'Callaghan's 821 Penniman Ave	PENN-000821-0000-01 49 009 05 0138 000 49 999 00 1889 000	\$ -	PD PD	1,860.10 PD	\$ -
21 Starkweather 885 LLC 885 Starkweather	STAR-000885-0000-01 49 005 03 0056 002 49 005 03 0060 304 49 999 00 2019 200	INACTIVE	PD PD NA	1,231.58 209.21 NA	\$ -
22 Stella's Tavern	FRAL-000860-0000-01	\$ 1,134.19			\$ -

860 Fralick	49 006 02 0188 000 49 999 00 2015 031			PD NA	493.91 NA	
23 The Ledger The Ebenezer 306 S. Main	MAIS-000306-0000-01 MAIS-000306-0001-01	\$	-			\$ -
	MAIS-000306-0002-01 49 009 05 0139 002 49 999 00 2012 105	\$	-	PD NA	PD NA	
24 Westborn Market 860 Penniman	PENN-000860-0000-01 49 006 02 0212 301 49 999 00 2017 037	\$	-	PD PD	PD PD	\$ -
25 Red Ryder 584 Starkweather	STAR-000584-0000-01 49 005 04 0011 001 49 005 04 0011 002 49 999 00 2019 145 2020 Deliquent Personal 2023 Deliquent Personal	\$	-	PD PD PD	1,030.94 110.58 -	\$ -
						\$ 15.81
						\$ 139.40
26 Thai Basil 983 W Ann Arbor Trail	FORE-000500-0000-02 49 009 06 0291 000 49 999 00 2019 035	\$	-	PD PD	PD PD	\$ -
27 Highline Spirits 330 S Main	MAIN-000340-0002-01 49 009 05 0141 000	\$	-	PD	PD	\$ -

** DELINQUENT TAXES INCLUDES ADDITIONAL
PENALTY & INTEREST DUE

***WATER AMOUNT IN RED INCLUDES PREVIOUS BALANCES

2025 REPORT OF ALCOHOL RELATED POLICE INCIDENTS

TO: PAUL SINCOCK, CITY MANAGER
FROM: A.L. COX, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY *A.L. Cox*
SUBJECT: ALCOHOL RELATED INCIDENTS FOR PERIOD 1/1/2024-12/31/2024
DATE: 2/17/2025

Current MLCC Licenses in the City of Plymouth

Alcohol by the Glass: 29 Active, 1 In Escrow (1 for every 305 residents)
Packaged Liquor: 9 Active, 2 In Escrow (1 for every 832 residents)

Total MLCC inspections by Officers to every MLCC regulated establishment

- Officers are required to perform MLCC inspections of all MLCC regulated establishments. This occurs monthly, at minimum, for alcohol by the glass establishments, including our packaged beer, wine, and liquor stores. Inspections consist of an Officer's walk-thru/observation of the establishment's employees, patrons, and service practices. A written checklist/report may also be completed.

MLCC Police Officer Inspections	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	355	357	357	423

Total alcohol related Disorderly Conduct Calls For Service (CFS)

- The following table displays all alcohol related Disorderly Conduct CFS for the referenced time period. Total CFS of this type are listed first, followed by those dispatched directly to the address of any licensed establishment. The last category is all other alcohol-related Disorderly Conduct CFS around town. Two felonies were included in these numbers, both for Aggravated Assault, one involving a weapon.

Alcohol Related Disorderly Conduct CFS	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	32	33	26	26
Local Establishments	11	12	5	13
Other Areas Around Town	21	21	21	13

Total alcohol related driving/motor vehicle CFS

- All drunken driving incidents, including OWI 1st Offense, Repeat Offenders (OWI II & OWI III), Super Drunk, and Child Endangerment cases.

Alcohol/Motor Vehicle related CFS	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	31	31	17	23

- In an effort to give you a better understanding of our total number, the following table breaks down the specifics regarding the types of drunks we encounter and in some cases an idea of their condition (Blood Alcohol Content over .17). One of this year's arrests involves a drunk driver who refused to stop and led officers on a vehicle pursuit until he crashed.

Year	OWI 1st Offense MISDEMEANOR	OWI 2nd Offense MISDEMEANOR	OWI 3rd Offense FELONY	"Super Drunk" Law .17 BAC or higher MISDEMEANOR	Total OWI Arrests	OWI Crashes
2021	18 (58%)	4 (13%)	1 (3%)	8 (26%)	31	5
2022	19 (61%)	2 (6.5%)	2 (6.5%)	8 (26%)	31	5
2023	8 (47%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)	7 (41%)	17	5
2024	19 (83%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	3 (13%)	23	2

Total other alcohol related incidents

- Includes such incidents as Minor in Possession, Open Intoxicants, Trespassing and other CFS involving alcohol not otherwise captured.

Other alcohol related incidents	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	4	8	1	3

Total alcohol related Malicious Destruction of Property (MDOP) CFS

- Incidents involving MDOP in which the suspect is intoxicated or had been drinking.

Alcohol related MDOP CFS	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	0	2	2	2

Total alcohol related referrals to Hegira Health Inc.- Community Outreach for Psychiatric Emergencies (COPE)

- This includes all alcohol-related incidents in which a referral was made to COPE for either an immediate crisis situation or one in which a person is seeking help with alcohol or substance abuse.

Alcohol related COPE Referrals	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	3	1	1	4

Total Violation Reports Involving City MLCC Licensed Establishments

MLCC Violation Reports	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	5	1	0	0

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE→

Total Police Notifications to MLCC regulated establishments

- These notifications were telephone calls, emails, or face to face meetings with bar owners or management anytime Officers responded to an incident involving a subject(s) that consumed in their establishment (i.e. a visibly intoxicated subject that was arrested for drunk driving after having been served at a local bar).
- It is important to note that the information as to where a subject(s) was drinking is generally provided by an intoxicated person that, in the same breath, will tell us he/she had “two beers” when it is obvious they had much more.

Establishment	2021	2022	2023	2024
Aqua	0	0	0	0
Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria	0	0	0	0
Bearded Lamb	0	0	0	0
Bigalora	0	0	0	0
Chicane				0
Compari's/Fiama/Sardine Room	0	0	0	0
Cultural Center	0	0	0	0
E.G. Nicks	0	0	0	0
Greek Islands/The Ebenezer/The Ledger	4	1	0	0
Herman's Olde Town Grille	0	0	0	0
Highline Spirits				
Ironwood	0	1	0	0
Mayflower Meeting House	0	0	0	0
Nico & Vali	0	0	0	0
Pakwaan Restaurant	0	0	0	0
Park Place Gastro Pub	0	0	1	0
Penn Grille	1	0	0	0
Pizza E Vino	0	0	0	0
Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks			0	0
Plymouth Knights of Columbus	0	0	0	0
Plymouth ROC	0	0	0	0
Sean O'Callaghan's	0	0	0	-0
Sidecar			0	0
Stella's Black Dog Tavern/The Downtown Pourhouse	0	0	0	0
Thai Basil			0	0
The Honey Hole/Red Ryder	0	0	0	0
The Post Local Bistro	1	0	3	1
VFW	0	0	0	0
Westborn Market	0	0	0	0
Total	6	2	4	1

City of Plymouth MLCC Licenses

DBA Name	License Type	Bus. ID	Owner/Licensee	Address	Date Opened
Alcohol By The Glass Establishments					
Aqua	C SDM	226180	VNB, LLC.	413 N Main	Grecian Café 2011
Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria	C SDM	236468	The Locale, LLC	555 Forest	2006- Grape Expectations
Bearded Lamb Brewing Company	Micro-Brewer/Small Wine Maker	272804	Bearded Lamb LLC	149 W Liberty	2009- Liberty St Brewing Co.
Bigalora	C SDM	260089	Bigalora Plymouth, LLC	777 W Ann Arbor Tr	Pre-1998
Chicane	C SDM	279752	Trackside Plymouth, LLC	885 Starkweather	Pre-1998
Compari's On The Park/Fiamma/Sardine Room	C SDM	130622	Paison, Inc.	350, 370, & 380 S Main	2000/Sardine-2011
Cultural Center	C	1315	City of Plymouth Parks & Rec	525 Farmer	Pre-1998
E.G. Nick's	C	98834	T. Belli & Assoc., Inc.	500 Forest	1998
Hermann's Olde Town Grille	C-Resort SDM	260437	Hermann Hospitality Corporation	195 W Liberty	Pre-1998
Highline Spirits	Tasting Room	279082	Highline Spirits Co., LLC	330 S Main	2024
Ironwood Grill	C SDM	216563	Ironwood of Plymouth, LLC	840 W Ann Arbor Tr	2010
Mayflower Lt. Gamble Post 6695 of VFWUS	Club	8784	Mayflower-Lt. Gamble Post No. 6695 VFWUS	1426 S Mill	Pre-1998
Mayflower Meeting House	C	369	Exclusive Catering, Inc.	499 S Main	Pre-1998
Nico & Vali	C SDM	217164	Nico & Vali, LLC	744 Wing	2010
Pakwaan Restaurant	C-DDA	261375	Pakwaan, LLC	447 Forest	1999 Tavern-2006
Park Place Gastro Pub	C SDM	132112	Piano Bar of Plymouth, Inc.	336 S Main	2000 (Formerly 336)
Penn Grill	C SDM	192104	VWS Holdings, LLC	820 Penniman	2006/2007
Pizza E Vino	C SDM	226382	Buon Vino Winery, LLC	849 Penniman	2011
Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks	Club	8213	Plymouth-Ann Arbor MI Lodge No. 325 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks	110 W Ann Arbor Trail	2022
Plymouth KOC Bldg Council #3292	Club	8119	Plymouth K of C Bldg, Inc.	150 Fair	Pre-1998
Plymouth ROC Restaurant	C SDM	272107	Straight Family Hospitality Inc	1020 W Ann Arbor Rd	Pre-1998
Red Ryder	C SDM	281803	Mily Holding, LLC	584 Starkweather	2018
Sean O'Callaghan's Public House	C SDM	135112	Sean O'Callaghan's Ltd.	821 Penniman/345 Fleet	2001
Sidecar	C SDM	276453	Sidecar Plymouth, LLC	340 N Main	Pre-1998 (Jack Dunleavy's)
Thai Basil	C	279625	T&W Investment, Inc.	983 W Ann Arbor Tr	2023
The Downtown Pourhouse	C SDM	233687	TBD Advisors Inc.	860 Fralick	Pre-1998
The Ledger/The Ebenezer	C	243776	G.I. Poros, Inc.	306 S Main	2018
The Post Local Bistro	C SDM	232456	408, Inc.	844 Penniman	RBG-2010
Westborn Market	C SDM	241888	Westborn of Plymouth, LLC	860-870 Penniman	2016
Packaged Alcohol- Stores					
Bellybusters Liquor	SDM/SDD	140657	J&D Pizza, Inc.	571 S Mill	
Main Street Quick Stop	SDM/SDD	9664	Yaldo, Inc.	480 N Main	
Mayflower Market	SDM/SDD	142078	J.B.N.A., Inc.	824 S Main	
Old World Olive Press	SDM	228753	Old World Olive Press-Plymouth LLC	467 Forest	
Plymouth Prime Meats	SDM	274196	Plymouth Prime Meats, LLC	614 S Main	
Rite Aid #3657	SDM/SDD	141512	Rite Aid of Michigan, Inc.	800 W Ann Arbor Rd	
Sunoco Gas Station	SDM/SDD	239870	F&L Petroleum, Inc.	129 W Ann Arbor Tr	
Speedway #8820 Gas Station	SDM	246381	Speedway LLC (A Delaware LLC)	1066 N Mill	3/1/2017
Starvin Marvin, Inc (Marathon Gas Station)	SDM	264666	Starvin Marvin, Inc	402 N Mill	7/30/2019
USA Gas & Go	SDM/SDD	271492	Plymouth Business Ventures, LLC	400 W Ann Arbor Rd	7/13/1905
Westborn Market	SDM	246614	Westborn of Plymouth, LLC	860-870 Penniman	1/26/2017
Other Alcohol					

Updated: 2/14/2025

Allowable Alcohol by the Glass= 18/12

DDA (18)
OUTSIDE DDA (12)

ESCROW LICENSE
OFF PREMISE LICENSE (10)

INACTIVE LICENSE
APPROVED/IN-PROCESS



Administrative Recommendation

City of Plymouth
201 S. Main
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-1637

www.plymouthmi.gov
Phone 734-453-1234
Fax 734-455-1892

To: Paul Sincock, City Manager

From: John Buzuvis, Economic Development Director

Al Cox, Director of Public Safety

CC: S:\Community Development\John\Marijuana

Date: February 24, 2025

RE: Annual Recreational Marijuana Review

BACKGROUND:

As you are aware the City Commission enacted an ordinance, in December 2018, to opt-out of allowing "recreational marijuana" businesses in the city. The Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act (MRTMA) enacted in December 2018 decriminalizes the use and possession (with limits) of "recreational" marijuana by adults over the age of twenty-one. Additionally, the Act provides for the licensing of recreational marijuana businesses by the State. A recreational marijuana business, such as a marijuana retailer, may operate, by right, in any municipality in Michigan unless the municipality opts-out by ordinance. This statute does not replace the Medical Marijuana legislation enacted in 2016 and has many similarities and some key differences. One of the critical differences between the two laws is that communities had to "opt-in" to allow medical marijuana businesses in their communities whereas the recreational marijuana legislation requires communities to "opt-out" by ordinance to prohibit recreational marijuana businesses in their communities. At the end of the 2024 state legislative session there was discussion and bill proposals to combine the medical and recreational marijuana legislation to streamline the bureaucracy and administration of the two acts. This bipartisan effort died in lame-duck at the end of 2024 and while there is still discussion about doing this a clear path forward has not been identified at this time.

The MRTMA legislation allows adults over 21 years of age to possess up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana on their person, grow up to twelve plants, and have up to ten ounces of marijuana "secured" at home. It is important to note that municipalities cannot opt-out of allowing this to take place in their communities. However, communities do have local control over deciding to prohibit recreational marijuana businesses from locating within their municipality. Communities may also choose to opt-in to allow recreational marijuana businesses in their communities and may limit the number of businesses allowed.

At the request of the City Commission the administration has reviewed the recommendation on recreational marijuana annually since December 2018, most recently in March 2023 when attorney Jeff Schroeder from Plunkett Cooney presented to the City Commission and administration at a committee of the whole meeting. The administration continues to recommend remaining "opted out" of the allowance for recreational marijuana facilities, of any

kind, in the city. There are several reasons for this as noted below. While some of the legal logjams created by local selection criteria for communities who have opted in have cleared the fact that city legislative bodies are required, per the legislation, to choose winners and losers from applicants if they have limited the number of licenses available in their community. In the last couple of years several municipalities in southeast Michigan including Royal Oak, Pontiac, Warren, and Berkley have been or are currently involved in lawsuits related to their ordinances. Lance Boldrey, a cannabis attorney from Detroit based law firm Dykema Gossett PLLC says "If a city attorney is paying attention at all, they'll understand almost any ordinance they put forward will result in lawsuits against the city, they should also know they pay more for fighting the lawsuits than they could possibly earn in licensing fees or revenue sharing."

A couple of years ago in Berkley the city, the city council, and other officials including the City Manager were named in lawsuits in Oakland County court by companies not chosen to fill one of the three licenses through the competitive process contained in Berkley's ordinance. In October 2024 Redford Township's licensing process resulted in a 3-week campout in order to secure a spot in the community first come first served marijuana business license policy. Harper Woods also experienced issues with marijuana business operators vying for a license and were made to wait in the parking lot until a designated time when they ran to the doors when opened. People were injured and lawsuits resulting from ADA accessibility were brought upon the municipality. Choosing winners and losers for who gets a license and who does not (short of no numerical limit on the number of licenses) is challenge for any community. This challenge has resulted in protracted legal challenges, rewriting of ordinances or parts of ordinances (Detroit is on ordinance number 3 or 4) that has cost municipalities significant amounts of time and money.

The State of Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA) no longer tracks the number of municipalities that allow recreational marijuana businesses; however, according to statistics from the Michigan Department of Treasury there are a total of 310 communities (228 local municipalities, 78 counties and four Indian Tribes, out of 1,773, in the state that allow recreational marijuana businesses. Ten (10) of the forty-three communities in Wayne County allow recreational marijuana businesses; however, of the eighteen (18) communities that make up the Conference of Western Wayne, four (4) allow marijuana businesses. A quick internet search showed several marijuana deliveries companies (many located in Washtenaw County) that deliver to the Plymouth area. Should the city remain "opted out" of allowing marijuana businesses in town, residents do still have options to procure marijuana should they choose to do so via delivery services.

The sale of marijuana from licensed establishments is still, due to federal banking regulations, a cash business and therefore leads to public safety considerations related to potential robberies etc. According to data from the CRA in 2024 there were a total of 127 "break-ins" at marijuana facilities in the state. Of those "break-ins" 121 were at adult use/recreational marijuana businesses, ninety-one of them being at provisioning center/adult use retail locations. Many of the attached articles discuss the impact that "black-market" marijuana and the organized crime that comes with it have, many of the articles go on to say that illicit operators make it even more challenging for those businesses following the rules to operate in general let alone at a profit. A September 2024 Crain's Detroit Business titled "Loophole leaves illicit marijuana unchecked" says that an appeals court ruling in October 2023 upheld

a previous lower court ruling that illicit growers "...could not face felony charges due to voters passing the 2018 Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act." The article goes on to say that "The ruling, which the court admitted was "unjust" to the state's legal market, has created a blending of the legal and illegal weed markets in the state..." These types of issues are significantly impacting the marijuana business climate in the state creating turmoil and more uncertainty.

The industry, now seven years out from approval, has changed over the past year and with growers, some very large-scale multi-state firms, and retailers starting to close due to the significant fall in prices, that oversupply, has created. Many of the articles, specifically from the late part of 2024, indicate more businesses, growers, and retailers, closing shops. Some industry insiders indicate that they expect more of the same for 2025 and potentially into 2026 as the market adjusts to supply, pricing, and the number of businesses in the industry. Because marijuana is illegal federally there is currently no bankruptcy protection for marijuana businesses to reorganize their operations leaving them no choice but to close.

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) gathered feedback in 2024 on the possibility of rescheduling marijuana from a Schedule 1 drug (no medicinal uses, and a high potential for abuse) to a Schedule 3 drug (drugs with a moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence). The potential rescheduling of marijuana would impact federal laws and policies related to criminal charges, banking, etc. that will certainly impact the industry in Michigan. As of this writing, the rescheduling has not taken place and there is no clarity, at this time, as to if it will be rescheduled or not.

In the recent State of the State address Governor Whitmer unveiled a \$3 billion "Mi Road Ahead" plan to fund fixing the state roads. This plan comes with a proposed 32% wholesale tax on marijuana, in addition to the 10% excise tax, and the 6% sales tax. The marijuana industry in the state is genuinely concerned and some experts predict even more marijuana businesses closing as well as increased unauthorized activity. Robin Schneider, director of the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association noted in a November article from Bridge Michigan "All I hear is how terrible everyone is doing. Everybody in the industry is in full panic mode right now."

Should the City Commission, by resolution, direct the administration to develop ordinance language allowing marijuana businesses in the city it would be a monumental task and require significant resources that would impact on the ability of the team to complete other tasks critical to the accomplishment of the City's strategic goals.

The administration has reviewed various recreational marijuana ordinance language in the past and the City Commission should be aware that these ordinances are lengthy, complex, and would be extremely time consuming and expensive to develop and implement.

As indicated one of the biggest challenges, probably the biggest challenge, in developing an ordinance to allow marijuana businesses in the city (assuming the commission would limit the number/type of businesses allowed) would be the development a "competitive process" in that ordinance to choose successful applicants for the limited number of licenses should the CRA receive more applicants for locations in the city than allowed by ordinance. . Per Sec. 9.4 of the MRTMA legislation "If a municipality limits the number of marijuana establishments that

may be licensed in the municipality...and that limit prevents the department (State of MI) from issuing a state license to all applicants who meet the requirements...the municipality shall decide among competing applications by a competitive process intended to select applicants who are best suited to operate in compliance with this act within the municipality.” In other words, municipalities are required by statute to choose winners and losers In a Michigan Municipal League podcast, related to recreational marijuana, Chris Johnson the league’s General Counsel said “...the competitive process invites litigation.”

Some municipalities have opted to allow for an “unlimited” number of licenses and made efforts to control the number of licenses by designating only certain areas of the community, through zoning ordinances. Additionally, the legislation does not allow a marijuana business within one thousand feet of a school. A map is attached for the commission’s reference indicating the areas in the city within one thousand feet of a school. This becomes a challenge, particularly in a smaller community like Plymouth. This provision would relegate any establishment to a small portion of Ann Arbor Road, Main St., and Old Village area. Per the 2021 Community survey 62% of survey respondents said no to marijuana sales in downtown and 52% said no to marijuana sales in Old Village. Forty-three percent of respondents said no to sales outside of downtown and Old Village with 17% saying maybe. Should the commission choose to regulate the number of establishments strictly through zoning ordinances residents may mobilize, saying the elected officials are choosing winning/losing areas of the city for marijuana businesses via zoning regulations.

MRTMA legislation authorizes an excise tax on all licensed recreational marijuana establishments. The law further dictates how those tax revenues will be distributed in the following order: to pay the state back for their expenses first then 15% to municipalities in which marijuana establishments are located (proportionate to the number of local licensed retail establishments) then 15% to counties, 35% to the school aid fund, and 35% to the Michigan Transportation Fund. Excise tax revenue sharing for municipalities that allow retail and microbusiness amounted to \$58,288.66 per facility for the 2024 calendar year. While the industry did experience a record year revenue wise, which is what the revenue sharing is based on, the end of the year saw falling sales, businesses closing, and an uncertain year ahead. In comparison, in 2021 municipalities received \$58,100 for each licensed adult-use marijuana retail store or licensed microbusiness in their community.

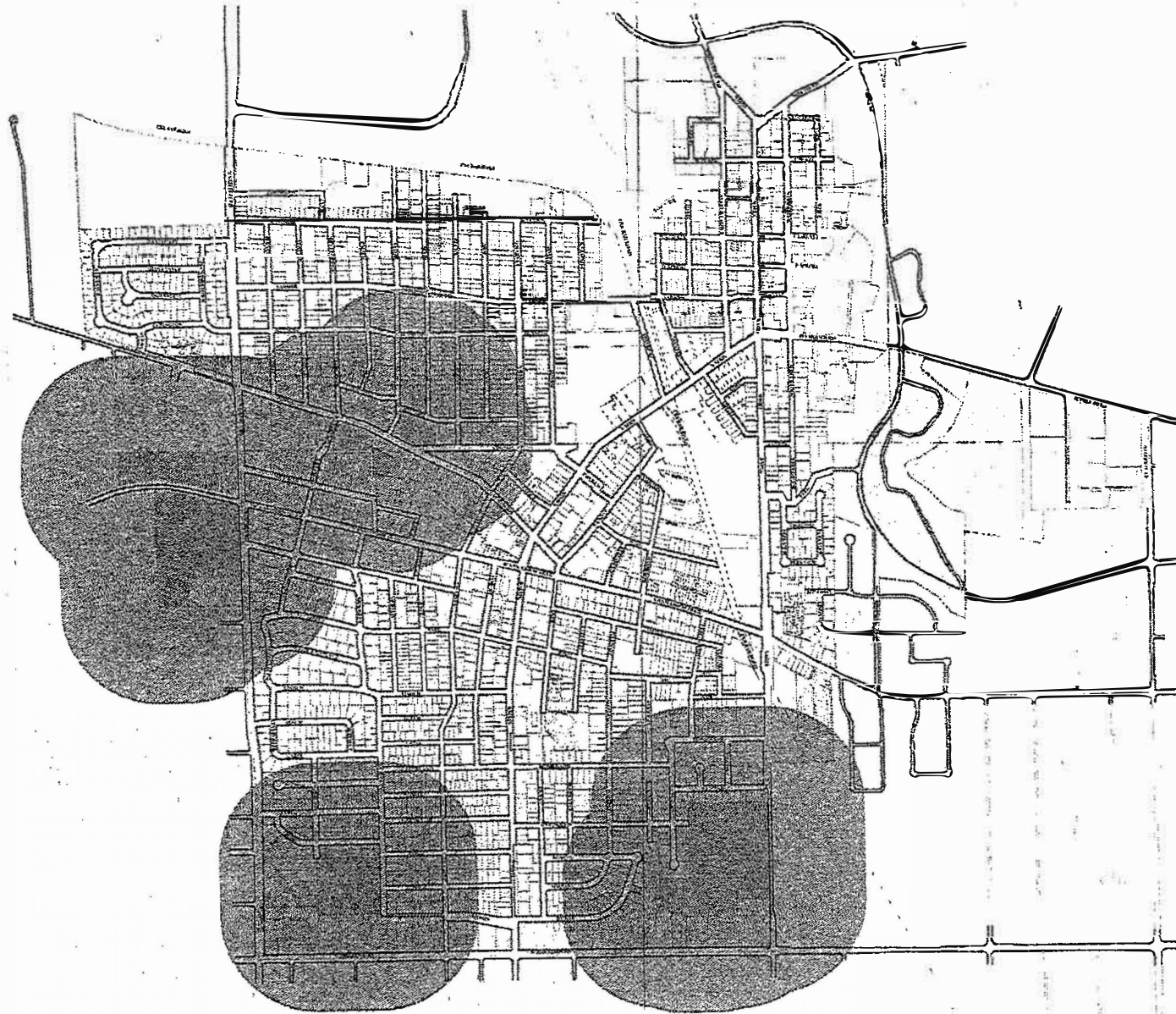
From an ordinance, regulation, zoning, and planning perspective, if the City Commission chose to opt-in, the commission in conjunction with the planning commission and other boards would have to develop and adopt a regulatory ordinance including the number and type of businesses permitted, an application process, rules and procedures, review criteria including merit-based selection criteria. In addition, from a zoning standpoint most, if not all, the City’s zoning districts would need to be amended. This would include, but not be limited to, amending permitted and special uses within each zoning district and all associated ordinances and regulations to clearly define where the businesses could be located. For years, the city has had an ordinance that requires all businesses to abide by local, state, and federal law and this ordinance would require amendment as well.


RECOMMENDATION:

Due to the current turmoil in the industry and for all the other reasons listed above the administration recommends that the city continue its position of opting out of the MRTMA. The administration believes that opting in will require significant staff and consultant resources and would be fiscally demanding and does not have an identified and readily accessible funding source. Additionally, the development of an ordinance could open the city up to costly legal challenges that may drag on for years as they have in other communities.

Should you have any questions in advance of the meeting please feel free to contact either one of us.

1000 FEET FROM SCHOOLS MAP



 Areas within 1,000 ft of Schools



1,000 ft School Zones
City of Plymouth
Wayne County, Michigan

Revision Date: Feb. 2017
Print Date: 2/23/17
City of Plymouth GIS

201 S. Main
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-1234
www.ci.plymouth.mi.us





Gift Article

10 Remaining

Good Morning, PAUL

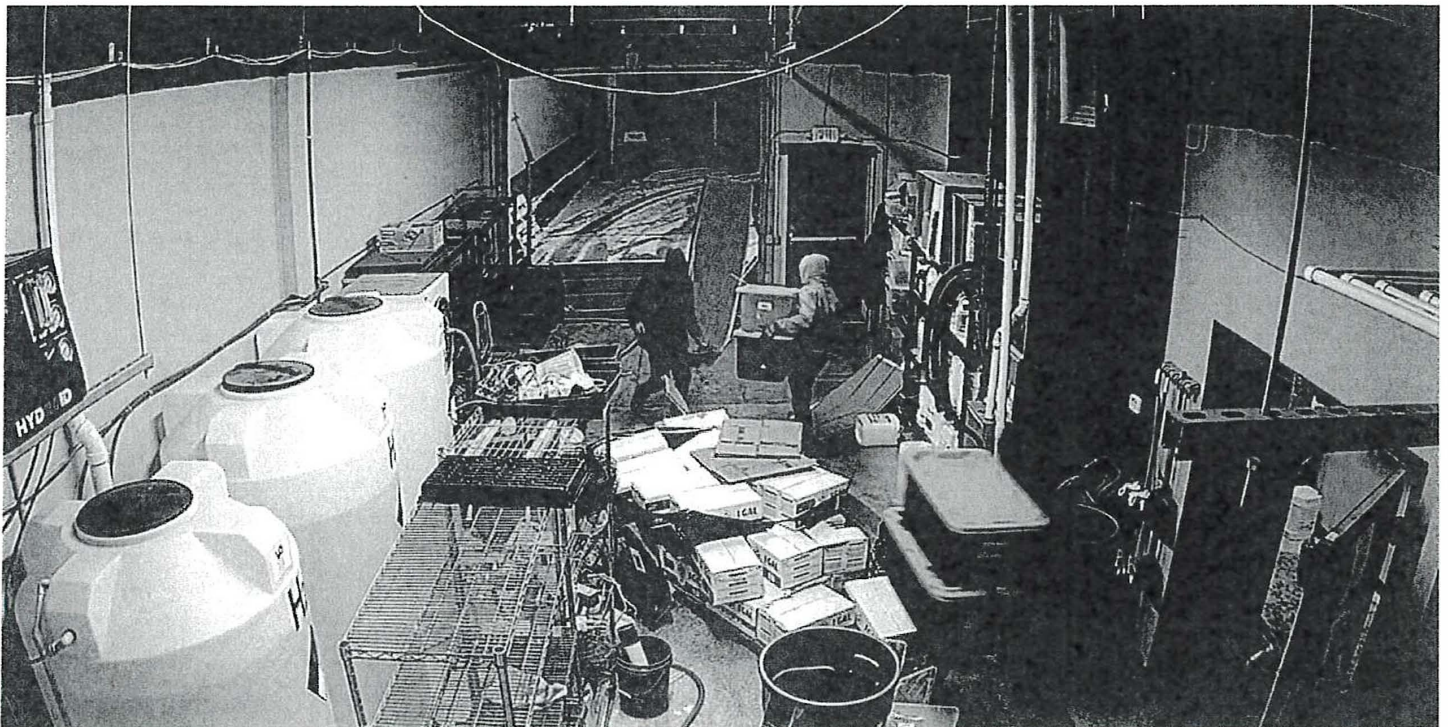
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2-14-25



in Michigan — but crime is still a problem

Gift Article



Credit: Screenshot

A screenshot of a surveillance video provided by the Detroit Police Department of a Feb. 1 burglary at a marijuana dispensary in the 13300 block of Foley Street on Detroit's west side.

Reprints Share

February 14, 2025 05:46 AM

Last month, thieves smashed through a bay door of Cloud Industries, a cannabis operator on Detroit's west side.

A reported \$500,000 of cannabis plants and equipment was taken ... this time.

It's the third break-in at Cloud's building on Military Street in Detroit in as many months.

Related →

Michigan weed prices plunge again as oversupply reaches astonishing highs

The great culling of Michigan weed companies could start in earnest in 2025

Weed companies enter receivership as part-owner faces mounting legal troubles

The question is whether the legalization of marijuana sales in the state curbed cannabis-related crime. While it did in some form — the sale and possession of certain amounts of marijuana is no longer a punishable offense — law enforcement say petty theft and other crimes aren't deterred.

And there's a rise of victims of marijuana-related crimes subverting investigations as the legal industry has turned to the black market to insulate from record-low prices across the industry.

No thanks, officer

Detroit Police Department leadership told Crain's Cloud Industries' owner, Kamal Chammout, has not cooperated with law enforcement to solve the three robberies at the grow facility.

"That seems suspicious to me at face value," said Commander Anthony O'Rourke, DPD's leader of the organized crime division. "We've asked the owner three times for video footage of the event. He's said he'll get it to us and, so far, it's not been provided. That definitely slows down the investigation."

Several emails, texts and phone calls to Chammout were not returned.

O'Rourke said this is now a common interaction with cannabis operators in the city as crime reporting has increased since legalization — but cooperation is waning as collapsing prices in the market are leaving operators with thin margins; opening the door for them to potentially break rules and laws themselves.

"Getting in contact with the victims of these crimes is very difficult," O'Rourke said. "Often times they will be certified to be a legal grow up, but they won't have a license to operate in the city of Detroit. There is almost always something going on in their facilities that isn't legal, but it's hard to investigate any of the crimes without cooperation. Everything the state has invoked, THC limits, etc., when you're running a legal business there's a lot to consider and overhead. The black market can cut costs and I suspect that's what's happening at a lot of these places that where crime is occurring."

Credit: Amy Barczy/Crain's Detroit Business

Cloud Industries' grow facility on Military Street in Detroit that experienced three break-ins in the last three months.

Chammout and his Cloud Industries have not been accused of any wrongdoing by the DPD or the CRA. They hold two Class C grow licenses from the state for their location, allowing them to grow 4,000 marijuana plants, and are licensed by the city to operate.

The company did receive a warning letter from the CRA in June last year after testing of its product revealed the presence of Spinosad, a banned insecticide.

Peter Vredeveid, an insurance broker for OVD Insurance in Grand Rapids, specializing in insurance products for the cannabis industry, told Crain's it's unlikely operators not reporting crimes is an

insurance scam to get paid while keeping the crime under the radar.

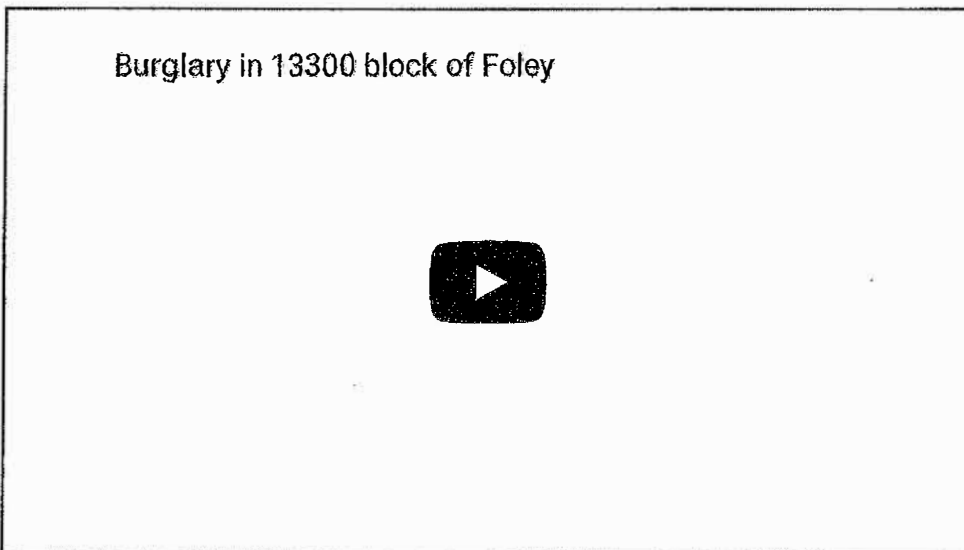
“You can buy coverage to cover your crops, but it’s a lot of hoops to jump through and very expensive,” Vredeveld said. “To get it, you basically have to build out Fort Knox at your facility. If you build out Fort Knox, then why do you need the coverage? No one is getting in.”

Vredeveld said operators are often growing more plants than they are legally allowed, exporting to other markets or acquiring illicitly grown cannabis imported from other markets — all to create a greater profit margin in a struggling legal industry.

“You can barely make any money in cannabis right now,” he said. “So these companies playing on the edges, they see opportunity in the black market. Michigan has a huge problem with illegal grows or people illegally growing more than they are allowed.”

Oversupply in the market has cratered prices.

Adult-use marijuana prices plummeted 28.6% since January 2024 to an average cost of just \$66.50 for an ounce of marijuana flower this January. Three years ago, the average price of an ounce was \$184.90.



Breaking bad

Break-ins and theft have been commonplace in the industry since legalization, but data from the CRA may validate O’Rourke’s suspicion that criminals are largely targeting either illegal grow operations, or retailers and growers not wanting regulators involved.

Reporting of break-ins to the CRA from across the industry dropped in 2024, down more than 43% from 2023. There were 91 break-ins at licensed retail stores last year; and another 23 break-ins at large Class C growing operations. In 2023, there were 178 break-ins at licensed retail stores and 18 break-ins at Class C grows.

Break-ins are self-reported to the CRA from operators, who are required to do so within 24 hours of the crime. The CRA could not immediately offer an explanation as to why break-ins at retailers

dropped year-over-year.

Aric Klar, CEO of Birmingham-based Quality Roots which has 10 retail stores across the state, said criminals target non-licensed operations because they know security may be lax.

"Non-licensed stores and non-licensed warehouses do not have the same security measures as required for us by the CRA," Klar said.

Licensed cannabis operations in the state are required to have commercial-grade security doors with an electronic or keypad access; a commercial alarm system and a video surveillance system covering all areas where marijuana is transported or stored. Those cameras must be motion-activated; and their recordings must be stored for a minimum of 30 days.

That setup alone costs legal operators \$250,000 or more in some cases.

Besides petty theft, violence has also entered on the fringes of the industry.

Sam Simko, a 66-year old caregiver, was murdered at his Pontiac grow warehouse on Jan. 13.

Simko was executed in a suspected robbery-gone-wrong. Four suspects from Ohio have been charged with felony murder and armed robbery, The Oakland Press reported. Three of the suspects, taken into custody a week after the murder, were found with 50 pounds of marijuana, according to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

Caregivers in the state are allowed to grow a maximum of 72 plants under the 2008 Michigan Medical Marijuana Act, which allowed for private grows and sales on the small scale to protect medical patients. The city of Pontiac was aware of the operation, but it remains unclear whether Simko was operating above board of the regulations, according to reporting from The Oakland Press.

The 50 pounds of recovered marijuana could have easily come from a 72-plant operation, as long as it represented multiple six-week cycles, the average time it takes to grow an indoor marijuana plant to harvest.

The industry average for an indoor grow operation is a yield of a quarter pound to half pound of product per plant. To net 50 pounds in one grow cycle, Simko would have had to cultivate buds from 100 plants under optimal conditions.

The yield would also be very valuable to those Ohio criminals, with an estimated average value of \$55,360 in Michigan in December. In Ohio, where the assailants are from, that same 50 pounds would be worth nearly three times as much at \$153,920.

"This is all financially driven, as it's always been," O'Rourke said. "Because marijuana has gone legal, the black market still exists and there's a lot of people out there who are now able to grow and ship from much larger facilities, licensed or not, and it's very lucrative."



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JK Logix Dec 30, 2024 7 min read

Everything to know about Michigan's Recreational Marijuana Laws - 2025 Update

Updated: Jan 9

Since JK Logix first reported on [recreational marijuana laws](#) in 2022, Michigan has become the [largest cannabis market](#) in the country (take THAT, California)! To keep pace with the industry's explosive growth, there have been several significant updates to Michigan's recreational marijuana laws since it's official legalization back in 2018.

So whether you're a long-time Michigan marijuana enthusiast, an out of state visitor, or a hard-working member of the cannabis industry, here's everything you need to know about Michigan's 2025 recreational marijuana laws, including new rules, purchase limits, industry insights, and tax information.

Recreational Marijuana in Michigan: The Basics

In 2018, Michigan became the first state in the Midwest (and 10th state nationwide) to legalize recreational marijuana under the [Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act \(MRTMA\)](#). Adults aged 21 and older may purchase, possess, and consume marijuana within the state. However,

marijuana remains illegal at the federal level, which means it's prohibited on federal lands or properties, even if they're in Michigan.

What's Allowed:

- **Possession:** You can carry up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana (with up to 15 grams being marijuana concentrate) and keep up to 10 ounces at home.
- **Cultivation:** Residents can grow up to 12 plants at a private residence, provided they are secured and not visible to the public. And while it has nothing to do with regulations, home growers also need to be okay with a pretty hefty electric bill...
- **Gifting:** Sharing up to 2.5 ounces with another adult is legal, as long as no compensation is involved. Merry Christmas Grandma :)
- **Consumption:** Marijuana can only be used in private spaces or licensed places like consumption lounges.

What's Prohibited:

- Consuming marijuana in public spaces (parks, streets, bars, etc.) or vehicles.
- Transporting marijuana across state lines.
- Offering marijuana as part of a promotion or event giveaway.

For visitors, the same rules apply, making Michigan a welcoming destination for cannabis enthusiasts.

+ A resource on getting from point A to point B: "[Guide for Transporting Recreational Marijuana in your Personal Vehicle](#)"



Key Updates to Michigan Marijuana Laws 2025

Here are the top 5 recreational and medical marijuana regulatory and industry changes JK Logix is tracking.

✓ 1. New or Amended Recreational Marijuana Laws

Since 2022, the Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA) has made several adjustments:

- **Delivery Services Expansion:** As long as you have a licensed [Michigan marijuana transport company](#) dispensaries can now offer recreational marijuana deliveries statewide. While medical deliveries were already allowed, this update provides greater access to recreational users. (Woo-hoo!)
- **Social Use Spaces:** More consumption lounges have been established as social spaces where folks can enjoy weed together. *More on that below.*
- **Packaging Safety Standard Updates:** Higher security standards are in place to ensure products are both secure and clearly labeled. Michigan requires that all cannabis packaging must be sealed and child-resistant. Packaging must also be made of food-grade materials to prevent contamination.
- **Labeling Requirement Updates:** Labeling requirements are extensive. The following information must be included on EACH product label:
 - Product Identity
 - Net Weight
 - THC and CBD Content
 - Ingredients
 - Universal Symbol: A symbol indicating that the product contains THC must be included on the label.
 - Warning Labels: A label must be included indicating that the product may cause impairment.
 - Testing Information: information about the lab testing that was conducted on the product.
 - Batch Number: Each product must have a unique batch number that can be traced back to the manufacturing process.
 - Expiration Date: The label must include an expiration date or recommended use-by date. This is now mandated for edibles, concentrates, and vape products to curb contamination risks and better inform consumers about THC potency and components.

✓ 2. Decline in Medical Marijuana Usage

Medical marijuana use in Michigan has steadily declined, partly due to the accessibility of recreational cannabis. Between 2020 and 2025, the number of registered medical marijuana patients dropped by over 30%, with some dispensaries converting to recreational-only operations.

While medical marijuana remains an essential option for certain patients, the industry's focus has clearly shifted toward recreational sales.

- > 3. Updated Purchase Limits for Edibles and Concentrates
- > 4. Changes for Out-of-State Visitors
- ✓ 5. Tax Structure for Cannabis Products

Michigan's marijuana tax remains one of the most straightforward in the U.S.:

- **Recreational Marijuana Tax:** A 10% excise tax on all recreational cannabis sales, in addition to the standard 6% state sales tax.
- **Medical Marijuana Tax:** Medical marijuana is not subject to the 10% excise tax but is still taxed at 6%.

Revenue generated from cannabis taxes is split 3 ways to support the local municipalities and counties where they reside (30%), the School Aid Fund for K-12 education (35%), and the Michigan Transportation Fund (35%).

Below, you'll find a chart that dives deeper into revenue share as categorized by Michigan counties:

County	# of Licenses	Revenue Distribution
Detroit	33	\$1,949,850
Ann Arbor	26	\$1,536,245
Lansing	24	\$1,418,072
Grand Rapids	23	\$1,358,986
Kalamazoo	18	\$1,063,554
Monroe	16	\$945,382
Bay City	16	\$945,382
Big Rapids	15	\$886,295
Battle Creek	15	\$886,295
Bangor	15	\$886,295

Data taken from 2023 tax/fee revenue recipients by city by Gus Burns

The Michigan Cannabis Industry in 2025

We think it'd be fair to say that over the past 6 years since legalization, Michigan's weed market has been growing like a... weed.

- **Number of Dispensaries:** By 2025, Michigan is home to over 600 recreational dispensaries and thousands of licensed cultivators, processors, and transporters.
- **Economic Impact:** Cannabis sales exceeded \$3 billion in 2024, solidifying Michigan's position as one of the largest cannabis markets in the U.S.
- **Job Creation:** The industry now employs close to 30,000 people across various functions, from cultivation to customer service roles at dispensaries to your favorite [secure cannabis transportation companies](#).
- **Social Equity Programs:** Designed to support individuals from disproportionately affected communities, these initiatives offer substantial benefits like reduced licensing fees and business support.



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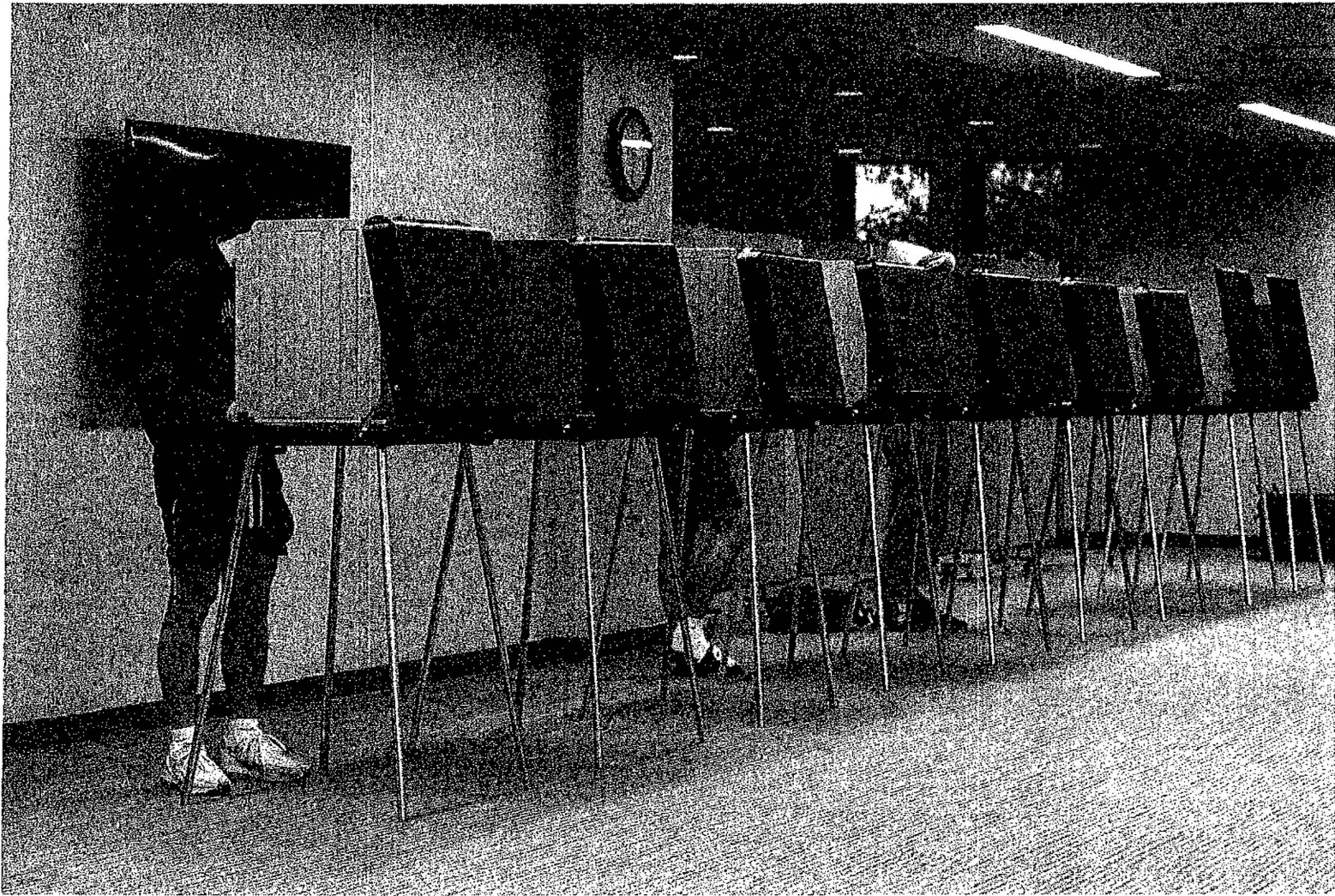
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POLITICS & ELECTIONS

Michigan voters overwhelmingly rejected new marijuana business proposals

Updated: Nov. 07, 2024, 1:15 p.m. | Published: Nov. 06, 2024, 1:47 p.m.



Michigan State University students cast their ballots in the MSU Union Building in East Lansing, Mich. on Monday, November 4, 2024. The Union is located at 49 Abbot Rd. Charlie Nick | MLive.com



By [Gus Burns | fburns@mlive.com](#)

Ballot proposals seeking to expand marijuana commerce across Michigan largely failed on Nov. 5.

Among 12 ballot initiatives identified by MLive, eight that sought to expand the number of marijuana licenses failed, three passed and another that would have prohibited all marijuana commerce was rejected.

Trump Revokes Temporary Protected Status For 600,000 Venezuelans

Nearly five years after recreational marijuana sales began in Michigan, communities are still debating whether to allow cannabis businesses within their borders.

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As of September, 139 municipalities had opted to allow marijuana businesses, while 1,370 had opted out of the cannabis industry, according to Cannabis Regulatory Agency monthly statistical reports.



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Man burned in explosion while trying to extract THC from marijuana in motel bathroom Jan. 24, 2025, 9:42 a.m.

To combat Trump's moves, Kalamazoo Township proposes protections for immigrants, LGBT Jan. 26, 2025, 8:05 a.m.

The following list contains voting results for proposals that were before voters on Nov. 5.

- **Berrien County, Niles Township: a proposal to rescind the 2019 ordinance banning marijuana businesses and to allow a minimum of four retail, one secure transporter and one safety compliance lab licenses passed with 52% of the vote, 3,002-2,757**
- Berrien County, Royalton Township: a proposal to allow up three each of grower, processor, microbusiness and retailer licenses failed with 44% of the vote, 1,291-1,619.
- **Gladwin County, Tobacco Township: a proposal to allow marijuana businesses passed with 50.5% of the vote, 794-779**
- Ingham County, Mason: a proposal to create a charter amendment allowing for two marijuana retailers failed with 43% of the vote, 2,675-1,979
- Livingston County, Howell: a proposal to create a charter amendment allowing for two marijuana retailers failed with 48% of the vote, 2,471-2,722
- Monroe County, Bedford Township: a proposal to repeal the communities ban on marijuana businesses and allow up to five retail businesses failed with 36% of the vote, 6,501-11,473
- Monroe County, Erie Township: a proposal to allow a marijuana retail business failed with 40% of the vote, 917-1,388
- **Oakland County, Clawson: a proposal to create a charter amendment allowing for two marijuana retailers passed with 54% of the vote, 3,824-3,269**
- Oakland County, Lathrup Village: a proposal to repeal the prohibition on marijuana business and another to allow two retailers and two safety compliance labs both failed with 41% and 42% of the vote, respectively, 1,216-1,758 and 1,238-1,742
- Oakland County, Royal Oak Township: a proposal to ban all marijuana businesses failed with 48% of the vote, 548-589

- Washtenaw County, Lodi Township: a proposal to allow five grow and two processing licenses failed with 38% of the vote, 2,524-1,529

If you are aware of any proposals that were before voters and not included in this list, please contact reporter Gus Burns at fburns@mlive.com

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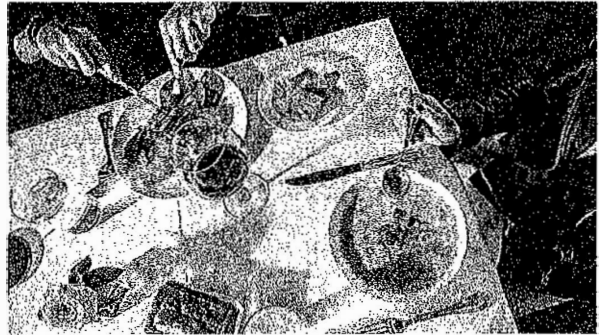
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Cannabis company shuttered Adrian facility as Michigan industry struggles

The average price for an ounce of recreational flower dropped from more than \$512 in January 2020 to \$74 in October

By Steve Neavling

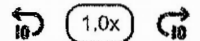
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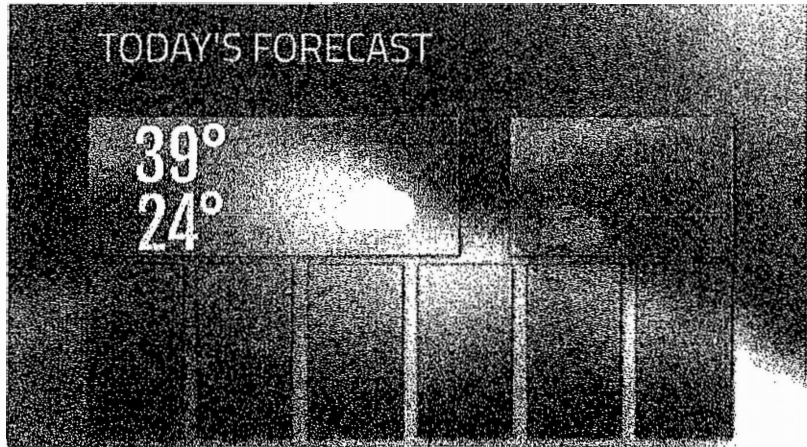


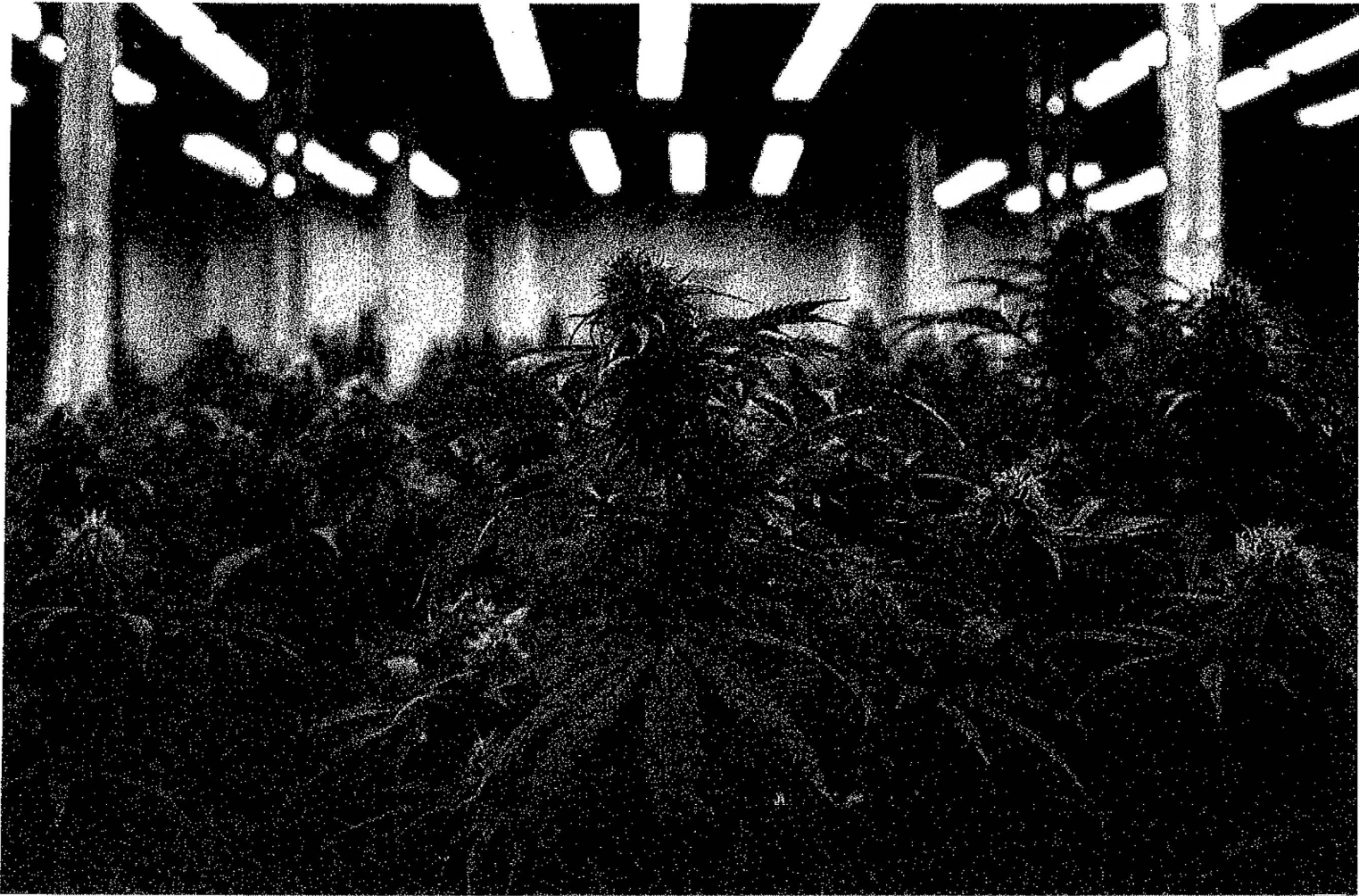
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7 Day Weather Forecast for DETROIT, MI for January 30, 2025






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Cannabis wholesaler Tend.Harvest.Cultivate is closing its Adrian facility as growers continue to struggle with low prices

A prominent cannabis wholesaler in Michigan announced it will close its Adrian facility as part of a strategic plan to streamline operations and strengthen its financial position as the industry continues to face intense competition. 7 Day Weather Forecast for DETROIT, MI for January 30, 2025

Tend.Harvest.Cultivate., which operates its Grand Rapids facility, which will serve production, and distribution.

The decision to close the Adrian facility is part of a broader industry trend of consolidation and market, including significant price compression. The average price for an ounce of recreational flower dropped from more than \$512 in January 2020 to \$74 in October, an 86% decline, according to the Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency. 

During the same period, an ounce of medical flower dropped from \$267 to \$92.60.

“We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Adrian community, our employees, our customers, and the City of Adrian for their incredible support and partnership,” CEO Brandon Kanitz said in a news release Monday. “We are deeply grateful to have been welcomed by such a vibrant community and to have had the opportunity to contribute to the local economy and the city’s growth.”

The company’s brands include Fluresh, Carbon, Mr. X, and Jasper, according to [its website](#).

Since its establishment in Adrian, Tend.Harvest.Cultivate. has supported local causes, collaborated with small businesses, and contributed to the local economy. The company emphasized its pride in the relationships it built with community members, customers, and local partners.

7 Day Weather Forecast for DETROIT, MI for January 30, 2025

The closure, however, was described as sustainability.

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“While closing the Adrian facility was a difficult decision, it enables us to concentrate our efforts on our more profitable assets, allowing us to better serve our customers for years to come,” Kanitz said.

Employees impacted by the closure will receive resources and support during the transition, including 60 days of severance pay. The company is also working to relocate team members where possible.

The decision reflects broader market pressures within the cannabis industry, particularly declining prices and increased competition. By consolidating operations at its Grand Rapids facility, Tend.Harvest.Cultivate. aims to improve efficiency and performance while maintaining a foundation for future growth, the company said.

Despite the closure, the company expressed deep gratitude for the Adrian community’s support.

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“We are sincerely thankful to have been part of Adrian’s community and depart with gratitude for everyone who has been part of our journey,” the company stated.

7 Day Weather Forecast for DETROIT, MI for January 30, 2025

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Business Watch


Ohio helps make Michigan No. 1 in weed sales — but perhaps not for long



Michigan's nearly \$3.2 billion recreational marijuana market is bolstered by the tens of thousands of customers from Ohio who can get to Monroe Township's so-called "green mile" off I-75, just 11 miles north of the border. But some of those sales could

return to Ohio in the next couple of years as its own recreational market, opening this year, grows. (Bridge photo by Mike Wilkinson)

 June 19, 2024

 [Janelle D. James \(Email\)](#) & [Mike Wilkinson \(Email\)](#)

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Ohio helps make Michigan No. ...



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 ADAURIS

- Michigan reportedly sells the most legal cannabis of any state between the coasts, benefitting from customers in neighboring states where it is not legal
- But Ohio legalized recreational cannabis last November and retailers there are expected to begin sales as early as this month
- Experts say the change will eventually dig into sales in Michigan, where dozens of cannabis retailers have positioned themselves close to the Ohio border

Michigan's status as the Midwest's top weed-selling state — its \$3.2 billion in annual sales bolstered by residents from neighboring states — faces a new challenge: Ohio will soon have its own burgeoning recreational cannabis market.

That change, starting as early as this month, is expected to take a bite out of Michigan's cannabis sales, which at times have even surpassed sales in California, a

state with four times the population and a long history of legal marijuana use.

But it could take years before Ohio's market matures enough, experts say, to stop the thousands of Ohioans from crossing the border for their weed needs.

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"Usually it takes 18 to 24 months just to start off a program ... and get something up and running," said Beau Whitney, chief economist for the National Industrial Hemp Council of America.

That gives Michigan's retailers — and the municipalities getting hundreds of thousands of dollars in marijuana tax money — some time before they face substantial competition.

As of now, there's not much competition, said Andrew Narvaez, a Toledo resident who talked with Bridge Michigan as he visited King of Budz, a marijuana retailer just 12 miles north of the Ohio border.

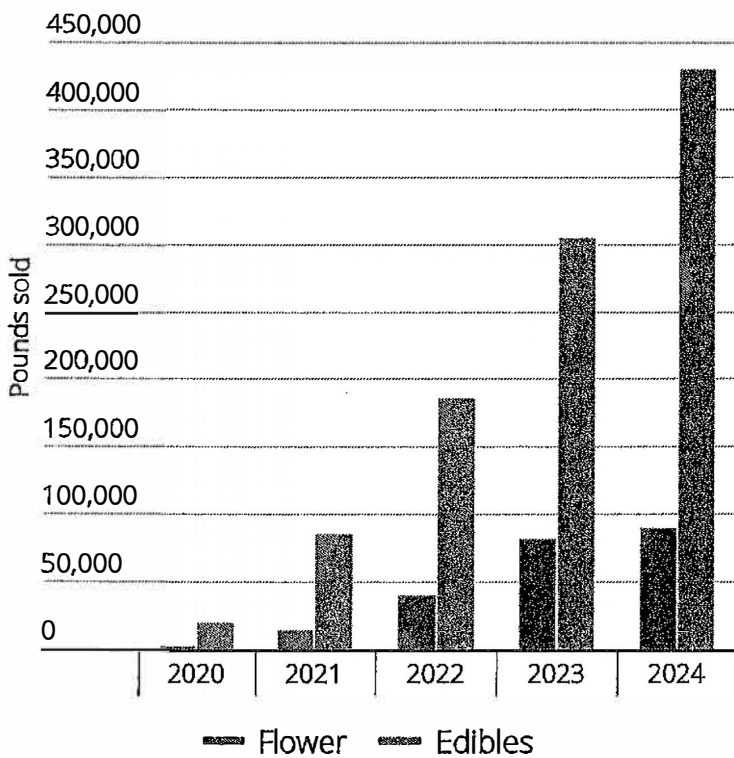
He said the cost for medicinal marijuana in Ohio is four times higher than recreational marijuana in Michigan. So, for now he said, it's just a better deal to head north to Monroe Township, where seven stores form a "green mile" of marijuana businesses on LaPlaisance Road that begins at I-75.

"It needs to be as cheap if not cheaper," said Narvaez, 32, for him to buy marijuana in Ohio.

It wasn't always cheap in Michigan: In 2020, an ounce of flower cannabis went for over \$400; by 2023 and this year, it had fallen to just under \$90. It could take the Ohio marijuana market a long time to grow and have enough competition to get to the same point.

Michigan weed sales soar since legalization

Sales of flower and edible marijuana products has risen quickly since legal recreational marijuana was allowed following a statewide vote in 2018, with many stores flocking to border counties like Monroe to take advantage of customers from states where marijuana is not legally sold. But Ohio just approved recreational marijuana sales, a move that could slow sales.



Source: Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency



— Mike Wilkinson

Ohio legal, but it will take time to grow

All told, Monroe Township has 16 marijuana retailers; exceeded only by Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo — all cities whose populations dwarf the township's population of just over 14,300 people.

Related:

- [Marijuana edibles, vape pens in Michigan schools prompt calls for reform](#)

- Michigan local governments getting \$87 million from marijuana sales
- Michigan marijuana industry sees record sales, even as some struggle

Jeff Hall, city administrator of tiny Morenci in Lenawee County, literally bordering Ohio, knows exactly why five retailers chose his small, 2,200-person city: It's on the border. The city capped the number of stores at five but Hall said more wanted to set up shop.

"We had quite a lengthy list that wanted in," he said.

Ohioans make up roughly half of the customers at the Monroe Township stores, according to a Bridge Michigan review of cars in retailers' parking lots, and make up to 70% of all sales in the township's retailers, township Supervisor Alan Barron told Bridge.



Monroe Township Supervisor Alan Barron at the inclusive playground the township built using some of the community's marijuana adult-use tax proceeds from the state. The township, one of only three communities in Monroe County to allow recreational marijuana stores, has 16 retailers, most just off I-75. Ohioans make up half the cannabis business, officials say. (Bridge photo by Mike Wilkinson)

Border towns in other parts of Michigan also get waves of customers from neighboring states. Retailers set up shop in New Buffalo, near the Indiana line, and in Menominee and other Upper Peninsula counties bordering Wisconsin.

Every Michigan county that borders Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio has cannabis retailers and their proximity to those states is part of the allure: Bridge estimates that more than 5 million people in those states are within 100 miles of the Michigan border.

But now, the biggest market — Ohio — is allowing recreational sales. It will take time to add stores and capacity. But as that market expands, it will eventually have a negative impact on Michigan sales, Whitney said.

“A lot of your retailers bordering Ohio, they’re going to be hit the hardest, and so their revenue is going to go down,” said Whitney of the National Cannabis Industry Association. “What I’m forecasting in Michigan is an actual decline in revenue,” as demand for cannabis in Ohio increases, he said.

The change won’t happen overnight. It will depend on how quickly the state can convert its medicinal shops for recreational use.

In the Toledo area, where many Michigan marijuana customers who are coming in from Ohio live, none of the existing medicinal cannabis stores are big enough to rival those in Monroe Township — at least not yet.

The lure of good product, low prices

California has dominated the cannabis industry since it was the first state to legalize cannabis for medicinal use in 1996. Despite the population difference, Michigan this year has sold more cannabis products than California, according to at least one measure.

In February, Michigan sold over 20.8 million pack units, defined as a single packaged cannabis product that could either be an edible or flower, according to data from BDSA, a cannabis analytics firm based in Colorado. California sold just over 20.5 million pack units.

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The following month, Michigan surpassed California in total products sold when consumers bought over 22 million packaged products while consumers in California only bought just over 21 million products.

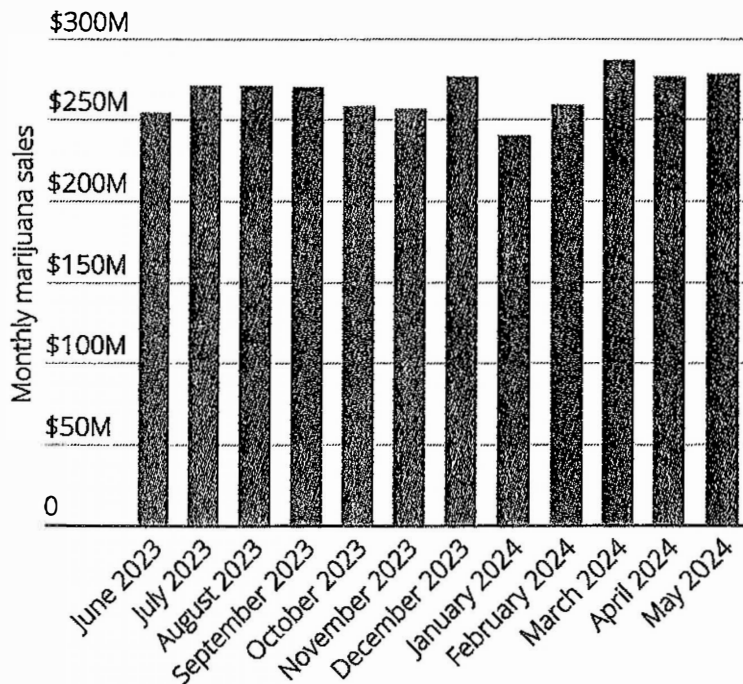
Data from BDSA shows that in the last four months, the two states have gone back and forth in the total number of products sold, but cannabis is more profitable in California than it is in Michigan.

Even in the months when Michigan sold more products, total dollar sales in California were nearly twice as high, BDSA found. In February, the total retail sales in California were over \$408 million but in Michigan, retail sales totaled \$261 million. Similarly, California's sales were \$427 million in March compared to Michigan's \$288 million.

But there is no question that Michigan's recreational marijuana market is big, growing from nothing to an average of \$266 million in sales every month in the past year, according to the state's Cannabis Regulatory Agency. Only California, Washington and Illinois generate more in marijuana tax revenue than Michigan. Both Washington and Illinois tax cannabis at a far higher rate than Michigan.

Michigan 'weed' market tops \$3B

Michigan's more than 700 marijuana retailers sold nearly \$3.2 billion in products in the past year, making the state one of the largest recreational marijuana markets in the country, at times exceeding even California. Michigan's sales have been boosted by residents of neighboring states that haven't legalized recreational marijuana.



Source: Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency



— Mike Wilkinson

A Michigan retailer told Bridge Michigan that one reason the state's prices are so low is there are too many licensed retailers trying to outsell each other.

"I think that there's so many people out there undercutting each other on pricing. That's the problem," said Jerry Millen, owner of The Greenhouse, a cannabis shop in Walled Lake.

"Manufacturers are producing product and not placing enough margin on their profits to even stay in business. Everybody's got a mentality, like, 'Well, I'll just put the other guy out of business by selling so cheap.' Doesn't work that way," Millen said.

Frederika McClary Easley, vice president of the Minority Cannabis Business Association said that one way to address the low prices and still remain competitive, especially as Ohio enters the market, is for more retailers to open in localities that originally opted out of having cannabis shops.

"In order for Michigan to really be able to claim its stronghold, it's going to need to balance out that supply-and-demand piece and make more sure municipalities are opting in," Easley said.

"One of the benefits that Michigan has is that the quality of their cannabis is still being regarded," she said. "If people are already used to driving, if it's ... not that long of a drive, as long as it makes sense monetarily, I feel like they'll still do that."

Pot payouts

Michigan distributed over \$87 million from marijuana sales taxes to 198 municipalities and the 71 counties where adult recreational marijuana retailers are allowed. That's up 46% from the \$59 million distributed the year before.

- Marijuana revenue per 1,000 residents
- More than \$40,000
 - \$20,000 to \$39,900
 - \$10,000 to \$19,900
 - Less than \$10,000
 - No retail stores

Municipal distributions

Here is how much each municipality that allows recreational marijuana sales got in fiscal year 2023. For each retail license in the community, it gets \$59,086 from the state. For some communities, 2023 was the first year legal marijuana sales were allowed. You can search by community or county.

Search			
	Retailers	Revenue	Change from 2022 (%)
Alpena (Alpena)	3	\$177,259	71
Benton Harbor (Berrien)	4	\$236,345	52
Crystal Falls (Iron)	2	\$118,173	14
Ewart (Osceola)	1	\$59,086	14
Flint (Genesee)	9	\$531,777	28.2
Grand Rapids (Kent)	23	\$1,358,986	54.2

Hazel Park (Oakland)	10	\$590,864	42.5
Inkster (Wayne)	6	\$354,518	128
Iron Mountain (Dickinson)	2	\$118,173	14

Source: Michigan Department of Treasury



— Mike Wilkinson

Cannabis sales boost local communities

For Michigan communities that have allowed the retailers, the decision has led to tens of thousands of dollars in shared marijuana-generated money. In Monroe Township, the municipality budgeted for \$500,000 this year — and got \$945,000 (\$59,000 for each store).

Alan Barron, the township supervisor, said the township has used the money to add police protection, fix roads and upgrade a park playground, making it inclusive for people with disabilities.

And though residents have complained about the extra traffic on LaPlaisance Road — the main artery to get onto southbound I-75 — the pluses have outweighed the minuses, Barron said.

“Really, never had the money to do it,” Barron said, talking about park upgrades, including tennis and basketball courts. “Now we do.”

Barron, a retired math teacher who said he voted against the 2018 marijuana legalization ballot proposal, is familiar with the stores, having visited most in his capacity as municipal leader. He said he does not fear what could happen with the legalization in Ohio.

For now, they’ll keep selling cannabis and his township will continue sharing in the state revenues from the sales.

“Your big stores are going to survive,” he said.

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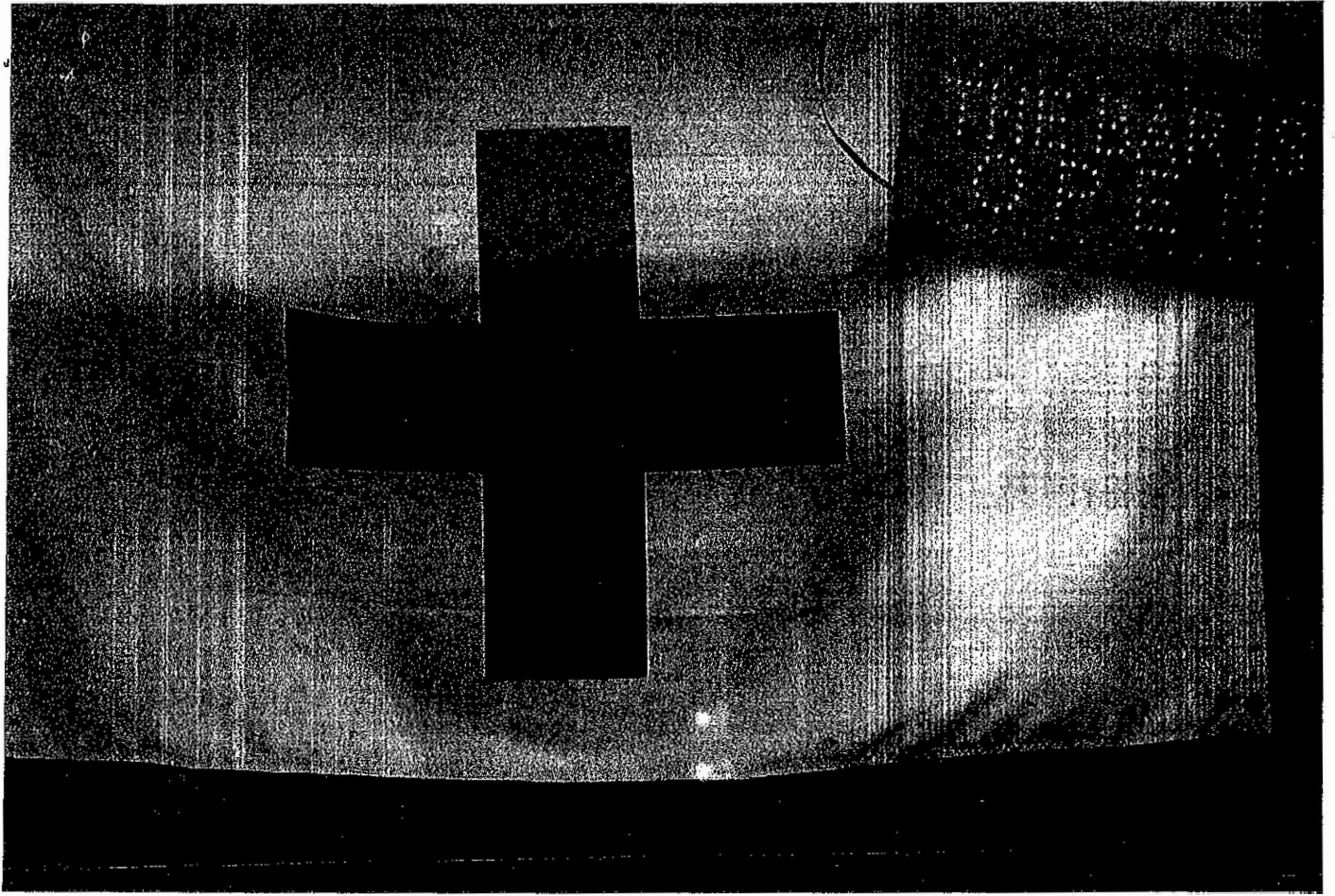
CANNABIS

Medical marijuana accounts for less than 1% of Michigan sales. Is it time for a change?

Published: Dec. 23, 2024, 7:00 a.m.



By Gus Burns | fburns@mlive.com



File photo - A medical marijuana store in Bangor, Michigan on Monday, Feb. 24, 2020. Joel Bissell | MLive.com

LANSING, MI — Only 62 cents of every \$100 spent on marijuana in Michigan in the past year went toward medical marijuana.

Since the first recreational stores opened in 2019, total marijuana sales have boomed. They're currently on pace to surpass \$3.3 billion this year. But that has come at the expense of a once-thriving medical marijuana market that's now on life support.

The medical customer base - 81,273 registered patients as of November - continues to dwindle as certifications lapse and aren't renewed.

By comparison, the state had 276,253 registered medical marijuana patients five years ago.

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Among the nearly 850 marijuana shops operating across the state by Dec. 1, less than a quarter were licensed to sell medical pot, and when they do, the medical products receive scarce shelf space. MLive identified just a dozen shops selling medical product only.

But the state still maintains different laws and tax structures to regulate medical marijuana and spends millions of dollars a year to do so.

Legislators and cannabis business leaders have wanted to combine the medical and adult-use markets for years, but proposed legislation that would have done so is likely dead as a result of political infighting in the waning days of the lame-duck session.

House bills 5884 and 5885 had sought to eliminate the medical market and merge certain aspects with the recreational regulatory structure by 2026.

The proposed laws would have allowed medically registered patients to buy recreational products while still receiving the perks of being a medical patient, meaning they wouldn't be subject to the 10% recreational excise tax.

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Furthermore, current laws barring sales to customers under 21 wouldn't apply to medical marijuana patients, who can buy the drug as young as 18.

The bills call for existing medical marijuana licenses to be automatically converted to adult-use in March 2026. However, municipalities that don't want recreational businesses have the option to pass ordinances banning the changeover within their borders.

Michigan medical marijuana monthly sales

Monthly sales

Oct 2022	Jan 2023	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan 2024	Apr	Jul	Oct
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Chart: Scott Levin | slevin@mlive.com • Source: Cannabis Regulatory Agency • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

The proposed laws received bipartisan support — they were sponsored by state Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr., D-Ypsilanti, and state Rep. Graham Filler, R-St. Johns — as well as backing from the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association, the largest cannabis trade organization in the state.

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Any changes to the marijuana law require a super-majority, 3/4 vote of the Legislature, since the laws were created through a citizen ballot initiative.

“The issue our members are having is they have to file two applications each year, one for med and one for rec, and they also have to pay double license fees for that,” said Robin Schneider, director of the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association. “And then there are regulatory duplications that they have to adhere to because, because the programs are separate, and so it’s very costly and expensive for them to be running two parallel programs within their facility.”

Until December 2021, marijuana businesses were required to also have a medical marijuana license. Since that rule has expired, a minority of business are opting to retain dual licenses.

The Cannabis Regulatory Agency spent \$9 million — nearly \$755,000 per month — for wages, benefits and other costs to regulate the medical market over the last 12 months, including processing renewals, new licenses, inspections and enforcement. The agency spent \$20.4 million regulating recreational marijuana over the same

period.

Schneider called proposed legislation to merge the markets "long overdue."

Supporters of a merger say the changes would give medical patients more options for marijuana, while reducing administrative and business costs needed to sustain the evaporating medical market.

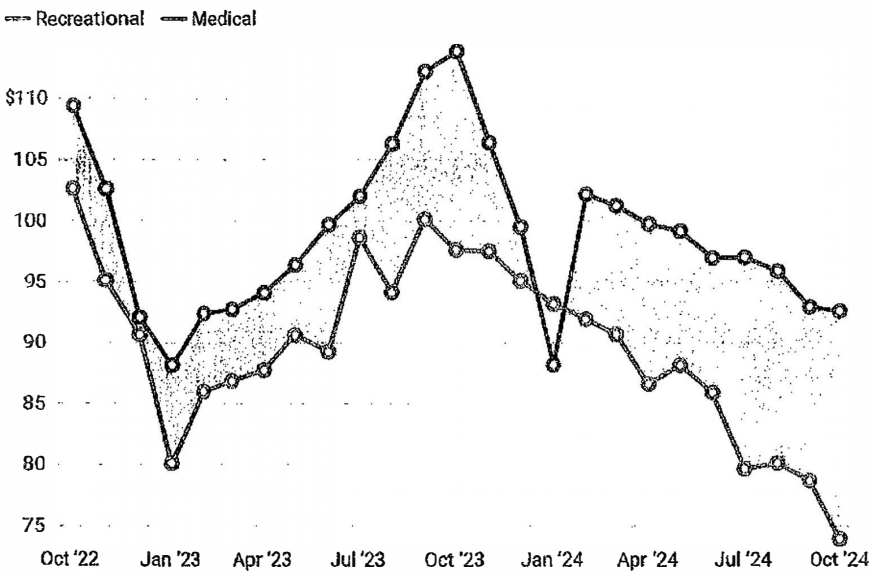
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George Brikho, who operates the Jazz Cannabis Club recreational marijuana store in Detroit and previously led the now-defunct Michigan Medical Marijuana Association, said most medical customers have already been pushed aside by corporate profit seeking.

"It's pretty much all mass-produced product," Brikho said. "It's not focused on medical. Certain marijuana is good for certain illnesses or health problems, and the market has veered away from that.

"It's hard to find strain-specific marijuana for patients, and medical marijuana patients are giving up their cards."

Michigan medical vs. recreational marijuana cost per ounce



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There has been little opposition to the proposed bills.

The Michigan Sheriff's Association opposed a previous version that would have stripped some funding to law enforcement. Matt Saxton, the organization's director, said the latest versions no longer do that and the Sheriff's Association is now "neutral" on the proposal.

What politicians and business leaders are now seeking is "just a clean merge," Filler said, "just to have one act in the state of Michigan to cut down on the bureaucracy and ... allow this to be an industry you want to invest in in the state of Michigan because we're regulated and we have rules and laws that make sense."

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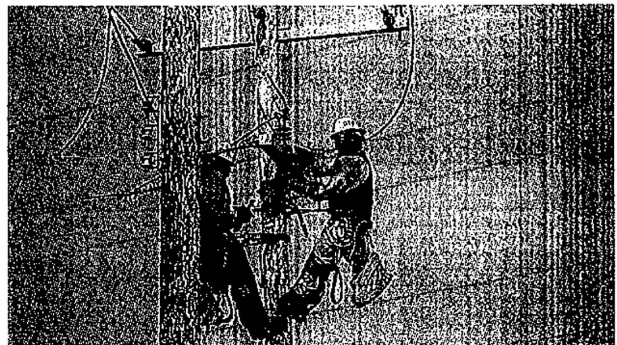
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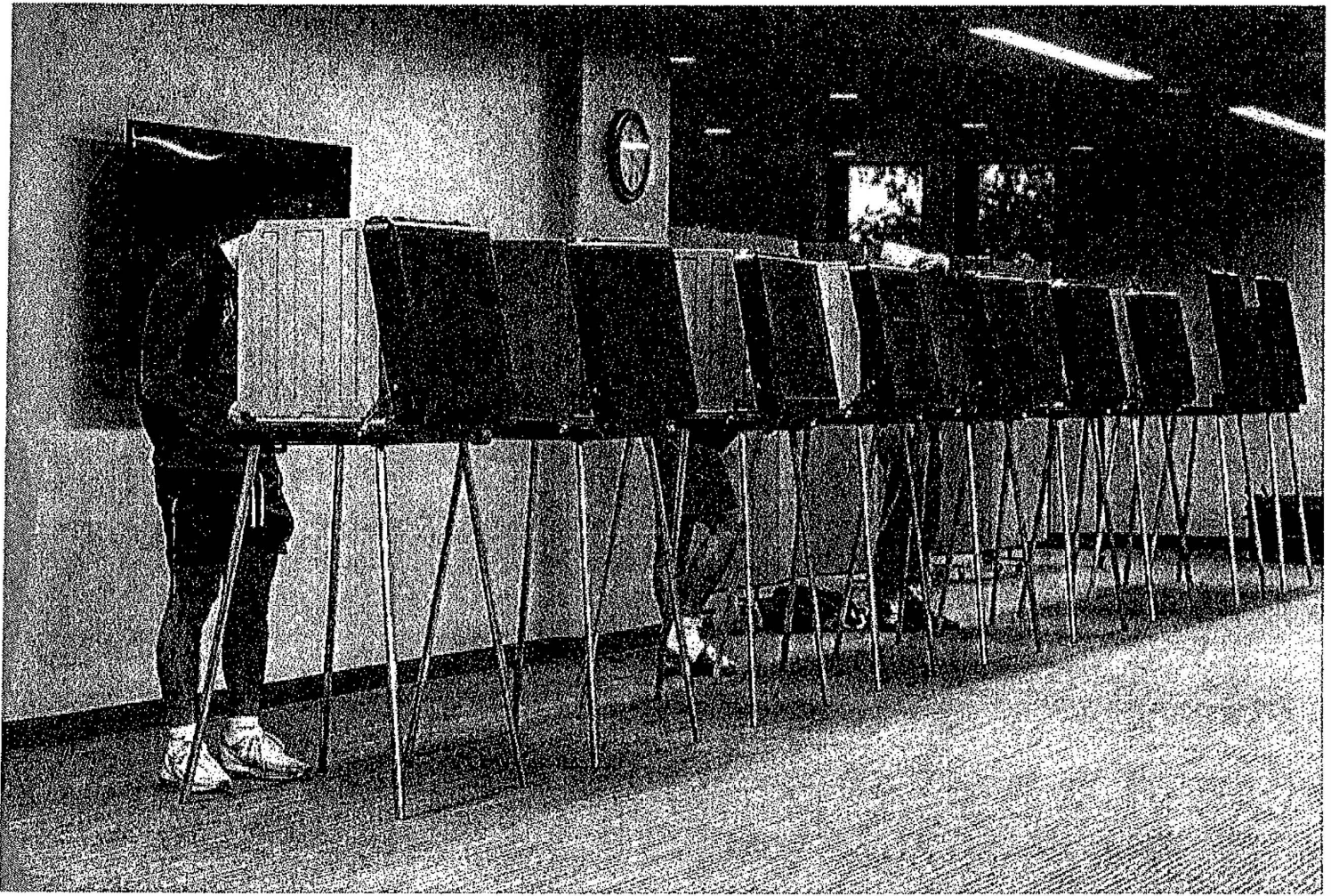
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POLITICS & ELECTIONS

Michigan voters overwhelmingly rejected new marijuana business proposals

Updated: Nov. 06, 2024, 4:20 p.m. | Published: Nov. 06, 2024, 1:47 p.m.



Michigan State University students cast their ballots in the MSU Union Building in East Lansing, Mich. on Monday, November 4, 2024. The Union is located at 49 Abbot Rd. Charlie Nick | MLive.com



By **Gus Burns | fburns@mlive.com**

Ballot proposals seeking to expand marijuana commerce across Michigan largely failed on Nov. 5.

Among 12 ballot initiatives identified by MLive, eight that sought to expand the number of marijuana licenses failed, three passed and another that would have prohibited all marijuana commerce was rejected.

Nearly five years after recreational marijuana sales began in Michigan, communities are still debating whether to allow cannabis businesses within their borders.

Advertisement

As of September, 139 municipalities had opted to allow marijuana businesses, while 1,370 had opted out of the cannabis industry, according to Cannabis Regulatory Agency monthly statistical reports.

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Voters deciding dozens of ballot measures affecting life, death, taxes and more Nov. 5, 2024, 6:47 p.m.

Marijuana growers, processors not coming to Lodi Township as proposal fails Nov. 6, 2024, 10:40 a.m.

The following list contains voting results for proposals that were before voters on Nov. 5.

- **Berrien County, a proposal to rescind the 2019 ordinance banning marijuana businesses and to allow a minimum of four**

retail, one secure transporter and one safety compliance lab licenses passed with 52% of the vote, 3,002-2,757

- Berrien County, Royalton Township: a proposal to allow up three each of grower, processor, microbusiness and retailer licenses failed with 44% of the vote, 1,291-1,619.
- **Gladwin County, Tobacco Township: a proposal to allow marijuana businesses passed with 50.5% of the vote, 794-779**
- Ingham County, Mason: a proposal to create a charter amendment allowing for two marijuana retailers failed with 43% of the vote, 2,675-1,979
- Livingston County, Howell: a proposal to create a charter amendment allowing for two marijuana retailers failed with 48% of the vote, 2,471-2,722
- Monroe County, Bedford Township: a proposal to repeal the communities ban on marijuana businesses and allow up to five retail businesses failed with 36% of the vote, 6,501-11,473
- Monroe County, Erie Township: a proposal to allow a marijuana retail business failed with 40% of the vote, 917-1,388
- **Oakland County, Clawson: a proposal to create a charter amendment allowing for two marijuana retailers passed with 54% of the vote, 3,824-3,269**
- Oakland County, Lathrup Village: a proposal to repeal the prohibition on marijuana business and another to allow two retailers and two safety compliance labs both failed with 41% and 42% of the vote, respectively, 1,216-1,758 and 1,238-1,742
- Oakland County, Royal Oak Township: a proposal to ban all marijuana businesses failed with 48% of the vote, 548-589
- Washtenaw County, Lodi Township: a proposal to allow five grow and two processing licenses failed with 38% of the vote, 2,524-1,529

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Business Watch

Whitmer roads tax plan may drive marijuana shops out of business, experts say



A proposed marijuana wholesale tax could put retailers out of business, experts say.
(Shutterstock)

 February 14, 2025

 [Janelle D. James \(Email\)](#)

 [Business Watch](#)

 [Michigan marijuana, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan roads](#)

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- **Gov. Whitmer's \$3 billion 'Mi Road Ahead' plan proposes a 32% wholesale tax on marijuana**
- **Consumers are already paying a 10% excise tax in addition to the state's 6% sales tax**
- **Some predict that higher taxes could lead to increased illicit market activity**

Michigan's cannabis industry is sounding alarms about Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's plan to raise \$470 million per year for roads by imposing a 32% wholesale tax on marijuana.

The governor recently proposed a new \$3 billion "Mi Road Ahead" plan that she called "fiscally responsible and balanced." She said Michigan's "industry friendly" marijuana tax is the fourth-lowest in the nation and helped fuel an explosion of marijuana retailers.

The proposed tax increase would come atop the 10% excise tax on recreational marijuana that consumers pay on top of the state's 6% sales tax. The wholesale tax

down from \$204 in 2021.

In 2023, the excise tax on marijuana generated over \$270 million in revenue for the state. Tax revenue from recreational marijuana sales is split between schools, roads and local governments. Michigan sells an average of about \$265 million per month of marijuana, according to the Cannabis Regulatory Agency.

The tax increase ultimately would be paid by consumers: A vape pen that costs an average of \$20 would be about \$27 or more, Williams explained.

Some businesses may not survive, said Cassin Coleman, chair emeritus of the National Cannabis Industry Association's scientific advisory committee.

"There's not enough space currently in the margins in our industry to take on another 30% burden," said Coleman. "So that would mean either the price would go up ... or people would not be able to continue and would leave the industry, which would also increase prices because of the reduction in supply," Coleman said.

'Full panic'

One of the reasons why cannabis is so cheap in Michigan is because there is an oversaturation of products in the market due to the state's low taxes, said Robin Schneider, director of the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association.

"The value of the product, because there's so much cannabis in our system, the prices have plummeted, so those growers are not even able to recoup the cost of what it costs to run the facility," she said.

Advocates warn that the wholesale tax could drive prices for cannabis up, forcing people to get their supply elsewhere.

Business owners already have to compete with the black market, which drives prices below market value. The additional wholesale tax could cause businesses that are barely breaking even into the red, Schneider said.

"All I hear everyday is how terrible everyone is doing," she said. "Everybody in the industry is in a full panic right now."

For every 1% increase in tax, there's up to a 2.4% decrease in participation in the legal market, according to Beau Whitney, chief economist for the National Industrial Hemp Council of America.

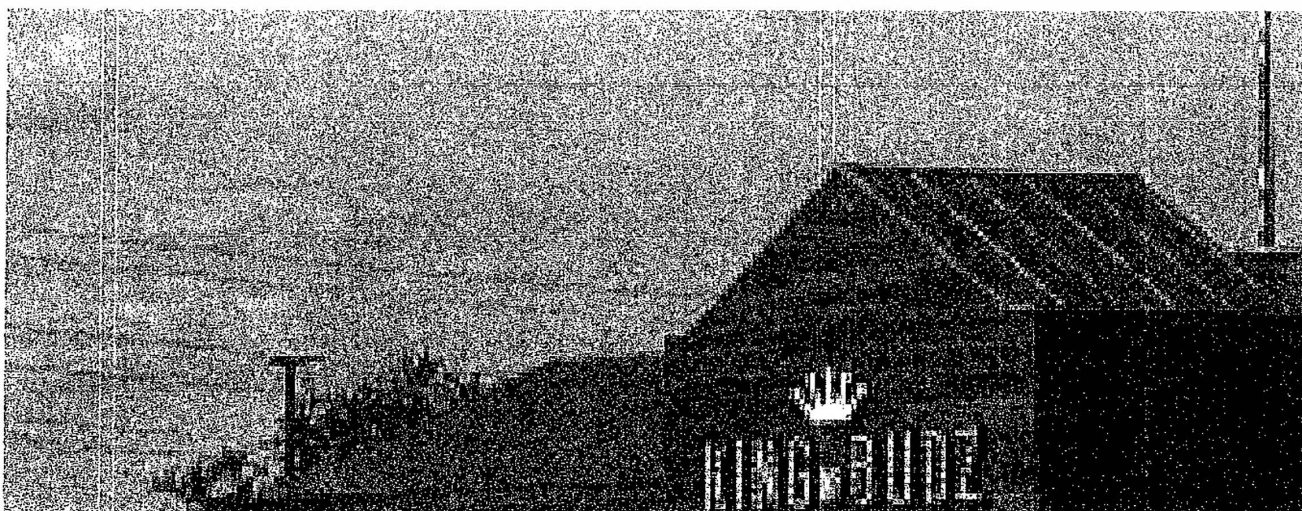
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Ohio legalized recreational marijuana in 2023 and retail shops began opening last year. The growth of the state's market likely will decrease sales in Michigan by 27%, according to Whitney.

Currently, Washington has the highest excise tax on recreational marijuana, 37% on retail sales, followed by Montana at 20% according to data from The Tax Foundation. Ohio's tax is 10%.

"The only way to survive in this market is to sell on the illicit market," Whitney said. "We do not support this, but it is a reality of the situation for business owners. So an increase in taxes will backfire by lowering revenues, increasing business failures, hurting the agriculture sector, and increasing illicit activity."

Related Articles:



Marijuana sales near \$10 billion in Michigan, a few years after legalization

MICHIGAN

From Page 1

pounds in November 2023, according to state data analyzed by William Fetterman, owner of Hanover-based Central Coast Horticultural LLC.

That oversupply of cannabis is a prime driver of low prices. Last year, fresh frozen cannabis sold for \$0.12 to \$0.15 per gram. This year, that price is going to be as low as \$0.08 per gram, or about \$36 per pound, Fetterman told Crain's.

But there are several factors at play that could sustain these in the Michigan market that are able to withstand the current pricing conditions.

The benefit to cultivators going out of business is that it removes product supply from the market.

Fluresh produced about 4% of the state's total marijuana output with its Adrian operation contributing about 20,000 pounds of product and output from its Grand Rapids operation contributing 30,000 pounds annually, GEO Brandon Kanitz told Crain's.

Removing the Adrian site's supply could inch marijuana prices up in the coming months.

Kanitz hopes others in the industry follow suit and throw in the towel by removing unprofitable operations to become smaller companies.

"I think the overhang in inventory will persist into 2025, but supply will continue to come online and we'll be in a healthier market going into 2026," Kanitz said.

And there's the hope of federal rescheduling of marijuana to change it from a Schedule I narcotic to a Schedule III drug, placing it alongside ketamine and some anabolic steroids. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency removing marijuana as having "no currently

Michigan weed industry faces shakeout in 2025

By Dustin Walsh

Michigan's cannabis industry faces a reckoning in 2025.

Oversupply and low, low prices are coming to a head in the industry, leaving a trail of shuttered cultivators and processors.

The average price for an ounce of cannabis flower in Michigan's adult-use market fell nearly 23% to \$71.80, a record low, between the start of the year and the end of November, cutting into margins for the industry.

Two major cultivators have recently announced closures.

Chicago-based PharmaCann told employees it would shutter its 207,000-square-foot LivWell Michigan cultivation site in War-

ren, laying off 222, in January. Fluresh LLC, doing business as Tend Harvest Cultivate, announced it was closing down its \$46-million, 105,000-square-foot grow facility in Adrian at the end of November.

And with the inventory of the annual outdoor "Croboter" harvest flooding the market, there's no indication prices will stabilize.

The inventory of fresh frozen cannabis, which is cannabis frozen for use in resins and rosin throughout the year, was already nearly 2.8 million pounds in October, up more than 228% from the 876,600

See MICHIGAN on Page 17



Connor LaChance of Midland cuts a stem during the harvesting process at the Lume Cannabis Co. production facility in Ewart. MICANTAYA

Cannabis giant shuts down Michigan grow operation

CRAIN'S
12/19/24

By Dustin Walsh

One of the country's largest cannabis operators is abandoning its Michigan grow operations.

Chicago-based PharmaCann told employees Dec. 2 it would shutter its 207,000-square-foot LivWell Michigan cultivation site in Warren, laying off 222.

Todd Lince, president of Teamsters Local Union No. 337, confirmed the news to Crain's. The Teamsters had just organized the PharmaCann-owned operations in early November.

"They told us they just can't be competitive in Michigan..." Lince said. "We knew they were having financial troubles. But this doesn't have anything to do with us organizing; we didn't even have a contract yet."

Lince said the employees will be terminated by the end of January and the union will work with PharmaCann to get the employees a severance package.

The employees include roughly 170 represented by the union and temporary workers employed by Denver-based cannabis staffing firm Vangst, according to a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifi-

cation Act of 1988 filed with the state of Michigan.

Representatives from PharmaCann and its attorneys did not respond to several requests for comment. It's also unclear whether the closure of its cultivation and dispensary in Warren will lead to closures of its two other Michigan LivWell dispensaries in Cheboygan and Sault Ste. Marie.

The PharmaCann closure plan comes only weeks after competitor Fluresh LLC announced it was closing down its \$46 million, 105,000-square-foot grow facility in Adrian at the end of November.

The company, doing business as Tend Harvest Cultivate, couldn't make the economics of the operation work as the average price for an ounce of marijuana flower plummeted 21% year to date to just \$73.99 in October.

"It cost me more to grow in Adrian than I could sell on the market," CEO Brandon Kanitz told Crain's. "The site is not profitable."

Fluresh and PharmaCann's LivWell are victims of the state's low prices, which are a consequence of market oversupply.

There were 3.56 million active plants being grown in Michigan in

October, down from 3.77 million in September; but still up 73% year over year. The decline in active plants last month is likely due to the influx of product from "Croboter," where operators harvest their seasonal outdoor grows for the market.

Illicit market marijuana infiltrating the regulated market also plays a role in decreasing prices as well.

PharmaCann, however, is just the latest multi-state operator — it operates in six states including New York, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio and Pennsylvania — to abandon maturing state markets due to financial pressures.

Last year, for instance, New York-based Curaleaf began shuttering its dispensary operations in California, Oregon and Colorado. It eventually shuttered its Michigan operations months later at the end of last year.

MSOs prefer to target more newly legal states that have high consumer prices due to more demand than supply, raking in much higher margins than in markets like Michigan.

PharmaCann is also likely look-



PharmaCann's LivWell headquarters and dispensary at 14210 E. 11 Mile Road in Warren.

AMY BARCZY

ing to clean up its books after filing in August to launch an initial public offering.

Canadian competitor Cronos Group Inc. took a 10.5% stake in PharmaCann in June for \$110.4 million, valuing PharmaCann at \$1.1 billion, according to a Reuters report.

For Michigan, PharmaCann's exit is likely good news as it removes more supply from the market — at least temporarily.

The Warren cultivation building at 21590 Hoover Road is owned by mega-cannabis REIT Innovative Industrial Properties, who will

move to place another operator in the facility.

Earlier this year, Evart-based Lume Cannabis Co. took over the lease for the 56,000-square-foot Harvest Park facility at 10070 Harvest Park in Dimondale formerly operated by then-troubled Sky-mint. Innovative Industrial also owned that building.

Two industry sources, who asked to remain anonymous, confirmed to Crain's that they have been contacted by Innovative Industrial about the PharmaCann cultivation building in Warren.

Marijuana sales hit record high in March

By Dustin Walsh

Michigan marijuana continues to reach new heights.

Statewide sales hit another all-time record in March, recording more than \$288.8 million, up nearly \$28 million, or 11%, from February, according to data from the Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency.

March's sales eclipsed the previous monthly sales record of \$276.7 million, set in July last year.

It's unclear why March was such a strong sales month after a soft end to 2023.

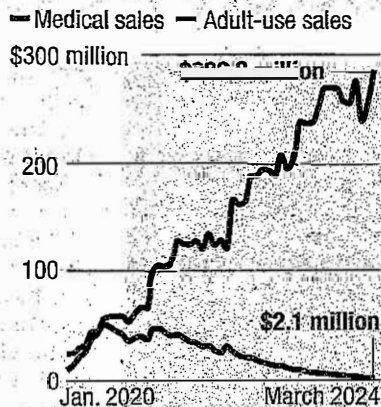
Jerry Millen, co-owner of dispensary Greenhouse of Walled Lake, told Crain's a number of new dispensaries opened this year, leading to increased access and therefore sales.

The CRA approved 31 new dispensary licenses in January and February this year. As of February, the state had 769 active dispensary licenses.

The new record may indicate the state has not yet reached saturation, as more stores lead to more sales.

Experts had predicted Michigan sales would start to slow in 2024 as it reached saturation, but that

Legal marijuana sales by month in Michigan



Source: Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency

appears not to be the case as adult-recreational marijuana in the state hasn't yet peaked.

Fewer than 10% of Michigan's 1,723 cities, villages and townships have opted in to allow marijuana sales in their communities. Theoretically, if more communities opt in in the future, more sales could occur.

Medical marijuana, however, continues its sales decline across the state, recording just \$2.05 million in sales in March, down from \$2.2 million in February and \$7.8

million in March 2023.

The decline stems from a mix of cheaper adult-recreational marijuana — adult-rec costs about \$10 per ounce less than medical, making the nominal tax savings from medical moot — and reduced availability as many dispensaries choose not to renew their expensive medical license.

Given the boost from March's sales, Michigan's marijuana industry is on pace to best last year's total \$3.05 billion in sales. Given the current pace, the industry would sur-

pass \$3.17 billion in sales this year.

Michigan's marijuana industry continues to rise as other established markets are experiencing slowing sales. Colorado, the first state to legalize marijuana sales, has seen sales decline over the past two years, down to \$1.53 billion in 2023 from a peak of \$2.23 billion in 2021. Marijuana sales in Washington last year declined to \$1.4 billion from \$1.5 billion the year prior.

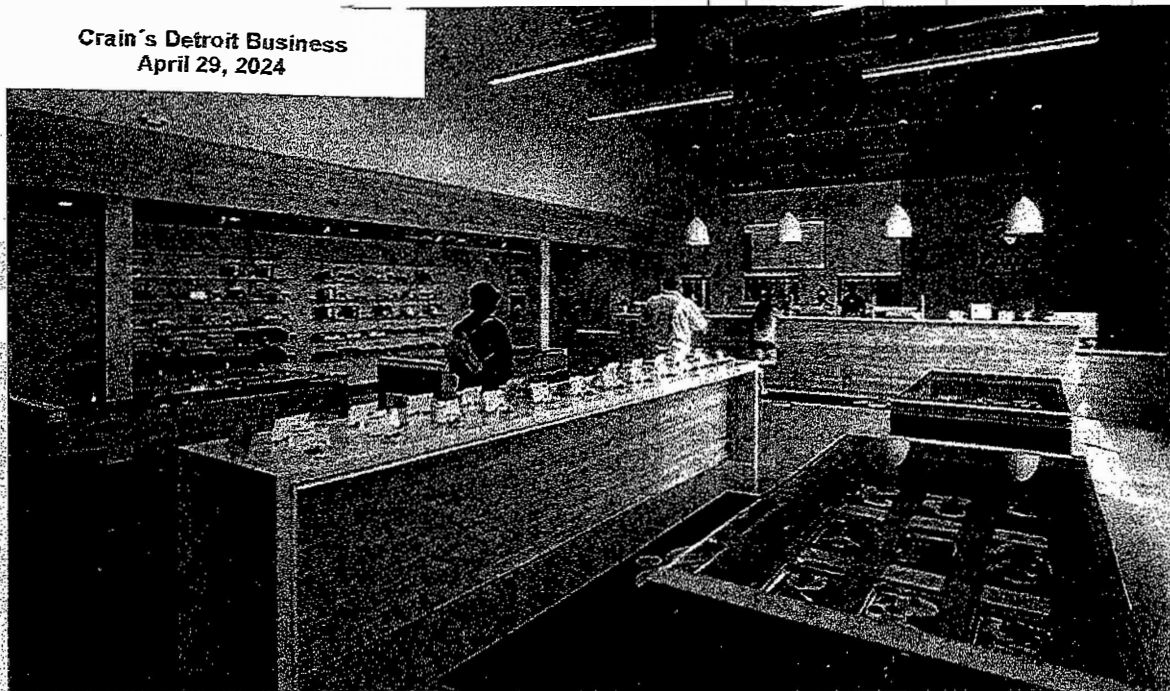
However, Michigan's market is likely to feel the effect of Ohio's

legal market, which is expected to begin by the fall this year.

Aric Klar, CEO of Birmingham-based Quality Roots, told Crain's last year that as much as 30% of marijuana sales at dispensaries near the Ohio border come from Ohioans.

The question is how quickly Ohio's market comes on line and its prices drop to meet Michigan's prices, which are among the lowest in the nation. If that happens, Michigan's marijuana market could stall out later in 2024 and into 2025.

Crain's Detroit Business
April 29, 2024



Lume Cannabis Co. store in Kalamazoo sells a wide variety of products. | LUME CANNABIS



CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS | JUNE 24, 2024

Workers including Samantha Wilder (left) trim cannabis at Glacial Farms. | NIC ANTONOVA

How Michigan topped California in weed sales

By Dustin Walsh

Michigan is the top weed market in the country.

Crain's has been reporting that for a year, at least on a per-capita basis. But new numbers show we're buying more raw quantities of weed in total than the much-larger Golden State.

Since late 2022, Michigan has sold more "units" of marijuana than California, according to data from market intelligence firm BDSA. Meaning consumers here bought more packages of gummies, pre-rolls and grams of flower than those sun-kissed Californians.

Maybe this is surprising, given the population of the Golden State is nearly four times that of Michigan's. But the answer to

the question of why is simple, and it isn't necessarily that we like being stoned more.

It comes down to prices.

It's undeniable that California's weed market is bigger in dollars. Raw sales data will tell you so. Last year, Californians purchased more than \$5 billion worth of legal marijuana, compared to \$3.06 billion for Michiganders.

But California is a much more expensive state to buy legal marijuana. For instance, a one-gram pre-roll joint of multi-state brand Cookies' Ridgeline Lantz strain currently costs \$17.50 at Dr. GreenThumb's Cannabis dispensary on West Centinela Avenue in Los Angeles. At Gage Cannabis in Ferndale, the exact same pre-roll costs just \$7.

That's 60% cheaper. A consumer can buy two joints in Michigan with enough left over to buy a Pepsi for the same cost in LA.

The big differences between Michigan and California come down to two major things — taxation and the illicit market.

California's government collects a 15% excise tax on top of state sales taxes, which range from 7.25% to as high as 10.75%. And municipalities can also tack on additional local taxes. Some consumers in California face taxes on weed purchases as high as 38%. Michigan recreational marijuana, on the other hand, only faces a 10% excise tax alongside a 6% sales tax. And local taxes aren't allowed in Michigan.

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WEED

From Page 3

The high prices in California provide little incentive for black market weed buyers to move into the legal weed market. Coupled with the fact that California was the country's largest supplier of illegal weed for several decades (see Humboldt County), the legal market faces a much larger hurdle there than in Michigan.

Michigan quickly stood up its legal recreational industry in late 2019 with unlimited state-level licensing, meaning anyone with the financial means, wherewithal and approval from a local municipality can have access to an operator's license.

The quicker-than-typical legalization process and the potential for big windfalls resulted in a massive amount of weed production very quickly in Michigan. Oversupply collapsed marijuana prices from an average of \$494.77 per ounce of marijuana flower in February 2020 to just \$88.15 in May this year.

That produced hard times for industry players who watched their profit margins disappear.

But for consumers, it meant legal weed prices competed with, and often outcompeted, illegal market marijuana, driving more and more consumers to Michi-

gan's legal market.

Michigan's weed industry sold more than \$278 million in recreational marijuana in May. While other states have seen marijuana sales slow, Michigan's continue to rise.

The state is on pace to surpass \$3.2 billion in marijuana sales this year.

Colorado, the first state to legalize marijuana sales, has seen sales decline over the past two years, down to \$1.53 billion in 2023 from a peak of \$2.23 billion in 2021. Marijuana sales in Washington last year declined to \$1.4 billion from \$1.5 billion the year prior.

According to an analysis by Oregon cannabis market economics firm Whitney Economics, more than 75% of marijuana sales in Michigan are done in the legal market. In California, it's estimated at only 44%. That means California's marijuana market as a whole is worth more than \$11.5 billion annually. In Michigan, it's only about \$4 billion.

So while Michigan tops California in units sold and other metrics, that state of affairs is unlikely to last.

Sure, California's weed market is effectively crashing and many industry players are bowing out, but simply put, California has a much longer runway to draw more people into the legal market.

CRAIEN'S Detroit Business 6/26/24

One Love Labs illegally imported weed from Oregon, state claims

By Dustin Walsh

A mid-Michigan marijuana processor is the subject of a formal complaint by the state for allegedly illegally importing marijuana from Oregon.

The Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency inspected One Love Labs in Chesaning in late June after receiving a complaint that the processor had received out-of-state product listed in the state's tracking system as hemp, but was actually marijuana.

According to the complaint, One Love Labs imported more than 110 pounds of isolate — concentrated product containing pure CBD or THC — and listed it in the state system as a hemp concentrate, or CBD from a legal processor in Oregon. That processor held a hemp-processor license in Michigan, but not a marijuana processor license.

During the investigation, One Love had a third-party lab test the product, under the supervision of the CRA, and found the so-called hemp product contained 86.49% THC — well above the legal threshold for hemp at 0.3%, according to the state.

It is against federal law to ship



hemp product containing more than 0.3% THC across state lines and against Michigan regulations to process or sell product containing more than 0.3% THC that derived from another state.

More confounding is that during the investigation, One Love allegedly shipped the 110 pounds of the THC isolate back to the processor in Oregon — which, if true, would again be in violation of federal drug trafficking laws.

Representatives from One Love did not immediately respond to an inquiry about the allegations.

The CRA would not comment further on the matter and declined to reveal whether the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency or other federal agencies had been notified or are involved.

The state is, however, seeking to fine and potentially revoke the li-

censes held by One Love as a result of the investigation. One Love Lab makes vape cartridges, as well as edibles including gummies.

One Love was founded by Casey Yosin, son of Auburn Hills' Hardwood Door and Bevel owner Craig Yosin. This is the latest in attempts by state regulators to rein in bad behavior in the industry as illegal importing of marijuana and hemp products remains a problem.

Late last month, the CRA issued a formal complaint against Mount Morris marijuana processor Sky Labs LLC for allegedly using out-of-state hemp powder from Colorado and converting it to marijuana-based distillate under the guise of plants grown in Michigan in the state's first major attempt to crack down on illicit market products coming in from out of state. Sky Labs manufactures the popular vape brand Bossy and Flight.

To combat illicit product in the market, the CRA is planning to open its own reference testing lab in 2025, after receiving a \$4.4 million earmark from the state budget.

In June, the CRA banned the use of MCT oil, usually coconut oil, in distillate, which could potentially have adverse health effects.

OPINION

*CRP's
Journal of
Business
8/5/24*

EDITORIAL

Time is right to streamline cannabis regulations

Businesspeople know that markets and the world never stop changing. Now, lawmakers in Lansing have a golden opportunity to show they can react in a timely fashion to a big change.

We're talking, of course, about medical cannabis.

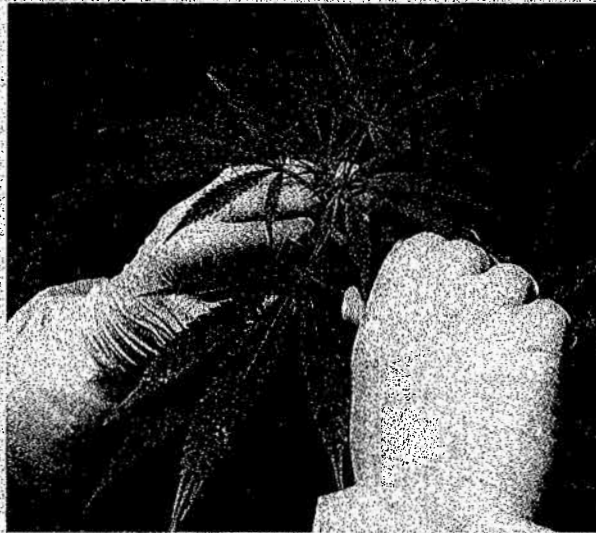
Bills have been introduced to virtually eliminate the distinction between medical marijuana and recreational cannabis. The two markets, created by separate laws, would be merged into a single licensing scheme under legislation sponsored by state Reps. Graham Miller, R-St. Johns, and Jimmie Wilson Jr., D-Ypsilanti.

It's a move that just makes sense on its face for an industry that now eclipses liquor sales in Michigan — offering regulatory simplification and fewer headaches for businesses, without really sacrificing anything. It's also a welcome nod to reality.

What's known in the business as "adult-use" cannabis — the kind you don't need a doctor's permission to buy — has now thoroughly taken over the Michigan weed market. Cannabis sold through "medical" channels accounted for just 0.7% of Michigan weed sales through June of this year.

(Lesson: Convenience and accessibility always win in a retail business.)

Medical marijuana was always a bit of a charade anyway — it's not like it was difficult to find doctors willing to sign off on medical cards after voters approved medical marijuana in 2009, 10 years before



REUTERS

recreational use was legalized.

The proposed changes would maintain benefits for people who have those cards — they'd be exempt from the 10% excise tax on cannabis, just like they are now

when going through medical dispensaries.

Regulatory burdens on cannabis businesses would be lifted, and the retailers who maintained both medical and recreational licenses would be able to take that

down to one license and one set of approvals and paperwork.

Many customers haven't maintained their medical cards even though they get those tax benefits — the number of cardholders has declined by more than half in just two years, from 225,120 in May 2022 to just 101,160 as of May 30 this year. So there's little risk that the state and local governments will lose much of the tax revenue they get now.

You need look no further than to the market for alcohol to see why multiple sets of regulations can skew a market.

Distilled liquor has been sold under a different set of rules from beer and wine in Michigan since Prohibition ended, resulting in a market that limits competition in different ways and helps entrenched interests protect their turf using the government as a foil. That prompts massive battles over any little change in the laws.

The parallel to weed isn't perfect — medical cannabis was disappearing on its own — but the history of liquor regulation does highlight the risks of unintended consequences.

Changing the law, however, requires a challenging vote in the Legislature — a three-quarters vote would be required to change the state's cannabis law. But we'd urge lawmakers from both sides to move quickly to make the change and both can tout it as a win for simplified government that responds to a changing world.

MICHIGAN

From Page 3

ars offering a low price point," Klat said. "They are still selling last year's crop and they are selling it at \$260 to \$300 a pound, leading to that price compression we're seeing. They have to clear their pipe before another 60,000 pounds (of outdoor product) hit their facility." Illicit market product is also likely pushing prices lower as the legal market competes with off-the-books product.

The state has been working overtime to rid the market of imported and illegally grown product.

Last month, the CRA issued a formal complaint against West Michigan Grower LLC, LLC after its owner was arrested in the near Lansing by the Michigan State Police with 43.5 pounds of marijuana in a rented truck. The product was not tagged in the state's tracking system, potentially meaning it was grown illegally. Investigators also found large batches of marijuana at its facility not cataloged in the system.

Also in August, the state cited Chesaning-based processor One Low Labs for allegedly importing more than 110 pounds of concentrated THC from Oregon.

It is against federal law to ship hemp product containing more than 0.3% THC across state lines and against Michigan regulations to process or sell product containing more than 0.3% THC that is derived from another state. The prod-



Adult-use marijuana prices have fallen nearly 14.5% throughout the year.

uct tested for having 86.49% THC.

A second courier, the CRA alleged, purchased 130,000 grams — nearly 287 pounds — of THC isolate, which is a heavily concentrated powder derived from hemp that when heated can be converted into a form of THC comparable to the psychoactive ingredient found in marijuana, from out of state.

Illicit product is likely contributing to a product oversupply and reducing prices, but it's not impacting every operator.

Andrew Sorano, president of Manchester-based grower Glacial Farms, told *Cain's* it has been seeing price increases for its product. Sorano believes the low number from the CRA is being influenced by struggling growers and proces-

sors looking to offload product quickly.

"I think it's a skewed average from failed operators selling at extremely low fire-sale prices for any cash flow they can get," Sorano said.

Michigan operators, particularly those near the Ohio border, are under threat from the Buckeye state, which began legal adult-use sales last month.

Sales in Ohio totaled nearly \$33 million after three weeks, averaging about \$10.48 million per week. For context, Michigan's market averaged \$21.6 million in weekly sales in July.

It's unclear what material impact Ohio's legalization will have on the Michigan market sales or pricing.

Michigan marijuana prices hit a record low in July

By Dustin Walsh

Legal market marijuana prices in Michigan reached their lowest in July, propelling the second-largest sales month since adult-use legalization in 2018.

The average price for an ounce of marijuana flower was \$79.70, according to data from the Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency. Total adult-use sales totaled \$288.4 million, trailing only the record sales month in March at \$286.8 million.

Adult-use marijuana prices have fallen nearly 14.5% through-

out the year after a sharp increase throughout the summer and fall that year, likely due to increased enforcement to stamp out illicit product in the legal market. The previous basement for the average price for flower was \$80.16 in January 2023.

The price decline this year could be caused by a variety of reasons, including product oversupply, pricing competition from "Croytober" preparations and a continued supply of illicit market product in the state's regulated market. More plants were being tend-

ed throughout the year, leading up to the July sales figure, which could also impact pricing. In January, there were 1.3 million plants being grown in immature, vegetative or flowering states. That figure climbed to 1.7 million in June, meaning more product was likely to hit the market in July.

Outdoor growers are also preparing for "Croytober" — the annual harvest in October of plants grown in outdoor farms. That product, which typically is used in vapes, gummies and edibles, floods the market by late

October through the end of the year, though some of the

product is sold as flower. Eric Klat, CEO of Birmingham-based Quality Roots, which operates eight dispensaries in the state, said prices are dropping for flower because outdoor growers and processors need to get rid of the remaining supply from last year and bring steep discounts.

"I have more and more farms coming to me to try to get on our shelves and to

See MICHIGAN on Page 4

million in the legal market this year — with consumers averaging a monthly weed expenditure of nearly \$110, well above California's at \$37 per person monthly. Michigan's established and expansive network of marijuana processors and retailers, needlessly complicating operations like Kish's and others' while, especially if there are no potential criminal charges.

In the Kojbou case, a Tuscola County judge ruled — and then appeals court reversed — that the state's marijuana laws simply make severe prison sentences not an option. The state's legal marijuana laws were designed to reduce felonies for marijuana possession and growing. The punishments, often viewed as draconian and severe, from the state's Act 866 of 1978 that included up to 15 years in prison for possessing more than 30 pounds or 200 marijuana plants, no longer applied thanks to the voter-passed MMTMA.

"After the appeals court decision, there's been reduced interest from prosecutors involving marijuana cases," Kish said. "They simply do not feel there is a mechanism in place to follow through with criminal prosecution." The court ruling effectively puts up a sign at the border: "Grow your weed here."

The state's basement-low marijuana prices are likely impeded by the influx of illegal and untracked marijuana in the legal system.

The average price for an ounce of marijuana flower in August was \$89.14, up from the lowest price on record \$79.70 in July, according to data from the Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency.

Prices have fallen since legalization in 2019. The average price for an ounce of flower was \$116.01 in August 2022 and more than \$400 in August 2020.

These price declines are driven by oversupply. The market is already saturated with the number of active plants being grown by

legal growers in the state up 47% year over year in August to 3,033 million plants.

With illegally grown plants entering the legal market, price competition is even tighter and growers on legal market are squeezed out. Dozens of legal marijuana businesses have buckled under the cost pressure.

David Morrow, CEO of the state's largest marijuana grower Lomo Cannabis Co., said the inability to apply illegal grower is a disincentive for many growers to operate above board.

"They are sending a clear message that following the rules and being compliant is optional," Morrow told Crain's. "The last time I checked, paying our licensing fees and excise taxes are not optional. Very few cannabis operators follow the all the rules."

Messages to prosecutors in Calhoun County and Oakland County seeking comment were not returned.

Green without the threat of orange jumpstiks

The Kojbou conviction has left law enforcement up in arms.

A 2023 raid in Calhoun County around the time of the Kojbou ruling involving a group of Chinese nationals importing and exporting thousands of pounds of marijuana from a warehouse in Albion, resulted in no criminal charges. The weed in question was being grown and stored in "deplorable conditions," including mold and dog feces, according to Michigan State Police records obtained by Crain's through the Freedom of Information Act.

The marijuana held a street value of more than \$20 million. "We thought this was a great case, felony possession with intent to deliver along with the safety concerns. The conditions were deplorable," Kish said. "This case is a disappointment for us. We've lost a lot of traction. There's no disincentive to do this and if you're caught, do it again."

It started in Illinois. A state trooper pulled over a rented Chrysler Pacifica in Sangamon County near the state cap-

itol of Springfield. The driver, a Chinese national, appeared nervous, according to police records. The driver informed the officer he had flown from New York to Oklahoma and was driving to Michigan. He didn't know who he was meeting; he only had a cell phone number and an address, police said. Inside the vehicle, officers discovered black bags containing 393.6 pounds of marijuana packaged in 170 vacuum-sealed bags.

Coordinating with the Michigan State Police, Illinois State Police allowed the delivery to continue and the van made its way to a nondescript building northwest of downtown Albion.

MSP exited the area and infixed the property days later. Officers had to air out the building before entering the smell of decaying plants and mold spilled out. A dog chained inside died, defecated on the floor; according to investigative reports accessed by Crain's under the Freedom of Information Act.

The building, officially licensed by the state to grow 6,000 medicinal uses, held 9,258 plants and 236 pounds of packaged marijuana. The relative street value of those plants at the time would have been in excess of \$2.3 million.

Yet the operator — Hongrui Enterprises, operated by Kevin Sea, a Chinese national and accountant in New York — had never made a legal market marijuana sale, had yet to pass a safety inspection and its weed never passed quality testing, according to the CRA.

It's suspected that the operation attempted and failed to grow quality, mold-free marijuana for the legal market, instead turning to the illicit market, including importing and exporting black-market marijuana to and from Michigan.

The Kojbou ruling came down in the middle of the criminal investigation and undermined the MSP's attempt to eliminate the operations.

Sea and the group of Chinese nationals, many unwittingly participating in the crimes, faced no prosecution after the court ruling

and the Calhoun County district attorney dismissed any and all charges. Attempts to reach Sea via email and cell phone were unsuccessful.

The CRA, which filed a complaint against Hongrui last month in a likely attempt to revoke the operator's medical grower license, declined to comment on the case or the issues posed by the Kojbou ruling.

Doug Matus, partner or Detroit law firm Hongman LLP and co-author of the MMTMA rules, said the appeals court interpreted the law correctly, but said eliminating the felony consequences for large-scale illegal operations, like Hongrui in Albion, was never the intent.

"I also think that case illustrates that the penalty provisions of MMTMA likely need to be amended," Matus told Crain's.

"The overall intent of the initiative was to allow individuals to cultivate and possess marijuana for personal use and to bring commercial cannabis activity into a regulated system, not to allow anyone to grow, possess or sell large amounts of cannabis with near impunity. Certainly, the intent was never to create a loophole that would allow individuals to receive step-on-the-wild-punishment for blatantly and egregiously violating the act by operating large-scale, clearly commercial, enterprises without having to get a license. To the extent such a loophole was created, I think it should be legislatively addressed."

A change to MMTMA requires a three-quarters vote in the Michigan Legislature and, as of now, there doesn't appear to be a groundswell to fix the problem in Lansing.

Kish said that even though Hongrui's weed stash was confiscated, there's no guarantee they didn't acquire a new building and continue their efforts.

"We've seen it a few times since our section was created: we shut them down and they move to a different location and start up again," Kish said. "If we don't address this legislatively, and that's the only way to fix this, it's going to get a lot worse. It's already bad."

Loophole leaves illicit marijuana unchecked

Black market cannabis operators have an edge after landmark ruling

By Dustin Walsh

Nearly a year after a landmark Michigan Court of Appeals ruling, Michigan's illicit marijuana dealers have an economic edge.

In a 3-0 opinion, the court ruled in October 2023 that Shaolin Kojbou, who was growing more than 1,100 marijuana plants without a commercial license — and protecting those plants with a 12-gauge shotgun and dogs — would not face felony charges due to voters passing the 2018 Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act. Instead, black-market dealers like Kojbou could only face a 90-day misdemeanor charge.

The ruling, which the court admitted was "unjust" to the state's legal market, has created a blending of the legal and ille-

"The dirty product that is infiltrating the licensed market is being sold to unwitting consumers."

gal weed markets in the state with nearly no repercussions for unlicensed, large-scale growers to operate.

For law enforcement, the ruling cut the legs off of criminal prosecution and is leading to a boom of illegal growers flooding the market with bad intentions and bad weed that could impact the health and safety of Michigan.

"The dirty product that is infiltrating the licensed market is being sold to unwitting consumers," said First Lieutenant Tom

Kish, commander of the Michigan State Police Marijuana & Tobacco Investigation Section. "I have real concerns about organized crime coming in Michigan more than it already has and the inevitable crime that will follow. We're talking multimillion-dollar operations. Once we're talking about dollar amounts like that, people are going to get shot. It's an unfortunate consequence of the way our laws are written."

Dope dealers and weak pricing

The Michigan market is lucrative already. The state is on track to sell more than \$3.3 billion in

See MARIJUANA on Page 16



Highland grower in Denton, Okla., in Michigan's new law.

accord to Cain's "It would bring substantial relief in terms of cash flow, allowing all species of business to be able to pay their taxes on a more regular basis, and more."

The DEA's proposal comes after President Joe Biden called for a review of federal marijuana law in October 2022, and has moved to protect thousands of Americans across the country.

Some of the more consequential parts of the bill include: the DEA has made on marijuana since clearly light-banded "for currency accept."

It also would allow the Commerce Department to issue a new code for tax purposes in response to a drug dealer finding a loophole on taxes in 1974.

Rescheduling marijuana allows the IRS Tax Code 2002, which prevents businesses from using the percentage of revenues underling to a 70% or sometimes higher, depending on the type of business.

Rescheduling would also open up the marijuana industry to banking, more than it is already. The bill would allow banks to open up the industry to banking services and a reduced tax rate on the industry.

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Marijuana snit would equal instant cash flow

By Dustin Walsh

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is expected to announce marijuana is legal in Michigan, which would allow the state to keep track of the drug for the first time in more than 50 years.

The DEA's proposal, which will be reviewed by the White House Office of Management and Budget, would recognize the medical uses of cannabis and allow states to regulate the drug, according to reporting by the Associated Press.

Moving marijuana from a Schedule I drug to a Schedule III drug does not make it legal, but it would allow states to regulate the drug, according to reporting by the Associated Press.

A rescheduling of marijuana from Schedule I to a lower schedule or full legalization would represent a significant victory for the industry, Jonathan Rhee, CEO of Birmingham-based Quality Procs, said in an interview.

See MARIJUANA on Page 14

Rescheduling would open doors to banking

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Boost for a booming Michigan market

Michigan's weed industry is off to a fast start, with the state's first legal sale of cannabis in the state capital of Lansing.

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Game-changer for cannabis industry

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Besieged marijuana firm's grow operation to be auctioned

By Dutch Welsch

The remaining assets — crops, equipment, inventory, irrigation, lighting, the state's monoculture, maximum growing operation are up for auction.

Skyrim, whose cultivation assets have been widely advertised in a court-ordered inventory of the assets of the company, has the remainder of its equipment as well as the crops of the year to be sold.

Investment, which had been held by the company, was sold to the company in 1992. The assets were sold to the company in 1992. The assets were sold to the company in 1992.

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A related lawsuit filed by New York's Attorney General, Andrew Cuomo, in 1992, sought to force the company to sell its assets to the state.

Despite the rapid growth, the company's operations are profitable. The company's operations are profitable.

See Auction on Page 17

OCTOBER 26, 2004 / ENR'S REMOTE BUSINESS 1



Skyrim is selling its inventory, including growing and processing operations in Danvers on March 1, 2004. ENR photo.

AUCTION

Skyrim is selling its inventory, including growing and processing operations in Danvers on March 1, 2004. ENR photo.

Susan Rabe, former spouse of embroiled former chair, CEO and founder of Skyrim, has purchased the cannabis plants and processing equipment from a 100,000-square-foot facility at 1000 Danvers Road in Danvers, C. Rabe, who founded the company, has since been listed in court records as the owner of the facility.

Industries, doing business as Skyrim, for \$104.5 million in an auction under the terms of a court order. The deal has yet to close as other investors continue to bid for the assets.

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See Auction on Page 17

OCTOBER 26, 2004 / ENR'S REMOTE BUSINESS 17

Business Model shifts for Detroit residential investors

By Mark Wilson

Detritans are reexamining their rental strategies as they seek to address economic challenges in the city. In the past, investors have focused on buying and flipping properties, but now they are looking for long-term value. This shift is driven by the city's economic challenges and the need for stable income. Investors are now looking for properties that can generate a steady cash flow and appreciate over time. This includes properties in emerging neighborhoods and those with unique features that can attract tenants. The shift is also driven by the need for tax incentives and the potential for higher returns on investment. Investors are now looking for properties that can provide a steady cash flow and appreciate over time. This includes properties in emerging neighborhoods and those with unique features that can attract tenants.

Redford Township's licensing program for cannabis was a 3-week campout

By David Walsh

Redford Township Council has passed a resolution to support the Michigan Cannabis Control Act, which would allow for the legal sale and use of cannabis for medical purposes. The council's decision was a significant step towards the township's goal of becoming a cannabis-friendly community. The council members expressed their support for the act and their commitment to providing a safe and regulated environment for cannabis use. They also discussed the need for further education and outreach to the community about the benefits and risks of cannabis. The council's decision was met with mixed reactions from the public, with some supporters and some opponents. The township will continue to work with the state and other local governments to ensure a smooth transition to a legal cannabis market.

A 150-year-old company gets DoorDash orders to freighters

By Owen Walsh

At the heart of the problem from the DoorDash side is the fact that the company's software is not designed to handle the unique requirements of freight shipping. The company's current system is built for local food delivery, which involves shorter distances and more frequent stops. Freight shipping, on the other hand, involves long distances and fewer stops. This makes it difficult for DoorDash to optimize routes and manage deliveries for freight companies. The company is currently working on a new software solution that will be able to handle the complexities of freight shipping. This includes features like route optimization for long distances, real-time tracking, and the ability to handle multiple stops and deliveries. The company hopes to launch the new software in the next few months, which will allow it to expand its service to freight companies and provide a more efficient and reliable delivery service.



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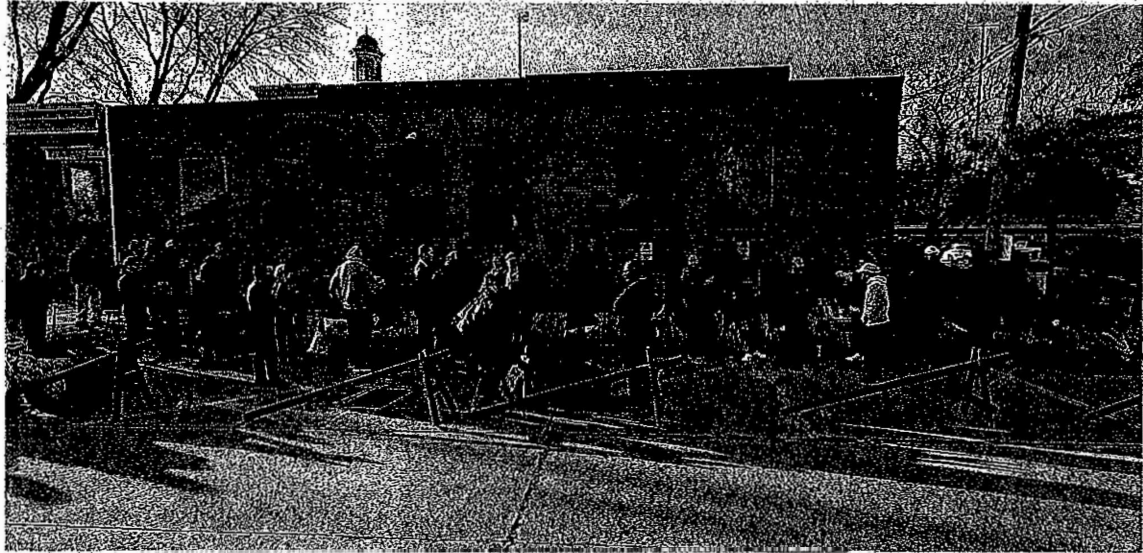
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Applicants wait in line Oct. 3 outside of the Redford Township hall in the hopes of securing a license to operate a cannabis dispensary. Some had been in line for nearly three weeks. | DUSTIN WALSH

CANNABIS

From Page 3

Municipalities are required under state law to make the selections based on a competitive process that typically takes the form of a scoring system — often revolving around an applicant's ability to invest in curb appeal or sustainable operations. But some communities have done first-come, first-served methods of accepting applications, including Garden City, Westland and Harper Woods. One could, theoretically, argue lining up for weeks is, in fact, competitive.

But in Harper Woods the process devolved into a show of athletic prowess, much like how issues are settled on the playground: with a footrace, as applicants were barred from arriving until the day applications would be received but required to wait in the parking lot until a set time to line up for the three available licenses. The applicants then sprinted to secure their spot in line, which resulted in at least one applicant being knocked down.

Redford Township, however, did not place a numerical limit on its licenses — but is doing so through zoning.

Zoning restricts licenses to approximately 12

The township has relegated the available locations or dispensaries into a handful of overlay districts on Seven Mile, Inkster, Plymouth and Telegraph roads. Applicants must have leased or bought property in one of those districts at the time of submitting an application on Oct. 3.

However, the applicants can be eliminated from contention if another applicant's license, who was ahead of them in line, is awarded a license due to proximity. The township's ordinance requires dispensaries to be at least 2,500 feet apart.

That realistically translates to only 12 conceivable licenses within the roughly 30,000 linear feet of available dispensary space in the overlay zones, according to Crain's calculations.

Hannawa said area building owners were asking \$25,000 per

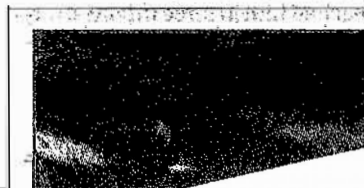
month to hold properties for cannabis operators going through the application process.

Puff Cannabis has a property under contract on Telegraph Road, he said.

Applicants in line Oct. 3 were wondering out loud how long before the process in Redford Township resulted in lawsuits against the municipality, as many in the region have battled lawsuits over the license selection process.

Dozens of lawsuits existed last year against municipalities, including Royal Oak, Warren, Pontiac and others. The plaintiffs argue the city's competitive process to award licenses was unfair.

However, any potential lawsuits against Redford Township are unlikely to occur until licenses are awarded, and it's unclear when that will occur.



Michigan's marijuana market is flooded with product — but sales are down

By Dennis Velthuis

Consumers say they are bored with the same old, same old products in Michigan's marijuana market. Michigan's marijuana market is flooded with product, but sales are down, according to a survey by Michigan Marijuana Dispensary Association (MMDA). The survey found that 68% of consumers are bored with the same old, same old products, and only 32% are interested in new products. MMDA says the market is flooded with product because of the high number of dispensaries and the low quality of the product. The survey also found that 58% of consumers are dissatisfied with the quality of the product, and only 42% are satisfied. MMDA says the market is flooded with product because of the high number of dispensaries and the low quality of the product. The survey also found that 58% of consumers are dissatisfied with the quality of the product, and only 42% are satisfied.

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READY TO HELP
Making a Difference in the Lives of Those We Serve

The new health plan program has been established in Michigan and save all your employees health care costs. This program is a commitment to our members and the communities we serve.

Why is ready to help serve you members? Because we have the resources and expertise to help you succeed.



The Michigan Commercial Health Plan is a commitment to our members and the communities we serve.

12-9-24

Cannabis giant shuts down Michigan grow operation

By Duettin Welch

One of the country's largest cannabis operators is abandoning its Michigan grow operations.

Chicago-based PharmaCann told employees Dec. 2 it would shutter its 207,000-square-foot LivWell Michigan cultivation site in Warren, laying off 222.

Todd Lingo, president of Tennessers Local Union No. 337, confirmed the news to Crain's. The Tennessers had just organized the PharmaCann-owned operations in early November.

"The fact is they just can't be competitive in Michigan," Lingo said. "We knew they were having financial troubles. But this doesn't have anything to do with its organizing work. It even has a contract yet."

Lingo said the employees will be terminated by the end of January and the union will work with PharmaCann to get the employees a severance package.

The employees include roughly 170 represented by the union and temporary workers employed by Denver-based cannabis staffing firm Veight, according to a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifi-

cation Act of 1998 filed with the state of Michigan.

Representatives from PharmaCann and its attorneys did not respond to several requests for comment. It's also unclear whether the closure of its cultivation and dispensary in Warren will lead to closures of its two other Michigan LivWell dispensaries in Cheboygan and Sault Ste. Marie.

Also unclear is how PharmaCann's only worksites in Michigan, which it acquired in 2019, are faring. The company's Michigan operations were valued at \$1.1 billion in 2023, according to a report by investment bank Cowi.

The Michigan market is not profitable, according to the report. The average price for Michigan cannabis is lower than in other states, and the company's Michigan operations are not profitable.

"I expect more to give in Michigan than I could sell on the market," CEO Brandon Kayler told Crain's.

The site is not profitable, PharmaCann's LivWell area victims of the state's low prices, which are a consequence of market oversupply.

There were 3.55 million active plants being grown in Michigan in October, down from 3.77 million in September, but still up 73% year over year. The decline in active plants last month is likely due to the influx of product from "Croatia," where operators harvest their seasonal outdoor grows for the market.

Michigan market oversupply, inflating the regulated market also plays a role in decreasing prices.

PharmaCann, however, is just the latest multi-state operator — it operates in six states including New York, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio and Pennsylvania — to abandon maturing state markets due to financial pressures.

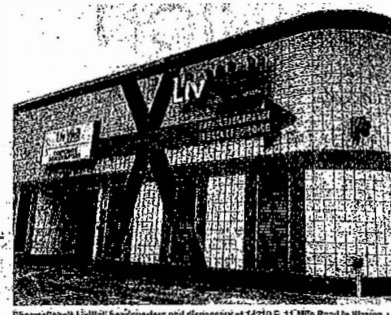
Last year, for instance, New York-based CitalaLeaf began shuttering its dispensary operations in California, Oregon and Colorado. It eventually shuttered its Michigan operations months later at the end of last year.

MSOs prefer to target more newly legal states that have high consumer prices due to more demand than supply, making for much higher margins than in markets like Michigan.

PharmaCann is also likely looking to clean up its books after filing in August to launch an initial public offering.

Canadian competitor Cronos Group Inc. took a 10.5% stake in PharmaCann in June for \$110.4 million, valuing PharmaCann at \$1.1 billion, according to a Reuters report.

For Michigan, PharmaCann's exit is likely good news as it removes more supply from the market — at least temporarily.



PharmaCann LivWell facility and dispensary at 14210 E. 11 Mile Road in Warren.

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Canadian competitor Cronos Group Inc. took a 10.5% stake in PharmaCann in June for \$110.4 million, valuing PharmaCann at \$1.1 billion, according to a Reuters report.

For Michigan, PharmaCann's exit is likely good news as it removes more supply from the market — at least temporarily.

The Warren cultivation building at 21501 Hoover Road is owned by mega-cannabis REIT Innovative Industrial Properties, who will have to place another operator in the facility.

Earlier this year, Nevada-based Lumo Cannabis Co. took over the lease for the 50,000-square-foot Harvest Park facility at 6070 Harvest Park in Diamondale formerly operated by then-troubled Sky Mint. Innovative Industrial also owned that building.

Two industry sources, who asked to remain anonymous, confirmed to Crain's that they have been contacted by Innovative Industrial about the PharmaCann cultivation building in Warren.

Customs seizes legal weed in New Mexico. Is Michigan next?

By Dustin Walsh

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is reportedly cracking down on the state-legal marijuana industry, targeting product moving through traffic checkpoints in New Mexico.

It's unclear if the seizures reported in recent months stem from a federal directive or if the New Mexico CBP is operating independently under its authority to seize the federally illegal products.

But the reports coming from the southwest could trigger concern here in Michigan, which shares 721 miles of border with Ontario, Canada. In fact, a large chunk of the state falls within CBP's authority that's defined as within 100 miles of an international border.

In New Mexico, CBP seized 22 pounds of legal marijuana product from Top Crop Cannabis Co., who operates under a marijuana license in the state, on Feb. 14, according to reporting from TV news organization KTSM.

The product had a market value of \$139,000 and the company's general manager was detained by

CBP for four hours, the news channel reported. Other seizures have been reported in the state.

CBP operates six permanent interior checkpoints in New Mexico, in stark contrast to Michigan.

CBP is actually very unlikely to begin seizing marijuana in the interior of Michigan, Youssef Fawaz, a CBP spokesperson for the Michigan region, told Crain's.

The reason is relatively simple: there are no interior checkpoints outside the U.S.-Canada border in the state.

That should come as a relief to Michigan's booming marijuana industry, which sold nearly \$3.1 billion worth of product in 2023.

Wayne County, which borders Canada, dominates the adult recreational marijuana market in Michigan, accounting for nearly 81% of the state's \$259 million in adult recreational sales in February this year.

An interior checkpoint that leads to seizures in the county could seriously disrupt the entire industry in the state. In fact, adult-use sales in the 18 counties from the Thumb to the north, Lansing to the west,



A U.S. Border Patrol agent checks vehicles at the Eagle Pass/Carrizo Springs interior checkpoint near Eagle Pass, Texas, in 2014. | BLOOMBERG

Ohio to the south and the Canadian border to the east account for more than 53% of the total marijuana sales. Every one of those counties fall within CBP authority.

In New Mexico, and other states bordering a foreign country, CBP has the authority to search for and seize federally illegal products at these checkpoints as part of its mission. The agency is permitted to question and search vehicle occupants in search of illegal immigrants, terrorists and drug smugglers at will.

The marijuana seized in New Mexico was done so at these roadside checkpoints.

CBP operates at least 70 checkpoints across the U.S., but only a handful on the U.S.-Canada border in states such as Maine and New York.

Immigration events just happen far more regularly at the border

with Mexico, not Canada -- hence the lack of checkpoints in Northern states. Last year, there were 189,042 encounters with CBP from immigrants with no legal status in the U.S. at the Canadian border. Conversely, there were more than 2 million recorded encounters with CBP at the border with Mexico, according to data from the CBP.

Fawaz said CBP is not seeking to create new checkpoints in Michigan, but said the agency continues to seize marijuana, even legally acquired, at the Canadian border. It remains illegal to cross the border into the U.S. from Canada with marijuana, and it's illegal to bring marijuana from the U.S. into Canada unless the individual has a prescription authorized by Canadian health authorities.

At issue in New Mexico is not just that marijuana remains a Schedule 1 narcotic federally, but also that

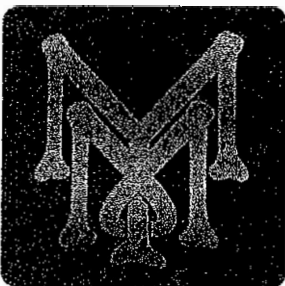
it's likely difficult for CBP to determine whether marijuana in the state is under a regulated market. Simply put, the federal agents aren't trained in New Mexico state regulations and likely seize the product with a viewpoint that it's less risky to seize state-legal product than to allow potentially smuggled drugs to pass through.

But the seizures seem at odds with the federal government's direction on state-legal marijuana. Last year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a memo asking the Drug Enforcement Agency to reschedule marijuana from a Schedule 1 narcotic to a Schedule 3, which would make the drug on par with anabolic steroids and Tylenol with codeine.

That decision is expected to happen in the coming months and could make these CBP seizures far less common.

Weed delivery in Plymouth, MI

Featured



Muha Meds
Ypsilanti -...
★★★★☆ 4.7 (337)
Recreational
\$10 fee • \$50 minimum
Order online
Closes 9:00pm



Planet Jane
★★★★☆ 4.8 (383)
Recreational
\$35 minimum
Order online
60-120 min • **Closed**
Opens 10:00am
[📍 25% OFF Ja... >](#)



Planted Provisioning...
★★★★☆ 4.6 (88)
Medical & Recreational
\$49 minimum
Order online
30-90 min • **Open**
Closes 8:00pm



Rush Cannabis Delivery -...
★★★★☆ 5.0 (4)
Recreational
\$75 minimum
Order online
30-60 min • **Open**
Closes 9:00pm

Results



Rush Cannabis Delivery - Washtenaw County
★★★★☆ 5.0 (4)
Recreational
Ypsilanti


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 Vape pens 262 items

 Other 114 items

 30-60min | **Free delivery** | \$75 min

[View menu](#)




Planet Jane


     4.8 (383)


Recreational


Ypsilanti


441 items


 Concentrates 29 items

 Edibles 109 items

 Flower 196 items

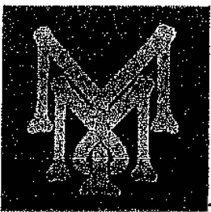
 Other 1 item

 Vape pens 99 items

 Other 7 items

 60-120min | **Free delivery** | \$35 min

[View menu](#)




Muha Meds Ypsilanti - Recreational Delivery


     4.7 (337)


Recreational


Ypsilanti

1237 items

 Concentrates 100 items

 Edibles 212 items

 Flower 588 items

 Vape pens 228 items

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Planted Provisioning Delivery

★★★★☆ 4.6 (88)

Medical & Recreational

Canton

725 items

🌿 Concentrates 56 items

📦 Edibles 191 items

🌸 Flower 246 items

🗑️ Other 4 items

🚬 Vape pens 119 items

🗑️ Other 109 items

🛒 30-90min | Free delivery | \$49 min

[View menu](#)



HOUSE OF DANK YPSILANTI REC DELIVERY

★★★★☆ 4.4 (394)

Recreational

Ypsilanti

2147 items

🌿 Concentrates 346 items

📦 Edibles 327 items

🌸 Flower 817 items

🚬 Vape pens 510 items

🗑️ Other 147 items

🛒 60-180min | Free delivery | \$35 min


[View menu](#)

The Flower Bowl Delivery - Recreational


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 Edibles 16 items

 Flower 21 items

 Vape pens 25 items

 Other 17 items

[View dispensary](#)

Ordering weed delivery in Plymouth

Ordering weed delivery gives you the experience of visiting a cannabis dispensary while never leaving the comfort of your home or location. You can visit the [Weedmaps app](#) or [website](#) using your mobile device or computer and order weed delivery to your address.

Discover the best weed delivery services in Plymouth with Weedmaps. There are 6 cannabis weed delivery options in Plymouth, MI.

How to order weed delivery in Plymouth with Weedmaps

Browse and order your favorite cannabis products right from home using Weedmaps. Enter your delivery address to see all available delivery services in Plymouth.

Each dispensary's page shows a real-time menu of its products from top brands — you'll find everything from [flower](#) and [edibles](#) to CBD products, [concentrates](#), [vapes](#), [tinctures](#), [topicals](#), and more.

Building your order is simple: add items to your cart and complete checkout to schedule delivery. After ordering, you can keep track of your delivery status through text and email updates.

[Learn how to order weed delivery on Weedmaps.](#)

FAQ

Is weed delivery legal in Plymouth?

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Yes, to order recreational weed delivery in Plymouth, you must be 21 or older and have a valid government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, state ID card, or passport.

For medical weed delivery in Plymouth, you must meet your state's age requirements and have both a valid medical marijuana card/license and a government-issued photo ID. In some cases, registered caregivers may order delivery for qualifying patients.

How long does weed delivery take in Plymouth

Weed delivery times can vary depending on multiple factors, such as how busy a delivery business is or how much traffic there is. Depending on what time you place an order, you may receive it within the hour, the same day, or the following day.

Most weed delivery businesses will tell you a delivery window or allow you to select one that works best for you. Sometimes, cannabis businesses will offer priority delivery, which may cost extra.

How much does weed delivery cost in Plymouth?

The price of weed delivery varies depending on which cannabis dispensary you're ordering from. On the [Deliveries page](#), you can see each retailer's delivery fee and the minimum order amount (typically between \$30 and \$100) to get delivery. Don't forget to factor in taxes.

How do I find deals or discounts for weed delivery in Plymouth?

Check out the discounts and deals highlighted at the top of the cannabis dispensary's menu. If you want to compare discounts, check out Weedmaps' [deals page](#) to find the best one near you. Sometimes, dispensaries will have first-time delivery discounts or free delivery deals.

Medical dispensary listings will also have information on their current deals and promotions in their store details.

Is there a service charge for weed delivery?

Some weed delivery businesses charge a service fee. This fee varies depending on your distance from the dispensary's central location and even the size of your order. It is best to contact the dispensary and ask for a more accurate total.

Are you supposed to tip your weed delivery driver?

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Yes. When you order cannabis delivery on Weedmaps, you'll receive order updates via email and Weedmaps app push notifications. You can watch your progress in delivery on Weedmaps.com and the Weedmaps app.

Where can you get weed delivered to in Plymouth?

Weed delivery locations will deliver to any property within their service area if the address isn't a government address, school, or park.

Do you have to be home to get weed delivered in Plymouth?

Yes. You must be present when the delivery driver arrives to receive your order and present your valid ID and medical card or license if you are a medical marijuana patient for verification. Additionally, your name on all identification materials must match the name on the order.

Is weed delivery in Plymouth discreet?

Delivery services typically use unmarked vehicles for privacy. While some cars may have company decals, most keep a low profile. If discretion is important to you, contact the delivery service beforehand to ask about their vehicle identification — they'll be happy to describe what to expect.

What's the difference between recreational and medical weed delivery in Plymouth?

Medical delivery is for consumers who have medical marijuana cards or licenses only. **Recreational** delivery, or adult use, is available for the general public.

When selecting a weed delivery service to order from, note whether it is recreational or medical.

If you're ordering from a medical weed delivery business, you will be asked to upload a picture of your medical marijuana card or license.

Prices may also differ as taxes are different between medical and recreational purchases.

Is there a limit to how much you can order from weed delivery in Plymouth?

Yes, weed delivery businesses must abide by the legal order and possession limits.

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Hometown Life

NEWS

Westland could net \$4M from marijuana businesses by 2030



Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

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WESTLAND — Tax revenue from retail recreational marijuana businesses in Westland could bring the city roughly \$4 million over the next six years, as long as the city designates all five of its retail licenses, Westland Mayor Kevin Coleman proposed in a new budget and forecast.

The city estimates it will receive \$665,000 in tax revenues from the local marijuana establishments for the \$82.5 million budget year that begins in July.

The \$665,000 is roughly 1% of the annual budget and could, from the city's perspective, make a meaningful impact on staffing, city facilities or public safety vehicle fleets. City council members must approve a budget in early June.

"That might not seem like a lot," Westland Finance Director Steve Smith said. "But when you look at it from a per-year basis – next year we're looking at \$665,000. That's a lot of money. If we don't have that, we'd notice. It adds up."

First, the city has to make use of its five retail marijuana licenses. The city has one retail establishment, LIV Cannabis at 37655 Ford Road, and three proposals pending with city council.

LIV Cannabis provided \$58,000 in revenue to Westland in the last fiscal year through excise tax. Westland voted to allow recreational marijuana businesses in 2019 and LIV Cannabis, which opened last fall, is the first of those businesses.

In Michigan, marijuana carries a 10% excise tax, and cities benefit from increased property taxes on buildings that have been renovated. Smith said the additional potential revenue isn't earmarked for anything specific, but can pay for things like roofs, public safety personnel or a couple of ambulance vehicles.

Smith added Westland's projected revenue would likely grow over time due to inflation.

More: Judge halts Northville plan to close social district streets for summer

More: Despite different opinions, regional support is building for deer management action

More: 'World of possibilities' for nearly 90 acres next to ITC Park in Novi. Here are a few

"You're seeing tax revenue coming out of cannabis that no other industry has been able to provide at the speed we have. When you think about the tax potential, it's exponential," said Mike Elias, CEO of LIV Cannabis. "The trickle these cities are getting from excise tax never existed for them before."

Potential tax benefits were a major item of consideration when Westland approved recreational retail businesses in 2019. Westland Planning Director Mo Ayoub said marijuana establishments have also meant redevelopment of unused buildings or property.

"These are bringing some economic development and we're seeing the renovation of old buildings that were kind of blighted or the development of areas that wouldn't otherwise be developed," he said.

While LIV Cannabis enjoys being the only game in town for the time being, it's seeing every kind of customer. General Manager Jordan Felix said the business is trying to embrace the community through charity and connecting with local groups like the Rotary Club.

"It can be the 21-year-old who just had a birthday or the 70-year-old who's never been in a dispensary," Felix said. "It's a wide demographic and we're trying to be inclusive. I think the reception has been great."

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 734-311-0659

		2024 Break-ins by License Type												
Licensee Type	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	
Adult-Use (AU)	Retailer	10	7	6	2	6	3	4	2	11	10	17	2	80
	Grower Class A						1							1
	Grower Class C	1		1	3	2	4	1	2	1	5	2		22
	Secure Transporter	1												1
	Processor License							2	1	1		1	1	6
Adult-Use (AU)/Medical-Use (MED)	Adult-Use Retailer/Provisioning Center	1	1	1		1			2	1	1		3	11
	Adult-Use Processor License/Medical-Use Processor License					1								1
	Medical-Use Secure Transporter/Adult-Use Secure Transporter									1				1
	Adult-Use Grower Class C/Medical-Use Grower Class A												1	1
	Adult-Use Grower Class B/Medical-Use Grower Class C											1		1
	Medical-Use (MED) Grower Class C							1						1
												Grand Total	127	