

Councilors Dave Geislinger and Tom Strand Need to Hear From You Now

The votes of five city councilors are needed to place a measure on the November ballot.

Councilors Yolanda Avila, Bill Murray, and Council-President Richard Skorman support Gaebler's proposal.

The support of just one more councilor is needed to give voters the opportunity to weigh-in on this important issue.

Councilors Dave Geislinger and Tom Strand remain undecided. They need to hear from you today.

Text, call, or email Councilors Geislinger and Strand. In your own words share why citizens should be able to vote on this issue.



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CONTACT TOM STRAND:

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Or share your concerns with all 9 City Councilors via email:
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**TELL CITY COUNCIL:
LET THE PEOPLE VOTE TO
REGULATE & TAX MARIJUANA TODAY
FOR A RESPONSIBLE TOMORROW**

- \$16 TO 18 MILLION/YEAR TO OFFSET COVID CUTS -

In the next two weeks, City Council will decide if voters this November will have an opportunity to lift the 2013 "Temporary Ban" on retail marijuana sales to adults.



Councilor Jill Gaebler's common-sense proposal to allow voters to decide whether to legalize, regulate and tax retail marijuana (RMJ) sales to adults. Her proposal will generate \$16-18 million/year needed to mitigate COVID-related budget cuts.¹ It will also create up to 1,000 good-paying retail jobs.² Just 24 RMJ stores will be allowed; by comparison 910 establishments sell liquor in Colorado Springs and Denver has 183 RMJ dispensaries.³

- Today, nearly a hundred Colorado communities give their residents and tourists the freedom to purchase RMJ.⁴ Colorado Springs residents buy as much RMJ as in any other city, but due to our ban, our city has lost more than \$100 million in tax revenue so far.
- Government regulation of marijuana sales is by far the best way to undermine the black market, which currently sell to anyone - including teens and tweens - while also pushing dangerous products such as opioids, heroin, LSD as well as marijuana laced with fentanyl and pesticides.
- Since 2012, when Colorado voted in favor of allowing adults to legally purchase retail marijuana, underage use of marijuana has declined. As the *Denver Post* reported in July, 2019: "Teen use declined almost 10% after recreational marijuana laws were enacted."⁵

Nearly 100 Colorado Communities Tax & Regulate Retail Marijuana⁴

Alma	Empire	Northglenn
Antonito	Englewood	Oak Creek
Arvada	Fairplay	Ordway
Aspen	Federal Heights	Pagosa Springs
Aurora	Fort Collins	Palisade
Avon	Fort Garland	Parachute
Bailey	Fraser	Pueblo
Basalt	Frisco	Pueblo West
Berthoud	Garden City	Ridgway
Black Hawk	Georgetown	Rifle
Blende	Glendale	Rocky Ford
Boulder	Glenwood Springs	Salida
Breckenridge	Granby	San Luis
Carbondale	Grant	Sedgwick
Central City	Gunnison	Sheridan
Colorado City	Idaho Springs	Silt
Commerce City	Lafayette	Silver Plume
Cortez	Las Animas	Silverthorne
Craig	Leadville	Silverton
Crested Butte	Log Lane Village	Snowmass Village
Crestone	Longmont	Steamboat Springs
De Beque	Louisville	Tabernash
Del Norte	Lyons	Telluride
Denver	Mancos	Thornton
Dillon	Manitou Springs	Trinidad
Dinosaur	Milliken	Villa Grove
Dumont	Moffat	Walsenburg
Durango	Mountain View	Wheat Ridge
Eagle	Naturita	Winter Park
Edgewater	Nederland	
Edwards	Niwot	

Footnotes

1. "Forecasted Additional Tax Revenue if Colorado Springs Lifts Ban on Retail Marijuana Sales, May 27, 2020", Dr. Neal Rappaport, Former Economics Chair, USAFA, Ph.D. in Economics, MIT
2. "Up To 1,000 New Jobs Projected if Colorado Springs Lifts Ban on Retail Marijuana Sales KRDO-TV, June 30, 2020", Dr. Neal Rappaport, Former Economics Chair, USAFA, Ph.D. in Economics, MIT
3. Colorado Department of Revenue, Enforcement Division
4. Colorado Department of Revenue, Enforcement Division; Colorado Springs Liquor License Division.
5. "Teen Odds Of Using Marijuana Dip With Recreational Use Laws", Denver Post, July 8, 2019
6. "Key Dates In Legalization Of Recreational Marijuana In Colorado", Gazette, January 1, 2015
7. "Colorado Springs Bans Recreational-Marijuana Stores", July 23rd, 2013 CSINDY
8. "Marijuana Tourism Attracts Millions of Visitors and Dollars", Colorado Business Magazine, October 8, 2019

Detailed citations available at www.T4CS.org

Councilor Jill Gaebler's Proposal

1. In 2012, a majority of voters in both Colorado and Colorado Springs endorsed Amendment 64, which legalized adult purchases of retail marijuana (RMJ) throughout the state. This measure also gave local jurisdictions the ability to regulate, tax and/or ban such sales.⁶
2. In 2013, Colorado Springs City Council voted 5-4 to issue a "temporary ban" on RMJ sales within city limits.⁷
3. Under a proposal sponsored by Councilor Jill Gaebler, a veteran US Air Force officer, voters could lift the RMJ ban in Colorado Springs and collect \$16-18 million in additional taxes every year. These new revenues will offset more than 80% of expected city service cuts due to the COVID pandemic budget shortfalls.¹
4. Councilor Gaebler's proposal authorizes no additional marijuana dispensaries in Colorado Springs. It would, however, allow up to 24 of the local licensed medical marijuana dispensaries (MMJ) to switch their license to sell only retail marijuana. To promote competition, no individual or organization can own or operate more than one RMJ dispensary within city limits. To ensure geographic distribution, no Council district can have more than 4 RMJ stores.
5. By lifting the ban Colorado Springs adults and visitors will no longer have to travel to Manitou, Pueblo, or other communities to purchase regulated and taxed RMJ. Pre-COVID, the Pikes Peak region welcomed more than 21 million visitors/year. According to the Colorado Tourism Office, 16% of tourists purchase RMJ while visiting our state.⁸
6. Every year the City must publish a detailed independent financial audit documenting the total RMJ tax revenue collected, and how funds were allocated.

Projected Sales and Tax Revenue Under Councilor Gaebler's Proposal

	Retail Sales	Additional Tax Revenue
2021	\$126.2 million	\$17.7 million
2022	\$134.6 million	\$18.7 million
2023	\$141.6 million	\$19.6 million
2024	\$148.6 million	\$20.5 million
2025	\$158.7 million	\$21.7 million
TOTAL	\$709.6 million	\$98.2 million



A grassroots organization dedicated to empowering everyday citizens in the Pikes Peak region.

For more information about Together for Colorado Springs, visit www.T4CS.org or call 719-684-6085.



REGULATE TODAY FOR A RESPONSIBLE TOMORROW