

The County Perspective: Cannabis Legalization in NYS

Stephen Acquario, Executive Director

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NYSAC[®]
NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Legislation Under Consideration in NYS

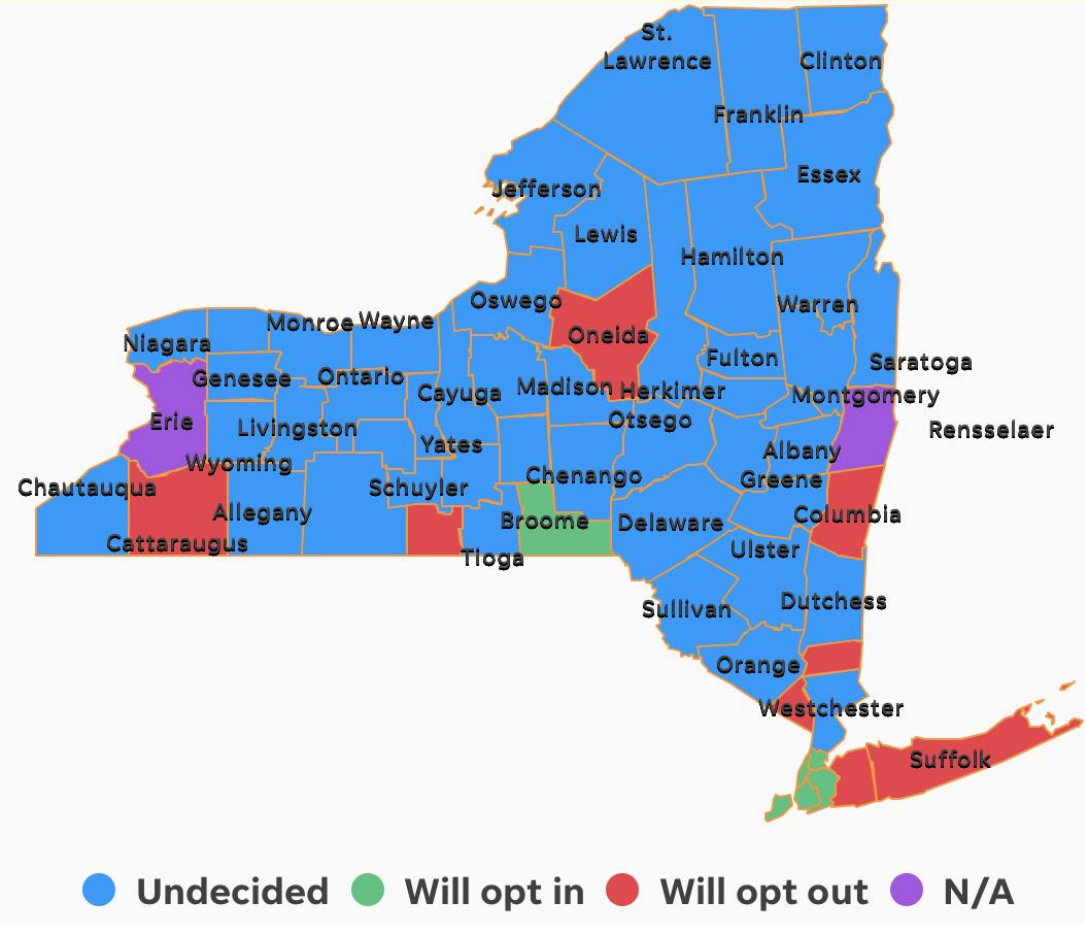


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Main Features

- Office of Cannabis Management (OCM).
- Possess up to 3 ounces of cannabis.
- Expungement of lower-level cannabis convictions.
- Focus on social justice and community reinvestment.
- Outstanding issues:
 - Home cultivation.
 - Local option.
 - Taxation.

USA TODAY Network Survey



Policy Development



Overview

- Our position has evolved over the past year.
- Throughout, NYSAC focused on securing additional resources for counties and allowed our experts in the field to communicate why they required these resources.

Board Resolution

**2018 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Board of Directors
Resolution #1**

**Resolution Calling on the Governor and State Legislative Leaders, that
Should the State Legalize the Non-Medical Use of Marijuana in New York,
the State Must Include Full State Reimbursement to Counties for Any
Increase in Costs Related to Such Legalization, in Addition to General
Revenue Sharing to Counties**

NYSAC Cannabis Policy Statement

- “The State should provide counties with **resources for public education and technical assistance to manage the societal impact** to public health, public safety, criminal justice, consumer protection, and economic development, among others. In addition to levying a **sales tax** on retail sales, it will be important to **tax production and processing** to support the economies of rural counties.”

Public Health Resolution

**2019 NYSAC Legislative Conference
Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health
Resolution #1**

Resolution for New York State to Approach Legalization of an Adult-Use Program for Recreational Marijuana Slowly and Cautiously, Keeping Research and the Anticipated Role of Local Health/Mental Health Departments in the Forefront of Conversation as Policy and Regulations are Developed

Key Concerns and Recommendations



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Public Health: NYSACHO

- Urged a “slow and cautious approach to legalization” with input from county local health departments.
- Concerns:
 - Addiction;
 - Gateway drug;
 - Cognitive and academic effects;
 - Mental illness;
 - Adverse cardiac and respiratory effects;
 - Insufficient research on long-term effects of use;
 - Unintentional exposure in children; and
 - Risk of motor vehicle accidents.

Recommendations

- Clean Indoor Air Act.
- Legal age of 21.
- Warning labels.
- Edible safety regulations.
- Fund enforcement and oversight.
- Standardize and test packaging and potency.
- Set a blood level operating limit for THC.
- Fund surveillance and research.

Mental Health: CLMHD

- Concerns:
 - Increased need for services;
 - Direct and indirect effects on youth;
 - Cannabis Use Disorders (CUD); and
 - Combined use with alcohol.
- Recommendations:
 - Provide annual state funding to local mental health departments.
 - Include mental health officials on any advisory boards/task forces.

Public Safety: Sheriff's Association

- Concerns:
 - Increase in drugged driving, traffic deaths, crime rates, and use by children;
 - Testing for intoxication;
 - Opioid crisis;
 - Drug sniffing dogs;
 - Drug Recognition Experts (DREs);
 - Fixed jail costs; and
 - Loss of probable cause.
- Recommendations:
 - Do not legalize.

Recommendations for CCAP



Recommendations for CCAP

1. Make sure you're at the table.
2. Check in with your members.
3. Rely on the experts.

Conclusion

- State government sets the policy, and local governments implement it.
- NYSAC has been successful in focusing on the county impact of legalization and advocating for funding to meet local needs.

Thank You

