Three marijuana initiatives on Nov. ballot

SUMMARY & ANALYSIS

This November Missourians will decide on three initiative petitions that would create “medical” marijuana programs.

Two of the initiatives are amendments to Missouri’s Constitution, and the third, Proposition C, would change Missouri’s statutes. If both amendments pass, the one with the higher voter approval is instituted. Approval of either amendment overrides approval of Proposition C.

Due to the unprecedented nature of these efforts, it’s crucial that Missourians be informed of the details of each initiative.

AMENDMENT 2 (“New Approach Missouri”)

Physicians may recommend that a patient consume marijuana or marijuana products (edibles, waxes, dabs, vapes, etc.) to treat nine specified conditions or classes of conditions, and allows recommendation for “any other chronic, debilitating or other medical condition…”

Regulation and Limits

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) would have oversight of the medical marijuana program, production, sales, purchase, and distribution. The DHSS may limit purchases to 4 ounces of marijuana per patient every 30 days, with exceptions if doctors recommend a higher dose. Patients may also cultivate up to 6 flowering plants for personal use.

The amendment would require DHSS to approve 1 cultivation center per 100,000 residents, 1 manufacturing facility per 70,000 residents, and at least 24 dispensaries in every congressional district.

NCADA COMMENTS:
We greatly prefer that cannabis-based drugs be developed and offered in FDA-approved forms, and sold through pharmacies rather than through a potentially unlimited number of dispensaries promoted by individuals seeking massive profits (such as Adolphus Busch IV, a major funder of Amendment 2).

Amendment 2 actually has the ability to prevent access to FDA-approved medications that are derived from cannabis but aren’t manufactured in Missouri.

The marijuana program would be overseen by DHSS – which would be preferable to the new, largely unsupervised, agency created by Amendment 3.

Marijuana sold under this system would be subject to an effective tax rate of 12-14 percent.

AMENDMENT 3 (“Find the Cures,” “The Brad Bradshaw Amendment”)

This amendment would create the Biomedical Research and Drug Development Institute – a nine-member research board which would oversee medical marijuana research in Missouri. Each member of the research board would receive a salary at least equal to that of the Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court. (approx. $180,000). The research board would establish a list of diseases which may be treated to medical marijuana

Limits

The research board may limit marijuana purchases, but not to less than 3 ounces every 30 days. The board must issue at least 50 manufacturing licenses and allow 1 dispensary for every 20,000 residents in a county.

NCADA COMMENTS:
Amendment 3 is referred to as “The Brad Bradshaw Amendment” because the Chairman of the Research Board is required to be both a lawyer and an MD – a rare qualification that applies to the amendment’s primary backer, Brad Bradshaw, who operates a personal injury law firm in Springfield. Bradshaw has provided 99% of the funding (close to $2 million) for this ballot initiative.

The chairman would appoint the remaining members of the board, who can then establish “targeted disease group governing panel(s).” The members of the panels can be paid ANY salary (minimum over $100,000) that the research board chooses. A person may serve on up to four panels (which indicates that the positions can be a part-time responsibility).

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MONDAY, NOV. 5, 2018, 6:30–8:30 PM
Heroin/Opioid Remembrance and Resource Event

A benefit to remember those lost to our region’s opioid epidemic, to celebrate those in recovery, and to provide resources to families coping with substance use issues.

DRURY INN ~ Hampton & I-44  Catered by BARTOLINO’S

APPETIZER BUFFET • CASH BAR • SILENT AUCTION
Tickets are $40, and available at ncada-stl.org or 314.962.3456

Presented by NCADA in partnership with LoRusso’s & Hope Creates
NCADA is obsessed with outcomes. Our programs change behavior and attitudes, and we measure their success with surveys, satisfaction questionnaires, and follow-up phone calls. These tell us – and our funders – how well we are doing. Our outcomes tell us if we are effective in our work.

Given this emphasis on program evaluation, it should come as no surprise that we constantly evaluate ourselves. We encourage our staff to give feedback to one another, and to solicit feedback from others. Through regular surveys, we ask our employees how they view their work at NCADA.

I am pleased – but entirely unsurprised – to report that we were once again named a Top Workplace. This marks the 6th consecutive year that our employees have given NCADA high marks for transparency, morale, and efficiency. But this year’s award is special: for the first time, NCADA received the “Meaningfulness Award.” NCADA received top marks for our answers to the question, “I believe the work I do is meaningful.”

We spend a lot of time focusing on our employees, and nurturing the connection they feel with our mission. We want to build a successful team, so we are very particular in our hiring process. We hire for skill, but we also hire for attitude. We look for passionate, humble, resilient, and quirky individuals who are scrappy and innovative in their thinking. And once people are onboard at NCADA, we work to establish a personal connection. We celebrate life’s important moments, and band together when hardship strikes.

As I write this column, I am beaming with pride. Proud because I see new hires demoing lessons to their more experienced peers in an effort to get better. Proud because I hear staff congratulating each other for jobs well done. Proud because I read an email asking for meals to help an employee who is facing personal challenges. And proud because I receive notice that we are being presented a 2018 TORCH award from the Better Business Bureau, recognizing our commitment to ethics and outstanding service.

We believe that if our employees find meaning in their work and enjoy working alongside their teammates, they will also work hard for our clients. The result is a culture unlike any other. But don’t take my word for it... just look at the outcomes.

Marijuana Initiatives continued:

The amendment would establish a 15 percent tax on sales of medical marijuana.

**PROPOSITION C (“Missouri Patient Care”)**

Physicians with a “bona fide” physician-patient relationship may recommend a patient consume marijuana or marijuana products to treat nine specified conditions or “any other chronic, debilitating or other medical condition...”

Local municipalities could prohibit cultivation and sale of marijuana with a 2/3 vote in a general election. Because it is not a constitutional amendment, Prop C could be changed through a majority vote of the Missouri legislature.

**Regulation and Limits**

Regulation is divided between DHSS, and the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco (which would establish a “seed to sale” tracking system.)

An individual may possess 2.5 ounces of cannabis flower (or equivalent) as a 14-day supply, and may possess up to a 60-day supply at a time. The Division of Alcohol and Tobacco may limit sales licenses to 1 per 100,000 Missouri residents, but is not required to do so.

**NCADA COMMENTS:**

As with the other initiatives, Proposition C establishes no meaningful limits on what medical conditions may be treated with marijuana. Prop C does allow individual communities control over the production and sale of marijuana. Because Prop C is not an amendment, it can be more easily tweaked to cover special circumstances and unforeseen problems. If either amendment passes, Prop C will not take effect.

Marijuana sold under this system would be subject to an effective tax rate of 10-12 percent.

For further analysis and NCADA’s position statement on medical cannabis, please visit: ncada-stl.org/medical-marijuana-on-the-november-ballot/

**Ballotpedia.org** provides detailed information on the initiatives, including a comparison chart, a list of the backers (with dollar amounts), and statements from the campaigns that praise their own measure and disparage the others: ballotpedia.org/Missouri_2018_ballot_measures

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*Nichole Dawsey*

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Jefferson County Red Ribbon Training – September 11; Faith Church in House Springs.

Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31) is the nation’s largest annual anti-drug event. NCADA conducts day-long trainings to help students plan educational activities for their schools. Trainings were also held in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Over 300 students, representing more than 28 schools participated this year.

On Oct. 13, at the DEA headquarters in Washington DC, NCADA was presented the Community Drug Prevention Award for our Talk About It campaign. Left to right: Amanda Purdum, St. Louis DEA; Nichole Dawsey, NCADA; Uttam Dhillon, Acting Administrator of the DEA; Terry Davis, St. Louis DEA.
CALENDAR

For event information and registration visit ncada-stl.org/events, email Jeanne Cordingley at jcordingley@ncada-stl.org, or call (314) 962-3456 x304 (unless otherwise noted in the event listing).

FOR PROFESSIONALS

December 7:
Ethics – Ethics yoU
8:30 am – 3:30 pm, NCADA, 9355 Olive Blvd.
Six contact hours approved by the Missouri Credentialing Board and the State Committee for Social Workers.

November 16:
Youth Mental Health First Aid Training (YMHFA)
8:30 am – 5:00 pm, Calvary Church, 3998 Mid Rivers Mall Dr., St. Peters, MO 63376

December 6:
Youth Mental Health First Aid Training (YMHFA)
8:30 am – 5:00 pm, NCADA Franklin County Office, 3033 Highway A, Washington, MO 63090

Youth Mental Health First Aid is a free, one-day training that teaches participants how to provide initial help to young people experiencing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis and substance use disorders. One CEU contact hour certificate is available for $5.00.

FOR EVERYONE

November 5:
Heroin/Opioid Remembrance & Resource Event
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Drury Inn ~ Hampton & I-44
(See story on page 1.)

November 16:
Dec. 12 – Maternity Care for Women with Substance Use Disorder – Dr. Jaye Shyken

The Coalition on Addictions (COA) meets the second Wednesday of each month at NCADA, 9355 Olive Blvd. in Olivette. Lunch is provided free of charge, courtesy of Alkermes, Inc. A CEU for one contact hour is $5.00. COA is a service of NCADA and the Community Academic Partnership on Addictions. (CAPA is an affiliate organization of the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis.)