

Town Article 38 – Citizen Petition - Zoning Amendment: To restrict the commercialization of marijuana and marijuana-based products

This Citizen Petition states, “To restrict the commercialization of marijuana and marijuana-based products.” It will advise our Selectmen to prevent the establishment of any marijuana business in the Town of Raymond, as such a business would increase marijuana product exposure to our youth and community. This Citizen Petition is to advise the Selectmen to oppose the establishment of the following businesses: commercial marijuana cultivation; marijuana testing facilities; marijuana product manufacturers; marijuana retailers; on-site marijuana consumption at a business location; or any other marijuana-related activity for commercial purposes by whatever name used. (1)

Nothing in this warrant article is intended to limit use of marijuana or hemp products for medical purposes.

This Warrant Article is advisory only. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote would advise the Selectmen (and subsequently the Planning Board) to oppose the future establishment of a marijuana-related business in Raymond, NH.

A NO vote would have no impact.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To support youth who want to limit access to a drug that they have personally seen impacting their family and friends. (2)
- To limit marijuana commercialization, advertising and marketing.
- To limit the cultivation of marijuana, which impacts our environment and watershed. (3)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Don't want to restrict additional commercial endeavors in Town.
- Don't want additional zoning law added to the Town code.

References:

1. As a community, the Raymond Coalition For Youth (RCFY), established in 2002, has been working to reduce substance misuse amongst our youth. Raymond Coalition for Youth: tinyurl.com/y4rl8c4o
2. According to the 2019 Raymond High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey: 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey: 43% of Raymond students think there is no risk from using marijuana once or twice a week; 48% think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to use marijuana; 70% of students think their parents think it is wrong or very wrong for them to use marijuana; 51% of Raymond high school students report it would be easy or very easy to obtain marijuana; 31% of NH Youth report living in a home with addiction: tinyurl.com/y4y43qux
3. The Environmental Downside of Cannabis Cultivation: “Unfortunately, marijuana is a fairly thirsty plant - cannabis water use can equal up to six gallons of water every day (and that's just for one plant). That means a square mile of marijuana plants consume nearly 1 billion gallons of water during prime growing seasons. In areas where water supply is scarce, marijuana cultivation can take up more water than available - this has a

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direct negative impact on aquatic life and freshwater available for other necessary aspects of both human and natural life.” tinyurl.com/yyxg2bfu