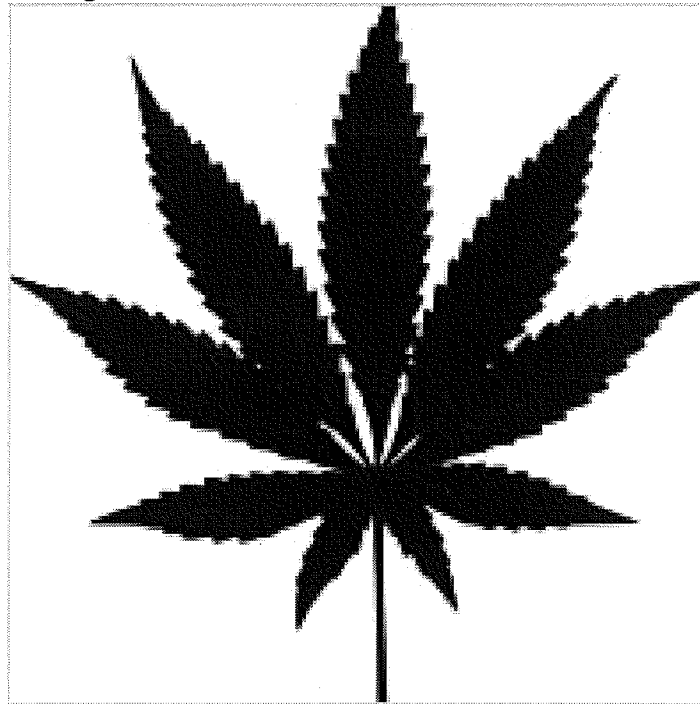


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Marijuana Alert - Mar. 22, 2018



Cook County referendum on marijuana legalization

In suburban Cook County, about 63 percent of voters indicated their support for legalization, with some precincts still to be counted.

Though the measure is nonbinding, it could give momentum to a proposal in Springfield that would create a legal market for recreational pot use, several years since the state enacted a medical marijuana program.

... The Tuesday ballot initiative **could also help a drive to put a statewide question to voters in November, though that would also be advisory only.**
[Read more](#)

Marijuana Ballot question unfair

In November, Smart Approaches to Marijuana, a nonprofit group that opposes legalization, commissioned a telephone survey of 625 voters statewide.

Participants were told that Illinois has already decriminalized possession of small amounts of cannabis, and already has medical marijuana. Then they were asked if

they want to keep the current system, repeal medical marijuana, legalize marijuana or make it all illegal.

When asked that way, only 23 percent of respondents said they wanted to legalize cannabis. Almost half, 47 percent, said they wanted to keep things the way they are.

... Medical marijuana growers and sellers also hope they will be among the first allowed to sell recreational marijuana if it is approved.

But Aaron Weiner, director of addiction services at Linden Oaks Behavioral Health in Naperville, warned that marijuana remains the most common substance of abuse he treats after alcohol. It can hurt people's work and personal lives, and lead to psychosis, he said, and studies show that in the long term, it can reduce intelligence and income.

... "I see the fallout of this," Weiner said. "People really don't understand what they're voting for and getting into." [Read more](#)

San Francisco allows marijuana lounges

Many marijuana enthusiasts are finding it increasingly easy to buy pot but harder to find legal places to smoke it.

... Massachusetts marijuana regulators considered approval of "cannabis cafes." But the proposal came under withering criticism from Gov. Charlie Baker's administration and law enforcement officials, who claimed among other things that opening such businesses would lead to more dangerously stoned drivers. [Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

1. **Contact your State Representative**. Let your him/her know you oppose the legalization of marijuana. If the Representative won re-election, congratulate him/her and ask for a NO vote on SB2275, to put a marijuana referendum on the November ballot.
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems,