



# Town of Concord

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## PUBLIC FORUM ON CONCORD'S MARIJUANA OPTIONS

CONCORD, MA — On Wednesday, January 31, 2018, the Concord Select Board will sponsor a Public Forum focused on recent marijuana legislation and articles proposed for consideration at the Annual Town Meeting in April. The purpose of the forum is to provide information about recent legislation regarding recreational marijuana, definitions of the various operations associated with recreational marijuana and options/actions proposed by three Town committees for consideration at Town Meeting.

Concord voters approved Ballot Question #4 Massachusetts Marijuana Legalization Initiative in November 2016 with 5725 voters in favor and 5532 opposed. Since then, the State legislature has been working to establish the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), which developed the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) regarding Adult Use of Marijuana that was approved December 21, 2017. The Cannabis Control Commission is expected to begin issuing licenses in 2018.

Town Meeting approved a temporary moratorium on Marijuana Establishments in May 2017 to allow the Town time needed to study and consider the regulation of marijuana retail or distribution centers. Given that CMR 935 500.00 was not approved until December 2017, the Planning Board is proposing an extension of the temporary moratorium to December 2018.

Concurrently, the Board of Health has been discussing the potential impact to youth and believes that non-medical marijuana establishments are not in the best interest of the Town. That Board has proposed a general bylaw amendment to prohibit non-medical establishments (which includes all businesses that require a license issued by the CCC to grow, process, handle or sell non-medical marijuana); the bylaw would not prohibit home cultivation of marijuana, which is allowed by State Law. If Town Meeting agrees and approves the proposed general bylaw amendment, the Town will then vote at the ballot to affirm the Town Meeting action, as required by law because Concord voters approved Ballot Question #4.

Additionally, the State law does allow a community to impose a local sales tax on the sale or transfer of marijuana. The Finance Committee will be seeking Town Meeting authorization to

impose a local sales tax at the maximum rate of 3% as allowed under the statute in the event that a retail recreational marijuana establishment locates in Concord.

The Concord's Marijuana Options Forum on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 will be held in the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School Auditorium from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. An opening panel discussion will begin promptly at 7:30, followed by a brief Q & A session. For additional information about the Public Forum, please visit the Town's website at [www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov). CCTV will be asked to video-tape this forum for future viewing.

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