Michigan local government leaders’ views on medical and recreational marijuana

CLOSUP Webinar
October 17, 2018
Presenters: Natalie Fitzpatrick and Debra Horner
Presentation Outline

• Overview of MPPS survey program

• Findings on local government officials’ views on a range of issues regarding medical and recreational marijuana from the Spring 2018 survey wave, including:
  ✓ Approach to the MMFLA
  ✓ History of medical marijuana facilities in the jurisdiction
  ✓ Support or opposition to allowing medical marijuana facilities in the jurisdiction
  ✓ Problems and benefits regarding medical marijuana experienced in the jurisdiction
  ✓ Legalization of recreational marijuana
The Michigan Public Policy Survey

- **Census survey** – all 1,856 counties, cities, villages, and townships
- **Respondents** – chief elected and appointed officials
- **Administered** – online and via hardcopy
- **Topics** – wide range, such as fiscal health, budget priorities, roads, public safety, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, service privatization, employee policies, labor unions, environmental sustainability, Great Lakes, citizen engagement, much more.
MPPS is not a typical opinion poll

- 70+% response rates

- **Transparency**
  -- Questionnaires online
  -- Pre-run data tables online
  -- Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers

- **Expert advisors on questionnaire content**

- **Research partnership with Michigan local government associations**
  -- MAC, MML, & MTA

- **Borrowing from other proven sources such as NLC and ICMA**
How many local jurisdictions responded to the Spring 2018 MPPS?

1,372 local units total (74% of all statewide)

By Population Size
488 local units <1500
521 local units 1500-5000
137 local units 5001-10,000
134 local units 10,001-30,000
92 local units >30,000

By Region
143 in the Upper Peninsula
235 in the Northern LP
259 in the Central West
236 in the Central East
230 in the Southwest
269 in the Southeast
Background

Medical Marijuana
• **November 2008**: voters passed Michigan Medical Marihuana Initiative
  o Implemented under Michigan Medical Marihuana Act
• **February 2013**: State Supreme Court rules dispensaries are illegal
• **December 2016**: Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMFLA)
• **December 2017**: Applications for facilities licenses begin

Recreational Marijuana
• **November 2012**: Colorado and Washington legalize recreational marijuana
• **November 2018**: Michigan Proposal 1 (to authorize and legalize possession, use, and cultivation of marijuana products by individuals who are at least 21 years of age and older, and commercial sales of marijuana through state-licensed retailers)
Who is opting in or opting out?

Which of the following best describes your jurisdiction’s approach to allowing medical marijuana facilities in the jurisdiction?

- 8% Voted to opt-in to the MMFLA
- 29% Voted to opt-out
- 46% Chosen to take no action (with the effect of opting-out)
- 9% Currently discussing whether to opt in or out
- 9% Has not discussed allowing local medical marijuana facilities
- 2% Don’t know

Statewide Total

Cities

Villages

Townships
Who is opting in or opting out?

Which of the following best describes your jurisdiction’s approach to allowing medical marijuana facilities in the jurisdiction?

- Voted to opt-in to the MMFLA
- Voted to opt-out
- Chosen to take no action (with the effect of opting-out)
- Currently discussing whether to opt in or out
- Has not discussed allowing local medical marijuana facilities
- Don't know
Who is opting in or opting out?

Which of the following best describes your jurisdiction’s approach to allowing medical marijuana facilities in the jurisdiction?
Who is opting in or opting out?

Which of the following best describes your jurisdiction’s approach to allowing medical marijuana facilities in the jurisdiction?

- Voted to opt-in to the MMFLA
- Voted to opt-out
- Chosen to take no action (with the effect of opting-out)
- Currently discussing whether to opt in or out
- Has not discussed allowing local medical marijuana facilities
- Don’t know

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Mostly Rural</th>
<th>Mostly Urban</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voted to opt-in to the MMFLA</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted to opt-out</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chosen to take no action (with the effect of opting-out)</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently discussing whether to opt in or out</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has not discussed allowing local medical marijuana facilities</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who has amended their zoning ordinance?

What is the current status of zoning in your jurisdiction related to medical marijuana facilities? (among jurisdictions that have opted in to the MMFLA)
How have they amended the zoning ordinance?

As far as you know, which of the following *types of policies* are included in your local ordinance(s) related to medical marijuana facilities? (among jurisdictions that have or will amend their zoning ordinance)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricting facilities to particular zoning districts</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforcing distance from schools, parks, etc.</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifically limiting the number of facilities</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowing multiple facilities on the same site (co-location)</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requiring a special land-use permit</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting sign and advertising restrictions</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limiting hours of operation</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limiting facilities by regulating the distance between them</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who has medical marijuana facilities?

To help us understand which communities have had experiences with medical marijuana facilities — now or in the past — which of the following describe your jurisdiction’s experience? (among cities, villages, and townships)

- Facilities currently operating
- Facilities in the past, none currently operating
- No facilities now or in the past, some planned
- No facilities now or in the past, none planned
- Don’t know
Who has medical marijuana facilities?

To help us understand **which communities have had experiences** with medical marijuana facilities — now or in the past — which of the following describe your jurisdiction’s experience? (among cities, villages, and townships)

![Bar chart showing the distribution of medical marijuana facilities among different regions.](chart)
Who has medical marijuana facilities?

To help us understand **which communities have had experiences** with medical marijuana facilities — now or in the past — which of the following describe your jurisdiction’s experience? (among cities, villages, and townships)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Mostly Rural</th>
<th>Mostly Urban</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilities currently operating</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities in the past, none currently operating</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No facilities now or in the past, some planned</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No facilities now or in the past, none planned</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who supports allowing local facilities?

Regardless of whether or not there are currently any medical marijuana facilities operating in your jurisdiction, to what extent do you think that the following **groups or individuals support or oppose** allowing any such facilities within your jurisdiction?
Who supports allowing local facilities?

Regardless of whether or not there are currently any medical marijuana facilities operating in your jurisdiction, to what extent do you think that the following groups or individuals support or oppose allowing any such facilities within your jurisdiction?
Any problems regarding medical marijuana?

...regardless of whether or not there are currently any medical marijuana facilities operating in your jurisdiction, to what extent would you say there have been problems — if any — regarding medical marijuana in your community?
Any problems regarding medical marijuana?

...regardless of whether or not there are currently any medical marijuana facilities operating in your jurisdiction, to what extent would you say there have been problems — if any — regarding medical marijuana in your community?
Any benefits from medical marijuana?

... regardless of whether or not there are currently any medical marijuana facilities operating in your jurisdiction, to what extent would you say there have been benefits — if any — regarding medical marijuana in your community?
Any benefits from medical marijuana?

... regardless of whether or not there are currently any medical marijuana facilities operating in your jurisdiction, to what extent would you say there have been benefits — if any — regarding medical marijuana in your community?
Describing problems and benefits

We’re interested in lessons from your community’s experiences. Please briefly describe any problems or benefits regarding medical marijuana in your community.

• **Problems:**
  • Illegitimate use of medical marijuana cards
  • Illegal growers and dispensaries
  • Crime
  • Neighborhood and community concerns

• **Benefits:**
  • Medical benefits to residents
  • New revenue sources
Who supports recreational marijuana?

There is currently an initiative to legalize, regulate, and tax recreational marijuana in Michigan through a ballot proposal in November’s statewide election. Regardless of the details of that specific proposal, to what extent would you – in your role as a local official – generally support or oppose legalizing, regulating, and taxing recreational marijuana in Michigan?
Who supports recreational marijuana?

... Regardless of the details of that specific proposal, to what extent would you – in your role as a local official – generally support or oppose legalizing, regulating, and taxing recreational marijuana in Michigan?
Who supports recreational marijuana?

... Regardless of the details of that specific proposal, to what extent would you – in your role as a local official – generally support or oppose legalizing, regulating, and taxing recreational marijuana in Michigan?
Who supports recreational marijuana?

... Regardless of the details of that specific proposal, to what extent would you – in your role as a local official – generally support or oppose legalizing, regulating, and taxing recreational marijuana in Michigan?

![Bar chart showing support for recreational marijuana by region in Michigan.](chart.png)
Who supports recreational marijuana?

Regardless of the details of that specific proposal, to what extent would you – in your role as a local official – generally support or oppose legalizing, regulating, and taxing recreational marijuana in Michigan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
<th>Somewhat oppose</th>
<th>Somewhat support</th>
<th>Strongly support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Rural</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Urban</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do local officials compare with citizens?

- **MPPS**: 54% Strongly or Somewhat Oppose / Vote No, 21% Strongly or Somewhat Support / Vote Yes
- **SOSS**: 34% Strongly or Somewhat Oppose / Vote No, 61% Strongly or Somewhat Support / Vote Yes
How do local officials compare with citizens?

- **Republicans**
  - MPPS: 63% Strongly or Somewhat Oppose / Vote No, 17% Strongly or Somewhat Support / Vote Yes
  - SOSS: 58% Strongly or Somewhat Oppose / Vote No, 39% Strongly or Somewhat Support / Vote Yes

- **Independents**
  - MPPS: 51% Strongly or Somewhat Oppose / Vote No, 20% Strongly or Somewhat Support / Vote Yes
  - SOSS: 29% Strongly or Somewhat Oppose / Vote No, 67% Strongly or Somewhat Support / Vote Yes

- **Democrats**
  - MPPS: 39% Strongly or Somewhat Oppose / Vote No, 35% Strongly or Somewhat Support / Vote Yes
  - SOSS: 29% Strongly or Somewhat Oppose / Vote No, 67% Strongly or Somewhat Support / Vote Yes
Michigan Local Officials’ Views on Medical and Recreational Marijuana

Summary

• Three-quarters of Michigan local governments have decided to keep medical marijuana facilities out of their jurisdiction.

• Most local officials oppose allowing medical marijuana facilities in their jurisdiction; most also believe there is significant opposition among their jurisdiction’s Board/Council, chief law enforcement officer, and residents.

• 42% of jurisdictions report having experienced problems related to medical marijuana in their jurisdiction, but just 14% report that these problems have been significant. By comparison, 21% of communities report seeing benefits.

• There is low support for legalizing recreational marijuana among local officials, particularly when compared to public support.
The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

Web: www.closup.umich.edu
Email: closup-mpps@umich.edu
Twitter: @closup