



Medical and Nonmedical (Recreational) Cannabis Regulation in Los Angeles County





Office of the County Counsel

STATE CANNABIS LAWS

A close-up photograph of green cannabis leaves with serrated edges, growing from a dark, textured soil or substrate. The leaves are vibrant green and show prominent veins.

Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act

- Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA) (Bus. & Prof. Code section 19300 et seq.)
 - Governs medical cannabis.
 - Created by State legislation in 2015 and 2016.
 - Establishes California's first state regulatory framework for the medical cannabis industry.

A close-up photograph of green marijuana leaves with serrated edges, growing from a dark, textured soil. The leaves are illuminated by natural light, showing their vibrant green color and intricate vein structure.

Adult Use of Marijuana Act

- Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA)
 - Enacted by voter initiative Prop. 64 on November 8, 2016.
 - Legalizes the cultivation, possession, and use of cannabis by adults for nonmedical purposes.
 - Establishes a state regulatory framework for the nonmedical cannabis industry.
 - State licensing authorities are scheduled to begin issuing licenses on January 1, 2018.

A close-up photograph of several green cannabis leaves with serrated edges, growing from a central point. The leaves are vibrant green and set against a dark, blurred background.

Cultivation for Personal Use

- Adults can grow up to six plants per residence for personal nonmedical use.
- Cities and counties can adopt “reasonable regulations” on personal-use cultivation but **cannot** ban indoor personal cultivation.

A close-up photograph of green cannabis leaves with serrated edges, growing from a dark, textured surface. The leaves are vibrant green and have a prominent vein structure.

State Law Preserves Local Control

- MCRSA and AUMA preserve local control for cities and counties.
- Cities and counties can choose to ban commercial businesses, or to allow, regulate and tax them.
 - EXCEPTION: cities and counties **cannot** ban the delivery of nonmedical marijuana on public rights-of-way.
- Dual licensure:
 - All commercial medical and nonmedical cannabis activity requires both a state license and local approval through a license, permit, or other authorization prior to operation.



Commercial Activities Allowed under MCRSA and AUMA

Medical Marijuana

- Cultivation
- Manufacturing
- Retail Sales
- Distribution
- Delivery
- Laboratory Testing

Nonmedical Marijuana

- Same as for medical
- Microbusiness




Department of Regional Planning

ZONING

A close-up photograph of green cannabis leaves with serrated edges. In the background, a white rolled joint is visible.

Current Zoning Laws re Cannabis

- Medical cannabis dispensaries are currently **prohibited** in unincorporated County areas. (Los Angeles County Code section 22.56.196.)
- By urgency ordinance, the County **prohibited** the cultivation, manufacturing, laboratory testing, and distribution of medical marijuana in unincorporated areas.
- The urgency ordinance expires on June 28, 2017.

A close-up photograph of green cannabis leaves with serrated edges, growing from a dark, textured soil. The leaves are vibrant green and have a prominent vein structure.

Zoning Issues to Address for Regulated Commercial Cannabis

- Protecting neighborhoods from overconcentration and overexposure to cannabis and cannabis businesses.
- Stopping unlicensed and unpermitted commercial cannabis activity.
- Ensuring cannabis businesses are adequately buffered from sensitive uses such as schools.
- Balancing regulations to discourage people from continuing to buy, sell, and grow in the unregulated marketplace.



CEO Office of Marijuana Management

OPTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

A close-up photograph of green cannabis leaves with serrated edges, growing from a dark base. The word "Options" is overlaid in white text.

Options

- Ban

Permanently ban commercial medical and nonmedical cannabis.

- Allow

Allow, regulate, and tax some or all medical and nonmedical commercial activities. This could be combined with an interim ban while regulations are being prepared.

A close-up photograph of several green cannabis leaves with serrated edges, growing from a central point. The leaves are illuminated from above, creating a bright green color and some shadows. The background is dark and out of focus.

Preparing a Regulatory Program

- Robust stakeholder outreach.
- Meaningful opportunities for expert, community, and industry participation.
- Education campaigns for consumers, kids, parents, and constituents.
- Estimated yearlong process.



Departments That Would Be Involved in Regulation and Enforcement

- CEO Office of Marijuana Management (Coordinator)
- Regional Planning
- Public Works
- Fire Department
- Sheriff's Department
- District Attorney's Office
- County Counsel
- Public Health
- Treasurer and Tax Collector
- Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures
- Consumer and Business Affairs
- Assessor
- Department of Human Resources and Risk Management

A close-up photograph of green cannabis leaves with serrated edges, growing in a dark environment. The leaves are the primary visual element at the top of the slide.

Challenges

- Cannabis is illegal under federal law.
- Dealing with a robust unlicensed and unregulated market.
- Resource constraints (electricity, water).
- Preventing youth consumption.



Discussion/Questions

