

https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/local/most-new-jersey-adults-would-support-recreational-marijuana-business-nearby-stockton-poll-finds/article_cead86ce-c18d-11ec-8f87-2bb7cdaa1e7e.html

TOP STORY

Most New Jersey adults would support recreational marijuana business nearby, Stockton poll finds

Eric Conklin

Apr 21, 2022



Marc White, right, waits to have his order filled while others wait in line behind him at a RISE dispensary in Bloomfield, N.J., Thursday, April 21, 2022. Recreational sales of cannabis for adults 21 and older started Thursday, with the first alternative treatment centers opening at 6 a.m. in part of the state.

Seth Wenig - staff, AP

Eric Conklin

ix of the state's southernmost counties also agree that tourism-oriented businesses should feature recreational marijuana attractions, Stockton said.

S Of 640 Garden State residents surveyed, 56% said they would back recreational dispensaries in their town, while 36% said they would oppose them. Only 8% said they're unsure how they feel about the topic, Stockton said.

Responses were consistent and varied little across gender, racial and other demographics, said Alyssa Maurice, research associate for the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the university.

The university's latest figures were released Thursday as the first legal sales of recreational marijuana in the state were underway.



Feeling 'right,' 'safe,' people greet cannabis sales in NJ

New Jersey voters approved legalizing recreational marijuana through a referendum in 2020.

The state says it will use most of the tax money (70%) collected from recreational marijuana sales to improve economically struggling communities, mostly those harmed by past marijuana convictions.

People are also reading...

- 1 Outdoor dining up in the air in Somers Point**
 - 2 Brigantine man saved by AtlantiCare staffers at restaurant**
 - 3 New Jersey gets ready for opening day for weed sales**
 - 4 DNA used to break a 30-year stalemate in Wildwood cold case**
-

Those surveyed said they'd like to see the industry's taxes used mostly for education (37%) and social services (13%), Stockton said.

While a majority of adults surveyed by Stockton supported licensed marijuana businesses in their town, half (50%) said New Jersey's hospitality industry should feature recreational marijuana attractions.

Public support for marijuana-related tourism grew to 55% in the state's six southernmost counties. Majority-conservative Ocean County was mostly opposed, Stockton said.

Statewide, 43% said they opposed incorporating marijuana as part of the state's tourism industry, Stockton said.



Atlantic City revelers celebrate 420 on eve of cannabis legal sales

John Froomjian, director of the Hughes Center, tied the change in South Jersey's opinion on marijuana tourism to economic stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The South Jersey tourist industry was especially damaged by pandemic restrictions and by customers avoiding public crowds,” Froomjian said. “If tourists want to enjoy legal marijuana when they go out, a segment of this region wants to see that market served.”

Many have been optimistic about recreational marijuana's cash flow benefiting Atlantic City, and the city's chance of having a recreational dispensary may be forthcoming.

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority on Tuesday approved the city's first recreational cannabis business, located on Pacific Avenue. But the state Cannabis Regulatory Commission still must approve it.

Sonraj LLC, which is seeking the permit in the city, received a variance to allow a recreational cannabis dispensary in a vacant storefront between two parking lots.

Contact Eric Conklin:

609-272-7261

econklin@pressofac.com

Twitter @ACPressConklin

By Eric Conklin
