



Why Oklahomans Should Say 'No' to SQ 820

On March 7, 2023, Oklahoma voters will go to the polls to consider State Question 820, a proposal that would legalize recreational marijuana use in Oklahoma.

Consider the following reasons to vote 'no' on SQ 820:

- x **SQ 820 is unwise and unnecessary.** Oklahoma already has more marijuana dispensaries than any other state in the United States. SQ 820 would expand marijuana's reach in our state, making Oklahoma "go to pot" even further. Oklahomans should reject the goal of making our state a "pot-smokers paradise," instead of a pleasant place to raise a family.
- x **Recreational marijuana creates easy access to a mind-altering, addictive substance that has proven adverse effects on the user, their families, and entire communities.** Recreational marijuana has been linked to addiction and proven to be a gateway to other risky behaviors. Legalization has led to increase casual use among Americans and an even greater surge among those who use cannabis heavily.
- x **This state measure comes with empty promises and disguised consequences.** Proponents of the state question have used phrases to advance their drugs' cause, phrases like "sensible laws," "the tax revenue will help education." Socially liberal proposals with promises of good results, like SQ 820, often end up being empty promises that only invite furthering social harm and breakdown.
- x **Oklahoma is being overrun by marijuana, and SQ 820 would only accelerate the advance of marijuana.** Oklahoma has a long, storied history of agriculture. Our farmland is being converted rapidly from a food-producing state to an addictive-drug producing state, with reports of more than 9,000 groweries.
- x **Today's marijuana is dangerously enhanced.** "Cannabis users today are also consuming a drug that is far more potent than ever before."¹ Also, regular marijuana use has been shown to have "very detrimental effects on the brains of young people, and much of the damage is not reversible."²
- x **To approve recreational marijuana means removing important legal barriers between the people of this state and the trafficking of these addictive, mind-altering drugs.** Recreational marijuana leaves neighborhoods and schools vulnerable for exploitation.

On March 7, Oklahomans should vote no on SQ 820!

This resource was produced by the Oklahoma Baptists' Ethics & Religious Liberty Committee and the Baptist Messenger.

1 <https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/marijuana-mental-illness-violence/>

2 <https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/how-recreational-marijuana-use-affects-the-brain/>