

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

Rock County

November 6, 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in the County of Rock, on November 6, 2018, the following questions will be submitted to a vote of the people in an advisory referendum:

Approving a County Wide Advisory Referendum on the Legalization and Regulation of the Adult Use of Cannabis Resolution No. 18-6B-041

WHEREAS, criminalizing marijuana use has failed to curb its use and more than 100 million Americans say they have used marijuana; and

WHEREAS, 59 percent of Wisconsinites in a 2016 poll said that marijuana should be “fully legalized and regulated like alcohol”, and recent polls show a majority of Americans favor legalization of adult recreational use of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Legislature has failed to act on legislation to legalize and regulate marijuana and has not allowed hearings on such legislation; and

WHEREAS, an estimate by the Congressional Research Service suggests that replacing marijuana prohibition with a system of taxation and regulation could yield \$6.8 billion in federal excise taxes alone; and

WHEREAS, Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington have legalized adult personal use of marijuana and regulate the production, distribution, and sale of marijuana, and Vermont and the District of Columbia have legalized limited personal possession and cultivation of marijuana by adults; and

WHEREAS, legalizing and taxing marijuana could significantly increase state and local revenue; and

WHEREAS, the time law enforcement spends enforcing existing marijuana laws and ordinances negatively impacts the time available to solve more serious crimes and apprehend more dangerous criminals; and

WHEREAS, marijuana prohibition makes product quality control and sales regulation impossible, leaving marijuana sellers free to target children as potential customers and to peddle potentially adulterated products; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a dispute resolution system for disputes in the illicit marijuana trade inevitably leads to violence as disputes arise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rock County Board of Supervisors in session this 28th day of June, 2018, that the following advisory referendum be placed on the countywide general election ballot scheduled for November 6, 2018:

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

Question 1: Should cannabis be legalized for adult use, taxed and regulated like alcohol, with the proceeds from the taxes used for education, healthcare, and infrastructure?

EXPLANATION

A **Yes** vote urges the Governor and State Legislature to change the State’s laws to legalize the adult use of cannabis, and establish a tax and regulatory system similar to the tax and regulation of alcohol.

A **No** vote supports the State’s current prohibition and criminalization of the adult use of cannabis.

Approving Advisory Referendum in Dark Store Tax Loophole Resolution No. 18-7A-046

WHEREAS, each time a big box retailer gets a Dark Store tax break, homeowners, small businesses and other property owners have to pick up a greater share of the property tax levy; and
WHEREAS, over the past several months, municipal, county, city, and town officials have been in contact with state legislators testifying against the Dark Store tax loophole in order to avoid a property tax burden shifting to other tax pay entities such as residential homeowners and other businesses and/or cuts in essential services provided by an affected municipality; and
WHEREAS, unless the Dark Store loopholes are closed, residents will realize the impact when they receive their property tax bills in the mail in December; and
WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute 59.52(25) allows for a county board to conduct a county-wide referendum for advisory purposes; and
WHEREAS, a county-wide advisory referendum on the issue of Dark Stores would provide guidance to the state legislature as to the will of the Rock County electorate on this issue; and
WHEREAS, this resolution seeks authorization to conduct such a county-wide advisory referendum; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 12th day of July, 2018, that the following referendum be placed on the November 2018 election ballot:

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

Question 2: Should the state legislature enact proposed legislation that close the Dark Store loopholes, which currently allow commercial retail properties to significantly reduce the assessed valuation and property tax of such properties, resulting in a substantial shift in taxes levied against other tax paying entities, such as residential home owners and/or cuts in essential services provided by an affected municipality?

EXPLANATION

A **Yes** vote urges the Governor and State Legislature to change the State's laws to close the Dark Store loophole.

A **No** vote supports the State's current tax policy.

Done in the County of Rock
On October 9, 2018
Lisa Tollefson
Rock County Clerk