



## Steve Williams Slams Patrick Morrisey for Blocking Cannabis Legalization Vote, Opposing Trump on Marijuana Reform

For Immediate Release

September 19, 2024

Huntington, WV – Today, West Virginia Democratic candidate for Governor Steve Williams criticized Republican candidate Patrick Morrisey for his [failure to support](#) putting the legalization of cannabis on the ballot in November, denying West Virginians the chance to decide for themselves. Williams emphasized that 24 states, including neighboring Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia, have already legalized cannabis for recreational use and that Morrisey's refusal to let voters weigh in is a glaring example of his out-of-touch leadership.

“Patrick Morrisey’s opposition to letting the people of West Virginia decide on cannabis legalization is unacceptable,” said Williams. “States across the country, including our neighbors Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia, have moved forward with legalization. West Virginians deserve the same opportunity to vote on this issue and bring our state in line with the rest of the country. Morrisey would rather stand in the way of progress than give people the power to choose.”

Williams pointed to the [growing evidence](#) that states with relaxed cannabis laws experience lower rates of opioid addiction. “We are facing a devastating opioid epidemic, and data from states that have legalized cannabis shows it can be an effective tool in reducing addiction rates. Yet Morrisey, who claims to be tough on the opioid crisis, stands in the way of a proven solution,” Williams said. “His stance isn’t just wrong, it’s dangerous for the health and safety of West Virginians.”

In a sharp contrast, Williams highlighted former President Donald Trump’s recent comments supporting marijuana reform. On September 8th, [Trump stated](#), “As I have previously stated, I believe it is time to end needless arrests and incarcerations of adults for small amounts of marijuana for personal use. We must also implement smart regulations, while providing access for adults to safe, tested product. As a Floridian, I will be voting YES on Amendment 3 this November. As President, we will continue to focus on research to unlock the medical uses of marijuana to a Schedule 3 drug, and work with Congress to pass common sense laws, including safe banking for state-authorized companies, and supporting states’ rights to pass marijuana laws, like in Florida, that work so well for their citizens.”

“Even Donald Trump understands that it’s time to end the failed policies of criminalizing marijuana,”



Williams said. “Patrick Morrisey is standing on the opposite side of this issue—not just from me, but from his own party’s leader. While Trump calls for safe, regulated access to cannabis and an end to needless incarcerations, Morrisey clings to outdated policies that hurt West Virginians.”

Williams called on Morrisey to explain why he refuses to follow the lead of former President Trump and 24 other states and allow West Virginians the opportunity to vote on cannabis legalization this November. “Morrisey’s failure to act is an insult to the people of West Virginia who deserve a voice on this issue. It’s time for him to stop blocking progress and start listening to the people he claims to represent.”

Williams pledged to continue fighting for cannabis legalization and ensuring that West Virginians have the same freedoms as residents in other states. “As your governor, I will always trust the people to make their own decisions. Let’s put cannabis legalization on the ballot and let West Virginia move forward.”

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