



Washoe County and Legalized Marijuana

Washoe County is responsible for creating and adopting codes that meet the minimum state laws to regulate legalized marijuana for zoning, business licensing, and public safety.

The Role of Local Government in Marijuana:

Local governments create their own codes as long as they meet the minimum laws set by the State of Nevada. Local codes address:

- **Zoning:** where a business can be located considering state law.
- **Business Licensing:** including fees, hours of operation and look & feel of the business.
- **Public safety:** security requirements and local law enforcement.

The Role of State Government in Marijuana:

The State sets minimum laws for local jurisdictions to follow, including:

- The number of marijuana retail stores/dispensaries within all of Washoe County.
- Accepts applications and licenses the establishments. State licensing includes review of the facilities' security, public health, signage content, and public safety among others.
- Issues medical use cards and sets the age restrictions for marijuana.
- Approves signage content and product packaging.
- Approves the type of marijuana product that can be sold.

How Washoe County is Regulating Legalized Marijuana



Marijuana Regulation

Washoe County is working with the public to educate the community on responsibilities of local government to create, adopt and enforce County Codes related to voter-approved legalized marijuana.

Regulation Facts:

- Nevada voted to legalize recreational marijuana on ballot question 2 during the 2016 election. Use was legal January 1, 2017 and dispensaries received state and local government temporary recreational licensure in July, 2017.
- Nevada state law mirrors the voter-passed initiative. This initiative passed in Washoe County by 54% in 2016.
- Washoe County adopts county codes to mirror laws set by the State of Nevada.
- Many county entities are involved in regulating the marijuana industry in Washoe County. They include: Office of the County Manager, Business Licensing, Planning, Engineering, Washoe County Health District, Sheriff's Department, and local fire jurisdictions.
- The Nevada Department of Taxation determines how many marijuana retail stores/dispensaries can be opened within a county, based on population.
- Within the city limits of the City of Reno and City of Sparks, the city governments are responsible for zoning, business licensing, enforcing codes, and inspecting businesses.



Zoning & Business Licensure

Washoe County is creating and enforcing codes that mirror laws set by the State of Nevada for marijuana business zoning, licensure, and security in unincorporated Washoe County.

Zoning & Business Licensing Facts:

- State law provides for a 3% business license fee from marijuana businesses to address impacts of legalized marijuana.
- Marijuana businesses may only be located in commercially or industrial-zoned locations and must meet the minimum distance requirements from a school (1,000 feet) or community facility (300 feet).
- A marijuana businesses is treated like any other business in unincorporated Washoe County.
- The community may provide feedback on requests for relocation of state licensed retail stores/dispensaries within unincorporated Washoe County.
- Code amendments for 2018 include a single county license for both recreational and medical marijuana retail stores/dispensaries.
- All establishments in unincorporated Washoe County must have a security plan approved and verified by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office before they are issued a business license.
- There are four different types of marijuana establishments. They include retail stores/dispensaries, production, cultivation, and product testing laboratories. Code amendments for 2018 include the new addition of marijuana distributors per state law.



Public Safety & Regional Services

Washoe County is ensuring the safety of the community and providing regional services to address the impacts of legal marijuana.

Public Safety & Regional Services Facts:

- Marijuana use is only legal in the confines of your home. Public use, including inside hotels, is a misdemeanor offense.
- Consumption is illegal where you can purchase marijuana.
- Driving under the influence of marijuana is unsafe and illegal. You can receive a DUI just like alcohol.
- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office proactively trained their officers to observe and identify signs of impairment related to drugs and alcohol during field sobriety tests.
- Legal possession is 1 ounce or 1/8 of an ounce of concentrate.
- You must be 21 years old to purchase recreational marijuana from a retail store/dispensary.
- A team of 30+ divisions in Washoe County is dedicated to identifying, monitoring and responding to changes associated with this new industry and plan to continue conversations with state and local partners, industry and public.



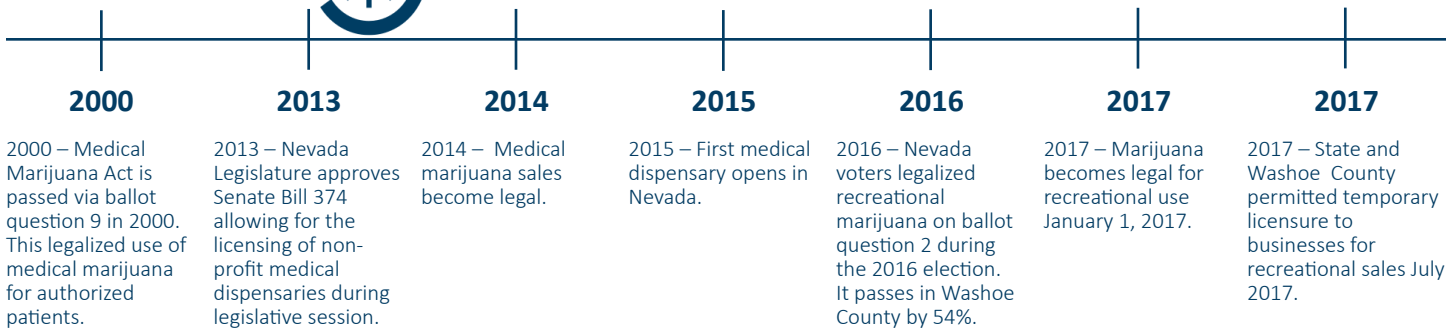
Vision of Success for Marijuana Codes in Washoe County:

With the prioritization of marijuana regulations and regional services, the Board of County Commissioners created a vision of success for marijuana regulations in Washoe County. This vision includes:

- Addressing traffic, public safety, visual, air quality and other direct impacts on neighborhood communities by limiting the extent and impact of legalized marijuana in unincorporated Washoe County.
- Acknowledging the role of state partners and local jurisdictions in the governance and enforcement of legalized marijuana.
- Partnering with local governments to ensure a streamlined process, but consider unique needs of Washoe County.
- Ensuring transparency and consideration for public feedback during the code review process and mimic other similar licenses (like liquor).



Timeline to Legalized Marijuana



Northern Nevada Legal Marijuana Establishments

The information below reflects the number of each of the 4 types of marijuana establishments (MMEs) that have been issued certificates of operation from the Nevada Department of Taxation and granted business licensure from their jurisdictional local government as of January 1, 2017.

MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS

TOTAL ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSED BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

