

LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

JUNE 27, 2018

On July 1st cannabis will become legal in Vermont: this change is significant. In this newsletter, you will find a few 'do's and don'ts' as well as some personal stories about how this change is impacting some Vermonters' lives. I have been working on cannabis reform for more than 20 years and am pleased to celebrate this incremental progress. We still have work to do to create a tax and regulate system that reduces access to minors, ensures the product is free from other drugs or chemicals, provides opportunities for small scale business development, and captures the underground revenue which will help our state and communities fund prevention, enforcement, treatment, economic development and higher education.

Cannabis reform is complicated and has many implications. This month Mairead C. O'Reilly, a Poverty Law Fellow, assisted several VT State's Attorneys in expungement clinics. In Windsor and Chittenden counties approximately 50 expungement petitions were completed for misdemeanor marijuana convictions.

Mairead shared, "For Vermonters, and for all Americans, an expungement offers a 'clean slate' – it's a second chance at a fuller, richer, more productive life. People with criminal records are routinely denied from important opportunities: jobs, education, housing, even the opportunity to be involved in their child's lives. Many parents shared they couldn't go on their kids' fieldtrips – or coach a sports team – because of a 10, 15, 20-year-old marijuana conviction. Others mentioned employers told them they would not hire them until their record was clear of the conviction."

Vermonters with a record who are wondering if they are eligible for expungement can contact Vermont Legal Aid at 1-800-889-2047 or by visiting [their website](#).

Attorney General Donovan produced the '[Guide to Vermont's Laws on Marijuana in the Workplace](#)' which addresses questions employers and employees may have about legalization.

On July 1st cannabis will be legal in Vermont but there are still many conditions of use. On the back you will find some tips regarding cannabis laws in Vermont from Tim Fair, an attorney with Vermont Cannabis Solutions.

Let's keep this moving in the right direction, please consume responsibly and within the law.



(Over)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 28 6:30PM

Lt. Governor Movie 'ZeroWeeks.' Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge Street, White River Junction.

June 30

11:00 – Parade & Fire Department 75th Anniversary Celebration, Hinesburg
4:00 - NQID Parade, Waterbury

July 1 4:20

Green Mountain Cannabis and Music Festival, Layla's Riverside Lodge, Dover

July 3 6:00

Independence Parade, Montpelier

July 4 10:30

Independence Parade, Bristol

July 7 1:00

Independence Parade, Brandon

July 9 4:00

UVM Public Affairs Class, 23 Mansfield Ave., Burlington

July 12 7:00AM

Live with Charlie & Ernie in the Morning. 620WVMT

July 14 7:00

Defend Our Future Event, Brattleboro Museum, 10 Vernon Street

For a complete list of events please visit the calendar on our website: LTGov.vermont.gov

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CANNABIS LEGALIZATION IN VERMONT

By Tim Fair, founding partner of [Vermont Cannabis Solutions](#), Vermont's first cannabis law and consulting firm. If you have other questions Tim can be reached at tim@vermontcannabissolutions.com.

- 1. Cannabis remains illegal at the federal level.** Despite Vermont's decision to legalize cannabis, it remains a Schedule I controlled substance under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. This makes the possession of cannabis illegal under Federal law. Federal agencies that oversee housing, immigration, food and safety inspections, transportation, etc. all consider cannabis an illegal drug, and those who use it as criminals, even if it is being used in compliance with State law. This means that adults who choose to consume cannabis could still face significant collateral consequences because of its federal status.
- 2. It will not be legal to buy or sell cannabis or cannabis products containing more than .3% THC.** While possession of one ounce or less of cannabis will be legal as of July 1st, it will remain illegal to buy or sell cannabis which contains more than 0.3 percent THC. This does not include industrial hemp, or CBD extracted from industrial hemp. These products are, and will remain, legal in the state of Vermont.
- 3. It will not be legal to consume cannabis in public places.** Public consumption of cannabis will remain illegal after July 1st. Adults may only consume cannabis in private homes and on private land with the home/land owner's express permission.
- 4. Renters must get written permission from their landlord to grow cannabis in their residence.** As of July 1st, Vermonters over the age of 21 may grow up to six cannabis plants, two mature and four immature, legally in their homes. Renters need to be aware, however, that the law requires the written permission of their landlord to do so.
- 5. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle under the influence of cannabis.** Vermont has been increasing prosecutions for Driving Under the Influence of Cannabis/Drugs and will continue to do so after July 1st. Both state and local law enforcement are utilizing Drug Recognition Experts (DRE's), officers who are specially trained to identify and help prosecute those who drive under the influence of cannabis and other drugs. Don't do it.

LT. GOVERNOR'S MOVIE SERIES

My monthly movie series, on the 4th Thursday of each month, is moving around the state. Please join me for a movie and discussion in your community. Doors open at 6:30 and movies start at 7:00. All events are free and open to the public. Details for all movies can be found [on our website](#).

Thursday, June 28 – ZeroWeeks, a documentary exploring America's desperate need for modern paid family leave policies. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge Street, White River Junction.

Thursday, July 26 – Seed; The Untold Story, follows passionate seed keepers intent on protecting our 12,000 year-old food legacy. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West Street, Rutland.

Thursday, August 23 - Reinventing Power: America's Renewable Energy Boom, tells real stories featuring real people about how clean energy is transforming the country. Montshire Museum, 1 Montshire Road, Norwich.

Thursday, September 27 – Tough Guise 2, looks at causes of the ongoing epidemic of men's violence in America. St. Johnsbury, location TBD.

Thursday, October 25 – The Devil We Know, a documentary following a group of citizens in West Virginia as they learn the history of PFOA in their water and take on the Dupont cooperation. Bennington, location TBD.

Vermont Lt. Governor David Zuckerman

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