

Resolution of the El Paso County Board of Health

Resolution No.: 2024-12

Subject: Resolution Regarding City of Colorado Springs Ballot Measures Related to Recreational Marijuana

Effective Date: September 25th, 2024

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. 25-1-508 (5)(a), the El Paso County Board of Health (“Board”) has the authority to develop and promote public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community; and

WHEREAS, the mission of El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) is to promote and protect public health and environmental quality across El Paso County through people, prevention and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the vision of EPCPH is for all El Paso County residents to live in thriving communities where every person has the opportunity to achieve optimal health; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, specifically, C.R.S. § 1-45-117(1)(b)(III), the Board may pass a resolution and take a position on any ballot measure, question, or referred measure; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Springs City Council has referred a measure to voters on the November 2024 ballot that, if approved, will amend the Colorado Springs City Charter to prohibit recreational marijuana establishments within City limits; and

WHEREAS, an initiative measure that would enact an ordinance allowing existing medical marijuana businesses in Colorado Springs to apply for licenses to operate recreational marijuana businesses is also on the November 2024 ballot; and

WHEREAS, substance misuse—which is a serious public health challenge—includes the use of illegal drugs and the inappropriate use of legal substances, such as alcohol and tobacco; and

WHEREAS, a review of the research literature by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) found that adolescents and young adults who use marijuana are more likely than non-users to experience psychotic symptoms as adults (such as hallucinations, paranoia, and delusional beliefs), future psychotic disorders (such as schizophrenia), and suicidal thoughts or attempting suicideⁱ; and

WHEREAS, evidence also shows that adolescents who use marijuana are more likely to not graduate high school or attain a college degree, can become addicted to marijuana, and that treatment for marijuana addiction can decrease use and dependenceⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH provides valuable and accurate information and resources on its website to El Paso County residents regarding substance misuse prevention, focusing on reducing and preventing youth substance use; and

WHEREAS, the Board encourages individuals and families to educate themselves about the risks of substance misuse and to avail themselves of the community resources available for substance misuse information, prevention, and treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the El Paso County Board of Health hereby states its support for the City of Colorado Springs Charter Amendment ballot measure and its opposition to the City of Colorado Springs ballot measure enacting an ordinance to allow for retail marijuana businesses within the City.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT ITS MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2024, IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Signed by Board President Ted Collas and attested by Board Secretary Susan Wheelan.

ⁱ Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana: Cannabis Evidence Statements, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. <https://marijuanahealthreport.colorado.gov/literature-review/evidence-statements>

ⁱⁱ Id.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2024-12

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION REGARDING CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS BALLOT MEASURES RELATED TO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 25th, 2024

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EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY: 
Ted Collas, President

ATTEST BY: 
Susan Wheelan, Secretary



El Paso County, CO
Public Health
Prevent • Promote • Protect

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