

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CBS) -- A third state surrounding Pennsylvania legalized recreational marijuana during the 2022 midterm election. With control of the state House set to change, could marijuana laws in the commonwealth change next?

"I never even thought this was going to happen in my lifetime, honestly," Raquel Walker said.

But there it was. Recreational marijuana became available for legal purchase in New Jersey earlier this year for someone like Walker, who says she's been smoking weed for a long time, just not legally until now.

"Buying marijuana off the street, you never know what they have or what's in it," Walker said.

New York will join New Jersey by the end of this year and then Maryland by the middle of next year.

Among other states surrounding Pennsylvania Delaware has decriminalized but not legalized the possession of small amounts of weed.

Only Ohio and West Virginia, like Pennsylvania, haven't gone that far.

Not long ago, it would have been difficult for some to imagine a medical marijuana advisory board meeting CBS Philadelphia attended in Harrisburg.

Among the highlights of the meeting, the number of people using medical marijuana is going up, the price is going down and now there's a new \$50-a-month subsidy to help some low-income people afford medical marijuana.

But recreational marijuana with a key Republican state senator supporting it?

"We need to act sooner rather than later to establish an adult recreational use program," Republican state Sen. Mike Regan said.

With Democrats poised to take over the state House, could fully legal marijuana come to Pennsylvania next?

"That is really not at the top of our agenda," said Republican state Sen. Kim Ward, the state Senate President pro tempore-elect.

And state Senate Democrats?

"It doesn't have to be our top priority for us to get it done," state Sen. Sharif Street said. "I think it's a thing whose time has come and I think we will get it done"

House Democrats will control the agenda in that chamber, but that's will. No one knows how soon that will be because their razor-thin majority, includes three vacant seats.

They're in heavily blue districts, but they might not be filled until after special elections as late as May of next year.

[https://www.abc27.com/pennsylvania/will-pennsylvania-legalize-marijuana-under-josh-shapiro/#:~:text=\(WHTM\)%20%E2%80%93%20Pennsylvania%20is%20one,bipartisan%20efforts%20to%20legalize%20it.](https://www.abc27.com/pennsylvania/will-pennsylvania-legalize-marijuana-under-josh-shapiro/#:~:text=(WHTM)%20%E2%80%93%20Pennsylvania%20is%20one,bipartisan%20efforts%20to%20legalize%20it.)

(WHTM) – Pennsylvania is one of 29 states that does not allow recreational marijuana despite [bipartisan efforts](#) to legalize it.

In 2016 Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed legislation legalizing medical marijuana, which the governor’s office says “refers to using the whole unprocessed marijuana plant or its basic extracts to treat a disease or symptom.”

[Changes coming for Pennsylvania medical marijuana ID cards](#)

The [program](#) offers access for patients “with a serious medical condition through a safe and effective method of delivery that balances patient need for access to the latest treatments with patient care and safety.”

Since then there have been discussions and efforts on how to take the next step in Pennsylvania to fully legalize recreational marijuana. In February 2022 [Pennsylvania’s general assembly took up the legislation to legalize marijuana](#) for the first time after a [bipartisan bill was introduced](#) the year prior.

In July 2022 then-Governor Wolf signed a law that authorizes certain financial institutions to work with legitimate cannabis-related businesses, primarily medical marijuana operators.

Wolf and Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman also pushed for [pardoning](#) those with marijuana convictions. In September 2022 they announced an effort to [“quickly pardon” thousands of Pennsylvanians who have received marijuana-related convictions](#) after already pardoning hundreds for nonviolent marijuana-related offenses.

[Governor Shapiro](#) did not lay out any policy issues during his [inauguration speech](#) but did stress the importance of [democracy and bipartisanship](#).

Since [declaring his candidacy](#) in October 2021, Governor Shapiro tweeted about marijuana 24 times. His primary message was the need to legalize and tax

marijuana while also expunging the criminal records “[for those serving time for possessing small amounts of marijuana.](#)“

[In 2019](#) as Attorney General, Shapiro said he supported legalizing marijuana for those over 21, which included regulating and taxing it. He’s yet to outline any official policy plans as Governor.

Now as Governor Shapiro will sign ethics orders for his administration later this week, aides say, and will deliver his first speech to a joint session of the Legislature when he presents his first budget plan on March 7.

Shapiro also resigned Tuesday as attorney general, leaving in control his top deputy of six years, Michelle Henry, 54, a career prosecutor from Bucks County whom Shapiro plans to nominate to fill the last two years of his term.

The Associated Press contributed to this report