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Vote NO on 2, Vote YES on 3

November 1,
2012

MetroWest
Center for Independent Living, Inc.



MA Ballot Questions 2 and 3



As supporters of the disability community, MWCIL encourages you to vote NO on Ballot Question 2, and to vote YES on Ballot Question 3. *Voting Day is next Tuesday, November 6.*

Ballot Question 2: A NO vote would mean that Physician Assisted Suicide would continue to be illegal in Massachusetts. ([Click Here](#) to download the official version.)

Ballot Question 3 - a YES vote would Legalize Medical Marijuana. ([Click Here](#) to download the official version.)

Absentee Ballots are a good idea for some voters. Scroll down for more information.

from Paul Spooner,
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Ballot Question 2 - Vote NO



Ballot question 2 is dangerous legislation. The bill, as

written, contains inadequate safeguards, and will certainly cause *unintended deaths* due to misuse of the prescription, due to the extra expense of living the end of life comfortably, due to inaccurate diagnoses, and due to treatable depression.

The disability community has joined forces to oppose Ballot question 2 and reject a state-run suicide program. Second Thoughts offers the following:

- It's impossible to predict a death, misdiagnosis would be deadly.
- No psychiatric evaluation is required to screen for depression.
- No witness required at the death, creating opportunities for foul play.
- People will feel a duty to die because they feel like a burden.

Instead, let's expand home care, palliative care, and treat depression.

People with disabilities are especially vulnerable to the potential abuses and inadequacies of the legislation. The combination of expensive treatment for some disabilities, and the attitude that a person with a disability is less valuable than other people can lead "understanding" friends and families to pressure someone to take this option. Visit www.second-thoughts.org for more reasons to vote NO on Question 2.

Ballot Question 3 - Vote YES



The Marijuana Policy Project is a national group that supports the legalization of medical marijuana. Their [website](#) has information on the history of MA laws, and why this law is good for Massachusetts. The following information was copied from the Marijuana Policy Project website.

Patients Who Will Be Helped by This Initiative

Only patients with debilitating conditions, such as cancer, glaucoma, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), hepatitis C, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and other conditions as determined in writing by a patient's physician will qualify to participate in the medical marijuana program.

Why Medical Marijuana Will Work in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts initiative is based on the best practices of seventeen other states and the District of Columbia. The hallmark of the initiative is state regulation. It requires that doctors writing recommendations have a bona fide relationship with their patients and that the state verifies all recommendations.

A patient would be able to obtain medical marijuana from a limited number of state regulated non-profit treatment centers. The petition creates a safe and well regulated framework for patients to access medical marijuana under the care of their doctor. There will be a maximum of 35 treatment centers in the state, with no more than five treatment centers in any one county.

This initiative will be the safest medical marijuana law in the country. It creates a new felony for anyone who defrauds the medical marijuana system with a penalty of up to five years in prison for distribution. A person who now faces a mere civil fine for possession of less than an ounce could be facing a criminal conviction and a jail sentence if they defraud the medical marijuana system.

Supporters Across Massachusetts

The AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, Massachusetts Nurses Association, Massachusetts Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Massachusetts Patient Advocacy Alliance, New England Coalition of Cancer Survivorship, AIDS Foundation of Western Mass, National Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Foundation, and over 1,200 licensed doctors in Massachusetts support safe access to medical marijuana for patients with a doctor's recommendation.

Broad-Based Support for Medical Marijuana

The American Nurses Association, American Public Health Association, Institute of Medicine, National Cancer Institute, and state medical societies of Rhode Island, California, and New York have attested to the significant therapeutic benefits of marijuana.

It is time that patients suffering in Massachusetts have the same treatment options as those in neighboring states of

Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island, as well as fourteen other states and the District of Columbia.

Absentee Ballots

Thanks to [Independence Associates](#) for this article.

Obtaining an Absentee Ballot

For those of you not able to get to the polls, it is not too late to obtain an absentee ballot. Massachusetts allows voters to vote by absentee ballot if they:

- will be absent from your city or town on election day, and/or
- have a physical disability that prevents your voting at the polling place, and/or
- cannot vote at the polls due to religious beliefs.

You may have an absentee ballot mailed to you or you may vote at your city or town hall by making arrangements with your local election official.

To be counted, a completed ballot must be received by the time the polls close on Election Day to be counted.

To have a form mailed to you, you must apply in writing to your city or town clerk or election commission. Submit your application early to allow sufficient time for the ballot to be mailed to you and be returned by the close of polls on election day. Although the deadline to apply for absentee ballots is noon the day before the election, we highly recommend submitting the application as soon as practical. You may also apply by letter or note which must include your:

- name,
- address as registered,
- ward and precinct (if you know them),
- address where you wish the absentee ballot sent,
- in a primary, the party ballot you want, and
- your signature.

Returning your absentee ballot

- The ballot will come with instructions and a set of return envelopes. After making your choices on the ballot, you must enclose it in the inner (smaller) brown envelope and read and complete the information on the front of that envelope and sign it. Then insert the smaller envelope in the bigger envelope, place proper postage on it and mail it back to your city or town hall.
- Alternatively, you or a family member may hand-deliver it to the local election official. Your completed

ballot cannot be delivered directly to your polling place on Election Day.

- To be counted, a completed ballot must be received by the time the polls close on Election Day.

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