

CITY OF ROCHESTER BALLOT FAQs

1. Why Is this Proposed Ballot Language on the November 7, 2023 General Election ballot?

The City of Rochester currently prohibits all marihuana establishments within the boundaries of the City of Rochester pursuant to Ordinance Sec. 12-271, which was adopted by the Rochester City Council on November 12, 2018. However, the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act allows persons to petition to initiate ordinances that would allow marihuana establishments in communities, including the City of Rochester.

A group has filed petitions signed by the required number of electors in the City of Rochester to place on the ballot an Initiated Ordinance and Charter Amendment proposing to allow marihuana retail establishments in the City of Rochester. As a result, the City was required to place the proposed Initiated Ordinance and Charter Amendment on the ballot for the voters' consideration at the November 7, 2023 General Election.

These ballot proposals were not initiated nor sanctioned by the City of Rochester or its City Council. The City of Rochester was required by law to place them on the ballot.



BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

Open Stores Ordinance

Summary of Ballot Question: This proposed ordinance, if adopted, would provide for three retail adult use cannabis retail establishments to be allowed to operate in the city limits. Shall the Proposal be Adopted?

Yes
 No

Cannabis Licensing Charter Amendment

Summary Ballot Question: This proposed charter amendment, if adopted, would establish an application process, selection criteria, licenses, fees, and regulations for three adult use retail cannabis establishments in the City. Shall the Proposal be adopted?

Yes
 No

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2. If the voters approve the Initiated Ordinance and Charter Amendment at the November 7, 2023 General Election, how many marihuana retail establishments will be allowed in the City of Rochester?

As drafted and if approved by the voters at the November 7, 2023 General Election, **the Initiated Ordinance would require the City of Rochester to allow three (3) adult use cannabis retail establishments to operate in the City of Rochester.**



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Yes
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Cannabis Licensing Charter Amendment

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Yes
 No

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3. If the voters approve the Initiated Ordinance and Charter Amendment at the November 7, 2023 General Election, what locations can the three (3) marihuana retail establishments be located in the City of Rochester?

The Initiated Ordinance and Charter Amendment, as drafted, provides very few limitations on where the three (3) marihuana retail establishments can be located in the City of Rochester, except that the retail establishments shall not be allowed within 800 feet from pre-existing schools (K-12), or within areas zoned exclusively for residential use pursuant to state statute restrictions.

Subject to the distance requirements, the Initiated Ordinance and Charter Amendment, as drafted, would allow the three (3) marihuana retail establishments to be located virtually anywhere in the City of Rochester where retail is permitted. The language would require the City of Rochester to deem these uses to be of “equivalent legal character to other retail uses permitted in the City.”



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Yes
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4. If the voters approve the Initiated Ordinance and Charter Amendment at the November 7, 2023 General Election, what operations for the marijuana retail establishments would also be permitted in addition to the retail establishment building itself?

If the voters approve the Initiated Ordinance and Charter Amendment at the November 7, 2023 General Election, **the Initiated Ordinance and Charter Amendment, as drafted, would allow home delivery service, drive-thru facilities, and limited contact parking lot service to be utilized in conjunction with each marijuana retail establishment.** which are exterior activities that occur beyond the building structure itself.



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Yes
 No

Cannabis Licensing Charter Amendment

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Yes
 No

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5. Why is there an Initiated Ordinance and an initiated Charter Amendment?

The initiated “Open Stores Ordinance” would repeal the prohibition against marijuana businesses from being in the City of Rochester that is found in Ordinance Sec. 12-271 and would allow for three (3) adult use retail establishments. The initiated “Cannabis Licensing Charter Amendment” would incorporate an application process, selection criteria, licenses, fees into the City of Rochester’s Charter.

The City of Rochester did not develop, recommend or approve this language in any manner. It was required to place them on the November 7, 2023 General Election Ballot as submitted in the petitions.



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Yes
 No

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6. Residents have reported receiving a “Rochester Community Survey.” Did the City of Rochester send this survey?

No. The City of Rochester did not send out this “Rochester Community Survey.” **The City of Rochester did not develop this document and did not know it was going out.**



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Yes
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