Get More Involved!

Now that you have identified your district numbers and the candidates seeking to represent you, consider reaching out to share your support for cannabis law reform. Review the <u>resource packet</u> we distributed at our recent advocacy workshops, and use <u>these tips on how to approach the</u> <u>candidates during the upcoming election</u>:

Candidates who SUPPORT reform - Express gratitude and let them know you agree!

- Visit candidates' campaign websites to learn about their platform. Send an email to share your appreciation of their support for reform.
- Sign up for their newsletters and follow them on social media. Engage with them thoughtfully online and don't hesitate to share links to resources.
- Ask about and attend local events. Introduce yourself and thank them in person for their support. If they take questions from the audience at local townhalls/debates/forums, take advantage of the opportunity to ask them to discuss their positions on medical cannabis and decriminalization so others can also hear from them on the important issues. Take pictures and tag the candidate in social media posts!
- Volunteer for their campaign; it's a great opportunity to build a relationship with the candidate and their team. Sometimes, campaign staff become legislative staff when the candidate wins an election. If you have a good relationship, you can be a resource for them on this issue.

Candidates who OPPOSE reform - Always remain respectful, even if they don't yet share your views on marijuana policy.

- Send an email to introduce yourself and thank them for being willing to serve your district in the Texas Legislature. Politely let them know you support reform and hope they'll reconsider their position. If you have a personal story or professional experience, be sure to include it as concisely as possible. When possible, share links to resources, including studies, reports, and news articles from reputable sources.
 - Remember, you will have other opportunities to continue the conversation, so try not to overwhelm them in your first email.

? Candidates who DIDN'T RESPOND to our survey - Ask them about where they stand on this important issue!

- Send an email and/or contact them on social media to ask what they think about various aspects of reform. You can send them our survey questions, which are listed on page two of this voter guide).
 - Be sure to ask them state/federal questions based on the office they are running for. (<u>State</u>: Tx House/Senate; <u>Federal</u>: U.S. House/U.S. Senate)

Make sure to VOTE on March 3! You can learn more about polling locations, what to bring with you, and more at https://www.votetexas.gov/.

Would you like to become more politically involved? Become a DELEGATE to your political party's convention!



Get More Involved!

Participate in the political convention process - Become a delegate!

All parties elect their officers and define their platforms through a grassroots convention process. At their conventions, Libertarians also nominate their candidates, but Democrats and Republicans nominate candidates in the Primary Election (March 3). The eventual nominees from each party will then face-off in the General Election, in November.

To participate as a delegate to the convention (first-timers welcome!), contact the political party that most accurately represents your values:

Republican Party of Texas	Texas Democratic Party	Libertarian Party of Texas
https://www.texasgop.org/	https://www.texasdemocrats.org/	http://www.lptexas.org/

(<u>Note</u>: You can only affiliate with one party.)

Process: Precinct Convention → County/Senate District Convention → State Convention

You'll have to **ask your county party about exactly when/where/how to participate in your precinct convention.** <u>Here's a link</u> to the Republican Party's convention instructions, including a training video. While this information is published by RPT, the information is relevant for participation with any party.

As a delegate, you'll be a voting member of the convention. You'll help decide on party leadership, governing rules, and the platform. Consider introducing a resolution regarding cannabis law reform at your precinct convention. If approved by your fellow delegates, these resolutions will help make up the party platform, which indicates the party's position on various issues. Contact us for sample/draft resolutions.

If you plan to introduce a resolution, be prepared to read it at the convention and shepherd it through the process, including the County/Senate District Conventions and State Conventions. Connect with the other supportive delegates and exchange contact information. This will be your team as you make your way through the process.

Feel free to contact us if you'd like further guidance about becoming a delegate: <u>HFazio@TxMJPolicy.org</u>.