IT’S TIME FOR A NEW APPROACH.

WHO WE ARE

We’re a coalition of community leaders, public health and safety experts, and everyday Washingtonians who agree it’s time to end the War on Drugs. We are committed to replacing broken policies that cycle people through our courts and jails with fair and effective public health approaches that respect every individual’s dignity, and address the root causes of substance use disorder. We agree with the 71% of Washington State voters who believe “the best way to address drug use is through engagement, healthcare, treatment, and recovery services addressing the root causes of addiction.”

WHAT WE ARE DOING

We’re working to place Washington State Initiative 1922 on the November 2022 ballot and invite you to join us.

The U.S. War on Drugs is now a half-century old and continues to fail to decrease rates of substance use disorder or reverse our current overdose epidemic. Treating drug use as a crime ruins lives, saddling people with lifelong criminal records that make it more difficult for them to access services, and find housing and jobs. In contrast, several European countries have treated drug possession as a public health issue instead of a crime for decades. They have much lower rates of substance use disorders, related health problems, and overdose deaths than the U.S. Nearby, Oregon passed a similar law in 2020, and 16,000 people are already accessing recovery services.

Washington can, and must, do better. We need to stop doubling down on the failed War on Drugs and commit to change. This year, we’re partnering with communities across the state to qualify I-1922 to the ballot and pass it on November 8, 2022. I-1922’s public health approach focuses on three key components:

- Expand and facilitate access to Washington’s substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Initiative 1922 redirects $141 million each year from cannabis revenues to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services that Washington voters know work better than arresting people and throwing them in jail.

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In the 2021 fiscal year, Washington State collected $559.5 million in cannabis excise tax revenue and license fees. Two-thirds of the revenue went to healthcare, prevention and treatment, research and education, cities and counties, law enforcement, and administration. After all the dedicated distributions, the remaining $191 million flowed into the state’s general fund. I-1922 will redirect $141 million of that overflow, every year, to expansion of prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

![FY2021 Cannabis Revenues Pie Chart]

- **Stop treating people with substance use disorder like criminals.** Too many Washingtonians turn to drugs to manage mental health issues like depression and anxiety, or due to poverty, isolation, and trauma. When we treat people who use drugs as criminals, it’s even more difficult for them to access services and find housing and jobs. I-1922 breaks this cycle and helps restore lives. The measure increases access to prevention, treatment, and recovery support services in all parts of the state, in both urban and rural communities, and grows our behavioral health workforce so that more people are available to help those in need.

- **Help people with criminal convictions for drug possession clear their records.** Black and Native Americans are convicted of drug possession at disproportionately high rates in nearly every county across our state, despite the fact that Washingtonians use drugs at equal rates across races and ethnicities. This measure helps correct harms inflicted over the past half-century of unfair enforcement of failed policy.

**Treating drug use as a crime has failed our communities and caused generations of harm. Washington can change course in 2022. Join us. Commit to change.**

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