



# Medical marijuana moratorium extended

By [Elizabeth G. Howard](#) on March 6, 2015 in [Latest News](#), [Lead News](#), [News](#) · [4 Comments](#)

## About author



**Elizabeth G. Howard**

Elizabeth Howard is a Stratford-based journalist, blogger and poet. She writes on the arts, education, music, the environment, green lifestyle, American culture, travel and food. You can find her online at [elizabethoward.net](#)

Interested in selling medical marijuana in Stratford? You're going to have to keep waiting.

Stratford's Zoning Commission voted last Tuesday to extend the moratorium on applications for zoning permits for medical marijuana dispensaries and producers and methadone clinics.

The extension would continue to block the legal production and sale of medical marijuana in Stratford until February 2016. Connecticut legalized marijuana for medical purposes in May 2012.

Zoning Commission Chairman Dave Fuller said the commission should wait until the town develops a "comprehensive policy" to manage the sale and distribution of marijuana in Stratford.

A sparsely attended public hearing was held in August on proposed regulations for locations of dispensaries and production facilities. The draft regulations mirrored those proposed in other Connecticut towns and cities.

At the August administrative session, commissioners Fuller and Tony Smith were in strong disagreement over the merits of allowing the sale of medical marijuana in Stratford.

"Approving a zoning regulation doesn't put us in any legal liability whatsoever," Smith said at that meeting. "This [marijuana] is a very valuable drug for some people. We should be thinking about those consumers who need to obtain it. Given that the state has put the legal infrastructure in place to allow medical marijuana dispensaries, we should go ahead and approve the new regulation."

Fuller has expressed concerns that state and federal laws on the drug are in opposition, and could cause legal battles for the town.

The zoning commission tabled the issue in August and did not address it again until the most recent meeting.

The original wording of moratorium passed by the commission in 2013 states that during the period of moratorium "no applications will be accepted, considered or approved and no zoning permits will be issued to permit the establishment of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and/or Producers within any zoning district within the Town of Stratford."

Connecticut currently has six medical marijuana dispensaries across the state, said Claudette Carveth, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Consumer Protection. The closest dispensary to Stratford is in Bethel. The others are in

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« JUNE 2015 »						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

**TUE 02 Senior calendar: May 29-June 4**  
June 1 @ 8:30 am - June 4 @ 4:00 pm

**TUE 02 Catholic Daughters meeting**  
June 2 @ 6:30 pm

Hartford, Branford, South Windsor, Uncasville, and Bristol. The four legal production facilities are in West Haven, Portland, Simsbury, and Watertown.

"We believe at this point we have sufficient capacity in the state to serve the existing population of registered patients," Carveth said. The state would consider adding more facilities if the population allows or if there is a meaningful lack of access, she said.

*Editor Melvin Mason contributed to this story.*

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George Mulligan · 3 months ago

There are medical uses for a wide range of narcotics. There are also abuses.

-  
Years ago I read the percent of people in prisons/jails who had substance abuse issues was something like 95%? People drunk or high aren't in their right mind. I was a teenager in the 1960s and from about 1967 to present, pot, cocaine, and other stuff have destroyed the fabric of a large percentage of the American families.  
- A T F E (FATE) + DEA (th) are all cash cows for the government and politicians that everything under their purview can KILL, MAIM, or cause DISEASE.  
- FDA (FAD) covers mostly legitimate foods and beverages, but also have abuses in that NO ONE expected the impact of SALT (Hypertension) and SUGAR (Diabetes)

-  
There are restrictions on PUBLIC use of TOBACCO, which I suspect would also cover the places where Marijuana would be legally used, if it is passed?  
Drugs can be over the counter or prescribed?  
I expect medical Marijuana would be prescribed, if legalized.

-  
Alcohol has a unique place in human history, in no small part the still water could go BAD. Retrospectively, maybe Darwinism should be changed from "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST," to SURVIVAL OF THE DRUNKEST?"  
- European and American governments among others, used Alcohol as a military tool.

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storm\_crow · 3 months ago

In other words, "we admit cannabis is medically useful, but we refuse to allow places where you can buy it! NIMBY! NIMBY! NIMBY!"

^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ›

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02 June 2 @ 7:00 pm

THU **Major League Baseball Umpire Mark Hirschbeck**  
04 June 4 @ 10:00 am

THU **Thursday Night Ballroom Dance Party**  
04 June 4 @ 7:30 pm - 11:00 pm





COMMON GOOD · 3 months ago

Zoning Commission Chairman Dave Fuller must understand that the Town of Stratford must first develop a "comprehensive policy" to counter the general consensus that Stratford is politically polarized, redefines the term mismanaged, and desperately needs a competent Independent candidate to replace Mayor Harkins. Stratford's elected officials need to pull their heads out of the sand and take notice that 23 states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for medical use and four states have decriminalized its possession. Notwithstanding the fact that federal law still prohibits the production, sale, and possession of marijuana, half of the states in the union have sent a strong message to Washington, D.C. that the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and state's rights can no longer be viewed as a subordinate element of shared power under our system of federalism. Our country's history is replete with circumstances that reaffirm the framers intent that the constitution be a flexible document. Once again, Stratford's leaders have demonstrated their lack of vision and ignorance of what constitutes public policy that best serves the common good.

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Common Good · 3 months ago

Mayor Harkins needs some medical marijuana. Stratford's elected officials need to pull their heads out of the sand and take notice that 23 states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for medical use and four states have decriminalized its possession. Notwithstanding the fact that federal law still prohibits the production, sale, and possession of marijuana, half of the states in the union have sent a strong message to Washington, D.C. that the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and state's rights can no longer be viewed as a subordinate element of shared power under our system of federalism. Our country's history is replete with circumstances that reaffirm the framers intent that the constitution be a flexible document. Once again, Stratford's leaders have demonstrated their lack of vision and ignorance of what constitutes public policy that best serves the common good.

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