



2026 Tennessee Voter Guide

November 3, 2026, General Election

This year's elections will be key to whether Tennessee finally elects a legislature and a governor who is willing to pass medical cannabis legislation, decriminalization, or a legalization law. In the governor's race, legalization supporter Jerri Green (D) is squaring off against prohibitionist candidate Marsha Blackburn (R). Meanwhile, every seat in the state House of Representatives and half of the state Senate are on the ballot. The results will be crucial to whether — and how — Tennessee cannabis policy evolves.

To help inform voters, MPP and [Tennessee NORML](#) have created this voting guide, where we ranked General Assembly candidates based on their support for creating a medical cannabis program, decriminalization, as well as legalization. It also includes comments — and sponsorship — for some candidates who support adult-use legalization. The voter guide includes information from incumbents' voting record on medical cannabis, bill sponsorship, and replies to our candidate survey.

Here are the questions we asked legislative candidates:

1. Forty-one states have passed laws allowing the doctor-advised medical use of cannabis. Do you support enacting a medical cannabis program in Tennessee to allow seriously ill and dying patients to use and safely access a limited amount of cannabis for medical purposes if their doctors recommend it?
2. Should there be legal protections for registered patients, including employment, housing, and custody safeguards?
3. Many states have replaced criminal penalties for possession of cannabis with a civil fine. Tennessee currently imposes a *criminal* misdemeanor on simple possession, which creates a criminal record that often stands in the way of getting housing, jobs, and an education. It also imposes possible jail time. Do you support changing the penalty for possession of modest amounts of cannabis from a criminal offense to a civil fine?
4. If federal law removes or substantially reduces cannabis prohibition (including rescheduling or de-scheduling) would you support legislation to remove Tennessee's state prohibition and establish a regulated legal cannabis market?

You can find your Tennessee state Senate and House district [here](#). You can find your sample ballot and confirm your status as a voter [here](#). Monday, October 5th is the last day to register to vote in the 2026 general election. Early voting begins October 14-29th (No Sunday voting).

Background: Tennessee is one of only nine states that does not have a medical cannabis, decriminalization, or adult-use legalization law.

State Offices

Governor

Jerri Green (D)

State of Tennessee

A current City Councilperson for the city of Memphis. She wants to [legalize and regulate both medical and adult-use cannabis](#) to support programs to help people suffering from opiate addiction. She has also voiced support for taxing and regulating hemp products.

Supports Medical Cannabis

We should legalize marijuana medicinally, and as Governor, I would support enacting a medical cannabis program in Tennessee. The responsible legalization and regulation of marijuana will reduce reliance on opioids and support adults who use these products for medical purposes as recommended by their doctors.

Supports Legal Protections

Yes, Tennessee can protect public safety while still allowing for use of marijuana. Medical cannabis should be treated like any other legally prescribed, controlled medication. Employees, caregivers, and property renters should not face discrimination or termination for off-duty, legal use that does not affect their workplace performance or safety.

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Yes, Tennessee can protect public safety while still allowing for use of marijuana. Medical cannabis should be treated like any other legally prescribed, controlled medication. Employees, caregivers, and property renters should not face discrimination or termination for off-duty, legal use that does not affect their workplace performance or safety.

Supports Legal Market

Over 60% of Tennesseans support legalizing marijuana. States like Massachusetts are generating nearly \$300M a year in cannabis tax revenue. Meanwhile, in Tennessee we continue to move backwards. Also notable, the GOP supermajority has blocked legalization while gutting our local hemp industry. As Governor, I will advocate to legalize and regulate marijuana to create jobs, fund pothole repair (as an example, see Representative Aftyn Behn's Pot for Potholes bill), reduce reliance on opioids, and fix a broken justice system that unfairly targets Black communities. We should regulate hemp responsibly - not regulate small businesses out of existence. We should require testing, child-resistant packaging, age verification, and accurate labeling, but not wipe out Tennessee farmers, family-owned businesses, and adults who responsibly use these products to manage pain. Tennessee can protect public safety without crushing an entire industry. We don't need to ask everyday Tennesseans to pay more - we just need leadership that makes corporations pay their fair share and puts public dollars to good use. I support Senator Heidi Campbell and Representative Aftyn Behn's Pot for Potholes Act that would inject \$270 million annually into Tennessee's massive infrastructure backlog while providing a lucrative new cash crop for tariff-squeezed local farmers.

Marsha Blackburn (R)

State of Tennessee

The current United States Senator of Tennessee. She is firmly opposed to any efforts to legalize adult-use cannabis. In 2018, she [stated](#) that she is “open” to reviewing data on the efficacy of medical cannabis. As a U.S. Senator, she signed her opposition to President Trump’s rescheduling of cannabis. She [stated](#) the move was “irresponsible.”

Does Not Support Medical Cannabis

Does Not Support Legal Protections

Does Not Support Reducing to Civil Fine

Does Not Support Legal Market

Senate

Angela Wynn (D)

District 13

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

David Hardy (D)

District 27

Supports Medical Cannabis

I feel that our educated scientist and doctors should be able to study and prescribe the appropriate treatments for patients. This includes cannabis for a number of science backed medical treatments.

Supports Legal Protections

I feel that our community should have access to the appropriate treatments and prescriptions to safely ensure their health and quality of life and that there should be safeguards in place to allow for this treatment.

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

I feel that the criminal penalties of adult possession of cannabis are very damaging to our communities and should be re-evaluated and reduced. I feel that the juvenile/minor possession of cannabis should be handled similar to how we treat possession of alcohol or tobacco.

Supports Legal Market

Illegal and unregulated markets have proven to be dangerous to our communities across all substances. I would support legislation for the safe regulation and management of the cannabis market.

House of Representatives

Brad Batt (D)

District 6

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Sarah Jayne Della Vecchia (D)

District 7

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Jenny Fowler (D)

District 19

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Maybe Supports Legal Market

I would need to look at the data and be convinced that it was not harmful to the public or addictive. We must be careful to protect the public from addiction, harmful effects of certain drugs, and accidents due to overdose.

Monica Mowdy (D)

District 25

Supports Medical Cannabis

With the economy so hard right now, as well as some folks struggling to afford medication and adding to that the opioid abuse we still face the best answer is medical marijuana.

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Nathan Denton (D)

District 26

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Art Rymer (D)

District 30

Supports Medical Cannabis

I'd actually like to see more than this, however.

Supports Legal Protections

I'd actually like to see more than this, however.

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

I support full decriminalization/legalization of cannabis - no penalties whatsoever.

Supports Legal Market

Let's legalize, regulate, and tax cannabis properly.

Michael Woodlee (D)

District 31

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Ali Simpson (D)

District 32

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Trenton Strode (D)

District 42

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Mandy Cook (D)

District 45

Supports Medical Cannabis

My mother was a hospice nurse and had many experiences where cannabis was the only thing to provide relief to her patients.

Supports Legal Protections

With a valid prescription, nobody should face negative consequences for possession or consumption.

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Yes, possession of marijuana without intent to sell or distribute should not be in criminal offense.

Supports Legal Market

Legalizing and Regulating cannabis is how we create a safer infrastructure around a substance that is already being consumed in our state.

Mike Stein (D)

District 47

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Matt Ferry (D)

District 48

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

I support full legalization of medical and recreational cannabis.

Connie Casha (D)

District 49

Supports Medical Cannabis

Any medical decisions made between a physician and the patient should provide for the needs of the patient. A physician takes the oath of do no harm and would provide responsible medical treatment.

Supports Legal Protections

No registered patient with a prescription for medical use of marijuana should be fearful of retribution from their employer, rental or home owners association or custody questions,

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Illegal possession of modest amounts of cannabis should be a civil fine and nothing more. The lives of too many people have been negatively impacted with little chance of removing a criminal offense for marijuana possession. Repeat offenders may face stiffer fines or penalties.

Supports Legal Market

A Vanderbilt poll of Tennesseans In November/December 2024 found 63% in favor of legalizing marijuana in Tennessee. State legislators should listen to their constituents and bring forth legislation that supports the will of the people.

Mark Proctor (D)

District 59

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Craig D'Apolito (D)

District 64

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Julian Pierre-Griffin (D)

District 65

Supports Medical Cannabis

Needs More Information Regarding Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Modest amount would need to be defined

Maybe Supports Legal Market

Tamara Bavendam (D)

District 66

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Matt Day (D)

District 71

Supports Medical Cannabis

A pillar of my campaign is affordable and accessible healthcare, of which medical cannabis is a part.

Supports Legal Protections

No should lose there job, home, or custody over medical cannabis.

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Tennessee needs to shift incarceration away from victimless crimes.

Supports Legal Market

Margaret Price (D)

District 83

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Bills

Medical Cannabis

HB0872

Comprehensive medical cannabis

Sponsored by Iris Rudder (R)

Died without Committee Hearing

Co-sponsored by Shaundelle Brooks (D), Vincent Dixie (D), Jeremy Faison (R), Andrew Farmer (R), Bob Freeman (D), Ronnie Glynn (D), Torrey Harris (D), Caleb Hemmer (D), Gloria Johnson (D), Sam McKenzie (D), Larry Miller (D), Bo Mitchell (D), Jason Powell (D), Jay Reedy (R), Gabby Salinas (D), Joe Towns (D),

HB1972

Changes state law that would mandate state act if cannabis rescheduled

Sponsored by Andrew Farmer (R), William Lamberth (R), Mike Sparks (R)

Signed into law

HB1996

Legal protections for certified medical cannabis patients

Sponsored by Johnny Shaw (D)

Died without Committee Hearing

HB228

Would have put a medical cannabis question on the 2026 ballot

Sponsored by Chris Hurt (R)

Died without Committee Hearing

Co-sponsored by Shaundelle Brooks (D), Vincent Dixie (D), Jeremy Faison (R), Andrew Farmer (R), Bob Freeman (D), Ronnie Glynn (D), Torrey Harris (D), Caleb Hemmer (D), Gloria Johnson (D), Sam McKenzie (D), Larry Miller (D), Bo Mitchell (D), Jason Powell (D), Jay Reedy (R), Gabby Salinas (D), Joe Towns (D)

SB0489

Comprehensive Medical Cannabis

Sponsored by Janice Bowling (R)

Died without Committee Hearing

SB1165

Would have put a non binding referendum on medical cannabis

Sponsored by Raumesh Akberi (R)

Died without Committee Hearing

Decriminalization

HB1996

Would have made possession of under one ounce an misdemeanor, with no custodial arrest and a fine of \$100

Sponsored by Johnny Shaw (D)

Died without Committee Hearing

SB2571

Would have made possession of under one ounce an misdemeanor, with no custodial arrest and a fine of \$100

Sponsored by Page Walley (R)

Died without Committee Hearing

Legalization

HB HB 981

Comprehensive Legalization Bill

Sponsored by Larry Miller (D)

Died without Committee Hearing

HB 2479

No regulated sales ; personal possession and limited home grow rights

Sponsored by Antonio Parkinson (D)

Died without Committee Hearing

SB 2486

no regulated sales ; personal possession and limited home grow rights

Sponsored by Janice Bowling (R)

Died without Committee Hearing

SB 923

No regulated sales ; personal possession and limited home grow rights

Sponsored by Heidi Campbell (D)

Died without Committee Hearing

SB 809

No regulated sales ; personal possession and limited home grow rights

Sponsored by Jeff Yarbrow (D)

Died without Committee Hearing

HB0703

Comprehensive Legalization Bill

Sponsored by Aftyn Behn (D)

Died without Committee Hearing

SB2440

Comprehensive Legalization Bill

Sponsored by Heidi Campbell (D)

Died without Committee Hearing

SB0291

Comprehensive Legalization Bill

Sponsored by Heidi Campbell (D)

Died without Committee Hearing

HB2525

Comprehensive Legalization Bill

Sponsored by Aftyn Behn (D)

Died without Committee Hearing

