



For Immediate Release

April 29, 2022

Media Contact

Tom Haren

press@justlikealcohol.com

(614) 349-8192

Petitioners for Marijuana Ballot Issue File Legal Action

Group seeks declaratory judgment to secure a statewide vote on legalization

Columbus, OH – Today the Petition Committee proposing a law to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol filed for a declaratory judgment with the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to preserve the ability of Ohioans to vote on marijuana legalization.

“We’re going to court to protect the rights of the over 200,000 Ohio citizens that signed our petition and called for the legislature to take action,” said Tom Haren, one of the petitioners.

The Ohio Constitution states that any proposed initiated statute may be submitted 10 days prior to the beginning of a General Assembly session. The Committee met this requirement by submitting the petition with 206,943 signatures on December 20, 2021. The Committee then submitted an additional 29,918 signatures on January 13, 2022 to address a deficiency during the prescribed cure period. In accordance with Ohio law, Secretary of State Frank LaRose then transmitted the initiative petition to the General Assembly on January 28, 2022.

At issue are comments made by state legislative leaders suggesting that the law proposed by initiative petition was prematurely transmitted to the General Assembly by Secretary of State Frank LaRose on January 28, 2022, and must wait to be transmitted until January of next year. The plaintiffs believe that Secretary LaRose’s transmission was proper and that they therefore may begin next month collecting the second round of signatures for submission of the proposed law to the voters.

Should the court rule in favor of the plaintiffs, they will collect the second round of signatures needed to appear on voters’ ballots.

“Ohioans on both sides of the aisle overwhelmingly support the legalization of marijuana,” said Haren. “We look forward to giving Ohioans the opportunity to decide the question of legalization for themselves on November 8, 2022.”

###