

# MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN WPB

On June 18, 2018, the City Commission of West Palm Beach approved Ordinance No. 4780-18, allowing medical marijuana dispensaries to locate within certain zoning districts within the City. This ordinance comes after the passage of Amendment 2 on November 8, 2016, which expanded the availability of medical marijuana to qualifying patients battling conditions such as cancer, AIDS, Crohn's Disease, and Parkinson's Disease, among others.

Following Amendment 2, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 8A, which gives Florida municipalities two options regarding the regulation of medical marijuana dispensaries within their borders. Florida municipalities can either ban medical marijuana dispensaries outright or to allow them and regulate them no differently than a pharmacy with the exception of a **mandatory 500 foot separation distance from public or private elementary, middle, or secondary schools**. Medical marijuana dispensaries are allowed to sell only derivatives of cannabis such as oils, extract, and sprays, as smoking of medical marijuana remains illegal under State law.

**In West Palm Beach, medical marijuana dispensaries may be located in the following zoning districts (outside of the required separation distance from schools):**

- General Commercial
- Neighborhood Commercial
- Industrial
- Industrial Light
- Northwood Mixed Use District
- Currie Mixed Use District
- Non-residential subdistricts within the Downtown Master Plan

**Applicants wishing to locate a dispensary in the City must provide the following:**

- Zoning Verification Letter
- A signed letter from a licensed surveyor indicating the proposed location is outside of the required separation distance from schools
- Proof that the applicant is a State-licensed Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MMTC)

More information can be found on the website for the Florida [State Office of Medical Marijuana Use](#).