

2025 STOREFRONT SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

Where jurisdictions allow sales at storefront retailers (may also allow delivery):

The scores are based on **six key categories of policies** that local governments can enact to advance public health and equity if they opt to allow cannabis retail sales in storefronts. Based on the best available evidence, policies with the greatest potential for achieving these goals received higher points. Cannabis laws passed by January 1st, 2025, were identified using legal databases, municipal codes, and direct outreach to cities and counties. The maximum score possible was 100.

1) RETAILER REQUIREMENTS (28 total points possible): Strategic limits on cannabis retailers and educating consumers can decrease youth use and risks of cannabis use.

- **Caps on Retailers (10 points max).** Limit the number of licensed retailers; we used a ratio of retailers to inhabitants.
- **Distance from Schools (5 points).** Mandate a distance greater than 600 feet between K-12 schools and retailers.
- **Retailer Buffers (2 points).** Mandate a required distance between retailers.
- **Other Location Restrictions (3 points).** Mandate a distance between retailers and other youth-serving sites not covered by state law, such as parks, playgrounds, or universities, or other locations, such as residential areas.
- **Health Warnings Posted in Stores OR Handed Out to Customers (8 points max).** Mandate retailers post and/or hand out health warnings informing consumers of relevant risks at the point of sale.

2) TAXES & PRICES (20 total points possible): Taxes and higher prices can decrease youth access while raising valuable revenue for local communities.

- **Local Cannabis Tax (6 points).** Impose a local tax on cannabis retail sales.
- **Dedicated Tax Revenue (6 points max).** Dedicate tax revenue to youth programs, prevention, or reinvestment in the communities most affected by the war on drugs.
- **Tax by THC Content (5 points).** Impose higher tax rates for high potency (high THC) products.
- **Discounting (2 points).** Prohibit cannabis discounting such as coupons or discount days.
- **Minimum Price (1 point).** Establish a minimum price floor for cannabis.

3) PRODUCT LIMITS (17 total points possible): End the Cannabis Kids Menu of products that appeal to youth and limit products that increase adverse effects.

- **Limit Potency (6 points max).** Prohibit sale of high potency cannabis flower and products through bans or ceilings.
- **Flavored Products (Non-Edibles) (5 points).** Prohibit sale of flavored inhalable (non-edible) products.
- **Cannabis-Infused Beverages (4 points).** Prohibit sale of cannabis-infused beverages.
- **Products Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Prohibit sale of products attractive to youth more clearly than state law.

4) MARKETING (18 total points possible): Limit marketing exposure to decrease youth use and educate consumers.

- **Billboards (6 points max).** Restrict or prohibit the use of billboards to advertise cannabis.
- **Health Warnings on Ads (4 points).** Require health warnings on all cannabis advertisements.
- **Therapeutic or Health Claims (3 points).** Prohibit therapeutic or health claims on cannabis labels, packages, and ads.
- **Business Signage Restrictions (3 points).** Restrict on-site business advertising.
- **Marketing Attractive to Youth (2 points).** Prohibit advertising attractive to youth more clearly than state law.

5) SMOKE-FREE AIR (8 total points possible): Smoke-free air policies can reduce secondhand smoke exposure and discourage youth use.

- **Temporary Events (5 points).** Prohibit temporary cannabis events such as at county fairs or concerts in parks.
- **On-Site Consumption (3 points).** Prohibit on-site cannabis consumption, whether by smoking, vaping, or use of edibles.

6) EQUITY & CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (9 total points possible): Cannabis policy can promote social equity and reduce conflicts of interest.

- **Priority in Licensing (3 points).** Prioritize equity applicants when issuing cannabis business licenses.
- **Equity in Hiring (3 points).** Require hiring to prioritize low-income, transitional, or other workers from communities disadvantaged by the war on drugs.
- **Cost Reduction/Deferral (1 point).** Reduce/defer the costs of cannabis business licenses for equity applicants.
- **Conflict of Interest (2 points max).** Prohibit on-premises patient evaluations, prescriber ownership or other financial relationships with retailers, industry representation in oversight, or industry communication with application evaluation committee members.