

HOW DID WE GET HERE!

Voters in the Village of Pinckney approved allowing marijuana-related businesses in a ballot proposal during the **November 4, 2020, general election**. The measure passed by a narrow margin — approximately **52.3 % in favor** — and authorized up to ten licensed marijuana establishments.

Here's a brief timeline of the key events:

- **July 2020:** The petition titled “Jobs for Pinckney” circulated in mid-July, collected over 250 signatures, and successfully qualified for the November ballot villageofpinckney.org.
- **September 18, 2020:** The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled the petition must be placed on the ballot whmi.com.
- **November 4, 2020:** Pinckney residents voted to opt into licensing recreational marijuana operations — marking the first municipality in Livingston County to do so!

1. Where the rules come from

Date	Action	What it did
Nov 3 2020	Voters adopted Proposal 1 (52 % “yes”).	Opted the Village into adult-use marihuana and required Council to pass implementing ordinances.
Nov 23, 2020 – Ordinances 151 & 152	Created Chapter 113 (Business Regulations) and set initial license caps, fees and procedures.	
Dec 2020 – Zoning Amendment (adds §152.243-S)	Added marihuana as a <i>special land use</i> in the SBD and RTO zoning districts; established buffers, hours, road-access rules, etc.	
Jan 2023 – Ord. 157	Clean-up/clarification of Chapter 113 language (no change to caps).	
Apr 2023 – Ord. 162	Explicitly allowed “stacked” (co-located) licenses on a single parcel.	
Oct 2024 – Ord. 171	Added the new Class A Microbusiness license created by the State.	

(Ord. 157/162/171 are short two-page amendments that reference—and do not replace—the 2020 framework; PDFs are on the Clerk’s “Apply for a Marihuana License” page.)

2. License caps & types

License type (Adult Use)	Village cap	Notes
Retailer	1	
Microbusiness (Class B, 150 plants)	1	
Class A Microbusiness (up to 100 plants)	1	(added 2024)
Grower (any class)	1	
Processor	1	
Secure Transporter	1	
Safety-Compliance (testing)	1	

3. Zoning & site criteria (§152.243-S)

- **Districts** – Secondary Business District (SBD) and Research-Technology-Office (RTO) only.
 - **Buffers** –
 - ≥ 1,000 ft from any public or private school (K-12).
 - ≥ 500 ft from a religious institution, licensed day-care, or **public parks / Lakelands Trail** (waiver possible for these but *not* for schools).
 - **Road access (SBD sites)** – driveways must be from **M-36/Main St** or **Kirkland Ct.**
 - **Hours (retail)** – 9 am – 9 pm.
 - **Building & operations** – fully enclosed facility; odor-control and security plans; no exterior imagery of a cannabis leaf, green-cross, or the words “cannabis,” “weed,” etc.
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4. Licensing workflow

Step	What happens	Key deadlines / fees
1. State pre-qualification	Secure approval from the Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA). Must be in hand <i>before</i> the Village will accept a Special Land Use Permit (SLUP) application.	
2. Village Special Land Use Permit	File site plan & SLUP with Planning Commission → public hearing → recommendation to Council. Decision within 60 days.	
3. Provisional License (Village Clerk)	Submit four hard copies + USB , pay \$5,000 non-refundable fee , and complete the 68-point scoring rubric . Must score ≥ 58 to move on.	
4. State operating license	Submit CRA “Step 2” (facility) application; Village monitors status.	
5. Full Village License (Council)	Granted after proof of state license & Certificate of Occupancy. Valid 1 year ; renewal application due 90 days before expiry; renewal fee ≤ \$5,000.	

Grounds for *non-renewal or revocation* include missing the one-year deadline to secure the state license, code violations, or failure to build within stated timelines (Council recently began revocation proceedings against “The Means” project for inactivity).

5. How applications are scored (68 pts total)

Category	Pts
Existing state license or pre-qualification	15
Completeness & professionalism	10
Business plan (experience, capital investment, local jobs)	10
Facility/sanitation plan	5
Security plan	5
Waste-water plan	5
“Commitment to Community” (local contractors, green practices, reuse of distressed property, etc.)	18

Applicants must hit **≥ 58 pts**. Full rubric PDF is linked on the Clerk’s page.

6. Practical next steps for a prospective applicant

1. **Check the buffer map** (link on Clerk’s site) to be sure your parcel qualifies.
2. Obtain CRA pre-qualification and line up a compliant site plan.
3. Schedule the Planning Commission SLUP hearing early public noticing takes ~30 days.
4. Assemble the Village application binder **exactly** as instructed (4 originals + USB).
5. Budget for the Village’s **\$5 k** application fee, any escrow for peer-review costs, and state fees.
6. Expect minimum 6–9 months from concept to full licensure even with no delays.

For detailed forms, contact clerk@villageofpinckney.org or (734) 878-6206.