



MEET THE “POT PROFITEERS”

The Same Big Companies That Brought Ohio Medical Marijuana Are Funding the Push to Legalize Marijuana for Recreational Use

A Big Push for Big Profits by a Few Rich Investors: Ohio’s medical marijuana market is not making enough money for the commercial marijuana companies’ big investors, [due to weak demand](#) and excess supply. To bail themselves out, these companies have paid to have a law written that they hope will increase their profits by legalizing marijuana for recreational use and retail sales in Ohio—and they have paid to get this law on the November 7 statewide ballot.

- **It’s Driven By Big Corporate Investors:** This plan was bought and paid for by the Pot Profiteers, a handful of large marijuana company investors—including tobacco giant Altria—who want to change Ohio’s law for their personal gain, regardless of the damage it causes Ohioans or the risks it creates for Ohio’s workers and employers.
- **It’s Anti-Competitive:** The law would give a handful of companies the first right to sell marijuana for recreational use and try to keep out their competitors.
- **It’s About Big Money:** Marijuana is a \$30 billion industry in the United States, with up to \$4 billion in sales potentially up for grabs in Ohio, according to an Ohio State University study. The marijuana investors see big dollar signs and want to corner the market.

Here’s Who Is Footing the Bill to Bring Recreational Marijuana to Ohio:

- 1. Marijuana’s Lobbyist: Marijuana Policy Project:** The Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) is a special interest group that advocates for marijuana legalization nationwide. It contributed a whopping \$2,525,000 to Ohio’s “Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol,” the campaign group behind the Nov. 7 statewide ballot initiative. In turn, MPP’s funders include [PharmaCann](#), which grows medical marijuana near Buckeye Lake. PharmaCann is [partially owned](#) by the Cronos Group, [whose largest investor](#) is tobacco giant Altria.
- 2. Motorcycle Larry:** Pure Ohio Wellness is owned by [“professional motorcycle rider”](#) Larry Pegram and grows, processes and sells medical marijuana in Ohio. Pure Ohio Wellness gave the campaign \$100,000 and Pegram gave \$375,000.
- 3. Brian, Dan and Friends:** Riviera Creek Holdings grows medical marijuana in Youngstown and is owned by Brian and Daniel Kessler and several fellow investors. Altogether the group has contributed \$197,500 to the campaign.

Identifier Legend	Name (First, Middle, Last)	Role	% Interest
<i>Ex: Person A</i>	<i>John Q. Public</i>	Owner	5%
CEO	Brian Kessler	Owner/CEO	42.25%
COO	Daniel Kessler	Owner/COO	42.25%
CCO	Chris Stock	Owner/CCO	5.625%
N/A	Wilbert B. Markovits	Owner	5.625%
N/A	Terence Coates	Owner	3.75%
CFO	Jaden Levitt	CFO	0%

4. **The Publicly-Traded Biggy:** Cresco Labs Ohio, LLC grows medical marijuana in Yellow Springs and is owned by Cresco Labs, a 3,000-employee, publicly-traded company with gross revenue of more than [\\$840 million](#) last year. The company contributed \$295,000 to the campaign.
5. **The Former Benesch Lawyer:** [Jeff McCourt's Firelands Company, LLC](#) grows medical marijuana in Huron and contributed \$160,000 to the campaign.
6. **The Back Office (and Retail) Guys:** [Battle Green Holdings](#) “provides services, financing, intellectual property licensing and real estate support” to the marijuana industry and also operates [four retail sites](#) in Ohio. It contributed \$160,000 to the campaign.
7. **The Drive-Thru Pioneer:** Taking a page from the fast-food world, Akron’s Klutch Cannabis brought Ohio the much-needed innovation of the [drive-thru medical marijuana](#) store, for those who can’t be bothered to leave their car to get their marijuana. Klutch’s parent company, ATCPC of OHIO, LLC, founded by Adam Thomarios, grows in Akron and donated \$155,000 to the campaign.
8. **Goonies Fan:** Standard Wellness Company, LLC’s CEO Jared Maloof likes to cite the movie [The Goonies](#) when explaining his entrance into the marijuana industry. It’s unclear why. Standard Wellness grows, processes and sells medical marijuana in Ohio and gave \$105,000 to the campaign and Maloof gave \$214,166.67.

* All campaign finance data can be found [here](#), together with the other **65 pages** (emphasis added) of additional donations to the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol campaign committee.

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