



Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

Cannabis License Retail Allocations

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Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

Retail Cannabis License Allocations

There are a number of factors the LCB is required to consider when allocating retail cannabis licenses. [RCW 69.50.345\(2\)](#) requires the WSLCB to allot retail locations by county, taking into consideration:

- Population distribution;
- Security and Safety Issues;
- Provision of adequate access to licensed sources of cannabis to discourage purchases from the illegal market; and
- The medical needs of patients using information contained in the DOH cannabis authorization database.



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Retail Allocations

The RCW outlines the framework for determining retail allocations:

- Limit retail outlets by county. [RCW 69.50.354](#)
 - Information in the medical cannabis authorization database must be considered when increasing the maximum number of retail outlets to meet the needs of qualifying patients. [RCW 69.51A.230](#)
 - Retail licenses that have been returned or were not previously issued, without exceeding the limit on the statewide number of stores, may be issued to social equity applicants. [RCW 69.50.335](#)
 - The board may adopt rules to implement recommendations of the task force, however any recommendation to increase the current statewide limit of retail outlets must be approved by the legislature. [RCW 69.50.336](#)
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The WAC outlines the following framework for determining retail allocations:

- The WSLCB will use consumption data and population data obtained from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to determine the maximum number of retail locations per county. [WAC 314-55-079](#)
 - The number of retail locations will be determined using a method that distributes the number of locations proportionate to the most populous cities within each county to accommodate the medical needs of qualifying patients and designated providers. Locations not assigned to a specific city will be at large. At large locations can be used for unincorporated areas in the county or in cities within the county that have no retail licenses designated. [WAC 314-55-079](#)
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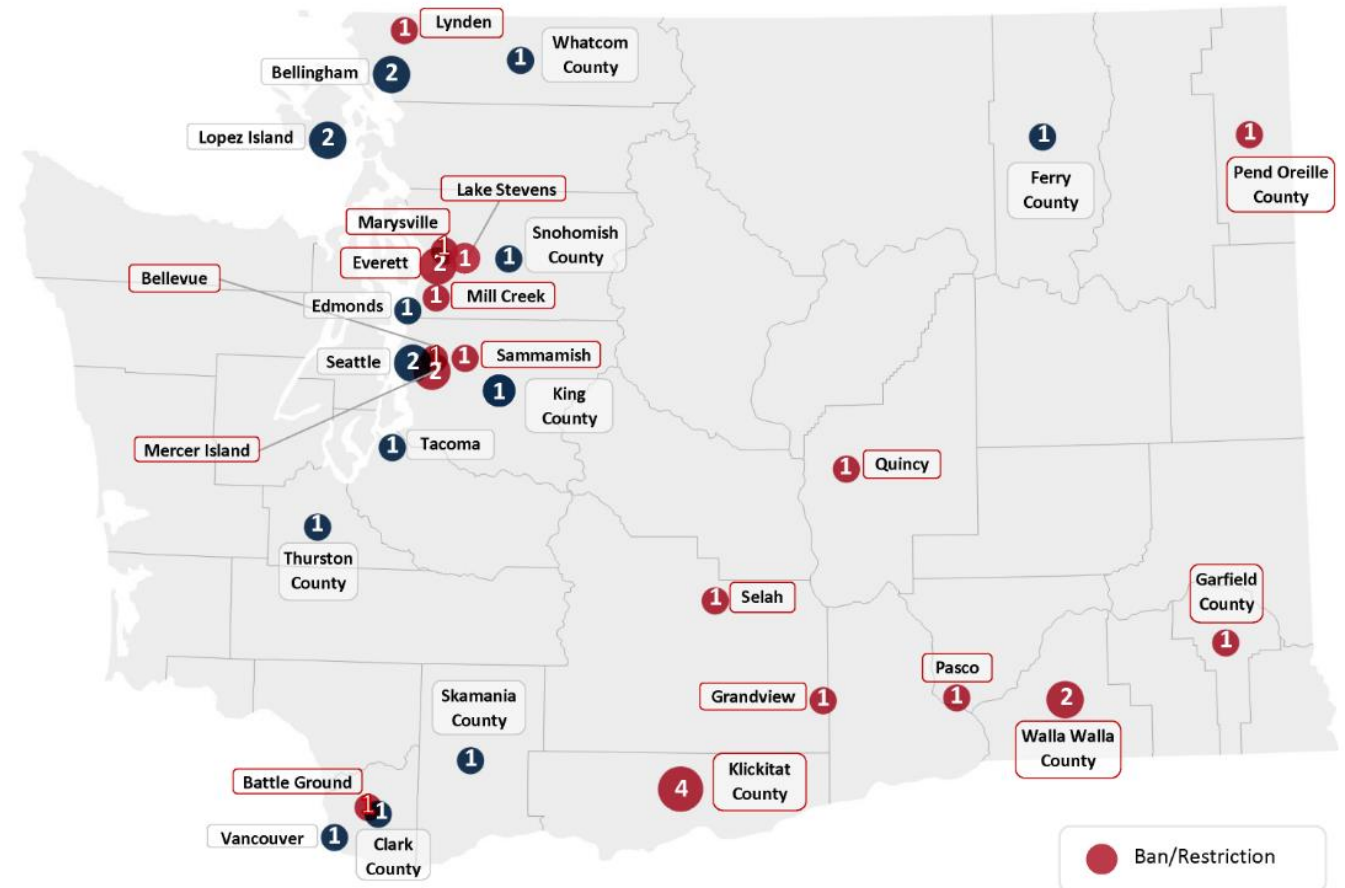
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Social Equity Allotments

- State law limits the WSLCB's authority to issue social equity licenses to those that have been discontinued, revoked, cancelled, forfeited or never issued.

[RCW 69.50.335](#)

- Total Allotments: 39
 - Bans or other restricted areas: 23
 - Potentially viable areas: 16





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Preliminary Review – State Population Changes

- In reviewing 2020 state population data and using the original assessment formula used to determine retail allocations:
 - Population increases suggests 51 additional licenses in 27 jurisdictions.
 - There are nine jurisdictions with current bans that were not included in this assessment.
- State law prohibits the WSLCB from allotting additional licenses specifically for social equity applicants without approval from the legislature. [RCW 69.50.336](#)