



# Your Guide to the 2025 Cayman Islands Referendum

On 30 April 2025, you will be asked to vote on three important national issues:

- Should the Cayman Islands develop cruise berthing infrastructure?
- Do you support the introduction of a National Lottery in the Islands?
- Do you support the decriminalisation of the consumption and possession of small amounts of cannabis?



To help you make an informed decision, here are some key terms:

## What is a Referendum?

A referendum is a public vote on a specific issue. Registered voters can answer “Yes” or “No” to the questions on the ballot paper.

This referendum allows you to have your say on issues that could affect the future of the Cayman Islands.

### Binding vs. Non-Binding:

This referendum will show public opinion, but the government will decide how to act on the results.

### Elector:

A person who is eligible to vote in the Cayman Islands.

### Polling Station:

The place where you go to vote.

## Cruise Berthing Infrastructure

### Key Terms

- **Cruise Berthing:** A dock or pier where cruise ships can dock directly, allowing passengers to disembark without small boats (tenders).
- **Environmental Impact:** The possible effects on marine life, coral reefs, and coastal waters due to construction of cruise berthing infrastructure.
- **Economic Impact:** The potential benefits from increased tourism revenue versus the costs of building and maintaining cruise berthing infrastructure.
- **Sustainable Tourism:** A way of growing tourism while minimizing harm to the environment and local communities.

### What Your Vote Means:

- A “Yes” vote means you support developing cruise berthing infrastructure.
- A “No” vote means you do not support the development of cruise berthing infrastructure.



## National Lottery & Gambling

### Key Terms

- **Gambling:** Risking money or valuables on a game of chance for potential winnings.
- **National Lottery:** A government-operated lottery where participants buy tickets for a chance to win money.
- **Illegal Gambling:** All other forms of gambling—including numbers, betting, and casinos—will remain illegal.
- **Legalisation:** The process of making the national lottery legally allowed under specific conditions.  
**Regulation:** Government rules to ensure the national lottery is fair, transparent, and properly managed.
- **Revenue Allocation:** Deciding how funds generated from the national lottery would be used (e.g., education, healthcare, or infrastructure)

### What Your Vote Means:

- A **“Yes”** vote means you support creating a government-run lottery.
- A **“No”** vote means you do not support a national lottery.



## Cannabis Decriminalisation

### Key Terms

- **Decriminalisation:** Removing criminal penalties for possession of small amounts, but cannabis remains illegal.
- **Legalisation:** Making cannabis fully legal and setting up a regulated market.
- **Small Amounts:** A set limit (e.g., under 10 grams), which would be defined by the law.
- **Medical Cannabis:** Used for treating health conditions with a prescription.
- **Recreational Cannabis:** Used for personal enjoyment without medical need.
- **Law Enforcement Impact:** Police would not arrest people for possessing small amounts.

**However, selling or distributing cannabis would still be illegal.**

### What Your Vote Means:

- A **“Yes”** vote means you support removing criminal penalties for possession of small amounts.
- A **“No”** vote means you do not support decriminalisation.



## How to Vote:

**Check if you are registered to vote. Only registered voters can take part in the referendum.**

- Go to your polling station on referendum day.
- Mark your ballot paper: Place an 'X' in the box next to 'Yes' or 'No' for each question.
- Put your ballot in the box and you're done!

### Important Notes:

- You can only vote once at your assigned polling station.
- If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot paper.
- If you spoil your ballot, it will not be counted.
- Your vote is secret – no one will know how you voted.

For more details, visit [gov.ky/referendum](https://gov.ky/referendum)

