



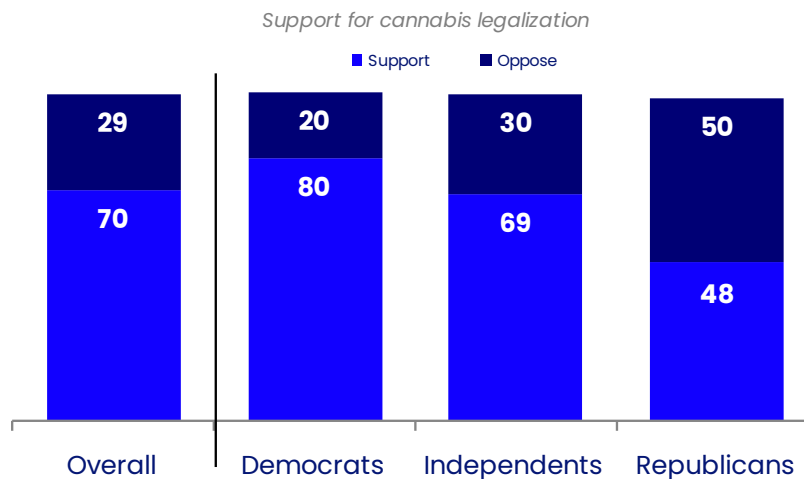
To: Interested Parties
From: Bully Pulpit Interactive
RE: Support for Cannabis Legalization in Maryland
Date: March 3, 2022

Racial Justice Provisions that Aim To Repair Harm from War on Drugs Strengthen Support for Cannabis Legalization

Methodology: Bully Pulpit Interactive surveyed 830 Maryland registered voters from February 10-21, 2022. Interviews we conducted via a mixed-mode methodology, with 200 interviews completed over the phone including cell phone, and 630 online. The margin of error on a truly random sample of 830 interviews is +/- 3.4 percentage points and is higher among subgroups.

Maryland voters overwhelmingly support the legalization of adult-use cannabis, with 70% of registered voters supporting the change, and only 29% opposing. Support is high and crosses party lines, with 80% of Democrats supporting; a majority, 69%, of Independents; and nearly half, 48%, of Republicans supporting legalization.

Support for Legalization Spans Partisanship



Expanding legislation to include measures to protect citizens and address the impact of drug enforcement policies has the potential to strengthen support further. Majorities say that some criminal justice reform components – including stopping the practice by police of using the odor of marijuana as the only probable cause or justification to perform a warrantless search – would make them **more likely** to support legalization, or would have no impact on their support. Indeed, even among those who do not initially support legalization, over one-third say that eliminating warrantless searches on the grounds of marijuana odor alone would make them more likely to support legalization.

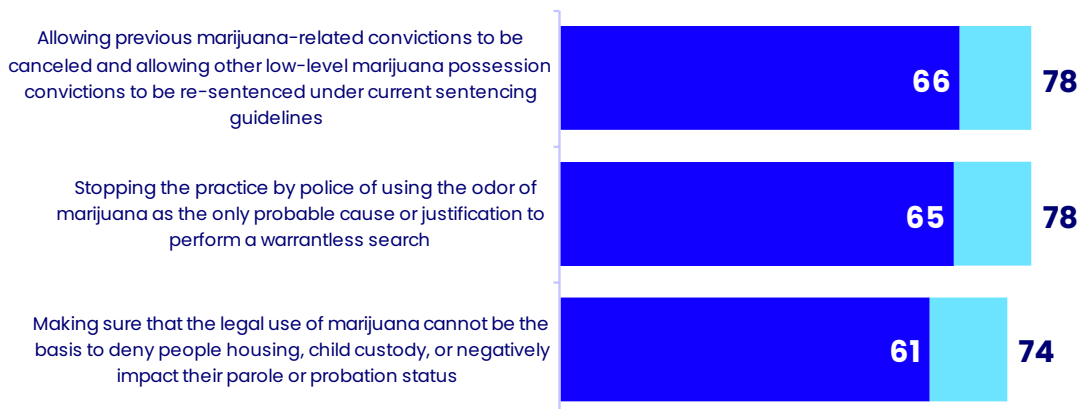


Across the board, these elements under debate in the state legislature generate more support for legalization.

- 66% of voters are more likely to support legalization if it includes allowing previous marijuana-related convictions to be canceled and allowing other low-level marijuana possession convictions to be re-sentenced under current sentencing guidelines; 12% say this has no impact on their support. Over a third, 35%, of voters who do not currently support legalization say this provision would make them more likely to support it.
- 65% of voters are more likely to support legalization if it includes stopping the practice by police of using the odor of marijuana as the only probable cause or justification to perform a warrantless search; 13% say this has no impact on their support. Nearly a third of voters, 32%, who do not currently support legalization say this makes them more likely to do so.
- 61% of voters are more likely to support legalization if the package includes making sure the that the legal use of marijuana cannot be the basis to deny people housing, child custody, or negatively impact their parole or probation status; 13% say this provision has no impact on their support. And 1 in 5 voters that currently do not support legalization, 20%, say that this element makes them more likely to support this legislation.

Criminal Justice Aspects Strengthen Support

*% **More likely** to support or **no impact** on support for legalization with the following provisions*





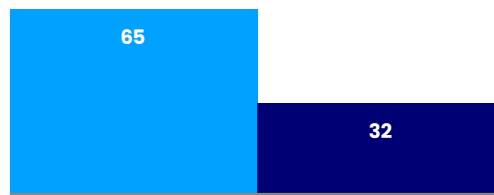
Bolstering Marylanders' views is the belief that legalizing cannabis helps to repair the harm done by the War on Drugs, and that tax revenue can be used in the very communities most impacted by harmful, punitive drug policies. In a balanced, head-to-head argument, 65% of Maryland voters side with proponents of legalization who make a racial justice argument; only 32% agree with detractors. This suggests that not only do racial justice aspects motivate voters, but also that support for legalization is durable and can stand up to attacks.

Voters Side with a Racial Justice Case for Legalization

Supporters say: For decades, the War on Drugs targeted Black and Brown communities, adding to mass incarceration and destroying families.

It's time to legalize marijuana and repair the harm done by the War on Drugs, using marijuana-related tax revenue to strengthen the communities most impacted while making sure the marijuana industry works for communities.

Opponents say: Legalizing marijuana has been a disaster around the country. In states with legalized marijuana, emergency room visits for cannabis use have doubled, and there has been an increase in property-related and violent crime. Tax revenue that was promised to schools and public health programs is going only to government bureaucracy. Maryland shouldn't repeat the mistakes of other states.



* * *

Support for legalization is not only high, it is strengthened by elements currently being considered as the legislation is finalized and it is grounded in Marylanders' sense of racial justice. Elements that recognize the full legality of cannabis – and remove past convictions and current usage as ways to harm Marylanders – appeal to voters and broaden support.