



EPIC-MRA Polling Memo on Marijuana Laws

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**September Statewide Survey – 4% error rate
Live interviews – calls completed Sept 7-10, 2013**

**Commissioned by Michigan NORML, the Michigan Chapter of the
National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws**

Key findings

Only 1-in-4 Michigan voters want current marijuana laws continued

Nearly half, 47%, favor the legalization of marijuana by taxing and regulating it like alcohol

Another 16% favors replacing criminal penalties for marijuana offenses with a fine

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Here is the question all survey respondents were asked:

“The U.S. Department of Justice has decided that they will not challenge any state laws that are enacted which make changes in how marijuana use and possession is dealt with in terms of criminal penalties. Thinking about current marijuana laws in Michigan, which of the following statements best describes the approach to marijuana use that you favor the most?” **[READ AND ROTATE 1 TO 4 – ACCEPT FIRST AND ONLY ONE RESPONSE]**

The responses were:

- 47% Legalize marijuana by taxing and regulating it like alcohol
- 26% Continue our present system of state criminal penalties for marijuana offenses
- 16% Replace criminal penalties for marijuana offenses with a fine
- 4% Repeal all state criminal penalties for marijuana offenses
- 7% Undecided/Refused

Clearly, Michigan voters favor changing current state laws about the possession and use of marijuana. The largest percentage of voters, 47 percent, favors the legalization of marijuana and taxing and regulating it like alcohol. Only 26 percent said they favor continuing current state law.

Democrats are most and favor of legalizing marijuana use and possession, Republicans are only somewhat more supportive of keeping current laws than legalizing marijuana, but a majority narrow 51 percent majority of Republicans favor a change from current law. Independent voters are slightly more supportive of legalization (49 percent) than the statewide responses.

The following chart illustrates how voters view the issue based on their partisan affiliation:

Partisan Breakdown	All	Dem			Ind		Gop		
		All	Dems	Ind	Gop	Men	Wom	Men	
Legalization	47	62	49	30	63	61	52	46	35
Continue current	26	13	29	39	14	13	28	30	
Fines	16	15	15	18	13	16	8	21	18
Repeal penalties	4	5	3	3	7	3	5	2	
Undecided	7	5	4	9	3	7	2	6	6

Demographic groups favoring legalization by percentages above the statewide results of 47 percent included:

Liberals (68%); Democrats (62%); age 18-34 (61%); Outer metro area (59%); pro choice voters, incomes under \$25K (57% each); union members (56%); households with children, other races, incomes of \$75K to \$100K, Macomb County (53% each); Central Michigan region, Independent men (52% each); Wayne, Oakland and Macomb County region, African Americans, Oakland County (51% each); age 35-49, incomes of \$50K to \$75K, Wayne County (50% each); and college educated respondents (49%).

Demographic groups who favored keeping current laws above the statewide results of 26 percent included:

Strong Republicans who are Tea Party supporters (46%); Republican women (43%); conservatives (42%); Moderate Republican Tea Party supporters, all Republicans (39% each); Northern Michigan, pro-life, Tea Party supporters (38% each); Bay County region, age 65 and over (36%); Republican men (35%); Western Michigan, incomes of \$50K-\$75K (33%); Protestants, and Independent women (30%).

It is important to note that even though the groups listed above favor keeping current laws on marijuana by a higher percentage than the statewide results, many of those same groups also favor legalization by high percentages as well, sometimes by higher percentages than those who favor current laws, albeit by lower percentages than the statewide results. Support for marijuana legalization within those same groups is shown below, ranked from the highest to lowest support for legalization:

Incomes of \$50K-\$75K (50%); Protestants, Independent women (46% each); Bay County region, Western Michigan (37% each); age 65 and over (36%); Republican men (35%); Tea Party supporters (34%); pro-life (33%); Northern Michigan (32%); strong Republicans who are Tea Party supporters (31%); all Republicans (30%); conservatives (29%); Republican women (25%); and moderate Republican Tea Party supporters (20%).

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