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**PRESS RELEASE      FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION SUPPORT AT 61% IN NEW EPIC-MRA AND MICHIGAN NORML POLL**

*Poll result is a 4% increase over 2017 numbers; new state high in support comes as state faces potential legalization proposal on 2018 ballot*

March 5, 2018/LANSING, MICHIGAN: Michigan NORML and the EPIC-MRA research group have released the results of their 2018 survey of Michigan voters on marijuana legalization. Michigan voters support marijuana legalization at an all-time high rate of 61%.

The two groups have teamed up to ask the same question at the same time of year via the same company and same methodology in four polls over five years. "That's up 4 points from the 57% majority voting "yes" in February of 2017, up 8 points from a 53% majority voting "yes" in March of 2016, and up 11 points from a bare 50% majority in 2014," said pollster Bernie Porn of EPIC-MRA.

Michigan NORML Executive Director Matthew Abel was "extremely pleased" to see the results. The big increase in support for marijuana legalization was anticipated by long-time activists and MINORML Board members Rick Thompson and Brad Forrester.

"I'm not surprised. These results are the product of Michigan NORML's effective advocacy for the past several years," Forrester said.

"The poll results show support in areas of the state where it is traditionally more difficult to advance marijuana law reforms," Thompson said. "Michigan's medical marijuana program has proven to the entire state that cannabis is not something to be feared any more."

The results are especially promising for the proposal to legalize the adult use of cannabis in Michigan. The Committee to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol submitted more than 360,000 signatures to the state on November 20, 2017 to place the proposal on the 2018 general election ballot. "This poll is a direct gauge of public acceptance of that proposal," Thompson added.

"In 2014 Michigan NORML triangulated a path to legalization," Forrester stated. "We thought 2020 would be our year but voters seem ready for it now."

"A growing number of Michiganders realize the failure of marijuana prohibition and the waste of law enforcement resources that has gone along with it. Regulation and taxation is a far better

solution and we look forward to giving the voters the opportunity to vote on the issue in November of this year," said Josh Hovey, spokesperson for the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol.

Other highlights of the poll results include:

- Men support at 68% and women at 55%
- The greatest regional support comes from the Bay region at 79%. Other regions: Wayne-Oakland-Macomb 59%; outer Metro, 62%; Central, 59%; west, 66% and North at 50%.
- The 18-49 age group supports at 71% while the 50+ age group supports at 54%
- Democrats support legalization at 74%; Independents at 72%; and Republicans are tied at 48/48% support/oppose

Visit the Michigan NORML website to view the pertinent details of the poll results:

<http://minorml.org/about-us/polling-data/epic-mra-minorml-2018-poll>

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