



Polls Show Overwhelming Support for Legalizing Cannabis

The public is far ahead of most elected officials in support of marijuana policy reform. A supermajority of Americans support making marijuana legal. Support isn't limited to specific states, ages, parties, or regions. Gallup found majority or plurality support among all age ranges, while the polling firm Civiqs found majority support in every state for making marijuana legal. Yet only 24 U.S. states have legalized marijuana.

- National polls, including by Pew Research Center, Gallup, and CNN, show that most Americans support legalization. In October 2023, Gallup found that 70% of Americans support “making marijuana use legal” — more than double the level of support in 2000.
- There is solid, bipartisan support. In 2023, Gallup found 87% support for legalization among Democrats, 70% support from independents, and 55% support from Republicans.
- Gallup’s 2023 poll also found that no age group opposed legalization, reporting 64% support among those 55 and older, 71% for those 35-54, and 79% support from those ages 18-34.
- Since 2017, the public research firm Civiqs has surveyed more than 260,000 registered voters on legalization. As of July 2023, it found 69% support nationwide and majority support in every state, ranging from 54% in North Dakota and Wyoming to 80% in Massachusetts. (While some states’ voters have defeated cannabis legalization measures, since 2020 the losses have been in lower-turnout elections where the electorate is less representative of the population at large. In 2020, South Dakota voters approved a cannabis legalization measure — in a year with 73.9% voter turn-out. The state Supreme Court overturned that measure on single subject grounds, and a subsequent measure on the 2022 midterm ballot fell short. Turnout that year was below 60%.)
- Voters in states that have implemented legalization overwhelmingly view the laws as successful or as more of a success than a failure. April 2020 YouGov surveys found 56% to 69% of voters in eight legalization states — California, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington — viewed their state’s legalization laws as mostly or entirely successful. In each state, no more than 20% of voters viewed the law as more of a failure than a success.
- Polls indicate voters’ support for keeping marijuana use legal increased after legalization. In all 20 legalization states where sales have begun, Civiq found support for legalization at 63% or higher. (75% support in Colorado, 78% in Washington, 63% in Alaska, 77% in Oregon, 76% in California, 71% in Nevada, 80% in Massachusetts, 73% in Maine, 76% in Illinois, 71% in Michigan, 77% in Vermont, 63% in Montana, 69% in Arizona, 68% in New Jersey, 70% in New Mexico, 64% in New York, 71% in Connecticut, 74% in Rhode Island, 63% in Missouri, and 71% in Maryland.)

Here are Civiq’s state-by-state results for the question, “Do you think that the use of cannabis should be legal, or not?,” from April 24, 2017 through July 5, 2023:

State	Yes, Legal	No, Not Legal	Unsure
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Alabama	61%	27%	12%
Alaska	63%	28%	9%
Arizona	69%	24%	7%
Arkansas	63%	28%	9%
California	76%	17%	7%
Colorado	75%	18%	7%
Connecticut	71%	20%	9%
Delaware	69%	22%	9%
Florida	67%	23%	10%
Georgia	69%	20%	11%
Hawaii	71%	16%	14%
Idaho	58%	31%	11%
Illinois	76%	16%	8%
Indiana	64%	26%	10%
Iowa	63%	25%	13%
Kansas	65%	25%	10%
Kentucky	63%	26%	11%
Louisiana	61%	27%	12%
Maine	73%	19%	8%
Maryland	71%	18%	11%
Massachusetts	80%	13%	7%
Michigan	71%	19%	9%
Minnesota	67%	21%	13%
Mississippi	61%	28%	11%
Missouri	63%	27%	10%
Montana	63%	28%	9%
Nebraska	58%	33%	9%
Nevada	71%	21%	8%
New Hampshire	71%	20%	9%

New Jersey	68%	23%	10%
New Mexico	70%	22%	8%
New York	64%	25%	10%
North Carolina	66%	23%	10%
North Dakota	54%	38%	8%
Ohio	67%	21%	12%
Oklahoma	59%	30%	11%
Oregon	77%	17%	6%
Pennsylvania	68%	22%	10%
Rhode Island	74%	18%	8%
South Carolina	60%	27%	13%
South Dakota	61%	32%	7%
Tennessee	64%	24%	12%
Texas	69%	21%	10%
Utah	59%	27%	15%
Vermont	77%	15%	8%
Virginia	69%	21%	10%
Washington	78%	14%	8%
West Virginia	59%	31%	11%
Wisconsin	65%	24%	11%
Wyoming	54%	35%	11%

Other pollsters have conducted surveys in states that have not yet legalized cannabis and found majority support in several states that have not yet legalized:

State	Date/Polling Firm	% in Favor	Question Wording
Florida	March 2023, University of North Florida Public Opinion Lab	70%	Do you support or oppose allowing adults in Florida aged 21 and older to legally possess and purchase small amounts of marijuana for personal use?
Georgia	October 2018, SurveyUSA	55%	“Should the use of marijuana for recreational use by adults in Georgia ... be legalized?”

Hawaii	January 2013, QMark Research	57%	Support the “idea of legalizing, regulating and taxing the sale and personal use of marijuana by adults?”
Kansas	Fall 2021, Fort Hays State University	70%	Support “legalizing recreational marijuana for individuals 21 and older to allow taxation by the State of Kansas”
Kentucky	2019, Kentucky Health Issues Poll	59%	Favor “allowing residents to buy and use marijuana ... under any circumstances”
Louisiana	June 2023, Louisiana State University (LSU)	70%	Do you support or oppose legally allowing people to possess small amounts of marijuana for recreational use?
New Hampshire	2023, University of New Hampshire, Granite State Poll	71%	Support legalizing marijuana for recreational use
Pennsylvania	March 2021 Pennsylvania Health Poll, Muhlenberg College Public Health Program	58%	Favor “the complete legalization of the use of marijuana for any purpose”
Texas	2023, University of Houston	67%	Make the recreational use of marijuana “for any purpose” legal for those age 21 and older.
Wisconsin	August 2022 , Marquette University Law School	69%	Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?