



Support for Marijuana Policy Reform

- National polls have shown that the public is far ahead of most elected officials in support for marijuana policy reform.
- An overwhelming majority of voters in national polls support allowing medical marijuana, with polls consistently finding 60% to 94% support. Statewide polls also show strong support, from Alabama to Wyoming.
- National and statewide polling have also found majority support for punishing marijuana possession with a civil fine instead of jail time.
- Most Americans support making marijuana legal, and support is rising: An October 2018 Gallup poll found 66% support making marijuana use legal for adults. Support for legalization has more than doubled since 2000. In addition, voters in nine states have approved initiatives to replace marijuana prohibition with a legal, regulated market, and polls in at least 20 more states have shown majority support for allowing adults to use marijuana.

Medical Marijuana

- An April 2018 nationwide Quinnipiac University poll found that 93% of Americans believe that adults should be able to “legally use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor prescribes it.”
- Support spans age groups and political parties. In a 2018 Quinnipiac poll, 95% of Americans aged 50-64 and 91% of Americans aged 65 and older said that adults should be able to “legally use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor prescribes it.” Support was even higher among younger voters. The poll also found 86% of Republicans, 95% of independents, and 97% of Democrats support allowing medical marijuana.
- Since 1996, a majority of voters in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, and Washington state have voted in favor of ballot initiatives allowing the medical use of marijuana.
- Sixteen state legislatures have listened to their constituents and passed effective medical marijuana laws, bringing the total number of states with effective medical marijuana laws to 33.
- Polls show that public approval of medical marijuana laws has increased or remained the same since the laws went into effect.

State-specific medical marijuana public opinion polling results

State	Date/Polling Firm	% in Favor	Question Wording
Alabama	July 2004, Mobile Register/University of South Alabama	75%	Support legalizing marijuana for medical use under a doctor's supervision
Georgia	January 2016, Atlanta Journal-Constitution	72%	Support expanding the state's medical marijuana law "to allow the distribution of medical marijuana with strict controls"
Idaho	July 2018, Idaho Politics Weekly pollster, Dan Jones & Associates	79%	Support some kind of medical marijuana law
Iowa	January 2018, Selzer & Company	78%	Support legalizing "the use of marijuana for medical purposes in Iowa"
Kansas	April 2015, Fort Hays State University	68%	Support "medical use of marijuana"
Kentucky	February 2014, Bluegrass Poll	52%	Favor "allowing the use of medical marijuana in Kentucky"
North Carolina	April 2016, Public Policy Polling	74%	Support allowing doctors to "recommend marijuana for medical use"
South Carolina	2016 Winthrop Poll	78%	Should marijuana "be legalized for medical purposes"
Tennessee	January 2014, MTSU Poll	75%	Support "allowing adults to use doctor-prescribed marijuana for medical purposes"
Texas	February 2016, Survey USA	71%	Support "expanding medical marijuana treatments"
Virginia	April 2015, Quinnipiac University Poll	86%	Support allowing adults "to legally use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor prescribes it"
Wisconsin	July 2005, Chamberlin Research Consultants	76%	Support a bill that would "allow people with cancer, multiple sclerosis, or other serious illnesses to use marijuana for medical purposes, as long as their physician approves"

Penalizing Marijuana Possession with a Fine, Not Jail Time

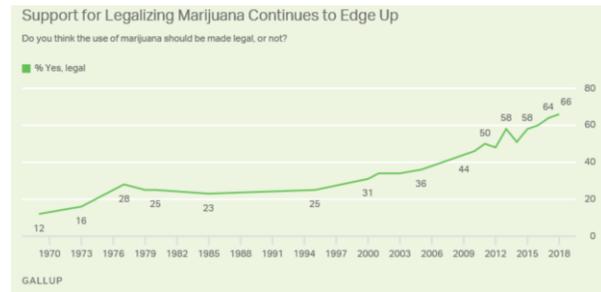
- Currently, 26 states' laws include provisions to prevent the jailing of people who possess small amounts of marijuana: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. Most of these states instead impose a civil fine. However, in 11 of the states, marijuana is legal for adults 21 and older.
- In February 2014, Pew Research Center found that 76% of Americans believe people caught in possession of marijuana shouldn't be jailed as a result.

State-specific decriminalization public opinion polling results

State	Date/Polling Firm	% in Favor	Question Wording
Indiana	November 2012, WISH-TV/ Ball State University	53%	Support "decriminalizing marijuana by making it legal to hold small quantities"
Louisiana	September 2014, Public Policy Polling	60%	Support changing the law to eliminate possibility of jail time "for first-time possession of an ounce or less of marijuana"
Oklahoma	September 2013, Sooner Poll	57%	Support decriminalizing adults' possession of up to an ounce of marijuana so "they would receive a fine rather than be criminally prosecuted and face possible incarceration"
Texas	September 2013, Public Policy Polling	61%	Support making it a civil offense "to possess an ounce or less of marijuana for personal use, punishable by a fine of up to \$100, but without jail time"
Virginia	January 2015, Public Policy Polling	60%	Support "a change in the law to make it a civil, not criminal, offense to possess an ounce or less of marijuana for personal use, punishable by a fine of up to \$100, but without jail time"

Replacing Marijuana Prohibition With Legalization and Regulation

- National polls, including by Pew Research Center, Gallup, and CNN, show that most Americans support ending marijuana prohibition. In October 2018, Gallup found that a supermajority of Americans (66%) supported “making marijuana use legal.”



- Support for ending marijuana prohibition is bipartisan. In October 2018, Gallup found 75% support from Democrats, 71% support from independents, and 53% support from Republicans.
- Gallup’s 2018 poll also found majority support among all age groups, with 59% support from persons 55 and older, 65% support from individuals aged 35-54, and 78% support from those 18 to 34 years old.
- Since 2012, voters in nine states have approved legalizing and regulating cannabis for adults 21 and older. The measures received the following levels of support: Colorado, 2012: 55%; Washington, 2012: 56%; Oregon, 2014: 56%; Alaska, 2014: 52%; Maine, 2016: 50.2%; Massachusetts, 2016: 54%; California, 2016: 57%; Nevada, 2016: 54%; Michigan, 2018: 56%. Also, in 2014, 65% of Washington, D.C. voters approved allowing possession and cultivation of marijuana. In 2018, Vermont lawmakers passed and Gov. Phil Scott (R) signed a similar, limited legalization bill. Most recently, in 2019, the Illinois Legislature approved and Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) signed a bill to legalize and regulate adult-use cannabis. The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute found 66% support.
- Polls show majority support for legalizing cannabis for adult-use in at least 19 more states — Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

State-specific adult-use legalization public opinion polling results

State	Date/Polling Firm	% in Favor	Question Wording
Connecticut	October 2017, Sacred Heart University	71%	Support “legalizing and taxing marijuana” in the context of the state’s budget crisis
Delaware	October 2018, University of Delaware	61%	Think “that the use of marijuana should be made legal”
Florida	February 2018, University of North Florida	62%	Support “legalizing and regulating marijuana in a manner similar to alcohol, limiting its sale to residents 21 years of age or older”
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	August/September 2018, Kansas Speaks	52%	Support “legalizing recreational marijuana for individuals 21 and older to allow taxation by the State of Kansas”
Louisiana	August 2013, Public Policy Polling	53%	Support changing the law “to allow marijuana to be regulated and taxed similarly to alcohol, for legal use by adults age 21 and older”
Maryland	September 2018, Goucher Poll	62%	Support “making marijuana legal for recreational use in Maryland”
Minnesota	October 2018, KSTP/SurveyUSA	56%	“Should Minnesota legalize recreational marijuana for residents over age 21?”
New Hampshire	February 2018, WMUR Granite State Poll	56%	Support legislation to legalize marijuana possession and cultivation for adults’ use
New Jersey	August 2018, Quinnipiac University Poll	62%	Support “allowing adults in New Jersey to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use”

State-specific adult-use legalization public opinion polling results ... *continued*

State	Date/Polling Firm	% in Favor	Question Wording
New Mexico	September 2018, Albuquerque Journal Poll	60%	Support a bill to legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana sales to adults 21 and over
New York	April 2018, Quinnipiac University Poll	63%	Support “allowing adults to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use”
Ohio	May 2016, Quinnipiac University Poll	52%	Support “allowing adults in Ohio to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use”
Pennsylvania	September 2017, Franklin and Marshall College	59%	Think “the use of marijuana should be made legal”
Rhode Island	January 2017, Public Policy Polling	59%	Favor “changing Rhode Island law to allow adults 21 and older to use marijuana and regulating and taxing marijuana similarly to alcohol”
Texas	April 2018, Quinnipiac University Poll	61%	Support “allowing adults in Texas to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use”
Virginia	April 2017, Quinnipiac University Poll	59%	Support “allowing adults in Virginia to amounts of marijuana for personal use”
Wisconsin	August 2018, Marquette University Law School	61%	Believe marijuana should be fully legalized and regulated like alcohol