

Dear reader,

These last few weeks have yielded an amazing amount of new research. Our biggest announcement was the launch of our [2012 presidential election website](#) on Oct. 24. Read on for more October highlights.

1. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY - [Should the US increase imports of tar sand oil from Canada?](#)

Before the end of 2011 the US State Department must decide whether or not to approve a 1,700 mile crude oil pipeline known as the Keystone XL pipeline which would span from Alberta, Canada to Houston, Texas. If approved, the pipeline would transport up to 830,000 barrels of oil per day. Debate currently rages over a variety of environmental and economic issues. Read our pro and con arguments from several prominent experts and organizations.

2. DRINKING AGE - [State History of the Minimum Legal Drinking Age, 1933-present](#)

The repeal of prohibition by the 21st Amendment on Dec. 5, 1933 allowed each state to set its own alcohol consumption laws. At that time, most states established the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) for alcohol at 21 years of age. In the 1970s many states lowered their drinking ages to 18, 19, or 20. By 1982, only 14 states still had an MLDA of 21.

The enactment of the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 prompted states to raise their legal age for purchase or public possession of alcohol to 21 or risk losing millions in federal highway funds. By 1988, all 50 states had raised their MLDA to 21.

3. DRINKING AGE - [Should the drinking age be lowered from 21 to a younger age?](#)

Read pro and con arguments from the Founder of the National Institute for Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (pro), the US Department of Health and Human Services (con), a coalition of over 100 university presidents and chancellors (pro), the National Transportation Safety Board (con), MDs and PhDs (pro and con), and many others.

4. ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION - [Is illegal immigration an economic burden to America?](#)

Read pro and con arguments from the Center for Immigration Studies (pro), Alan Greenspan (con), the Founder of The Minuteman Project (pro), The Wall Street Journal (con), and several others.

5. ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION - [Should the term "illegal alien" be used to define persons in violation of immigration law?](#)

Read pro and con arguments from the Colorado Alliance for Immigration Reform

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IllegalAliens.us (pro), the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (con), and others.

6. MEDICAL MARIJUANA - [Should cannabidiol \(CBD\) be a medical option?](#)

Cannabidiol (CBD) is the main non-psychoactive chemical component of marijuana. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was awarded a patent for CBD on Oct. 7, 2003. However, the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) classifies CBD as a Schedule I drug, meaning it is considered to have "no accepted medical use," "a high potential for abuse," and "a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision."

We have also added these related questions: [What is cannabidiol \(CBD\)?](#) and [Is cannabidiol \(CBD\) psychoactive?](#)

7. MEDICAL MARIJUANA - [Does the regular smoking of marijuana cause lung cancer or in any way permanently injure the lungs?](#)

Read pro and con arguments from the American College of Physicians (pro), Harvard and Oxford PhDs (con), the British Lung Foundation (pro), NORML (con), and several others.

8. MEDICAL MARIJUANA - [Does marijuana use cause lasting schizophrenia, psychosis, or other mental disorders?](#)

9. TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS - [Please Take Our Survey](#)

If you have not already done so, please take two minutes to share your thoughts on ProCon.org by completing our online survey. If you had taken the survey before you used ProCon.org in your classroom, please take the survey again and let us know what you and your students thought about using ProCon.org.

10. FROM OUR HEADLINES - On Thursday Oct. 27, 2011, we were formally selected as a Google News provider. Check our homepage for the latest headlines about events in the news with helpful related links to ProCon.org research. See our most recent headlines below:

- [Brain Size Linked to Number of Facebook Friends](#)
- [Record-High 50% of Americans Support Legalizing Marijuana](#)
- [NFL and Players Union Tackle Blood Testing Before Congress](#)
- [Mississippi Residents to Vote on Anti-abortion Constitutional Amendment](#)
- [An Electrocuted Elephant Remembered](#)
- [Supreme Court Tackles Controversial Issues in New Term](#)

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We really appreciate your feedback, donations, and referrals to people in the media and grant-making foundations, so please keep them coming.

Thanks as always for your interest in our nonpartisan research.

Sincerely,

Kamy Akhavan

President & Managing Editor, ProCon.org

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