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# Approval for legalizing weed higher

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A recent Gallup poll suggests that 50 percent of Americans favor the legalization of marijuana.

This record-high number, up from 46 percent last year, has been increasing steadily since Gallup first started asking about the legalization of marijuana in 1969 when only 12 percent favored it, according to Gallup.

The poll was conducted by cellphone and landline interviews of a random sample from every state of 1,005 adults, age 18 and older, from Oct. 6 to Oct. 9, according to Gallup. The margin of error for the survey is 4 percent.

Nick Sgandurra, a fourth-year in criminology and sociology, said he thinks our economy will benefit from the legalization of marijuana.

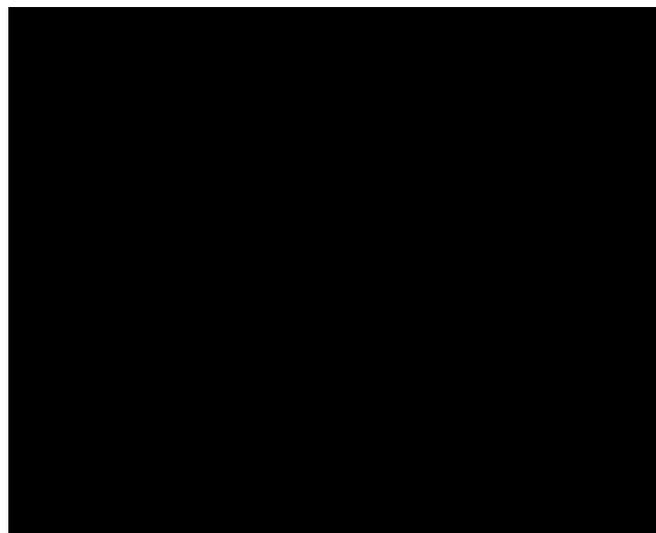
"I'm for (the legalization of marijuana) because I feel like it would really cut down on a lot of black market sort of activities," he said. "A lot of tax revenue could be generated from it. It may not be a popular thing but it may be a solution to a lot of tax problems."

Marijuana is the third-most-popular recreational drug in the U.S. behind tobacco and alcohol, according to National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Forty-six percent of Americans think marijuana should remain illegal and they are made up mostly of people 65 and older, conservatives, Republicans, women and those living in the Southern U.S, according to the poll.

Liberals, people ages 18 to 29, moderates, independents and democrats were most likely to favor legalization, according to Gallup.

"I think society would suffer a little from a sort of backlash to (the legalization of marijuana). The moral objectors would probably speak out against it most strongly," Sgandurra said. "As time goes on, and it's more accepted, ... people can only have so much energy yelling about something they might not care about."



Ohio House Bill 478, sponsored by Rep. Kenneth Yuko (D), proposes the legalization of marijuana for medical use and was introduced on April 7, 2010, and assigned to the Health committee, according to Ohio's legislature website.

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Ohio Senate Bill 343, also supporting the legalization of medical marijuana was introduced on May 22, 2008, by Sen. Tom Roberts (D), is awaiting further action from the judiciary criminal justice committee, according to Ohio's legislature website.

"I know it's not going to get passed," Yuko told The Lantern in April. "But we've got the state of Ohio talking about it, and it's the right thing to do. The people of Ohio are aware of its potential and with the publicity and attention (the bill) is getting, hopefully someone will come along with some money to help out."

There are currently 16 states and Washington, D.C. that have legalized marijuana for medical use. Ohio is one of six states with such legislation pending, according to ProCon.org.

Diana Sencherey, a second-year in health information management systems, thinks at a minimum, marijuana should be made legal for medical use to help patients.

"A lot of people need it, especially chemo patients and people with pain," Sencherey said.

Not all OSU students are a part of the 50 percent who favor the legalization. Nicholas Krebs, a fourth-year in communication and political science, said he trusts lawmakers to make the right decision regarding marijuana for medical use but does not think marijuana should be made legal.

"It can lead to potential avenues of abuse just like how people abuse tobacco and alcohol," Krebs said. "Why open the flood gates?"

Still, many students think it is more beneficial for the government and society to legalize marijuana and with 50 percent of Americans now favor legalization, lawmakers may concede to public pressure.

"Alcohol used to be illegal, now it's legal," Sencherey said. "If it's controlled well and regulated, I don't think it's going to be all that negative, considering the way it is already."



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Anonymous

Wed Oct 26 2011 17:15

Here are just some of the many studies the Feds wish they'd never commissioned: □□01) MARIJUANA USE HAS NO EFFECT ON MORTALITY:A massive study of California HMO members funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) found marijuana use caused no significant increase in mortality. Tobacco use was associated with increased risk of death. Sidney, S et al. Marijuana Use and Mortality. American Journal of Public Health. Vol. 87 No. 4, April 1997. p. 585-590. Sept. 2002.02) HEAVY MARIJUANA USE AS A YOUNG ADULT WON'T RUIN YOUR LIFE:Veterans Affairs scientists looked at whether heavy marijuana use as a young adult caused long-term problems later, studying identical twins in which one twin had been a heavy marijuana user for a year or longer but had stopped at least one month before the study, while the second twin had used marijuana no more than five times ever. Marijuana use had no significant impact on physical or mental health care utilization, health-related quality of life, or current socio-demographic characteristics. Eisen SE et al. Does Marijuana Use Have Residual Adverse Effects on Self-Reported Health Measures, Socio-Demographics or Quality of Life? A Monozygotic Co-Twin Control Study in Men. Addiction. Vol. 97 No. 9. p.1083-1086. Sept. 199703) THE "GATEWAY EFFECT" MAY BE A MIRAGE:Marijuana is often called a "gateway drug" by supporters of prohibition, who point to statistical "associations" indicating that persons who use marijuana are more likely to eventually try hard drugs than those who never use marijuana - implying that marijuana use somehow causes hard drug use. But a model developed by RAND Corp. researcher Andrew Morral demonstrates that these associations can be explained "without requiring a gateway effect." More likely, this federally funded study suggests, some people simply have an underlying propensity to try drugs, and start with what's most readily available. Morral AR, McCaffrey D and Paddock S. Reassessing the Marijuana Gateway Effect. Addiction. December 2002. p. 1493-1504.04) PROHIBITION DOESN'T WORK:The White House had the National Research Council examine the data being gathered about drug use and the effects of U.S. drug policies. NRC concluded, "the nation possesses little information about the effectiveness of current drug policy, especially of drug law enforcement." And what data exist show "little apparent relationship between severity of sanctions prescribed for drug use and prevalence or frequency of use." In other words, there is no proof that prohibition - the cornerstone of U.S. drug policy for a century - reduces drug use. National Research Council. Informing America's Policy on Illegal Drugs: What We Don't Know Keeps Hurting Us. National Academy Press, 2001. p. 193.05) PROHIBITION MAY CAUSE THE "GATEWAY EFFECT?": U.S. and Dutch researchers, supported in part by NIDA, compared marijuana users in San Francisco, where non-medical use remains illegal, to Amsterdam, where adults may possess and purchase small amounts of marijuana from regulated businesses. Looking at such parameters as frequency and quantity of use and age at onset of use, they found the following: Cannabis (Marijuana) use in San Francisco was 3 times the prevalence found in the Amsterdam sample. And lifetime use of hard drugs was significantly lower in Amsterdam, with its "tolerant" marijuana policies. For example, lifetime crack cocaine use was 4.5 times higher in San Francisco than Amsterdam. Reinerman, C, Cohen, PDA, and Kaal, HL. The Limited Relevance of Drug Policy: Cannabis in Amsterdam and San Francisco. American Journal of Public Health. Vol. 94, No. 5. May 2004. p 836-842.06) OOPS, MARIJUANA MAY PREVENT CANCER (PART 1):Federal researchers implanted several types of cancer, including leukemia and lung cancers, in mice, then treated them with cannabinoids (unique, active components found in marijuana). THC and other cannabinoids shrank tumors and increased the mice's lifespans. Munson, AE et al. Antineoplastic Activity of Cannabinoids. Journal of the National Cancer Institute. Sept. 1975. p. 597-602.07) OOPS, MARIJUANA MAY PREVENT CANCER, (PART 2):In a 1994 study the government tried to suppress, federal researchers gave mice and rats massive doses of THC, looking for cancers or other signs of toxicity. The rodents given THC lived longer and had fewer cancers, "in a dose-dependent manner" (i.e. the more THC they got, the fewer tumors). NTP Technical Report On The Toxicology And Carcinogenesis Studies Of 1-Trans- Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol, CAS No. 1972-08-3, In F344/N Rats And B6C3F Mice, Gavage Studies. See also, "Medical Marijuana: Unpublished Federal Study Found THC-Treated Rats Lived Longer, Had Less Cancer," AIDS Treatment News no. 263, Jan. 17, 1997.08) OOPS, MARIJUANA MAY PREVENT CANCER (PART 3):Researchers at the Kaiser-Permanente HMO, funded by NIDA, followed 65,000 patients for nearly a decade, comparing cancer rates among non-smokers, tobacco smokers, and marijuana smokers....

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Wed Oct 26 2011 13:59

Would you like to help put medical marijuana on the ballot for Ohio to decide upon?  
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Anonymous

Wed Oct 26 2011 11:51

If you are for continuing prohibition and you drink alcohol, you are a hypocrite.

The voice of reason

Wed Oct 26 2011 11:00

Let's stop wasting our time and money on keeping pot illegal. It is less addictive than tobacco or alcohol and it doesn't make you stupid and violent like alcohol does. No one is not smoking weed because it is illegal and making it legal will not significantly raise the numbers of people who do it.

Anonymous

Wed Oct 26 2011 09:23

And lets not forget why and who labelled marijuana as a narcotic. William Randolph Hearst through his money and political connections got it labelled so, as he was getting ready to start his wood pulp producing paper companies (much more toxic than paper produced via hemp) and publishing companies and wanted to snip marijuana, as a paper producing product (in the bud) by having it labelled as a narcotic. And of course it is not a narcotic. Just because its a law doesn't make it right! But because it is a law means we can be fined and placed in jail.

Anonymous

Wed Oct 26 2011 08:20

Basically, it's a 70 year old law that was based upon 70 year old science and 70 year old ideals. We've seem to come a long way as a society on a number of other fronts so there's no surprise here. People are realizing that marijuana isn't the naughty devil grass from Reefer Madness and it's not the "gateway drug" that schools scare you into believing when you're younger. The last 3 Presidents of the USA have admitted to using it at some point, it puts over 800,000 people in jail for a non-violent crime (wasting jail space and your tax dollars), and it's illegality has done more harm than good given the violence on the border with drug cartels. It's time we move into the 21st century on this issue.

OSU Econ Guy

Wed Oct 26 2011 08:09

Oops. My lol should have had an arrow pointing down instead of up. Let's try that again.

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OSU Econ Guy

Wed Oct 26 2011 08:07

lol ^

Anonymous

Wed Oct 26 2011 04:16

Due to the nefarious effects of Prohibition we have now become totally subordinate to a corporatized, despotic government with a heavily armed and corrupt, militarized police force whose often deadly intrusions into our homes and lives are condoned by an equally corrupt and spineless Judiciary who are intentionally protecting transnational corporate Institutions over individual Citizens.

Colombia, Peru, Mexico or Afghanistan with their coca leaves, marijuana buds or poppy sap are not igniting temptation in the minds of our weak, innocent citizens. These countries are duly responding to the enormous demand that comes from within our own borders. Invading or destroying these countries, thus creating more hate, violence, instability, injustice and corruption, will not fix our problem. We need to collectively admit that we are sick. -- Prohibition is neither a sane nor a safe approach; left unabated, its puritanical flames will surely engulf every last one of us!

The illegal drug trade is now estimated to be somewhere in the region of \$400 billion a year ( equal to the defense budget ). This "former land of the free" arrests 1.5 million of it's citizens a year for drug law violations, half for marijuana alone, The majority of the 2.2 million inmates in the USA are incarcerated because of this insane drug war (Prohibition 2) at a staggering cost to all taxpayers and trauma to their families.

Prisons have been filled to capacity. Violent criminals, murderers, rapists and child molesters are released early to create space for these so called drug offenders. Half of court trial time and also a huge chunk of police officers time is pointlessly wasted. Enormous untaxed profits from illegal drugs fund multi-national criminal empires which bribe law enforcement authorities and spread corruption faster than a raging bush fire. These laws take violent criminals and turn them into multi-billionaires whilst corrupting even entire countries such as Columbia, Panama, Mexico and Afghanistan. The extreme violence on and south of the border is drug gangs fighting for turf in this lucrative business. The drug laws are also funding the Taliban whose illegal opium profits allow it to buy weapons and pay it's fighters more than \$300 a month, compared with the \$14 paid to an Afghan policemen.

When governments prohibit drugs they effectively and knowingly hand a monopoly on their sale to dangerous criminals and terrorists. Without a legal framework in which to operate, these black-market entities can always be expected to settle their disputes violently, while terrorizing many peaceful and innocent citizens in the process. Were the users of alcohol to blame for the St Valentines massacre in the US in 1929? Of course not! It is just as naive to assume that one can compel all the users of Marijuana or Cocaine to simply quit, as it is to assume that all the users of Alcohol should have stopped drinking after the introduction of alcohol prohibition in 1919. Nobody can be expected to obey bad laws, like ones that infringe on logic as well as the fundamental right to decide on what medicine or poison an individual adult may, or may not, ingest. The corruption, violence and death ultimately arising from such bad public policy should always rest squarely on the shoulders of those ignorant imbeciles who are responsible for implementing and supporting such foolishness.

The definition of insanity is great folly, madness, extreme senselessness, lunacy. Prohibition can be described as being all of

the above and may therefor, along with all it's supporters, be deemed insane.

Each day you remain silent, you help to destroy the Constitution, fill the prisons with our children, and empower terrorists and criminals worldwide while wasting hundreds of billions of your own tax dollars. Prohibition bears many strong and startling similarities to Torquemada's inquisition, it's supporters are servants of tyranny and hate who's sole purpose is to make the rest of us suffer their putrid legacy of incalculable waste and destruction.

Protect our Children; Legalize, Regulate & Tax!

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