

ARGUMENTS FILED IN SUPPORT OF THE REGULATION
AND TAXATION OF MARIJUANA ACT

Marijuana prohibition has failed and it is time for a new approach to marijuana. Our government took a substance less harmful than alcohol and made it completely illegal. This resulted in the growth of an underground market driven by drug cartels and criminals operating in our communities. We have forced law enforcement to focus on the sale and use of marijuana instead of on serious, violent, and unsolved crimes.

The “Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act” is a better way. It will eliminate the criminal market by shifting the production and sale of marijuana into the hands of tightly regulated Arizona businesses that will be required to comply with both state and local laws.

Marijuana businesses will be required to:

- * Test marijuana products to ensure that they are safe and properly labeled;
- * Sell marijuana products in child-resistant packaging; and
- * Check identification of customers to ensure marijuana is not sold to minors

The initiative provides for a 15% sales tax on marijuana. This will cover the cost of enforcing regulations and generate tens of millions of dollars annually for full-day kindergarten and Arizona schools. It will also fund marijuana-related public education campaigns.

To enhance public safety, the initiative:

- * Leaves in place Arizona’s laws against driving under the influence of marijuana;
- * Allows employers to have policies against the use of marijuana by employees;
- * Prohibits the use of marijuana in public; and
- * Maintains existing penalties for distribution of marijuana to minors.

It’s time to stop punishing adults who use marijuana responsibly. This initiative will accomplish that goal in a manner that protects consumers, enhances public safety, provides for local control, generates tax revenue, and creates thousands of new jobs in the state. Please vote in favor of Proposition XXX, the Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act.

J.P. Holyoak, Campaign Chair, Paradise Valley and Carlos Alfaro, Campaign Treasurer, Scottsdale

Sponsored by “Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, Sponsored by the Marijuana Policy Project”

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IS COMMON SENSE

The War on Drugs has not made our neighborhoods safe. It has not prevented anyone, not even children, from getting their hands on marijuana. It has succeeded only in destroying countless lives through incarceration and collateral consequences such as creating bars to college education and careers.

According to a recent Gallup poll, almost half of Americans admit to having tried marijuana. There has never been a recorded death caused by marijuana ingestion. Never. Cigarette and alcohol consumption result in countless thousands of deaths every year. Marijuana legalization will not result in any public health harm.

During Prohibition, alcohol was still consumed, but the market was controlled by people like Al Capone. Because marijuana is illegal, that market is similarly controlled by Mexican cartels run by people like El Chapo. As more states take the inevitable step toward legalization, marijuana will be operated by businesses that settle disputes in the courtroom instead of with machine guns and beheadings.

If Proposition [XXX] passes, driving under the influence of marijuana remains illegal. Do not believe anti-marijuana interest groups attempting to mislead voters into thinking that passing Proposition [XXX] will result in filling the roads with intoxicated drivers. Claims that children will have easier access to marijuana are unfounded.

Law enforcement has a financial incentive to oppose this initiative. They will no longer be able to take the property of private citizens who are suspected of involvement in marijuana use or sales – known as forfeiture. Passage of Proposition [XXX] will reduce “policing for profit” and shrink prosecutors’ slush funds and police access to fancy cars and other toys.

Let consenting adults use marijuana as they use alcohol, and expect and demand that adults act responsibly. Vote to legalize marijuana this November.

David Euchner, Tucson

Sponsored by “Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice”

It is time to end Arizona’s misguided War on Marijuana. By voting to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, Arizonans have the opportunity to take marijuana production and sales out of the black market, create a much-needed revenue stream for our underfunded school system, and end felony prosecutions for possession of marijuana.

The scare tactics of this measure’s opposition do not change the facts.

Marijuana is safer than alcohol. Unlike alcohol, caffeine, and nicotine, marijuana use does not result in chemical dependence. It is impossible to overdose on marijuana. Marijuana legalization will not result in more traffic fatalities. Nor will legal marijuana result in more use by teens.

In fact, marijuana legalization will make our communities safer. Crime rates will fall. Consumers will buy from well-regulated business, not criminal cartels, lowering the chance that our children and communities will be exposed to more dangerous drugs. And marijuana legalization has been reported to reduce addiction rates for other drugs like heroin.

Tax revenue from legalized marijuana is projected to generate initially between \$40 and \$113 million annually. 40% of these funds will be spent on K-12 education. Another 40% will fund full-day kindergarten programs. The remaining 20% will be spent on drug- and alcohol-treatment programs and public-health education campaigns. Our elected officials will not be able to divert these funds for other uses.

A “Yes” vote will also end felony prosecutions for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana. Arizona voters have previously mandated that non-violent first-time drug offenders receive probation. However, marijuana possession remains a felony in Arizona. As a result, Arizona taxpayers spend too much money prosecuting and punishing people for possessing small amounts of marijuana.

A vote to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol is a vote to support individual privacy rights, sound public policy, and education funding.

Kevin Heade, Phoenix

Sponsored by “Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice”

By voting “Yes” to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, Arizonans will improve the safety of their communities, reduce government spending and costs of our overburdened criminal-justice system, and provide much-needed revenue for public education and drug treatment.

Ending prohibition will put an end to the dangerous black market. With a system of licensed businesses, products will be tested, packaged, and labeled to ensure marijuana products are safe and not contaminated. Enabling the legal purchase of marijuana from licensed businesses will provide a safe environment in which adults can purchase marijuana while reducing exposure to other illicit drugs.

Regulating marijuana like alcohol and tobacco also will decrease the financial burden on the state and counties from the cost of enforcing anti-marijuana laws, and it will reduce other crimes. Colorado, for example, saw a reduction in traffic fatalities, violent crime, and property after legalizing recreational marijuana. According to data released by the city of Denver, violent crime in Denver went down by 2.2% in the first 11 months of 2014, compared with the first 11 months of 2013. In the same period, burglaries in Denver decreased by 9.5%, and overall property crime decreased by 8.9%.

Arizona also stands to generate much-needed revenues for public education without increasing property or income taxes. Best of all, our elected officials will not be able to divert these funds for other uses. By focusing on public health rather than criminalization, Arizona will be better positioned to address the potential harms of marijuana use, while diminishing many of the worst aspects of the war on drugs.

A “Yes” vote to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol is a vote to reduce crime, increase public health and welfare, and fund education. Simply put, a “Yes” vote is sound public policy.

Sarah Mayhew, Tucson

Sponsored by “Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice”

The Arizona Public Health Association, Arizona’s independent voice for public health for over 70 years, believes the Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act poses public health risks and benefits.

The public health benefits include decriminalization for possession of small amounts of marijuana. Possession of marijuana (even one marijuana cigarette) is currently a felony (excluding medical marijuana patients). Felony convictions result in a lifetime of lower earnings and poorer health outcomes for those convicted and their families. Regulating marijuana sales may also reduce violence within the current illegal marijuana trade.

Other benefits include providing an opportunity to monitor and regulate production, potency, testing and labeling of marijuana before sale. Tax revenue from the retail sale of marijuana distributed to schools (80%) and for substance abuse education (20%) may also have a positive public health impact.

Public health risks from the proposed Initiative include the potential for increased access to marijuana among adolescents, accidental marijuana ingestion among young children, increased potential for marijuana abuse among adults, and risks to the public from impaired driving and workplace accidents.

How well the Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act is implemented will affect the law’s net impact on public health. If the Act passes, Arizona residents, elected officials, and Arizona’s Executive Branch should ensure that the new state agency uses its full regulatory authority to strictly enforce the 21 year old purchasing age-limit, enforce robust product labeling, packaging, and potency standards, regulate advertising and place of use restrictions, engage employers to address workplace policies, and work with law enforcement regarding motor vehicle operation restrictions and penalties. The new state agency should also engage Arizona’s public Universities to better understand and measure public health outcomes related to marijuana use.

For additional information including a descriptive PowerPoint and data from Colorado visit www.azpha.org

Will Humble for the Arizona Public Health Association, Phoenix

Sponsored by “Arizona Public Health Association”

All doctors are familiar with the phrase, “First, do no harm.” When it comes to marijuana policy in Arizona, it is marijuana prohibition that is causing us harm. It not only steers marijuana users into a dangerous illegal market, but it forces them to buy marijuana that is untested and potentially impure.

The initiative to allow adults to use marijuana legally will improve public health by regulating the production and sale of marijuana, so that products are properly cultivated, tested, and packaged.

Since marijuana is less harmful than alcohol, regulating marijuana may even reduce the number of serious injuries we see in emergency rooms on a daily basis. We do not see countless cases of marijuana overdoses like we see with alcohol. And, unlike with alcohol, we do not see people who have been injured by acts of violence associated with marijuana.

In addition, teen use may actually decline with legalization. In Colorado, they have seen a small decrease in use among teens since voters allowed adults to purchase marijuana legally. Taking marijuana off of our streets and having it sold in stores that are required to check proof of age will make it harder for teens to get their hands on marijuana, which as doctors we applaud.

Thousands of Arizonans use medical marijuana to reduce pain and cope with serious illnesses. They have collectively reduced their reliance on opiates, instead using a natural alternative that does not cause serious side effects or terrible addictions. But the list of approved illnesses remains small. More people with serious diseases or conditions should have access to marijuana to help them deal with their pain and suffering.

Please vote Yes on the Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act. It is long past time to have a sensible marijuana policy in this state.

Jeffrey A. Singer, MD, FACS General Surgeon, Phoenix and Alan Jay Citrin D.O., Anesthesiologist, Medical Director, Mesa
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You might not expect two federal drug agents with more than 40 years experience combating marijuana proliferation in America to support an initiative to legalize the drug's sale in Arizona. But we do. And it is because of our experience.

Each of us put in 20 or more years in the Drug Enforcement Administration and other law enforcement entities. And both of us realize that marijuana prohibition is a failed drug policy that should end.

Prohibition doesn't keep marijuana off our streets or decrease use. And it certainly doesn't keep marijuana out of the hands of teens. But prohibition does result in billions of dollars in profits flowing to drug cartels. This drug money fuels lavish lifestyles among drug lords and deadly violence among rival cartels aiming to protect smuggling territory and street corners.

We have seen the consequences of America's marijuana prohibition policies. It is long past time to allow adults to legally buy marijuana. Taxation and strict regulation should be the mantra when it comes to marijuana. Now that we are retired from the DEA, we can speak out and say

that marijuana should be taxed and regulated to keep profits from ruining our streets and causing mayhem south of the border.

In addition to money headed to drug cartels, police forces throughout Arizona and the nation spend billions to combat marijuana trade. It's all for naught. We were a part of that wasted effort. Playing cat and mouse games with cartels members in the U.S. and abroad proved to be a waste. Keeping a substance less harmful than alcohol out of the hands of adults continues to prove useless.

We support Proposition XXX because cartels should not continue to rake in our dollars and create havoc on our streets.

Michael Capasso, DEA Supervisory Special Agent (Ret), Phoenix and Finn Selander, DEA Agent Ret, Phoenix

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As parents of children of all ages, we strongly support passage of the "Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act." Marijuana prohibition has been a failed policy in every way and that is especially true with respect to teen use. Keeping marijuana illegal has not only made it easy for teens to acquire marijuana, but also steers them toward acquiring it in the most dangerous manner.

We are unified in our desire to reduce teen marijuana use, but it is clear that marijuana prohibition is not the way to do that. For decades, the vast majority of teens have said in surveys that marijuana is "easy to get." At the same time, we have seen rates of teen alcohol and tobacco use steadily decline over the past two decades due to public education and enforcement of regulations related to selling to minors.

For those who may be concerned that regulating marijuana like alcohol will lead to an increase in teen use, there has been good news this year. In Colorado, the state with the most robust system of regulated distribution and sale of marijuana, a survey released in June showed that the rate of teen marijuana use in that state has not increased between 2011, just prior to marijuana becoming legal, and 2015.

Of course, there is still the rational concern that under legalization some teens may acquire marijuana from older siblings and friends, as they sometimes do in the case of alcohol. We all hope that this does not occur frequently. But we must acknowledge that this is better than having teens seeking marijuana from strangers in an underground market, where they may be exposed to other more dangerous drugs. This is what happens today.

Please join us in voting Yes on Proposition XXX, the "Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act."

Kathy Inman, Gilbert; Dave Inman, Gilbert and Sonia Martinez, Mesa

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