



CBS NEWS POLL
For Release: Thursday, March 19, 2009
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POSSIBLE LAW CHANGES
March 12-16, 2009

Americans oppose potential changes in the laws concerning marijuana use and underage drinking, even if those changes could have some potential economic benefits.

Most Americans - 58% - think marijuana should be illegal, even after they are presented with the idea that the drug could be taxed, and the money then used by state and local governments.

MARIJUANA SHOULD BE...

Legal	31%
Legal, if taxed & money used for projects	7
Illegal, even if it could be taxed	58

Americans voice overwhelming opposition to lowering the drinking age to 18, even if that change would possibly allow police more time to enforce other laws besides underage drinking.

**SHOULD DRINKING AGE BE LOWERED TO 18, IF THAT WOULD FREE UP
POLICE TO DEAL WITH OTHER CRIMES?**

Yes, lowered	24%
No, kept same	73

Of all age groups, the strongest support for lowering the drinking age comes from those under age 30, but even most of them (six in ten) are still opposed. Of all other age groups, eight in ten are opposed.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1142 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone March 12-16, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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q65 As you may know, the legal drinking age is 21. Would you approve or disapprove of states lowering the drinking age to 18, if the states felt that would give the police more time to enforce other laws?

**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****

	%
Approve	24
Disapprove	73
DK/NA	3

q68 Do you think that the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?

Legal	31
Not legal	63
DK/NA	6

q69 What if state governments tax the sale of marijuana and used tax revenues to pay for state and local projects, then would you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?*

Legal	31 (from q.68)
Legal, if taxed	7
Not legal	58
DK/NA	4

*Asked of respondents who answered "not legal" or "don't know" in q.68

Total Respondents 1142