



CBS NEWS POLL  
For Release: April 20, 2010  
2:00 pm (EDT)

**LEGALIZING MARIJUANA**  
March 29 - April 1, 2009

Californians will get to vote on a ballot initiative this November that, if passed, would legalize marijuana in the state, making it the first state in the nation to do so. The measure would permit those age 21 and over to possess small amounts of marijuana, and the sale of it would be regulated and taxed by local governments.

Still, a CBS News Poll conducted nationwide finds 51% of Americans oppose making the use of marijuana legal, while 44% support the idea.

The percentage supporting legalization is similar to what it was last summer, but it has grown from thirty years ago when just 27% thought the use of marijuana should be made legal.

	SHOULD THE USE OF MARIJUANA BE MADE LEGAL?				
	Now	7/2009	3/2009	1/2009	7/1979
Yes	44%	41%	31%	41%	27%
No	51	52	63	52	69
Don't know	5	7	6	7	4

Age impacts views on the legalization of marijuana. A majority of Americans under age 35 (54%) favors legalization, while older Americans are opposed. Among those age 65 and over, six in 10 are against making the use of marijuana legal.

Geography matters as well. Support for legalizing marijuana is greatest in the West (55%) - the only region where a majority backs legalization. Americans in the Midwest and South are the least likely groups to favor legalizing marijuana use.

69% of liberals favor making the use of marijuana legal, while both moderates and conservatives are opposed to the idea.

When it comes to political party, 50% of Democrats back legalization while 60% of Republicans are against it.

Men and women hold similar views, with women a bit more likely than men to oppose the idea of legalizing marijuana.

	SHOULD THE USE OF MARIJUANA BE MADE LEGAL?		
	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	44%	51	5
Under age 35	54%	44	2
Age 35 and over	38%	55	7
Age 65 and over	29%	61	10

SHOULD THE USE OF MARIJUANA BE MADE LEGAL?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Men	45%	49	6
Women	42%	53	5
Northeast	44%	52	4
Midwest	36%	54	10
South	40%	55	5
West	55%	41	4
Liberal	69%	28	3
Moderate	36%	58	6
Conservative	36%	59	5
Republicans	36%	60	4
Democrats	50%	45	5
Independents	43%	50	7

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 858 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone March 29- April 1, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line 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.

**CBS NEWS POLL**  
**Legalizing Marijuana**  
**March 29-April 1, 2010**

q42 Do you think that the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?

	TOTAL
	%
Legal	44
Not legal	51
Don't know/No answer	5

*Total Respondents: 858*  
*Margin of error: 3 pts.*