



MARIJUANA POLICY PROJECT

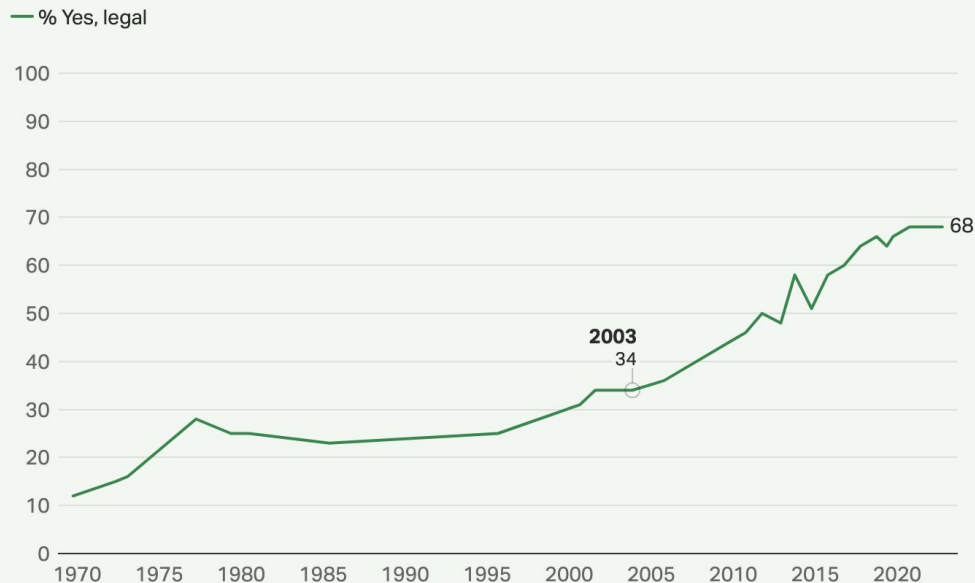
Karen O'Keefe

director of state policies

Public Opinion & State Laws Have Transformed

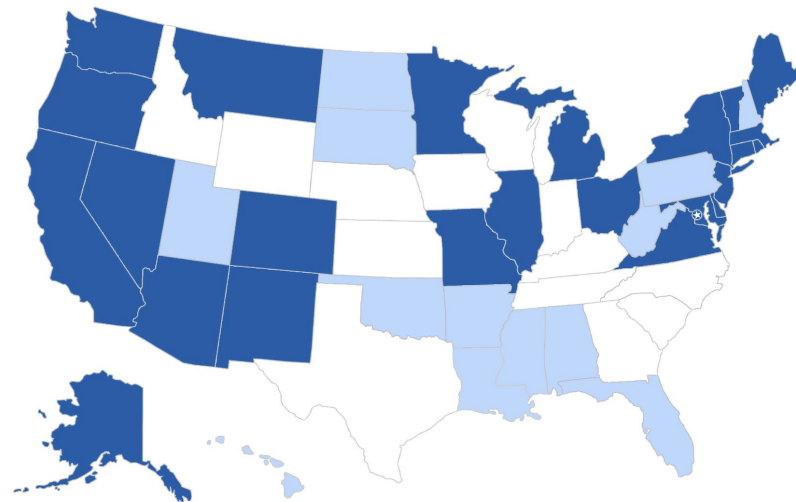
Americans' Support for Legal Marijuana

Do you think the use of marijuana should be legal, or not?



[Get the data](#) • [Download image](#)

GALLUP



Key Features of State Cannabis Regulation Laws

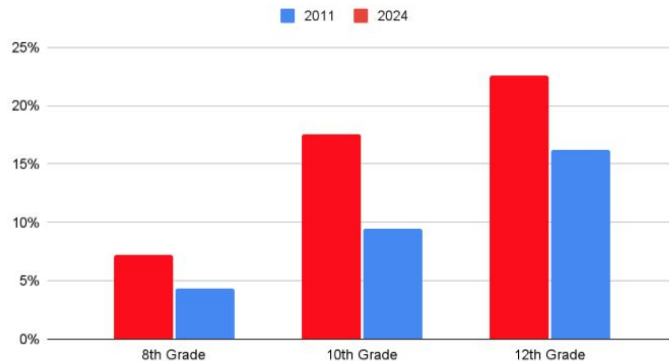
- **Medical Cannabis** — Preserving & expanding access
- **Small, Local Businesses** — Creating opportunity for small businesses and to transition legacy operators
- **Public Health, Public Education, and Public Safety** — lab testing, labeling, consumer education, childproof packaging
- **Being Realistic** — Excessive tax rates, unnecessarily onerous rules, & local bans can hamstring legal businesses
- **Intoxicating Hemp Regulations** — with a unified regulator
- **Investing in Social Equity, Youth, and Communities**
- **Stop Derailing Lives** — avoiding re-criminalization, include state-initiated expungement, & non-discrimination



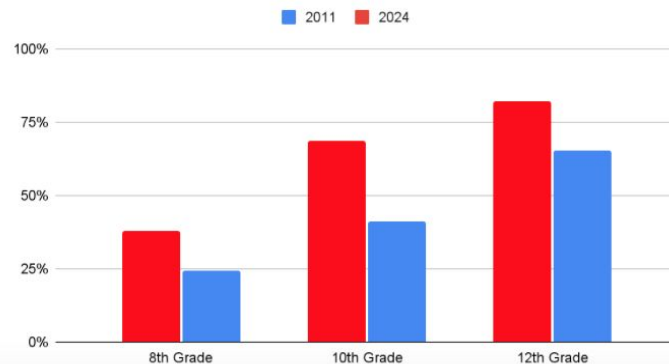
Regulating Cannabis & Protecting Youth

- **19 of 21** legalization states with before-and-after data have seen *decreases* in high schoolers' current marijuana use.
- Nationwide, high schoolers' marijuana use rates & reports of very or fairly easy availability have *dropped* since 2012.
- Surveys show near universal compliance with ID checks.

MTF Past 30 Day Marijuana Use



MTF: Marijuana "fairly easy" or "very easy" to obtain



Growing the Economy and Investing in Youth & Communities

- States have generated over \$20 billion in cannabis taxes, and over \$4 billion in 2023 alone.
- Hawai'i can expect more than \$50 million in adult-use cannabis taxes per year & >5,000 new cannabis jobs.
- Tourism increased in Colo. and Calif. post-legalization.
 - California tourism broke records in '19 and again in '24.

"Cannabis legalization can bring in millions of dollars in tax revenue to states, and in some cases has already generated, or is expected to generate, hundreds of millions in revenue annually. States can decide where to direct that revenue from taxes and many are using a portion of it to support youth development, afterschool, and summer programs."

— **the Afterschool Alliance**



Mahalo for your time and consideration!

Citations are included in my written testimony.

Reach out with any questions or to set up a meeting:

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