



Texas NORML Voters' Guide

2014 General Election

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www.TexasNORML.org

Early Voting: October 20-31, 2014 Polls open 7am-7pm

Election Day: November 4, 2014 Polls open 7am-7pm

Find your voting location: <http://votetexas.gov/voting/where/>

Cast an Informed Vote in the General Election

This Voters' Guide was compiled, published and funded by the Texas Chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, a 501(c)(4) educational non-profit. Our goal is to help voters make educated decisions when they go to the polls this fall. Texas and over 20 other states in the U.S. cannot collect signatures to get an issue on the ballot for a vote affecting state laws. Additionally, in 1997, Texas passed a state law requiring that all drug laws be enforced and changed at the state, rather than local, level. Because of these limitations, Texans must rely on our state elected officials, specifically our **State Representatives and State Senators** (so take a close look at yours). Here are the 3 questions we asked the candidates:

1. Currently, the District of Columbia and 22 other states have medical marijuana programs. This accounts for 47% of the U.S. population. The patients in these states and the District have safe access to their medicine, but patients in Texas are denied such a right. Texas accounts for 12% of the U.S. population. **Do you support or oppose changing the law in Texas to allow seriously and terminally ill patients to safely obtain and use medical marijuana if their doctors recommend it?**
2. Under current Texas law, it is a criminal offense for a person to possess a small amount of marijuana; he or she can be sentenced to up to a year in jail, and fined up to \$2,000. Arresting and prosecuting non-violent individuals simply for the possession of small amounts of marijuana clogs our court system, misplaces valuable law enforcement resources, and wastes taxpayer dollars at a cost of \$10,000 per arrest. **Would you support or oppose a change in the law to make the possession of a small amount of marijuana a civil, not criminal, offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$100, but without jail time?**
3. Two states, Washington and Colorado, have replaced their respective prohibitions of marijuana with regulatory structures that treat marijuana similarly to alcohol, including common sense restrictions on advertising and sales. **Do you support or oppose making marijuana legal, and treating it similarly to alcohol, for Texans who are 21 years of age and older?**

Party	Total Number of Candidates	Number Sent to	Number of Respondents
Democrat	291	269	32
Republican	422	389	15
Libertarian	132	131	71
Green	43	34	15
Independent	3	1	1
TOTALS	891	824	134

What to Take to the Polls?

If you have it, take your voter registration certificate with you when you go to vote. Otherwise, the following are acceptable forms of identification for the November 4, 2014, election: * Texas driver's license, * Election ID Certificate issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), * Personal ID card issued by DPS, * Texas concealed handgun license, * U.S. military ID card (with photo), * U.S. citizenship certificate (with photo), or * U.S. Passport

Check out **The Addendum** following the responses to see opinions of candidates that did not respond to this year's voters' guide, but have previously expressed their stance publicly regarding drug laws.

Candidate replies were printed without editing or verification. Texas NORML does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The responses do not reflect Texas NORML's opinion, views, or stance.

U.S. SENATOR

EMILY SANCHEZ (G)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – As a member of the Green Party and an employee in the medical community I support a more natural remedy for illnesses.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

JAMES B. VEASAW (L) – 2ND DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – I WOULD MAKE IT LEGAL, TAKE AWAY DRIVER LICENSE (FOR SOME PERIOD OF TIME) FOR MINORS IN POSSESSION. I WOULD CHANGE THE LAW TO EXPUNGE THE (DRUG) CRIMINAL RECORDS OF ALL NON-VIOLENT DRUG OFFENDERS, WHO CAN SHOW THAT THEY CAN CONDUCT THEMSELVES FOR A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME, AS CITIZENS WITHOUT SOME CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, (NO THIEF'S, ROBBERIES...etc) IF THEY FAIL TO DO SO THE CLOCK RESTARTS, UNTIL THEY CAN SHOW THEY CAN GO A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME WITHOUT SOME CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

Legalization – I SUPPORT MAKING IT LEGAL TO GROW YOUR OWN

Remarks – I WOULD LIKE TO SAY MORE BUT YOUR GOOGLE FORM DOES ALLOW!

MARK ROBERTS (G) – 2ND DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I believe that the War on Drugs has been an absolute disaster. We would be better served by decriminalizing drug use.

PAUL BLAIR (G) - 3RD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – America's war on drugs is a complete and utter failure and should be ended immediately.

KEN ASHBY (L) - 5TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – See <https://txcann.com/2014/02/18/15-benefits-of-marijuana-legalization-by-a-texas-libertarian/comment-page-1/>

HUGH CHAUVIN (L) – 6TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I have 30 years of international management experience in 6 countries in the energy sector. I am a U.S. Air Force veteran.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

KEN PETTY (L) – 8TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – I support full decriminalization.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – The War On Drugs has been and still is a waste of taxpayer money. It is unwinnable and should therefore be simply controlled like alcohol and tobacco.

BILL KELSEY (L) – 10TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – I would not want it to be any offense at all.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Let us remember all the other uses for hemp -- paper, fabric, and so on.

ED COLLIVER (L) - 12TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Possession of Marihuana or any other drug should not be a crime.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – This is an issue of freedom. As adults, we should not be restricted as to what we wish to do with our own body, as long as we are not harming others.

DONALD BROWN (D) – 14TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

JOHN WIEDER (L) – 14TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

JOHNNY PARTAIN (L) – 15TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – It depends on the opinions of my constituents.

Legalization – It depends on the opinions of my constituents.

Remarks – I have little opinion on marijuana. If there is a change it would probably be accompanied by stricter accountability to the drug's use: like alcohol.

JAIME O. PEREZ (L) – 16TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – Legalize all drugs.

Decriminalization – Legalize all drugs. No fines.

Legalization – Legalize all drugs. No criminalization at any age.

Remarks – Substances should be re-Legalized and no fees or criminal penalties. Pardon everyone in jail. Expunge records.

SEAN SEIBERT (R) – 18TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

VINCENT DUNCAN (I) – 18TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – OPPOSE

Decriminalization – OPPOSE

Legalization – OPPOSE

Remarks – In My Mind We Are An Overly Medicated Society, Prescribed Or Recreational.

RANDY NEUGEBAUER (R) - 19TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – no answer

Decriminalization – no answer

Legalization – no answer

Remarks – Due to the large number of requests that we receive, we have a long-standing policy to defer political surveys and questionnaires directly to the Congressman's public voting record. There is no better way to gauge his position on an issue better than the votes he has taken. To obtain access to his voting record, please visit the Office of the Clerk's website at www.clerk.house.gov/legislative/legvotes.

RICHARD PETERSON (L) - 19TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Alcohol and Marijuana both alter peoples' mental capacities. I take neither, but respect the right of adults to decide what to consume.

JEFFREY BLUNT (L) – 20TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – I would support legalization, no criminal or civil punishment for personal use.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I favor the repeal of all laws creating "crimes" without victims, such as the use of drugs.

RYAN SHIELDS (L) – 21ST DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Your voice, your vote, your Congressman. It's time to send an actual representative of the people to Washington!

ROB LAPHAM (L) – 22ND DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Government has no business involving itself in what is an inherently personal decision.

PATRICK MCGEHEARTY (D) – 24TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I support changing federal law to allow states to make these decisions about marijuana without federal interference.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

MIKE KOLLS (L) - 24TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – no answer

Decriminalization – no answer

Legalization – no answer

Remarks – I advocate decriminalization. It should not be taxed differently than any other product. Efforts to "legalize" would have the state involved in regulating or controlling; there should be no state regulation or control.

DR. MARCO MONTOYA (D) 25TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – no answer

Decriminalization – no answer

Legalization – no answer

Remarks – Without question I support the Federal government approving Marijuana use for medical reasons. As the US Representative from Congressional District 25, I do want to approach concern over marijuana reform in a manner that considers needed changes in federal laws from a national perspective. Given the great pain my father experienced prior to his passing, we do need, at the least, to have a clear national understanding of the medical benefits involved.

JACK BETZ (L) – 25TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – The war on drugs was lost long ago and it is a waste of time and resources to keep it going.

WILL AIKENS (L) – 28TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

JAMES STANCZAK (L) – 29TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Marijuana is bad, when in the hands of government regulations, and those who would grow and sell it illegally.

MAX KOCH (L) - 30TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – All natural substances should be made legal.

LOUIE MINOR (D) – 31ST DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – I support making it a Class C much like a speeding ticket.

Legalization – OPPOSE

Remarks – I am running for federal office and have minimal effect on state laws. I support rescheduling marijuana from a schedule 1 to a schedule 3 drug.

FRANK PEREZ (D) – 32ND DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – Undecided

Remarks – None

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

ED RANKIN (L) – 32ND DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I support the immediate legalization of marijuana for personal use and the release of those imprisoned for non-violent drug-related offenses.

JASON REEVES (L) – 33RD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – I support hospitals being allowed to treat and distribute to patients as deemed necessary.

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – Not sure.

Remarks – I am all for research and testing of medical marijuana as long as hospitals are in charge of who gets it and how they get it.

KAT SWIFT (G) – 35TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Decriminalize

Legalization – Prefer decriminalization but would vote for legalization.

Remarks – Support federal removal of agricultural restriction on hemp for industrial, medical, & food use, remove cannabis & derivatives from Schedule 1.

MICHAEL COLE (D) - 36TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

RODNEY VEACH (L) – 36TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Reducing/eliminating penalties for marijuana use is important to me.

HAL RIDLEY, JR. (R) – 36TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Legalize

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Marijuana is a medicinal herb that will be legally available to all adults soon I believe.

GOVERNOR

KATHIE GLASS (L)

Medical – Support, ONLY if that is the best we can get.

Decriminalization – Support, ONLY if that is the best we can get.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Medicinal or recreational, treat marijuana like beer.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ROBERT BUTLER (L)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I would prefer that marijuana be 100% legal for any purpose. Drug prohibition doesn't work. I only support the civil fine as a compromise.

TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL

JAMIE BALAGIA (L)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – As a member of the NORML legal directory, a board member of SANORML and a criminal defense attorney, I fully support the legalization of marijuana.

TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

BEN SANDERS (L)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – Repeal all Mandatory Drug Sentencing

Remarks – Personally I don't like drugs! As much as I don't like drugs, I really don't like the failed war on drugs. My stand on Issues vote4sanders.com.

TEXAS AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

DAVID "ROCKY" PALMQUIST (L)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I will actively lobby the legislature **for FULL marijuana legalization. I don't want to reform the laws, I want to get rid of them altogether!**

KENNETH KENDRICK (G)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Should not be fined at all for small amounts

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Requires less water and pesticide. Reduce the use of deadly synthetic pot. Economically a boost. Reduce prison numbers. Reduction in pain killer overdoses.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

MARTINA SALINAS (G)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – I believe more research needs to be done before this can be considered.

Remarks – None

JUSTICE - TEXAS SUPREME COURT

MARK ASH (L) - TEXAS SUPREME COURT – PLACE 6

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

DON FULTON (L) - TEXAS SUPREME COURT - PLACE 7

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I would further support the governor issuing pardons to all persons who have been convicted solely of misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

JOHN GRANBERG (D) - PLACE 3

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Would prefer to study the effects, if any in Washington and Colorado before making a decision.

JUDITH SANDERS-CASTRO (G) - PLACE 4

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Texas prisons are filled with "drug" offenders, most .people of color, convicted of possession crimes, ruining young lives.

DAVID NEWELL (R) - PLACE 9

Medical – no answer

Decriminalization – no answer

Legalization – no answer

Remarks – As a judicial candidate I can't really be seen to take an advocacy position either way on particular laws and issues that I might have to review should I be fortunate enough to win in November. If I were to do so, I would forfeit not only my impartiality but also the appearance of it... What I can promise you, however, that as a judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals, I would remain true to my oath to fairly and impartially interpret the laws duly passed by our legislature so long as they do not run afoul of our state or federal constitutions. That goes for existing laws and those passed in the future.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DAVE MUNDY (R) - DISTRICT 3

Medical – Not really a question for the SBOE

Decriminalization – Not really a question for the SBOE

Legalization – Not really a question for the SBOE

Remarks – The task of the State Board of Education is to set the state's education standards, thus questions about marijuana use are immaterial to this race.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

NANCY BEAN (D) – DISTRICT 11

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – None

JOSH MORALES (L) – DISTRICT 3

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – I don't believe I would be in any position to influence legislation about marijuana, but legalization has my full support.

LAWRENCE ALLEN (D) – DISTRICT 4 - INCUMBENT

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – I believe the abuse of marijuana is the problem so it should be treat like other drugs.

MEGAN DAGATA (L) - DISTRICT 7

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – I haven't determined how I feel about this, but if it's not hurting anyone why not. We need the tax dollars. It's not the worst habit you could have.
Remarks – If you want to regulate it and treat it similar to alcohol fine just don't bring it to school.

TEXAS STATE SENATE

DON BATES (L) - DISTRICT 2

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – Decriminalize
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – I believe victory can be achieved by decriminalizing, promoting hemp farming, permitting medicinal use and then recreational if introduced properly.

JOEL SHAPIRO (D) - DISTRICT 5

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – Making marijuana legal for medicinal purposes is simply common sense. Full legalization makes good fiscal sense for Texas and poses no real threat.

MATTHEW WHITTINGTON (L) - DISTRICT 5

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – I support ending the war on drugs. It has done more harm than good. It has not decreased per capita drug use and destroyed our freedoms.

TEXAS STATE SENATE

JIM DAVIS (D) - DISTRICT 7

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I would support legislation such as that in Washington and Colorado. The "War on Drugs" has caused us problems here in the US and Mexico.

WHITNEY BILYEU (L) - DISTRICT 7

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

SCOTT JAMESON (L) - DISTRICT 8

Medical – Legalize

Decriminalization – Legalize

Legalization – Legalize

Remarks – Legalized marijuana should not be taxed to help protect privacy. We don't need government records of everything that happens in society.

GENE LORD (L) - DISTRICT 10

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I actually support complete Legalization& decriminalization of Marijuana in Texas.

JOHN TUNMIRE (G) - DISTRICT 10

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Cannabis was only made illegal because of its competition to other industries.

JAMES ARTHUR STROHM (L) - DISTRICT 14

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I support full legalization of marijuana for medical and recreational use, with appropriate taxation and sensible regulation, per the Colorado model.

RON HALE (R) - DISTRICT 15

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – Support but do not suggest the use of it.

Remarks – It's a state right's issue. Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

DAVID COURTNEY (G) - DISTRICT 17

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – I support complete decriminalization

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

TEXAS STATE SENATE

DANIEL BOONE (D) - DISTRICT 25

Medical – I agree that terminally ill and chronic pain patients should be allowed MJ use under a medical professional's direction.

Decriminalization – I agree that terminally ill and chronic pain patients should be allowed MJ use under a medical professional's direction.

Legalization – I agree that terminally ill and chronic pain patients should be allowed MJ use under a medical professional's direction.

Remarks – I believe that we have made a mistake in imprisoning people for the possession of small amounts of MJ. The saddling of persons with prison records for this is a clear overreach of punishment that affects their opportunities in life. However, I believe that much more research is needed to assess the short and long term effects of MJ on the mental functioning of the individual. Further, we must address the issue of protecting the public where the individual is placed in a position of responsibility for the safety of the public.

CORY LANE (L) - DISTRICT 30

Medical – See remarks

Decriminalization – See remarks

Legalization – See remarks

Remarks – I do not support any laws that include the regulation of plants. Such laws violate the freedom of mankind.

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

B LARRY PARR (L) - DISTRICT 3

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Marijuana needs to be legal and Texas should let farms grow it to supply the states that need it.

JOEL GARDNER (L) - DISTRICT 6

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I support ending the war on drugs all together. Besides the freedom aspect of it, the drug war creates drug gangs and violence.

JOHN WILFORD (L) - DISTRICT 8

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Legalization is way over due in Texas.

BRUCE PUGH (L) - DISTRICT 14

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – I support legalization.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

BOB TOWNSEND (L) - DISTRICT 16

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – The so-called "War on Drugs" is a farce. The US has turned into the Largest Prison Population in the World thanks to it. This course must be reversed.

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

CAROLYN BANKS (D) – DISTRICT 17

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

STEPHEN WYMAN (D) – DISTRICT 20

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Prohibition has, once again, been prohibitively wasteful of the time, money and effort of those trying to eradicate controlled substances.

JARROD WEAVER (L) – DISTRICT 20

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Possession of a small amount of marijuana should not be a crime

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

BRANDIN LEA (L) - DISTRICT 25

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Taking government out of our lives is my number one goal, freeing up our tax money and giving it back to the citizens is number two.

AMBER PAASO (D) - DISTRICT 26

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – Unsure

Remarks – I would prefer to see how the new laws in Colorado and Washington impact safety and law enforcement before proposed changes here in Texas.

ROBERT BOHMFALK (D) - DISTRICT 44

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Potential treatment for PTSD, cancer radiation and chemotherapy treatment, Lupus, Epileptic seizures, multiple sclerosis, and many other illnesses.

KEVIN LUDLOW (L) – DISTRICT 46

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – We should follow suit with Colorado; all non-violent drug offenders should be immediately released from prison.

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

BEN EASTON (L) - DISTRICT 48

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I advocate the RE-legalization of all drugs to law-abiding citizens of majority. All substances ought to be treated in the same fashion as alcohol.

CELIA ISRAEL (D) – DISTRICT 50

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – OPPOSE

Remarks – I support reducing penalties for recreational users, but I do not favor legalization until we have a better idea on its impact on younger brains.

ARTHUR DIBIANCA (L) - DISTRICT 51

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

IRENE JOHNSON (L) - DISTRICT 52

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

MAXIMILIAN MARTIN (L) - DISTRICT 53

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Our "War On Drugs" has failed miserably. It's time to address the issue with a radically new approach.

CLIFFORD DEUVALL (L) - DISTRICT 56

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

GREG KAUFFMAN (D) - DISTRICT 58

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Make it legal

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – In a time that revenue is failing in the state of Texas new revenue sources.

DANIEL MORAN (D) - DISTRICT 63

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

ALEX MENDOZA (D) - DISTRICT 65

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – None

PATRICK PEAVY (L) - DISTRICT 67

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – None

PHIL STEPHENSON (R) - DISTRICT 85 - INCUMBENT

Medical – no answer
Decriminalization – no answer
Legalization – no answer
Remarks – I AM NOT FOR THIS

ABEL BOSQUEZ (D) - DISTRICT 87

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – My answers are made in order to ease pain, save tax dollars and employment abstinence will need to be strictly followed.

KERRY MCKENNON (L) - DISTRICT 88

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – Decriminalize completely.
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – I will introduce legislation to decriminalize marijuana completely without taxation.

DAVID RAGAN (D) - DISTRICT 91

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – OPPOSE
Legalization – OPPOSE
Remarks – Marijuana, like any other substance or drug should be prescribed by a physician to treat medical conditions.

ROBERT HARRIS (L) - DISTRICT 94

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – SUPPORT
Remarks – I support making it Legal and enforcing it like alcohol and tobacco. Full Legalization is my stance!

ALBERT MCDANIEL (R) - DISTRICT 95

Medical – SUPPORT
Decriminalization – SUPPORT
Legalization – OPPOSE
Remarks – Texas needs to differentiate between marijuana and hemp. To learn more, "Hempsters- Plant the Seed" is a documentary film about industrial hemp.

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

ROD WINGO (L) - DISTRICT 97

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Should be legal.

BRIAN CHAPMAN (L) - DISTRICT 100

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I am a card carrying member of DFW Norml and Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (Former Probation Officer with Dallas County CSCD).

W. CARL SPILLER (L) - DISTRICT 105

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I will sponsor (& write if necessary) bills legalizing the farming of hemp, medical cannabis, and the recreational use of cannabis.

LISA OSTERHOLT (D) - DISTRICT 106

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – I support the Massachusetts's law

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I support changing the law with the provision that the revenue generated should fund mental health care and addiction counseling in the state.

RODNEY CASTON (L) - DISTRICT 106

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

THOMAS GRIFFING (L) - DISTRICT 114

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I oppose the drug war in whole - including marijuana. It is a complete failure and is the primary reason for the militarization of police.

GILBERTO VILLELA (L) - DISTRICT 120

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – A consented transaction should be the private business of the two parties involved.

JEFF CARRUTHERS (L) - DISTRICT 121

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I believe we ought to restore voter rights to all non-aggressive felons, including ones with marijuana charges.

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

PAUL INGMUNDSON (G) - DISTRICT 123

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – At this point I favor decriminalization. I support continuing study of the effects of the changes in regulation in Washington and Colorado so that Texas can learn from the experiences of other states that have opted for legalization of recreational use.

Remarks – I support decriminalization and access for medical purposes, with further study of experiences in states with regulated access for recreational use.

DANIEL BEHRMAN (L) - DISTRICT 125

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Only as a stepping stone to complete legalization.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I will also introduce the Accountable Authority Act which will help protected us from illegal searches and seizures. See AccountableAuthority.com

CRIS HERNANDEZ (L) - DISTRICT 126

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I support NORML wholeheartedly, bringing marijuana reform to Texas is high on my agenda. The time is now.

LAURA NICOL (D) - DISTRICT 133

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Yes for minors without prescriptions

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks –Marijuana is medicine with recreational uses. Hemp needs no pesticide & less water than cotton. Legalize, regulate, and tax!

MOIZ ABBAS (D) - DISTRICT 135

Medical – Strict law to stop abuse.

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – OPPOSE

Remarks – I oppose any drug which can cause destruction in person's health. Rather we have to find the ways to educate people.

MORGAN BRADFORD (G) – DISTRICT 146

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

CHRIS CARMONA (R) - DISTRICT 148

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I strongly believe that marijuana should be treated the same as alcohol.

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

AL HOANG (R) - DISTRICT 149

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – Depends on the language of the bill.

Remarks – I support marijuana usage only if it is for medical treatment.

JUSTICE - 13TH COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT

DOUGLAS NORMAN (R) – PLACE 6

Medical – no answer

Decriminalization – no answer

Legalization – no answer

Remarks – As a candidate for judicial office, I believe that it would be improper for me to answer the questions you pose. The proper officials to keep or change our marijuana laws are legislators, not judges.

DISTRICT JUDGE

RANDY ROLL (D) - 180TH DISTRICT COURT

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – Undecided

Remarks – None

MACK MCINNIS (D) - 185TH DISTRICT COURT

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – I like Kim Ogg's G.R.A.C.E. proposal, cite, release and eventual dismissal.

Legalization – I am not sure that complete repeal is the answer at this time, but some form of legalization is coming.

Remarks – It is outrageous that disabled and terminally ill patients cannot obtain medical marijuana in Texas.

PATRICIA KERRIGAN (R) – 190TH DISTRICT COURT – HARRIS COUNTY – INCUMBENT

Medical – no answer

Decriminalization – no answer

Legalization – no answer

Remarks – As a sitting trial court Judge I don't believe it is appropriate for me to comment on the law. I act as an impartial and would not want anyone appearing in my court to see me as having any personal opinion on any matter which might come before me

LAURO BUSTAMANTE (D) – 224TH DISTRICT COURT

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Possession of Marijuana regulation should be civil not criminal.

DISTRICT JUDGE

KEVIN O'CONNELL (R) - 227TH DISTRICT COURT - BEXAR COUNTY

Medical – no answer

Decriminalization – no answer

Legalization – no answer

Remarks – Because I am running for a district court that handles felony cases including felony level possession of marijuana cases I cannot answer questions. This is because if my views on marijuana were public I would have to recuse myself if asked to by either side of a criminal case. I hope you understand there are some things a judicial candidate cannot express.

SHAWNA REAGIN (D) - 248TH DISTRICT COURT

Medical – no answer

Decriminalization – no answer

Legalization – no answer

Remarks – As a candidate for judge of a criminal court, the Judicial Canons do not permit me to answer these questions, as they ask my opinion

JAMES RICKERSON (D) - 288TH DISTRICT COURT

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Support, but would want to see age limits in place.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

NATALIA OAKES (D) - 314TH DISTRICT COURT - FAMILY (JUVENILE)

Medical – no answer

Decriminalization – no answer

Legalization – no answer

Remarks – I have answered the questionnaire in the past. This year, as a judicial candidate, I am complying with the Judicial Code of conduct and not commenting on any issues. I will follow the law.

HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KIM OGG (D)

Medical – As a candidate for DA, I have not taken a position on decriminalization of marijuana because I am running for a position that does not allow me to change the law, only to enforce the law. I am personally supportive of decriminalization of possession of marijuana.

Decriminalization – As a candidate for DA, I have not taken a position on legalizing marijuana because I am running for a position that does not allow me to change the law, only to enforce the law. I am personally supportive of decriminalization of possession of marijuana.

Legalization – As a candidate for DA, I have proposed the most progressive approach to the future of marijuana prosecution in Texas.

Remarks – No additional remarks

CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY TAYLOR COUNTY

JAMES EIDSON TAYLOR (R) - INCUMBENT

Medical – Potential for abuse.

Decriminalization – OPPOSE

Legalization – OPPOSE

Remarks – All three questions contained biased editorial comments

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

DAVID REICHERT (L) - MCLENNAN COUNTY TEXAS

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I believe there shouldn't be ANY laws regarding private personal use or possession and no tax.

NATHAN KLEFFMAN (L) - PRECINCT 3

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I don't support using government violence against individuals for their vices. Vices are not crimes. If it is voluntary and peaceful, legalize it.

DIANA KENDALL (G) - PRECINCT 2 - SEAT 3

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

DAN MICHAEL (L) - PRECINCT 2 - WILLIAMSON COUNTY

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Community service can be added to, or in lieu of, the fine.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Government inference is unwarranted. People should have the right to chose. Certain occupations should not use or should regulate their personal use.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

ANNETTE ANDERSON (L) - BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER - PRECINCT 2

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I attend San Antonio NORML each month and fully support all Marijuana legalization. I currently support Cite and Release that is already legal.

ROBERT FRITSCH (L) - WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER - PRECINCT 4

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – What a person does that affects no one else is none of the governments business.

STEVEN HASKETT (L) - TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – We need to declare victory and end the War on Drugs. It has led to more violence, wasted spending, loss of liberty, and militarization of our police.

COUNTY JUDGE

PAUL PIPKIN (G) - COUNTY JUDGE - BEXAR COUNTY

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Full legality.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Read more about me at <http://texasgreencandidates.com/paulpipkin.html> & <http://www.newmenu.org/paulpipkin>

PRESTON POULTER (L) – DALLAS COUNTY

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – Marijuana should be entirely decriminalized

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – None

DAVID COLLINS (G) - HARRIS COUNTY

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – I would prefer complete legalization, but find this measure an acceptable compromise.

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – The Green Party in general supports complete legalization of cannabis and investigating legalization of other recreational substances.

TRAVIS COUNTY TREASURER

J MIKE BURRIS (L)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – Cannabis was only made illegal because of its competition to other industries.

COMAL COUNTY CLERK

MATTHEW HANSON (G)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I would support any effort to decriminalize marijuana with an ultimate goal of full legalization coupled with taxation and regulation.

JUDGE - TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

RICHARD PERKINS (L)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – As a Libertarian, I support the extension of Personal Freedom and Personal Responsibility for all citizens of the United States.

TRAVIS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

KEVIN PICK (L)

Medical – SUPPORT

Decriminalization – SUPPORT

Legalization – SUPPORT

Remarks – I support these measures but would ultimately like to see zero government involvement when it comes to peaceful, voluntary behavior.

ADDENDUM

The following candidates did not respond to this year’s survey, but they have a record of taking actions or voicing their opinions publicly regarding cannabis law reform.

HAROLD V DUTTON JR (D) – TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 142 - INCUMBENT

Representative Dutton has repeatedly submitted bills related to changing the penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana or a synthetic cannabinoid by certain defendants in each session for the last decade. 2013 - <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/history.aspx?LegSess=83R&Bill=HB184>

ELLIOTT NAISHTAT (D) – TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 49 – INCUMBENT

Representative Naishtat has repeatedly submitted bills related to the medical use of marijuana, specifically giving patients an affirmative defense and protecting doctors’ rights to discuss with patients in each session for several sessions. 2013: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Search/DocViewer.aspx?ID=83RHB005941B&QueryText=%22hb+594%22&DocType=B>

ALMA ALLEN (D) – TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 131 – INCUMBENT

In 2013, Representative Allen co-authored the bill related to medical marijuana and the bill related to lowering penalties of marijuana possession.

TERRY CANALES (D) – TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 40 – INCUMBENT

In the last legislative session, Representative Canales served on the Criminal Jurisprudence committee and was one of the 6 members that voted the bill to lower penalties out of Committee. Three others on the Committee voted no, so each yes was critical.

BRYAN HUGHES (R) – TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 5 – INCUMBENT

Representative Hughes was one of the 6 members on the Criminal Jurisprudence committee that voted the bill to lower penalties out of Committee.

JOSEPH MOODY (D) – TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 78 – INCUMBENT

Representative Moody was one of the 6 members on the Criminal Jurisprudence committee that voted the bill to lower penalties out of Committee.

MATT SCHAFER (R) – TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 6 – INCUMBENT

Representative Schafer was one of the 6 members on the Criminal Jurisprudence committee that voted the bill to lower penalties out of Committee.

SUSAN KING (R) – TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 71 – INCUMBENT

In 2013, Representative King stated that she hoped the bill related to medical marijuana made it to the floor and would have a substantive debate about medical marijuana.

<http://www.myfoxaustin.com/story/20663606/state-representative-files-medical-marijuana-bill>

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BETO O'ROURKE (D) – TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 16 – INCUMBENT

In his second term as an El Paso city representative, O'Rourke pushed for a resolution calling for a re-examination of the drug war and co-authored a book on the issues. He signed a letter calling on President Obama to direct the attorney general to soften penalties on marijuana related offenses. He also co-sponsored legislation that would require the federal government to recognize state marijuana laws in states which have been passed, such as Colorado and Washington.

TAN PARKER (R) – Texas Representative District 63 - INCUMBENT

In an interview with Dallas Morning News on DATE Representative Tan Parker said, "Medical marijuana is a topic that has been discussed in the Texas Legislature since I was first elected in 2006. Like any other issue of public policy, it is one that is always evolving and I look forward to continuing to compile new data and information on the topic. However, I am currently considering support for tightly written legislation that would provide marijuana on a strict prescription basis for very specific conditions that have clearly demonstrated medical benefits, such as epilepsy."

<http://dallasmorningviewsblog.dallasnews.com/2014/09/rep-tan-parker-open-to-medical-marijuana-in-texas.html/>

DEBBIE RIDDLE (R) – TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 150 – INCUMBENT

In 2005, Representative Riddle voted a bill related to changing the penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marihuana out of committee. <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=79R&Bill=HB254/>
<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/79R/minutes/html/C2202005041400001.HTM>

WENDY DAVIS (D) – GOVERNOR – formerly Senator in District 10

Regarding decriminalization, Davis has said, "we as a state need to think about the cost of that incarceration and, obviously, the cost to the taxpayers as a consequence of it, and whether we're really solving any problem for the state by virtue of incarcerations for small amounts of marijuana possession." She also said that if the bill lowering penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marihuana had made it to the Senate floor, she would have voted for it. Regarding medical benefits, Davis stated, "I personally believe that medical marijuana should be allowed for."

GREG ABBOTT (R) - GOVERNOR - formerly Texas Attorney General

Through multiple sources, we have received this standard letter from Greg Abbott: "Greg Abbott supports current drug policy. Drug use affects every sector of society, straining our economy, our healthcare and criminal justice systems, and endangering the futures of young people. The best methods of combating this problem include a combination of medical treatment and criminal enforcement. Marijuana remains a Schedule I drug (the highest tier of restriction) under the U.S. Controlled Substances Act. This means that the substance is recognized by the U.S. government as having a high potential for abuse, no accepted medical use, and a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug under medical supervision. Additionally, due to this classification, it remains illegal under federal law to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense marijuana. Although Eric Holder's Justice Department has stated that it will not enforce federal law regarding marijuana in some states, federal law (which supersedes Texas law) still clearly prohibits the use of marijuana for either recreational or medical purposes. Even the Obama Administration agrees that marijuana use is harmful and should be discouraged. The White House website notes that: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/ondcp-fact-sheets/marijuana-legalization>

Additionally, while some claim that legalizing and taxing marijuana would generate significant tax revenue, a study in Colorado shows that marijuana tax revenues may not cover the incremental state expenditures related to legalization. See: <https://webcom.colostate.edu/coloradofutures/files/2013/04/CFC-Amendment-64-Study-final2.pdf>"

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LAMAR SMITH (R) - US REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 21 - INCUMBENT

Publicly stated that he had no intention of considering the "Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2011," or providing it with a hearing. With Smith's position as chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, he has great influence on what bills will be considered. The bill would have ended the Federal prohibition on cannabis, turning over the regulation of marijuana to states (similar to alcohol). It was the first of its kind since prohibition began. It would have limited federal powers to interstate transfer; while laws for cultivation, sales, use, and taxation would be determined by each state. Smith stated that "Marijuana use and distribution is prohibited under federal law because it has a high potential for abuse and does not have an accepted medical use and the U.S., The Food and Drug Administration has not approved smoked marijuana for any condition or disease". Smith also stated that "Decriminalizing marijuana will only lead to millions more Americans becoming addicted to drugs and greater profits for drug cartels who fund violence along the U.S.-Mexico border. Allowing states to determine their own marijuana policy flies in the face of Supreme Court precedent".