

IF YOU AGREE that the penalty for marijuana possession should be reduced to a \$100 fine, similar to a traffic ticket, please support Question 2 on Massachusetts' November 4, 2008 ballot.

Please e-mail me occasional campaign updates. My e-mail address is:

(Please write your e-mail address clearly.)

I would like to make a financial contribution to the Committee for Sensible Marijuana Policy, which needs to raise a substantial sum of money to pass Question 2 into law this November.

\$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$50
 \$25 \$10 \$5 \$_____

Massachusetts election law requires us to record the name and residential address of all donors, and the occupation and employer of individuals who donate \$200 or more. Please fill out contact info at the bottom of this form.

Please contact me about volunteering for the Committee for Sensible Marijuana Policy. (Fill out the contact information section below and a campaign staffer will contact you.)

NAME: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

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PHONE: _____

OCCUPATION (required if donating): _____

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Please return this completed form to:
Committee for Sensible Marijuana Policy
P.O. Box 130151, Boston, MA 02113

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“As a 33-year veteran of the Boston police force, I know that our current marijuana laws are a drain on police and court resources that could be put to better use. It’s better for the police and the community to simply confiscate someone’s marijuana and give them a ticket. That’s exactly what Question 2 would do, and that’s why I support it.”

— **Sgt. Howard Donahue,**
Boston Police Department (ret.)

“Most cross-state comparisons in the United States have found no significant differences in the prevalence of marijuana use in decriminalized and nondecriminalized states.”

— **National Research Council,**
commissioned by the White House Office
of National Drug Control Policy, 2001

For more information, please contact:

info@SensibleMarijuanaPolicy.org
(617) 901-7765

Or visit: www.SensibleMarijuanaPolicy.org

**SUPPORT SMART,
FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE
MARIJUANA LAWS**

YES ON  **2**
QUESTION

Under current Massachusetts law, the possession of any amount of marijuana – even one joint – can lead to six months in jail, a fine of up to \$500, and a permanent record, all at an annual cost to Massachusetts taxpayers of nearly \$30 million.

There’s simply a better way –
Vote **Yes on Question 2**
on **November 4!**

**COMMITTEE FOR
SENSIBLE MARIJUANA POLICY**
www.SensibleMarijuanaPolicy.org

According to Harvard economist Jeffrey Miron, Ph.D., Massachusetts' current marijuana laws cost Massachusetts taxpayers \$30 million annually to enforce — money that could be spent fighting violent crime.

And the lifelong penalties imposed under current law are not only unjust, they accomplish nothing: There is no evidence they have any impact on marijuana usage rates.

Question 2 would create a smart, fiscally responsible approach to personal possession of small amounts of marijuana.

*In Massachusetts, more than 7,500 people a year are arrested, charged, and receive a permanent arrest record for personal possession of an ounce or less of marijuana, making it difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain school loans, employment, housing, and professional licenses ... **for life.***

What Would Question 2 Do?

- Amend the current criminal statutes so that adults possessing an ounce or less of marijuana for personal use would receive a \$100 fine;
- Save Massachusetts taxpayers approximately \$30 million per year in law enforcement resources that are currently wasted on low-level marijuana possession arrests;
- Remove the threat of a permanent arrest record for minor marijuana possession charges;
- Be stricter than current law regarding juvenile offenders. Parent(s) would be notified, and young people must complete a drug awareness program and community service; and
- Maintain current penalties for selling, growing, and trafficking marijuana, as well as laws against driving under the influence of marijuana.

Have Other States Decriminalized the Possession of Small Amounts of Marijuana?

Eleven other states have passed similar laws. The National Research Council found that these changes did not lead to increased marijuana use for either adults or juveniles.

The states with similar laws are California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Oregon.

What Do Massachusetts Voters Think?

A statewide poll in February 2007 found that 60% of voters support the sensible reform proposed by Question 2 (with 30% opposed and 10% undecided).

Since 2000, 30 local non-binding public policy questions advocating marijuana decriminalization have passed in the commonwealth, with an average of 65% of the vote.

What is the Committee for Sensible Marijuana Policy (CSMP)?

CSMP is a ballot question committee devoted to passing Question 2 on November 4. Made up of policy and legal experts, community representatives, former law enforcement professionals, and concerned citizens from across the commonwealth, CSMP was created in response to the overwhelming public demand for a smarter, fiscally responsible approach to personal possession of small amounts of marijuana.

PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION OF ONE OUNCE OR LESS OF MARIJUANA	CURRENT MA LAW	UNDER QUESTION 2
Arrested for marijuana possession?	YES	NO
Possibility of jail for marijuana possession?	YES	NO
Suspension of driver's license- First offense?	1 YEAR	NO
Second offense?	3 YEARS	NO
Permanent arrest record?	YES	NO
Lose student financial aid?	YES	NO
Suspend professional license?	YES	NO
Bar from adopting children?	YES	NO
Bar from serving as a foster parent?	YES	NO
Lose public housing?	YES	NO
Lose or be prevented from obtaining employment?	YES	NO