

Marijuana Policy Reform Across the Nation

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“Marijuana is the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind.”

— Harry Anslinger, Commissioner, Federal Bureau of Narcotics



Photo credit: H J. Anslinger papers, 1835-1975 (bulk 1918-1963) , HCLA 1875, Special Collections Library, University Libraries, Pennsylvania State University.

National Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse

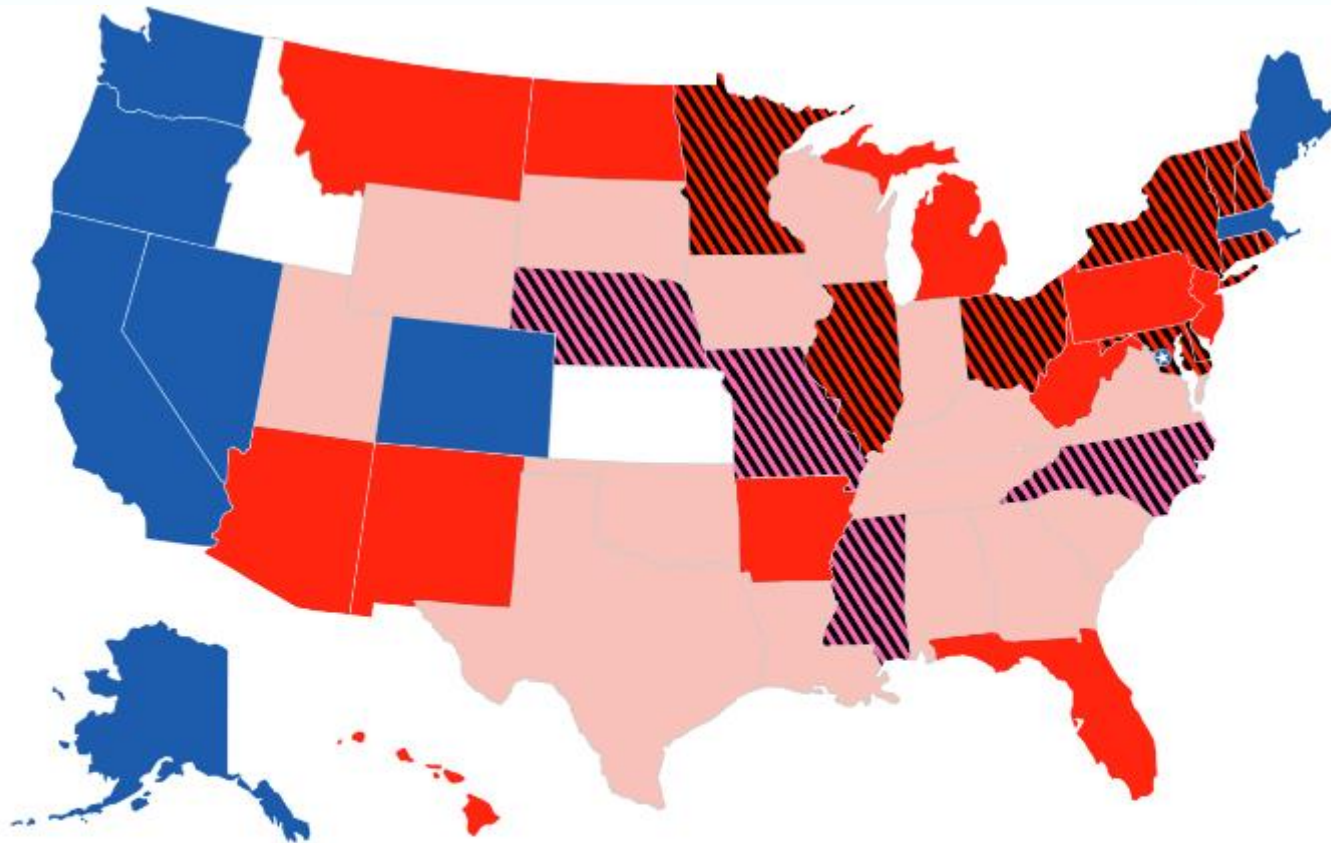
- Recommended decriminalization
- “No substantial evidence existed of a causal connection between the use of marihuana and ...aggressive acts ... marihuana was usually found to inhibit the expression of aggressive impulses.” — its 1972 report



National Academies of Sciences Reports

- “Nausea, appetite loss, pain, and anxiety are all afflictions of wasting, and all can be mitigated by marijuana.”
— Institute of Medicine’s 1999 report
- “Conclusive or substantial evidence that cannabis can alleviate chronic pain in adults”
— National Academies’ 2017 report

Almost Every State has Relaxed its Marijuana Laws



■ Adult-use Legalization and Regulation

■ Decriminalization and Medical Marijuana

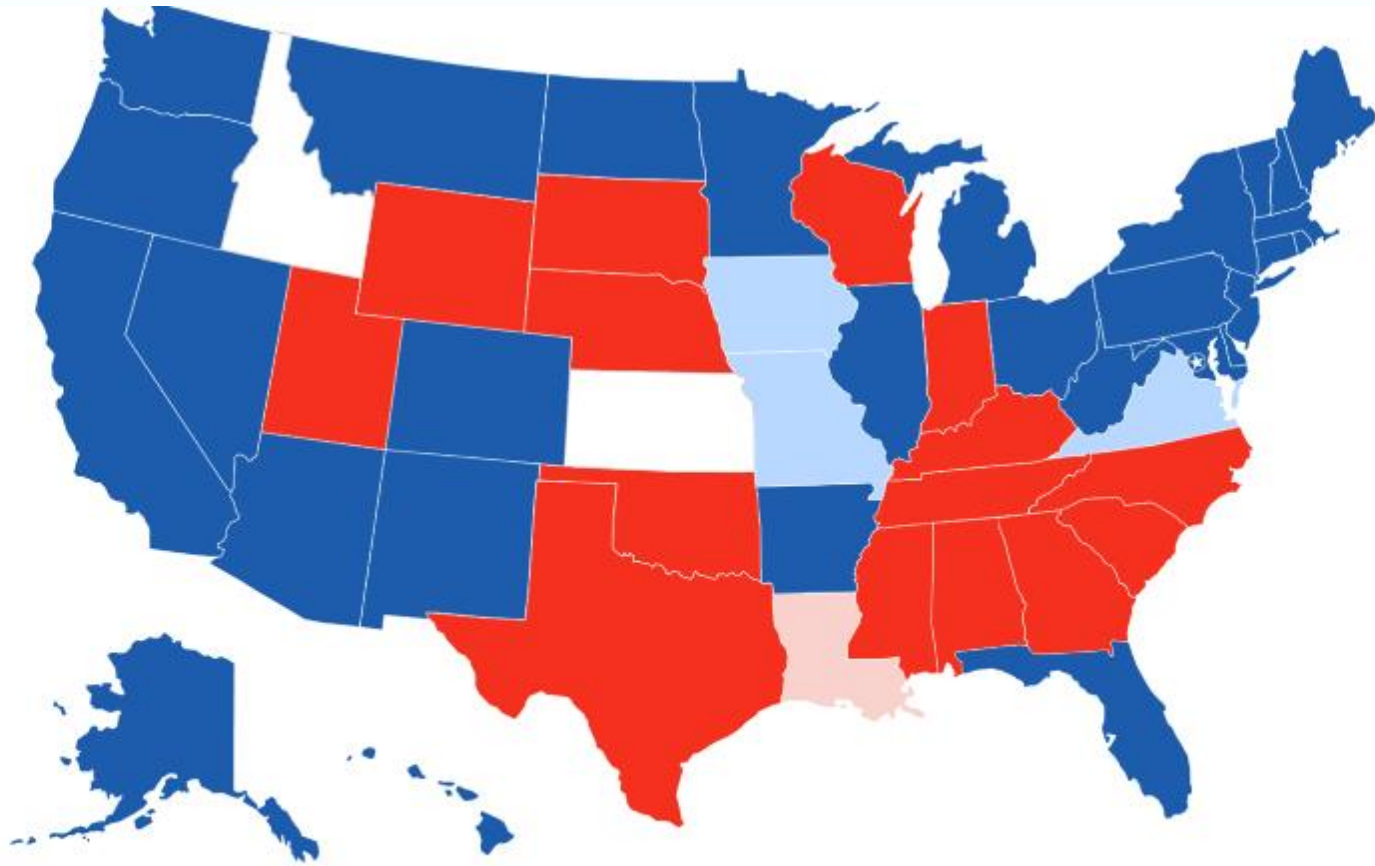
★ Legal, but no regulated sales

■ Decriminalization and Low-THC

■ Medical Marijuana

■ Incomplete Medical or Low-THC

48 States Acknowledge Cannabis' Medical Value



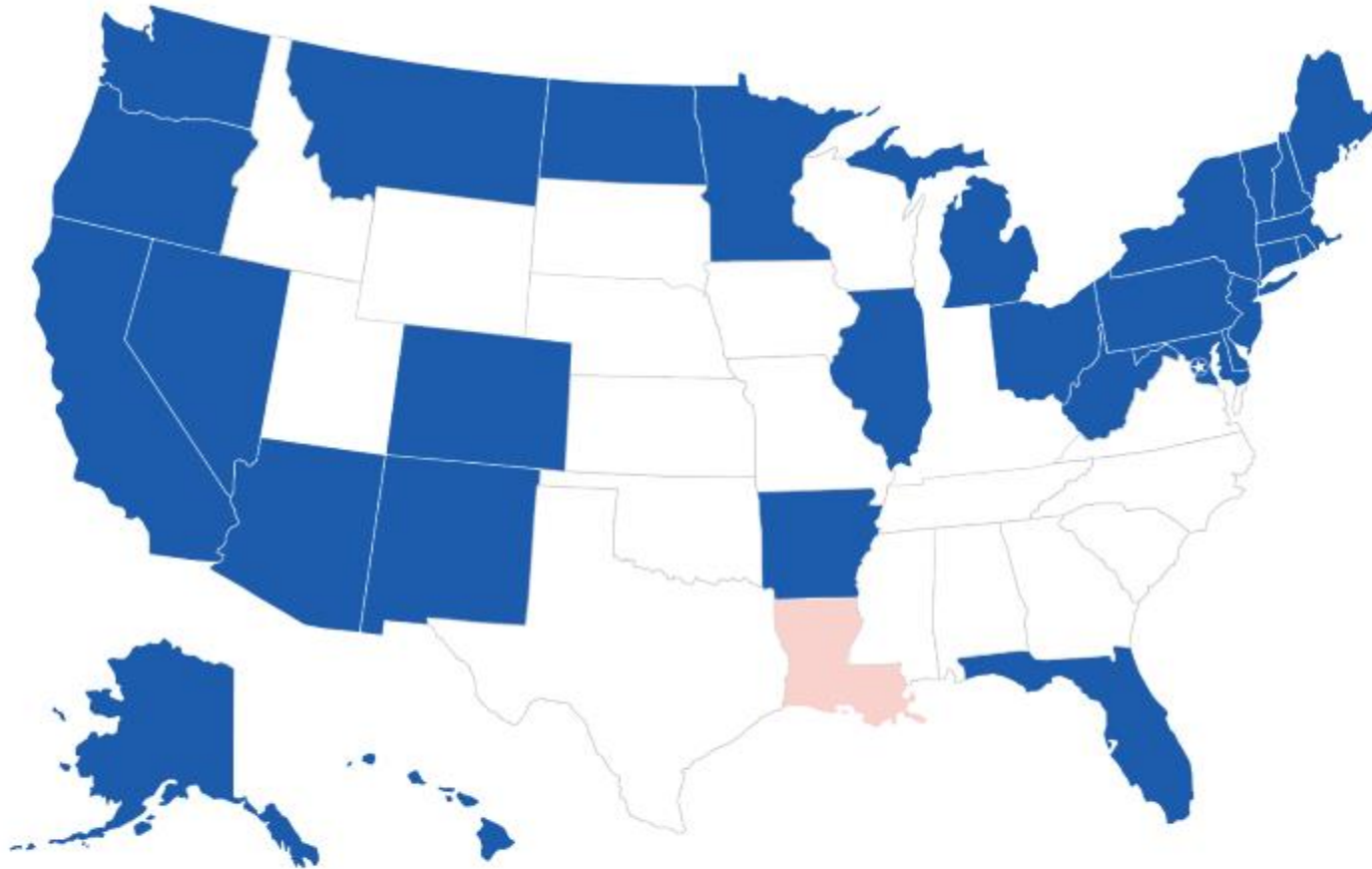
■ Comprehensive Medical Marijuana Law

■ Workable Low-THC Law

■ Incomplete Medical or Low-THC Law

■ Incomplete Medical Marijuana Law

29 States Have Comprehensive Medical Marijuana Laws



■ Comprehensive Medical Marijuana Law ■ Incomplete Medical Marijuana Law

Comprehensive Medical Marijuana Laws

- **Qualifying patients may use medical cannabis**
 - Allows vaporization and/or smoking
 - No THC limit
- **In-state access**
- **No catch-22 due to federal law**

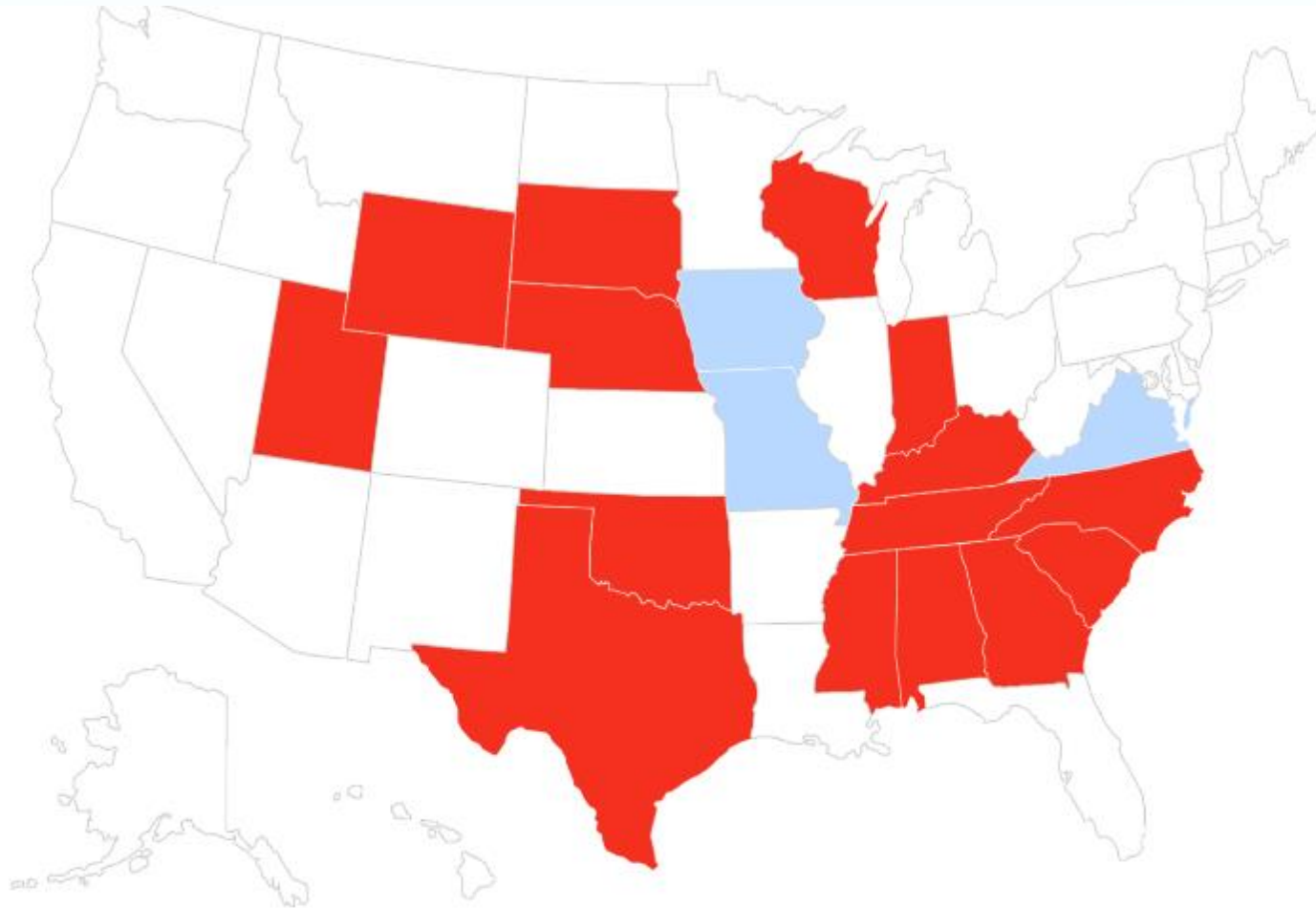
Medical Marijuana Policy Choices

- **Level of regulation**
 - Under-regulation can expose patients to untested cannabis and cause community concerns
 - Overregulation can increase prices and decrease participation
- **Qualifying conditions**
 - Cancer, seizures, certain spasms are universally included
 - 26 of 29 states include chronic or intractable pain
 - All but Alaska include PTSD

Medical Marijuana Policy Choices

- **Physicians' role**
 - “Recommendation” that a patient may benefit
 - Certifying patients have a qualifying condition
- **Home cultivation**
- **Visiting patients**
- **Anti-discrimination protections**

18 States Have Low-THC or CBD-Rich Cannabis Laws



Workable Low -THC Law

Incomplete Low-THC Law

Low-THC / High-CBD Medical Cannabis Laws

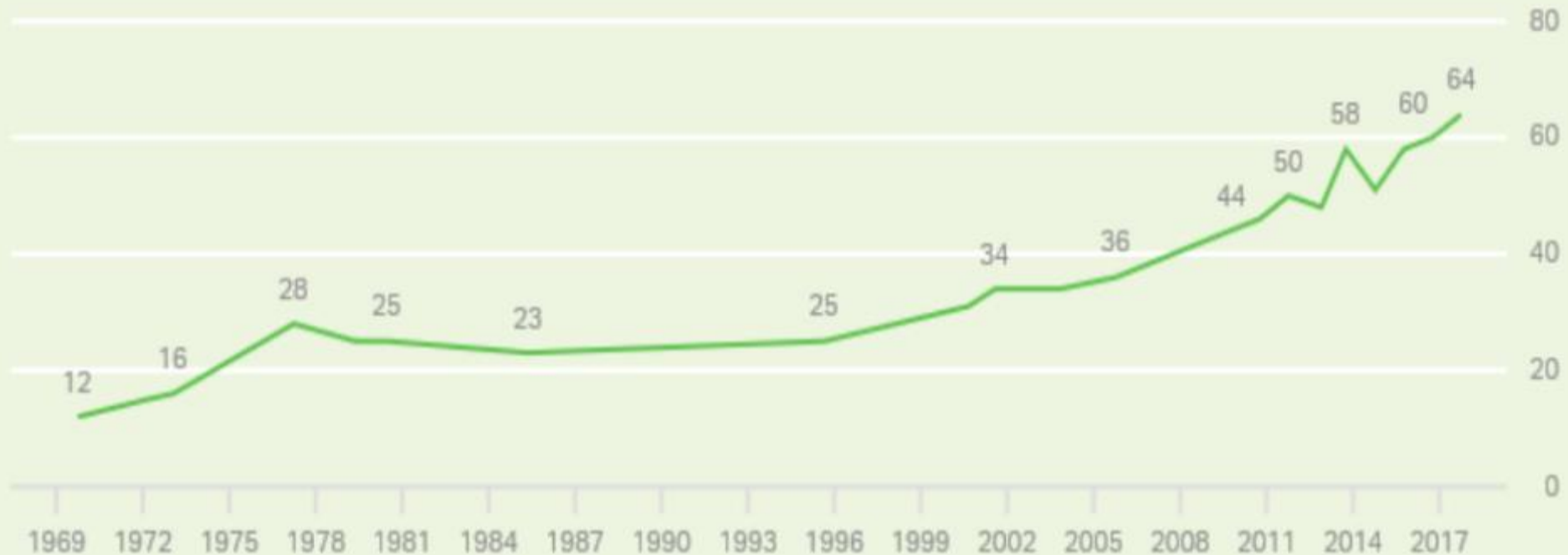
- Limited amount of THC
- Often applies only to intractable seizures
- May be symbolic, include a catch-22
- Often no workable in-state access
 - Only 3-4 states have viable in-state access
 - Those may not be financially viable

Gallup: 64% Support Making Marijuana Legal

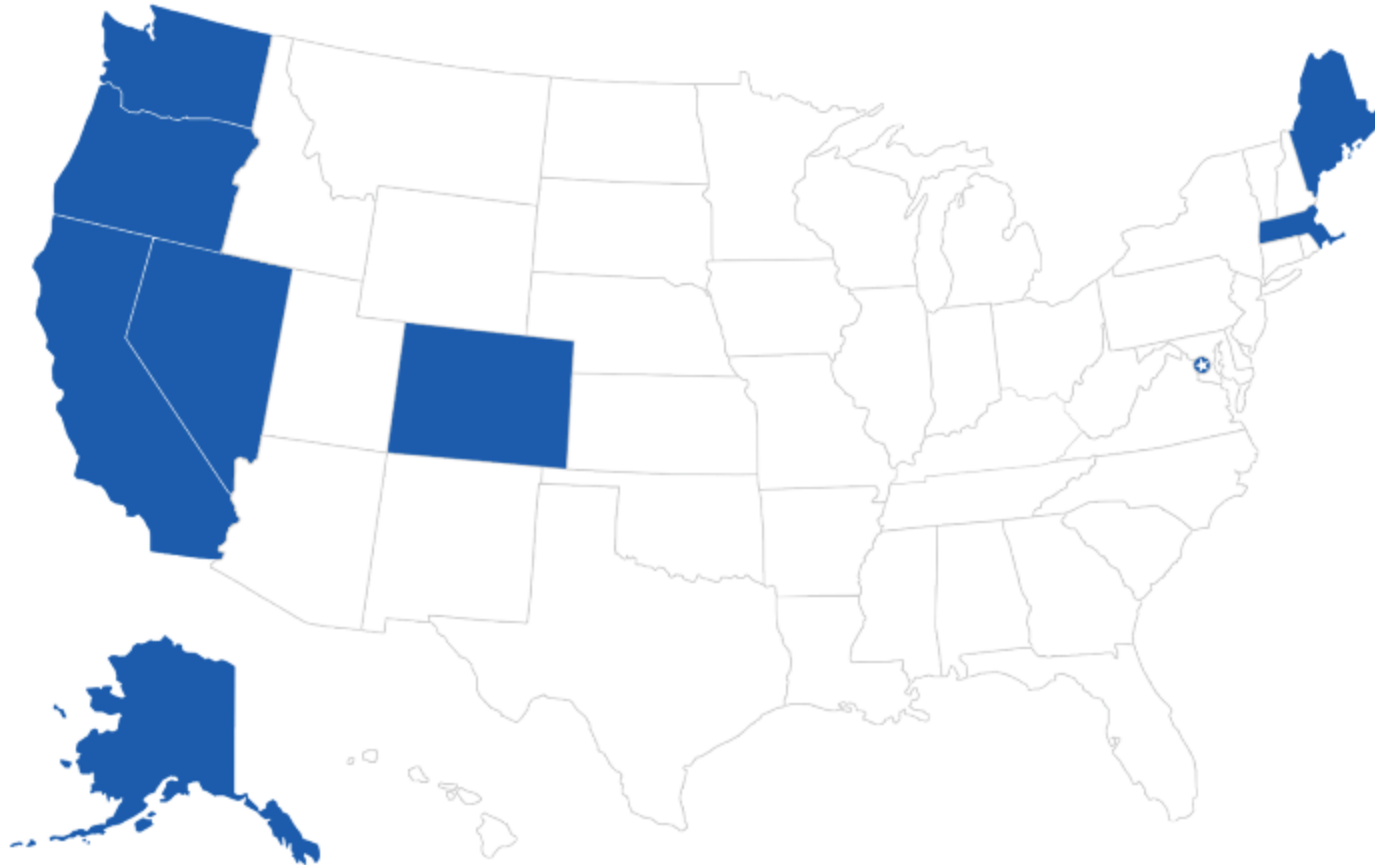
Americans' Support for Legalizing Marijuana Continues to Rise


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


■ % Yes, legal



Marijuana is Regulated for Adults' Use in Eight States



 Adult-Use Legalization and Regulation

 Legal, But No Regulated Sales

Regulating and Legalizing Marijuana

- Marijuana possession and use is legal for adults 21+
- Production and sales are taxed and regulated

Adult-Use Policy Choices

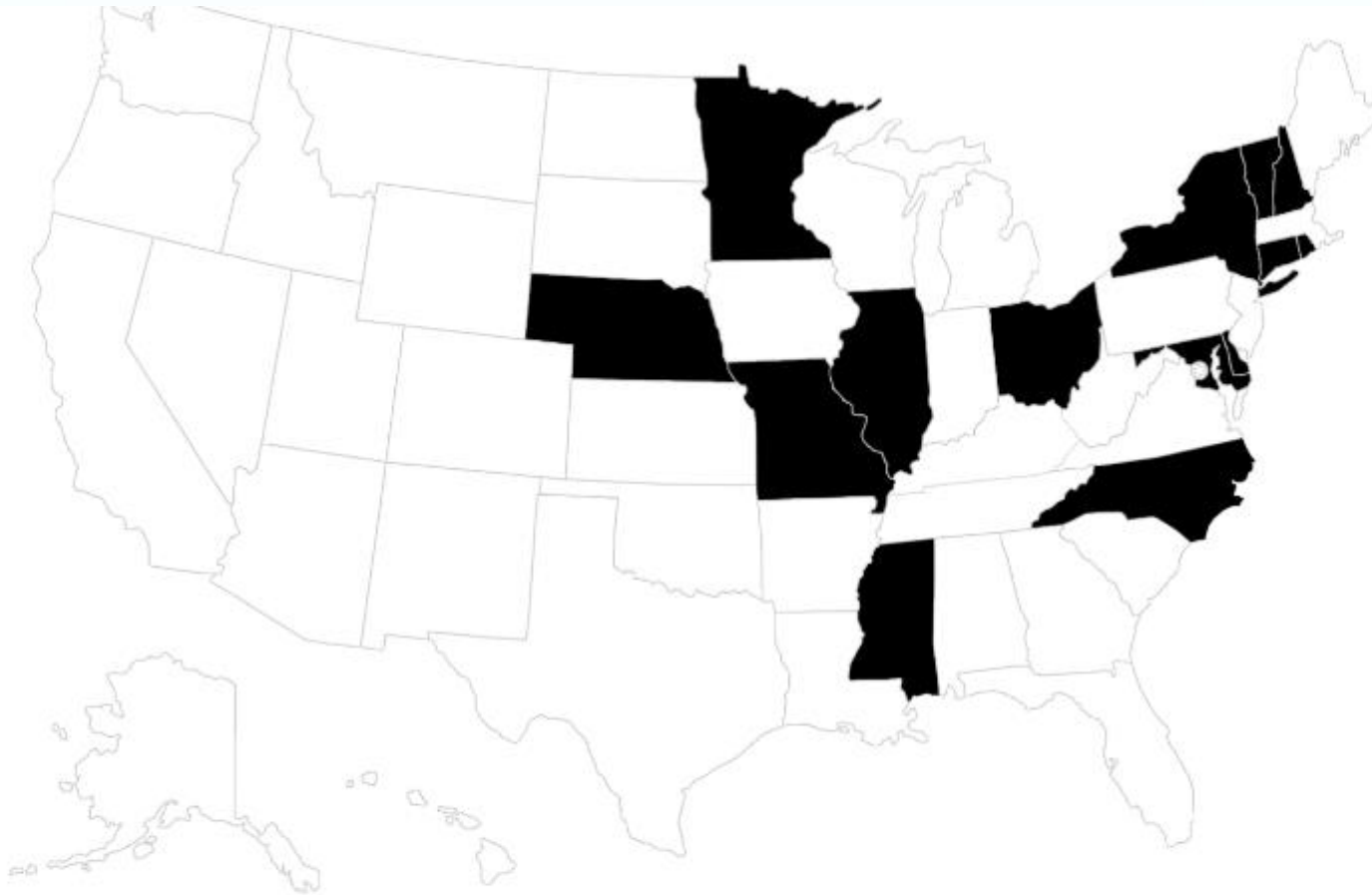
- **Selecting Licensees**
 - Free market, merit-based, or qualified lottery
 - Advance start for medical licensees
- **Local Control**
- **Home Cultivation**
- **DUI Prevention / Enforcement**
 - Problems with “per se” approaches

Adult-Use

Policy Choices: Taxes

- **Method and Rate of Taxation**
 - Goals: generating revenue, avoiding problem use, displacing the illicit market
 - Per weight or percent-based (*ad valorem*)
 - Adjusting for inflation
- **Disposition of Tax Revenue**
 - Including public education and/or monitoring
 - Investing in communities hit by the drug war

14 States “Decriminalized” Marijuana Possession



■ Decriminalization

“Decriminalization”

- **Imposes a fine, not jail time, for possession**
 - At least for a first offense
 - Minors may be required to go to drug education instead
- **Typically makes the offense civil, not criminal**
 - Avoids collateral consequences that are barriers to employment, housing, and education

**For more information,
please visit
www.MarijuanaPolicy.org**

