

Maurice Carroll, Director,
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute
(203) 582-5334

Rubenstein Associates, Inc.
Public Relations
Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026



FOR RELEASE: FEBRUARY 17, 2014

**NEW YORK VOTERS BACK MEDICAL MARIJUANA 10-1,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
STRONG SUPPORT FOR RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA ALSO**

New York State voters support 88 – 9 percent the legalization of medical marijuana, with overwhelming support from every group, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Voters also support 57 – 39 percent the legalization of small amounts of marijuana for personal use, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

There is a gender gap and a larger generation gap on the question of non-medical marijuana. Support is 63 – 33 percent among men and 51 – 44 percent among women. Support is 83 – 14 percent among voters 18 to 29 years old, with voters over 65 years old opposed 57 – 38 percent. Support is 65 – 32 percent among Democrats and 58 – 37 percent among independent voters, with Republicans opposed 55 – 39 percent.

New York State voters are divided on their own use of marijuana, as 46 percent say they've tried it and 51 percent deny they have. Women deny trying marijuana 58 – 39 percent, while men admit trying it 54 – 43 percent. Voters 18 to 29 percent admit lighting up 55 – 42 percent while voters over 65 years old deny it 69 – 28 percent.

Colorado's legalization of recreational marijuana has been good for the state's image, 37 percent of New York State voters say, while 41 percent say it's been bad for Colorado's image.

“Medical marijuana is a no-brainer for New York State voters, and they also would follow Colorado in legalizing marijuana for fun. But a slim plurality don't think legalization has been good for Colorado's reputation,” said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

-more-

Quinnipiac University Poll/February 17, 2014 – page 2

Use of marijuana does not lead to use of other drugs, New York State voters say 52 – 41 percent. Men say no 57 – 36 percent, while women are divided with 46 percent saying yes and 47 percent saying no.

Marijuana is equally as dangerous as alcohol, 45 percent of voters say, while 36 percent say it's less dangerous than alcohol and 13 percent say more dangerous.

But 63 percent of New York State voters say they would be “very uncomfortable” riding in a car driven by someone who has consumed a moderate amount of marijuana, while 19 percent would be “somewhat uncomfortable.”

“A narrow majority doubt that legalizing pot will lead to harder drug use. On that favorite debate topic between the pros and antis – which is worse, booze or pot – about half say they're equal. About a third say alcohol is worse and only 13 percent say marijuana is worse,” Carroll said.

From February 6 – 10, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,488 New York State voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Virginia, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

For more information, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).

24. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Andrew Cuomo is handling marijuana policy?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	41%	24%	51%	43%	42%	39%	54%	44%	37%	31%
Disapprove	31	44	23	30	35	28	18	31	32	40
DK/NA	28	33	26	27	23	33	28	24	30	30

39. Do you support or oppose allowing adults in New York State to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Support	57%	39%	65%	58%	63%	51%	83%	61%	55%	38%
Oppose	39	55	32	37	33	44	14	35	42	57
DK/NA	4	6	3	5	3	5	3	4	3	5

40. Do you support or oppose allowing adults in New York State to legally use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor prescribes it?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Support	88%	82%	93%	88%	86%	90%	93%	88%	89%	86%
Oppose	9	14	5	10	10	8	5	10	9	10
DK/NA	3	4	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	4

41. Do you think the legalization of marijuana for recreational use in Colorado has been good or bad for Colorado's national image?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Good	37%	21%	45%	37%	43%	32%	59%	43%	33%	21%
Bad	41	57	33	42	37	44	19	37	44	55
DK/NA	22	22	22	21	20	24	23	19	23	24

42. Keeping in mind that all of your answers in this survey are confidential, have you, yourself ever happened to try marijuana?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	46%	37%	49%	49%	54%	39%	55%	48%	53%	28%
No	51	62	47	48	43	58	42	49	43	69
DK/NA	3	1	4	3	4	3	2	3	4	2

43. Do you think marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol, less dangerous than alcohol, or about equally as dangerous as alcohol?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
More	13%	22%	7%	15%	13%	12%	5%	11%	14%	19%
Less	36	22	45	35	44	30	70	40	29	21
Equally	45	49	42	47	38	52	23	46	52	49
NEITHR DANGEROUS (VOL)	1	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	-
DK/NA	5	6	4	3	5	6	-	3	4	11

44. Do you think that for most people, the use of marijuana leads to the use of other drugs, or don't you think so?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	41%	48%	38%	41%	36%	46%	28%	39%	38%	56%
No	52	42	56	52	57	47	68	57	54	30
DK/NA	7	10	6	7	7	7	4	4	8	13

45. How comfortable would you be as a passenger in a car, with a driver who has smoked or consumed moderate amounts of marijuana; very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, somewhat uncomfortable, or very uncomfortable?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Very comfortable	6%	4%	8%	7%	9%	5%	19%	6%	4%	3%
Smwht comfortable	10	9	10	11	13	8	18	14	7	5
Smwht uncomfortable	19	17	20	17	22	16	26	18	21	14
Very uncomfortable	63	69	61	64	54	70	36	61	66	76
DK/NA	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	3