

Peter Brown, Assistant Director,  
Quinnipiac University Poll  
(203) 535-6203

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

# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

---

FOR RELEASE: MARCH 31, 2014

## **VIRGINIA VOTERS BACK MEDICAL MARIJUANA 6-1, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; YOUNG VOTERS DRIVE SUPPORT FOR GAY MARRIAGE TO 50%**

Virginia voters support medical marijuana by an overwhelming 84 – 13 percent, but support for recreational marijuana is divided, with a large generation gap and a smaller gender gap, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Support for medical marijuana ranges from 75 – 21 percent among Republicans to 92 – 6 percent among Democrats and from 81 – 17 percent among voters over 65 years old to 90 – 9 percent among voters 18 to 29 years old, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

Support for legalizing marijuana for personal use is 46 percent, with 48 percent opposed. Democrats support the measure 58 – 35 percent, with Republicans opposed 68 – 27 percent and independent voters divided 47 – 47 percent. Men support it 52 – 43 percent while women oppose it 51 – 42 percent. Voters 18 to 29 years old support legalizing marijuana for personal use 71 – 26 percent, with support dropping through the age groups. Voters over 65 years old are opposed 66 – 24 percent.

Only 39 percent of Virginia voters, including 46 percent of voters under 30 years old, admit that they ever have tried marijuana.

“More than four in five Virginians favor allowing the use of marijuana for medical purposes, although on this question and others involving the drug, support for its use is a bit lower than in some other states where we conduct surveys,” said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“When it comes to legalizing marijuana for recreational use Virginians are divided.”

**-more-**

## **Quinnipiac University Poll/March 31, 2014 – page 2**

Marijuana is equally as dangerous as alcohol, 47 percent of Virginia voters say, while 36 percent say it is less dangerous and 14 percent say it is more dangerous. Marijuana use does not lead to use of other drugs, voters say 51 – 41 percent.

If marijuana use were legal in Virginia, 62 percent of voters say it would not bother them if neighbors grew marijuana in their home. Republicans and voters over 65 years old are the only listed groups who say they would be bothered.

A total of 82 percent of voters say they would be “somewhat uncomfortable” or “very uncomfortable” riding in a car driven by someone who has smoked a moderate amount of marijuana. The discomfort level is 58 percent among voters 18 to 29 years old and higher for other groups.

### **Same-Sex Marriage**

With strong support from women, Virginia voters favor 50 – 42 percent allowing same-sex couple to get married in the Commonwealth. Support is 54 – 38 percent among women while men are divided with 46 percent in favor and 48 percent opposed.

Support for same-sex marriage is 69 – 22 percent among Democrats and 52 – 42 percent among independent voters, with Republicans opposed 70 – 23 percent.

Voters under 30 years old support it 69 – 25 percent, with support at 50 percent or higher among voters 30 to 64 years old. Voters over 65 are opposed 56 – 35 percent.

“Support for same-sex marriage in Virginia shows a similar pattern to support for use of marijuana: The younger you are, the more Democratic you are, the more likely you are to support both of these social issues,” Brown said.

From March 19 – 24, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,288 voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 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, Ohio, Virginia, Colorado, Iowa 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](#).**

33. Do you support or oppose allowing adults in Virginia 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	46%	27%	58%	47%	52%	42%	71%	53%	43%	24%
Oppose	48	68	35	47	43	51	26	42	52	66
DK/NA	6	4	6	6	5	7	3	5	5	9

34. Do you support or oppose allowing adults in Virginia 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	84%	75%	92%	84%	83%	85%	90%	85%	84%	81%
Oppose	13	21	6	13	15	11	9	11	13	17
DK/NA	3	3	2	3	2	4	1	3	3	2

35. 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%	17%	52%	35%	40%	34%	65%	38%	34%	20%
Bad	46	69	30	49	46	47	27	44	48	61
DK/NA	17	13	18	17	14	20	8	18	18	19

36. 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	39%	27%	48%	37%	43%	36%	46%	42%	47%	21%
No	59	72	50	61	55	62	53	57	51	78
DK/NA	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1

37. 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	14%	28%	4%	13%	14%	14%	2%	13%	15%	21%
Less	36	20	47	34	40	32	54	40	34	20
Equally	47	50	44	49	43	50	42	45	47	53
NEITHR DANGEROUS (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	3	2	4	3	3	4	1	2	3	5

38. 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%	61%	28%	42%	37%	44%	24%	37%	40%	61%
No	51	32	65	50	54	49	72	57	51	31
DK/NA	7	7	7	8	8	7	4	6	9	8

39. In Colorado where marijuana is legal for recreational use, people are allowed to grow the plants in their homes. If marijuana is legalized in Virginia, would it bother you if one of your neighbors is growing marijuana in their home or wouldn't that bother you?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	36%	54%	27%	36%	33%	39%	23%	35%	33%	52%
No	62	44	73	64	66	59	77	64	66	46
DK/NA	1	2	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	2

40. 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%	5%	8%	4%	6%	6%	15%	6%	4%	2%
Smwht comfortable	11	7	11	13	14	8	27	9	8	7
Smwht uncomfortable	20	11	28	17	22	18	16	21	22	17
Very uncomfortable	62	77	51	65	56	66	42	62	65	72
DK/NA	2	1	2	1	2	2	-	2	2	2

41. Do you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to get married in Virginia?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Support	50%	23%	69%	52%	46%	54%	69%	53%	50%	35%
Oppose	42	70	22	42	48	38	25	40	44	56
DK/NA	7	6	9	6	6	8	6	7	7	9

TREND: Do you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to get married in Virginia?

	Mar 31 2014	Jul 18 2013
Support	50	50
Oppose	42	43
DK/NA	7	7