

# Ballot Measure No. 2

## An Act to Tax and Regulate the Production, Sale, and Use of Marijuana

### STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

Marijuana prohibition has been just as ineffective, inefficient, and counterproductive as alcohol prohibition. It's time for a more sensible approach.

Ballot Measure 2 will end the failed policy of marijuana prohibition in Alaska and replace it with a system in which:

- Personal use, possession, and limited home-growing of marijuana is legal for adults 21 and older; and
- Marijuana is regulated and taxed like alcohol.

Government studies and scientific research have consistently concluded that even the most potent marijuana, in concentrate or any other form, is far less harmful than alcohol to the consumer and to society. It's less addictive, less damaging to the body, and far less likely to trigger violent and reckless behavior.<sup>1,2</sup> Adults who prefer to use marijuana instead of alcohol shouldn't be punished for making a safer choice.

There were 2,219 arrests for marijuana offenses in Alaska in 2010, of which 91% were for possession alone.<sup>3</sup> Measure 2 would allow law enforcement to spend their time and limited resources addressing serious crimes instead of arresting and prosecuting adults for using a less harmful substance than alcohol.

Current marijuana prohibition laws force marijuana sales into the underground market where they're controlled by criminal enterprises. Measure 2 will replace the underground market with a tightly regulated system of licensed marijuana businesses that will create good jobs for Alaskans and generate tax revenue for the state and localities. It will also create business and ancillary industries, such as construction, real estate, and accounting. Localities will have the right to ban marijuana establishments.

State officials will create and enforce rules governing the production and sale of marijuana, such as testing, packaging, labeling requirements, and restrictions on advertising.

A regulated market will provide a safer environment for adults to purchase marijuana, and it will reduce their exposure to other illegal substances. It will also more effectively prevent teens from purchasing marijuana. It will remain illegal to sell or provide marijuana to minors, and proof of age will be required to purchase marijuana. Those selling marijuana in the underground market do not ask for ID.

In Colorado, where voters approved a similar measure in 2012, officials have reported no instances of businesses illegally selling marijuana to minors.<sup>4</sup> Since the state began regulating hundreds of marijuana-related businesses in 2010, teen marijuana use hasn't increased, high school graduation rates have increased, and drop-out rates have decreased.<sup>5,6</sup>

Implementation of the Colorado law hasn't contributed to an increase in crime, and violent crime decreased statewide in the first year in which marijuana was legal for adults.<sup>7</sup> The number of fatal vehicle crashes dropped more than 25% during the first four months of legal marijuana sales compared to the same period the previous year.<sup>8</sup>

Statewide support for ending marijuana prohibition has increased in Colorado since legal adult marijuana sales began.<sup>9</sup>

Regulating marijuana works.

Christopher Rempert, Political Director and Treasurer/Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol

1 U.S. Institute of Medicine.

6 Colorado Department of Education.

2 World Health Organization.

7 Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

3 American Civil Liberties Union.

8 Colorado State Patrol.

4 Colorado Department of Revenue.

9 Public Policy Polling.

5 U.S. Centers for Disease Control.