



Marijuana Policy Project

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We already agree that marijuana prohibition has failed. Isn't it time we did something about it? Support California's solution: **A.B. 2254**

A.B. 2254, introduced by Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco), is sensible legislation that would make California a model for fiscally sound and effective marijuana policy. A.B. 2254 removes state-level criminal penalties for private adult use and limited possession and cultivation of marijuana. It also replaces California's \$14 billion underground marijuana market with a controlled system that would be regulated and taxed similarly to alcohol.

58% of West Coast voters believe that marijuana should be "taxed and legally regulated like alcohol and cigarettes."

— Zogby International Polling, January 29, 2009

A.B. 2254 would...

- Save taxpayer dollars and generate revenue.** According to the California Board of Equalization, taxing marijuana – the state's top cash crop – would generate an estimated \$1.4 billion in new annual revenue.¹ California taxpayers also are spending hundreds of millions on marijuana prohibition every year, and by all accounts, these costly efforts have no effect on marijuana use or availability. The combined yearly savings and revenue generated by A.B. 2254 will help California fund vital services like education, health care, and public safety.
- Reduce teen marijuana use and availability.** More California teens report using marijuana than tobacco² because illegal drug dealers don't card for age. A.B. 2254 would require licensed vendors to prevent teens from buying marijuana – just as California has seen sales of tobacco to minors fall dramatically as a result of strict controls preventing underage tobacco purchases.
- Make our communities safer.** Removing marijuana from the criminal market would free up police time so officers can focus on violent crimes, property crimes, and people who drive under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or any other substance. Tax dollars would be used to incarcerate real criminals who threaten public safety. Additionally, regulating marijuana would significantly defund violent drug cartels in Mexico, who rely on illegal marijuana for more than 60% of their income.³
- Protect our public lands.** Every year, more and more marijuana farms are being discovered on California's public lands. These criminal operations pose a risk to hikers and the environment – and cost taxpayers millions in eradication and clean-up. These bootleg-style operations would not exist if not for disastrous prohibition policies. Regulating marijuana like alcohol will immediately eliminate any incentive to grow on public land. After all, California's wine industry isn't planting vineyards on public lands.

A.B. 2254 would *not*...

- Legalize marijuana for those under 21.**
- Allow driving under the influence of marijuana.**
- Prohibit employers from drug testing.**
- Impose new taxes on medical marijuana patients.**

1. "California State Board of Equalization Staff Legislative Analysis of A.B. 390," Feb. 23, 2009.

2. 12th Biennial California Student Survey Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use 2007-08.

3. Mark Stevenson, "Marijuana big earner for Mexico gangs," Associated Press, Feb. 21, 2008.