



**Illinois
Cannabis
Patients
Association**

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Polls Show 68% of Illinois Voters Support Medical Cannabis, 81% Nationwide

A 2008 Mason-Dixon poll found that there is support across Illinois for allowing doctors to recommend cannabis for the seriously ill and dying. Both conservative and liberal lawmakers should feel safe voting affirmatively on Senate Bill 1381, because in all regions of the state where the polling was done more than half of voters stated that they support allowing patients to use cannabis with their doctors' recommendations.

In the Chicago region 71% of voters favored allowing patients to use and grow cannabis if their doctors approve it, while in the downstate region 65% supported allowing medical patients to use and grow medical cannabis. Furthermore, those who identified themselves as Republican, Democrat, or independent voters all had a majority of those polled supporting access to medical cannabis. Fifty-four percent of Republicans, 84% of Democrats, and 68% of independent voters all stated that they support medical cannabis in Illinois. Broken down by gender the numbers show that 70% of women support medical cannabis and 66% of men support it. In addition, 75% of those polled who were under the age of 50 favored medical cannabis and 64% of those polled over the age of 50 stated that they support allowing doctors to recommend cannabis.

A national poll conducted by the Washington Post and ABC News found that 81% of Americans favor legalizing the medical use of cannabis. This poll was conducted after New Jersey became the 14th state to legally protect patients whose doctors recommend cannabis for therapeutic purposes in January of 2010. A March poll by the Pew Institute found that 73% of adults support access (including 61% of Republicans, and 54% of conservative Republicans). Currently over 25% of Americans live in a state that allows patients to treat their medical conditions with cannabis with the recommendation of their doctors, and four Americans receive cannabis from the federal government in a now-closed Investigational New Drug program. The federal patients get a tin with about 300 cannabis cigarettes per month; this medicine is grown at a secure University of Mississippi garden.

Hopefully these polls show legislators that there is widespread support for medical cannabis among registered voters both in Illinois and across the country. Medical cannabis does not have a single documented overdose fatality and is a low-cost option for patients who cannot otherwise find relief from pharmaceutical medicines. Desperate patients in Illinois are already illegally medicating with cannabis and are depending on lawmakers to provide a program for the safe and legal acquisition of their medicine. Without passing Senate Bill 1381 these patients will continue to turn to the criminal element to obtain their medicine and will be considered criminals in our courts of law.

The Illinois Cannabis Patients Association – because patients are not criminals