

Under Minnesota's current cannabis laws:

- Only plant matter, under 42.5 grams, is considered “decriminalized.”
- Possession of any amount of cannabis concentrate, or other processed product, is a felony, even though the Minnesota legislature made a value judgment that cannabis oil is preferable and is the only form in which patients obtain medical cannabis.
- Possession of more than 2/3rds of a cup of bong water is a felony.
- Minnesota courts do not allow defendants to raise medical necessity defenses in cannabis-related court cases.
- Law enforcement made nearly 9,000 cannabis-related arrests in Minnesota in 2016, accounting for approximately 50% of all narcotics related arrests in Minnesota;
- In Minnesota, black people are 6.4 times more likely than white people to be arrested for cannabis possession, despite similar use rates.
- The direct and collateral costs associated with a marijuana possession arrest include hefty legal fees, treatment costs, lost income, eviction from public housing, emotional stress, and a variety of other financial and human costs; the estimated lifetime cost of a felony-level possession arrest ranges from \$40-75 thousand dollars.

Why legalize?

- Under initial estimates, Minnesota has the potential to create over \$100 million in additional tax revenue with the legalization of adult-use cannabis.
- Minnesota is currently missing out on a multi-billion-dollar industry which has created hundreds of thousands of jobs in legal states.
- Current laws criminalize over 500,000 adults in Minnesota for simply consuming a relatively safe plant.
- Minnesota spends at least tens of millions of dollars arresting and prosecuting cannabis crimes; these funds are better used to prevent violent crime and investigate crimes against people.
- Over half of Minnesotans support legalization according to a straw poll at the Minnesota State Fair in 2017; on a national level, over 60% support adult use legalization.
- Cannabis is safer than alcohol; there are no deaths directly attributed to cannabis. Additionally, researchers have been unable to give animals enough cannabis to induce death.
- The rate of lethal prescription painkiller deaths decreased by 25% in states allowing medical cannabis. Adult use would increase access for patients struggling in Minnesota's arbitrarily restrictive medical cannabis program.

The numbers don't lie, it's time to legalize cannabis in Minnesota.

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