



To: Interested Parties
From: Sumati Thomas, Change Research
Date: September 24, 2024
Re: Key Pennsylvania Districts Favor Cannabis Legalization

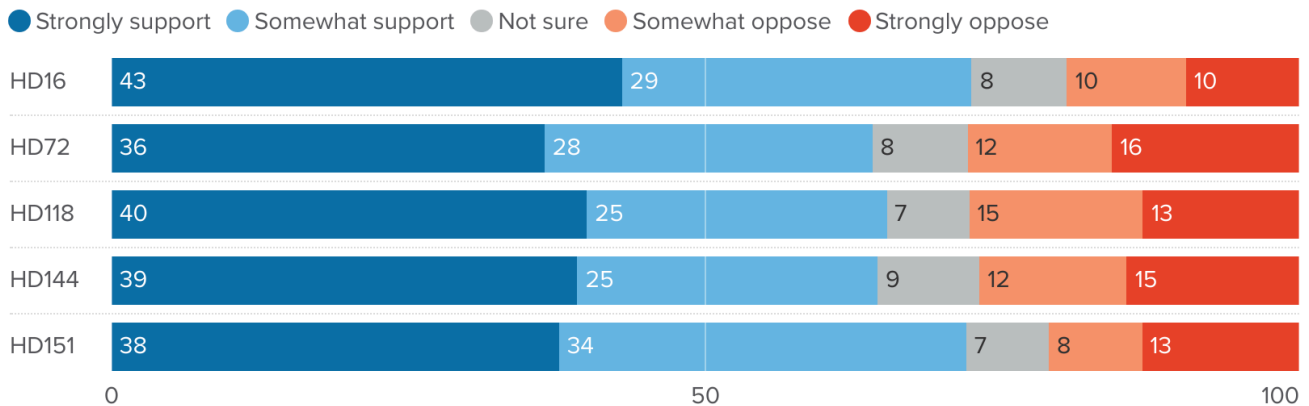
The results from a recent poll, conducted by Change Research from September 3 and 11, 2024 among 1,695 likely general election voters across five Pennsylvania House districts (HD16, HD72, HD118, HD144, and HD151), reveal that voters broadly support the legalization, regulation, and taxation of cannabis.¹

Strong Support for Cannabis Legalization Across All Districts

The data consistently shows high support for the legalization of adult-use cannabis across all five districts. More than 60% of voters in each district favor regulated cannabis sales, demonstrating widespread public approval for legalization as a way to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and reduce the reliance on illegal markets.

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Q: Do you support or oppose allowing the sale of adult-use cannabis in Pennsylvania?



- HD16 (Beaver County): 72% support legalization, with 43% expressing strong support. 20% oppose legalization.
- HD72 (Cambria County): 64% support legalization, with 36% expressing strong support. 28% oppose legalization.
- HD118 (Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties): 65% support legalization, with 40% expressing strong support. 28% oppose legalization.

¹ Polling was conducted online from September 3-11, 2024. Using Dynamic Online Sampling to attain a representative sample, Change Research polled 1,695 likely voters across five Pennsylvania House districts (HD16, HD72, HD118, HD144, and HD151). Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, race/ethnicity, and 2020 presidential vote. You can see a full methodology statement [here](#), which complies with the requirements of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative. Members of the Transparency Initiative disclose all relevant details about our research, with the principle that the public should be able to evaluate and understand research-based findings, in order to instill and restore public confidence in survey results. Average Margin of error = +/- 6.1%

- HD144 (Bucks County): 64% support legalization, with 39% expressing strong support. 27% oppose legalization.
- HD151 (Montgomery County): 72% support legalization, with 38% expressing strong support. 21% oppose legalization.

Economic and Criminal Justice Motivations Drive Support

Voters highlight three main reasons for supporting cannabis legalization: public safety, economic benefits, and criminal justice reform. The poll suggests that Pennsylvania voters view cannabis as a way to generate revenue, improve safety, and address injustices.

- **Health and Public Safety:** Voters cite health and public safety as motivating factors for supporting cannabis legalization. In HD16 (74%), HD118 (74%), and HD151 (77%), voters believe legalizing marijuana will enhance public health by ensuring the sale of quality-tested products. Similar support is seen in HD144 (68%) and HD72 (65%).
- **Economic Impact:** Voters in all five districts recognize the potential for cannabis legalization to stimulate the state's economy by creating jobs and generating substantial tax revenue. In HD151, 74% of voters believe legalization will boost the economy by creating jobs. This view is shared in HD118 (72%), HD144 (71%), HD72 (66%), and HD16 (73%).
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Support for cannabis legalization is also rooted in the desire for criminal justice reform, with many voters agreeing that past marijuana convictions have disproportionately impacted individuals, especially in minority communities. Voters in HD151 (76%) believe legalization will help address the disproportionate impact of marijuana convictions. This view is echoed in HD16 (75%), HD118 (75%), HD144 (74%), and HD72 (61%).

Travel to Dispensaries in Neighboring States

A significant minority of voters across the five districts report traveling to neighboring states to purchase cannabis due to Pennsylvania's lack of legalization. These numbers highlight Pennsylvania's unmet demand for legal cannabis and the associated economic drain to nearby states.

- HD16: 17% of voters have traveled to a neighboring state for cannabis, with voters under 49 being more likely to have done so (22%)
- HD72: This district shows the lowest rate of travel, with only 11% of voters crossing state lines for cannabis. The number is slightly higher among younger voters (20%).
- HD118: 15% of voters in this district have traveled to purchase cannabis.
- HD144: 24% of voters have traveled to other states for cannabis, the highest among the districts.
- HD151: 21% of voters report traveling for cannabis, with 25% of younger voters and 34% of people of color making up the bulk of those seeking access outside the state.

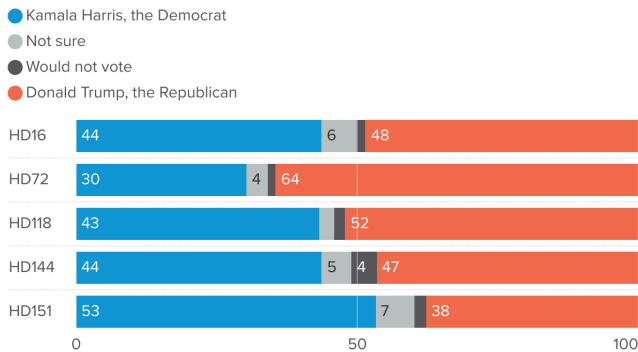
Presidential and State House Support by District

The poll also measured voter preferences in the upcoming presidential and state house races, offering insights into how cannabis policy could impact electoral outcomes.

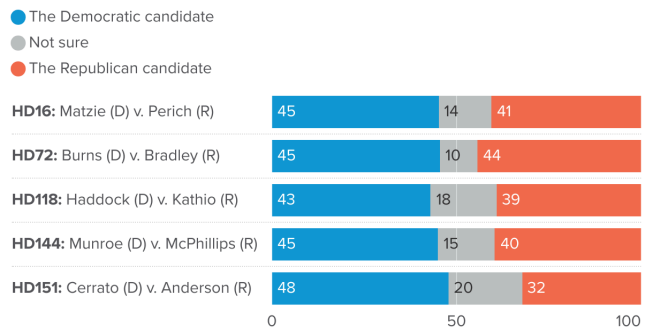
- HD16: Trump leads Harris 48% to 44%, while Democrat Robert Matzie holds a narrow lead over Republican Michael Perich (45% to 41%).
- HD72: Trump has 64% support, with Harris at 30%. The state house race is a close contest, with Democrat Frank Burns leading Republican Amy Bradley by just one point (45% to 44%).

- HD118: Trump leads Harris 52% to 43%. Democrat James Haddock leads Republican McKayla Kathio 43% to 39%.
- HD144: Trump leads Harris 47% to 44%. Democrat Brian Munroe leads Republican Daniel McPhillips by five points (45% to 40%).
- HD151: Harris leads Trump 53% to 38%. Democrat Melissa Cerrato has a strong lead over Republican Allen Anderson (48% to 32%).

Q: If the November election for President were held today and the choices were the following, who would you vote for?



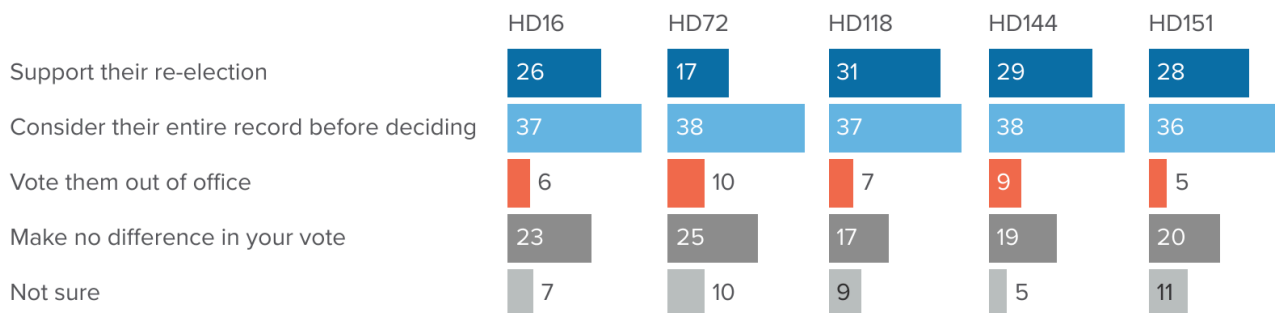
Q: If the election for the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives were held today and the choices were the following, who would you vote for?



The Impact of Cannabis Policy on Election Choices

Cannabis policy could play a critical role in election outcomes. Voters weigh a legislator’s stance on cannabis legalization heavily, but they also tend to consider it alongside other factors and issues.

Q: If a Pennsylvania legislator voted to control, regulate, and tax the sale of adult-use cannabis in the state, how would it affect your vote in their re-election?



- HD16: 26% would support re-electing a pro-legalization legislator, with 37% considering the full record.
- HD72: 17% would support pro-legalization candidates, while 38% would evaluate their full record.
- HD118: 31% back pro-legalization candidates, with 37% considering the legislator's full record.
- HD144: 29% would support pro-legalization candidates, and 38% would consider the full record.
- HD151: 28% favor re-electing pro-legalization candidates, with 36% looking at their overall record.

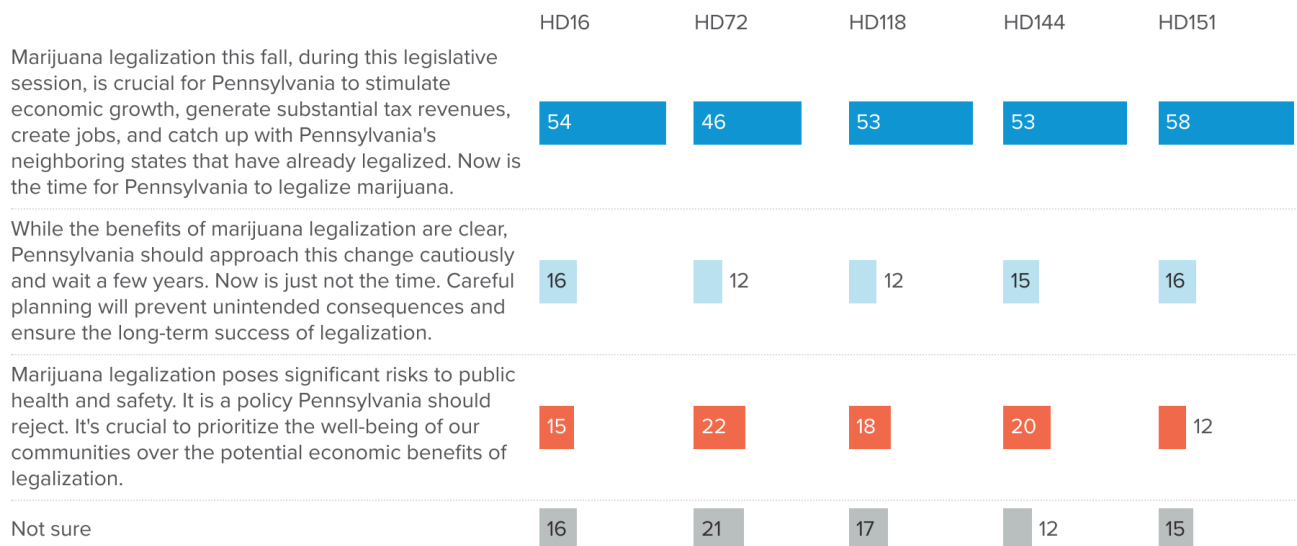
Voters Want Swift Action on Legalization

Voters across the five Pennsylvania districts show a strong preference for immediate legislative action on cannabis legalization. While levels of enthusiasm differ slightly, a significant number in all five believe that now is the time to move forward with legalization.

- HD16: 54% support legislative action in the upcoming session. 16% think the state should proceed cautiously, while 15% oppose legalization.
- HD72: 46% support moving forward this session, while 12% want a more cautious approach, and 22% oppose the measure entirely.
- HD118: 53% of voters support action this fall, with 12% favoring caution and 18% in opposition.
- HD144: 53% support swift legislation, 15% support caution, and 20% are opposed.
- HD151: The highest support for immediate action comes from HD151, where 58% support cannabis legalization this fall. Just 16% prefer a cautious approach, and 12% oppose legalization.

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Q: Which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion?



Conclusion: A Crucial Issue in Tight Races

The 2024 elections in Pennsylvania's House districts are shaping up to be closely contested, with cannabis legalization emerging as a key issue that could tip the scales. Voters across the political spectrum favor regulated cannabis for its economic benefits and potential to advance criminal justice reform. As Pennsylvania approaches this pivotal legislative session, the message from voters is clear: It's time for action on cannabis legalization.