

# Are you morally opposed to legalizing recreational use of marijuana?

Marijuana is addictive itself and is also a gateway drug to heroin and meth. Why add to the problems of the opioid epidemic? Also, drug use affects more than the individual itself: there are lost work hours, increased costs of drug rehabilitation, and broken families to name a few.

Prefer that manufacture and use of THC be a regulated entity/business for quality control. Equate it with the harmfulness of alcohol and cigarettes which also have long-term use negative impacts.

More importantly, as a judge who presides over Drug Court, and who has attended numerous drug conferences in which experts expound on the fact that today's marijuana is far more potent than 20 years ago, and they lecture on the negative effect of marijuana on the brain, and the brain development of young adults, age 18-25, I vehemently oppose legalizing recreational use of marijuana. It is immoral to legalize this danger in our country.

To quote Douglas Marlowe, a national leader in the development of Drug Courts, "the move to legalize marijuana will be the single biggest mistake this country will make in the next 100 years."

While our country seems to have plenty of mistakes on its hands in recent months, Mr. Marlowe's statement is a powerful harbinger of the future with this drug in our national "system."

I'm not actually morally opposed, but I do believe that legalization of recreational marijuana will have a detrimental effect on the next generation.

Have enough problems in society without throwing another one into the mix.

Marijuana should be legalized and taxed. Adults should be allowed to possess and use it responsibly without fear of criminal penalties. States should divert their funds and resources into something more productive than perpetuating the criminalization of marijuana.

Gateway drug.

We have too many slackers as it is.

They call it dope for a reason.

This useful drug has been demonized by the ignorant and those with an interest in keeping it off the market (pvt prisons, drug companies, alcohol industry, and militarized police). There is no reefer madness, only relief from horrid pain. Opiates are forbidden those with some conditions, so MJ is their only choice for severe pain. Time to shut down the lie factory. I do not approve of MJ for people under 21 because their brains are not yet developed fully. Same for booze.

Use of marijuana can be treated handled in the same way as alcohol.

The Genie is out of the bottle. Need consistent regulatory compliance

Using marijuana when driving is another impairment and can cause more accidents on the highway.

I do not consider marijuana use to be a moral issue at all. A person will not be damned to hell for smoking pot. I am opposed to legalizing recreational use of marijuana on a legal and practical basis however, due to the personal and societal cost of addiction.

because marijuana is a mind altering drug and with the other "ingredients" that are added to make it more potent, it could be dangerous, especially for our youth. Users seem to have no ambition for a productive life other than the next fix. Whereas tobacco used to be the gateway drug, marijuana is taking its place.

I have never encountered anyone who uses it only recreationally at home - usually also in the car, which means while driving, and almost all arrests involve marijuana or the presence of drug paraphernalia (75%)

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## marijuana?

Is there any difference between a moral opposition to the legal recreational use of marijuana and a moral opposition to the legal recreational use of alcohol?

as long as a solid way to determine recent use for the purpose of DUI detection can be utilized.

Scientific evidence shows the harmful effects of THC, especially on the developing teenage brain. The proponents of Marijuana legalization do not argue its Value or Benefit, they simply say "the War on Drugs is not Working". That argument does not justify society legalizing a drug simply for recreational use.

Personal religious or moral beliefs should not enter into to it. I am, vehemently, opposed to recreational marijuana(as well as the perverted medicinal use which has actual just been nothing more than a scam for recreational use for most medical marijuana users) based upon my experience with drug court.

Prosecution of marijuana cases is a complete waste of time and money, and is less dangerous than alcohol.

As a Drug Court Judge, almost everyone one of my participants, when asked, stated marijuana was the their gateway drug.

There is simply no legitimate reason for anybody to be fined or incarcerated for the recreational consumption of this item. It is a waste of taxpayer's money, a bad allocation of law enforcement personnel, and poor use of judicial resources to prosecute these matters.

This is a moral reasoning more than anything else, and doesn't necessarily mean that I oppose legalizing recreational use of marijuana overall, but there is a moral component to society allowing, encouraging, celebrating use of a substance that harms individuals, harms families and potentially harms the public (through impaired driving, etc.). By making it illegal, society is making the point that we don't approve of this. And we should not be approving recreational drug use. It is harmful in so many more ways that it is not. (There are ways to reap the benefits of marijuana that do not involve recreational use of it.) Conversely to the above, by legalizing recreational use, we are almost telling kids and young adults: Society now says it is okay to use marijuana. We absolutely should not be promoting that message. It is morally wrong.

(There are other arguments in favor of legalizing recreational use that I ascribe to, and I don't know that I've fully decided where I stand, but this just explains the moral reasons for my not favoring legalization.)

I believe that use of marijuana can lead to the use of other drugs.

It is not a moral issue

I am concerned that the distribution be appropriately regulated and, to some extent, with the possibility that marijuana is a gateway drug.

What is the logical premise behind asking a question such as this to judges? Of all the questions to ask, why this question to judges? Not sure if strange or sad that he National College would invest its limited resources into such a question to judges.

I believe we are better off legalizing and regulating it than forcing it underground.

My experience is that it is a gateway drug. Never sentenced a cocaine or heroin addict that didn't start with MJ.

I believe that it is a gateway drug. I don't ever recall seeing a presentence investigation report where the individual had not used marijuana before using cocaine, meth or heroin.

Having had brothers who came back from serving in the U.S. army "addicted" to marijuana, and then having them progress to using harder drugs, like LSD, and heroin, I know what marijuana can lead young men and women to do.

The issue of Driving Under the Influence of a drug needs to be addressed. There needs to be a presumptive level of THC just as there is for alcohol.

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<p>BUT, before we do, dealing with the unintended consequences such as impaired driving and access by minors must be addressed.</p>
<p>We don't oppose recreational use of alcohol.</p>
<p>I think it is bad public policy but I don't see it as immoral.</p>
<p>Not morally, but it is still a bad, public policy, idea.</p>
<p>I'm opposed because I see how it affects people negatively through poor decision making and substantial, durable cognitive impairments</p>
<p>I don't see the issue as being a Moral issue. The legalization would not be any different than the legalization of Alcohol after prohibition. The issues associated with the legalization of Marijuana would be no different than those that we face with alcohol abuse. I am confused as to how we justify spending so much money attempting to legalize Marijuana and we spend equally as much money to attempt to end smoking Tobacco citing the fact that it costs everyone an enormous amount of money to deal with the health issues caused by smoking.</p>
<p>The cartels in Mexico will only continue to get richer if we do not legalize it and take control of the market. Education has not worked and the folks using it clearly do not care if it is illegal. How is this a moral issue?</p>
<p>Yes, but I'd rather legalize it across the board rather than just for medical use. That's a prosecutor's and judge's nightmare.</p>
<p>Marijuana has become some much more powerful than 50 years ago that the problems outweigh the benefits.</p>
<p>Here in Oregon we have had legalization for a few years now. As a juvenile court judge we are absolutely sending the wrong message to our children. Also having "pot shops" on what seems like every street corner is unseemly.</p>
<p>All the objective evidence supports the conclusion that it is a gateway drug to even more harmful drug usage. In my 32 years on the bench, I have seen countless individuals who became involved in the system thru their recreational use of marijuana. I have seen NO positive benefit flowing from the recreational use of marijuana.</p>
<p>It is futile to think we can control the way people use a thing by banning it. Cocaine and child porn have been banned for decades and are still readily available. Drugs are readily available in prisons. If we can't keep banned substances out of prisons what hope is there for keeping them out of a free society.</p>
<p>It is unfortunate that people abuse any substance. However, the substances posing the greatest threats to our society are alcohol and prescription medications, not marijuana. Our country experimented with criminalizing alcohol and that failed. Now we are grappling with the criminalization of other controlled substances while doctors liberally prescribe medications that often lead to later illegal drug use. We need to re-evaluate our entire approach to drug use and abuse, without invoking "morality."</p>
<p>Concerned about: excessive use;driving after use: physical effect on the body.</p>
<p>Having witnessed the extremes a person can go through to make the use of Marijuana while I served in Combat in Vietnam, I am fully opposed to the legal use of the substance. When I found men in my unit more concerned about having their "Stash" of Marijuana with them before going out on a combat mission, than adequate supply of drinking water or even personal ammunition, I can not say nothing good about the use of this drug.</p>
<p>It is a gateway drug that leads to further addiction, and impairs brain development in adolescents.</p>
<p>I believe that studies confirm that this is a gateway drug. I further believe that it will fuel the opiate addiction problem that is already out of control and will be counterproductive to the attempts and investments being made to fight this problem . Simply ask any addict how they started using .. Usually the answer is marijuana.</p>

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While I favor de-criminalizing possession of a small amount, and I favor legalization of medical marijuana, I oppose general legalization of recreational use. Our society does not need additional stoned-out people driving on our roads or in the workplace.

Believe that many individuals will over use the marijuana which will impair judgement resulting in Driving under the Influence of a Drug - limited ability for police to test for marijuana on a road stop. How will case be prosecuted? Additionally, the cost for marijuana impacts family income resulting in increased inability to meet daily survival needs of food, shelter, utilities, medical needs, education, etc. Another concern is that adult behavior of smoking in the presence of children is inappropriate also suggesting to children that the use of marijuana is OK just like the use of alcoholic beverages by adults.

I am morally opposed to government's attempts to regulate any human behavior that does not infringe on other people's freedom. In my opinion, the rules should be: 1. Hurt no other 2. Do as you please 3. Bear the consequences of your actions.

the drug that leads to all others -- recreational use is a big fat and criminal lie

I support the legalization of marijuana. I equate marijuana to alcohol and think that it should regulated in the same manner.

From my experience, I have seen a lot more damage (fights, assault, wrecks, disorderly conduct, etc.) caused from those "recreating" with alcohol than from marijuana.

The scientific evidence appears to be such that marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol, which is already legal in all states. Marijuana has the "advantage" in that a person who is intoxicated on alcohol can lose control of anger. We are all familiar with stories about drunken individuals doing stupid things with guns, sexually assaulting women, and the like. These sorts of violent incidents do not appear to occur when people are high on marijuana. In addition, it appears that the idea of marijuana being a gateway to other drugs is not supported by the empirical evidence.

Alcohol and legal marijuana are not a great mix! Terrible moral fiber for communities to raise children in. Its ridiculous, but nevertheless, society gets what they ask for. No common sense is used today.

Does anyone want to have a teacher who smokes pot teach their child or have a heart surgeon perform surgery on you who has smoked marijuana. NO

I believe the general idea from supporters is that if it's legal it's ok. I don't believe they are thinking of the long reaching effects it can have. The bottom line will be, if you are impaired, whether by a "legal or prescribed " substance or by an illegal substance, and you commit a crime it's still a crime, and impairment should not be an excuse. Sadly we are seeing many crimes committed by addicted people who "have a prescription " or are using alcohol (a legal substance). We are also seeing an increase in child abuse and neglect due to this substance abuse/addiction.

Legalizing marijuana for recreational use will only add to an already monumental problem.

I have been assigned drug cases for 11 years, and I was a police officer for 32.5 years. Every conversation I had with people on hard drugs, they always started with Marijuana. Why do we want to do this to our citizens? Hospital Emergency Rooms are seeing more cases, and automobile collisions increase. Look up the stats.

THC is deemed prohibited under Navajo Nation tribal code, contrary to Dine Fundamental Laws. Not in the best interests of tribal members.

legalize it bob marley

The states should study the effects of marijuana before legalizing it.

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The government has been fighting a war against marijuana since the 1950's when it was declared a dangerous drug. Wars end, but this is one that will never end. People are still going to use it despite it being illegal. Legalize and tax it at the federal level the way some six or so states have already done and use that income as a way to reduce the national debt!

Legislation that takes for its support that some are morally opposed gave us the Volstead Act and look what that did for the country, organized crime on a scale previously unknown with which we are still dealing. On moral grounds, I am opposed to abortion, but the reasons for it to be legal are compelling in certain situations. I cannot have an abortion, I am a male. I would encourage those who can to choose not too, but understand it is the right of the pregnant person, their significant other, if one is present, and those with whom they choose to discuss the situation to choose. In other words it should remain legal, but with some reasonable limitations and the same is true of alcohol and marijuana, legal, but with some reasonable limitations.

I am opposed, but not morally. It is just one more form of legitimized damage to society and productivity.

I think it promotes drug use in general and sends the wrong message to young people. It is the ultimate slippery slope.

A moral wrong is one which is contradictory to right judgment. Right judgment is clearly in the eye of the beholder. Recreational use of alcohol and tobacco is not a moral wrong to most people, but it is to many. I believe a moral wrong to be one which harms yourself, another or many others physically, emotionally or spiritually. Marijuana use, in and of itself, does not fall into my definition any more than alcohol.

Not morally opposed, but concerned about practical ramifications, effect on kids, etc.

Marijuana is a drug and can become addictive. I have seen violent behavior come out of people that have used for a long period of time when they run out of it, they become agitated and violent because they can't get the drug. It makes people lazy and age faster.

Studies have revealed time and time again that alcohol and marijuana are the gateways to the much more dangerous drugs. Furthermore, these young adults are likely medicating their depression with drugs; are we not better off spending these efforts into ease of access for counseling?

Marijuana is now highly addictive due to higher levels of THC. It is many times a gateway drug for opiate use. There is no medical assisted treatment for those who become addicted. Hardly seems "recreational" to me.

This is proven to be an entry level drug. It makes me sad to think that people would rather impair their minds than stimulate their minds with education and spiritual development.

There are far better ways to invest in treatment for highly addictive drugs which lead to death and violence. Stop wasting time and money on marijuana enforcement.

The federal government has no business regulating the use of marijuana - that is strictly a state concern. For my state, however, I am opposed to legalizing it as it will legitimize its use, much the same as alcohol. I believe marijuana is a "gateway" drug and has greater side-effect repercussions than alcohol.

It sends the wrong message to the under 21 crowd about its ok to live "an altered mental state" lifestyle without even considering those over 21 who never mature beyond adolescent behavior who embrace the "high life". What a waste!

There has not been a documented case of a fatality and marijuana in New Jersey.

To me the only issue is clear and reliable way to enforce DUI-marijuana cases.

Marijuana is a direct path to opiodes. The marijuana of today is much more potent than in the past. It will be a greater problem than alcohol.

Science shows that is less harmful than other drugs in the same classification, as well as research that shows its medicinal properties.

Marijuana is a drug that affects the brain cells. Children are using it as early as 10 years old and now feel that it is all right to smoke because it is legal.

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## **marijuana?**

Waste of valuable resources.
Marijuana is no worse than, and in many ways better than, alcohol. There is no reason to lose millions in tax revenue to appease other industries.
As long as the marijuana is regulated on who, where the sales are made. Alot of the distributions are for medical use especially for PTSD.
It's a gateway drug! And any person who tries to tell you otherwise knows nothing about drug addiction. It's as simple as that!
While not morally opposed to legalization, I firmly believe that it is just another intoxicant for people to use to pollute their minds. Legalization may provide a source of revenue - business-wise and government-wise - but its use and legalization cannot be justified for any other reason. Reducing punishment is fine, so long as resources are also used to increase treatment for substance abuse.
The feds should decriminalize marijuana. Within 10 years 75% of all states will have legalized it.
I urge judges not to answer this survey. Legalization advocates always attempt to frame the issue as "moral," knowing that is rarely the reason for opposition. As phrased, this question is designed to generate a favorable response to marijuana legalization which will no doubt be used to show that judges are not opposed. Marijuana legalization has nothing to do with morality. There are, however, significant reasons to oppose legalization on social, scientific, economic, medical, and educational grounds. That's where the discussion should be. So who is responsible for this survey and what is your motive?
It stays in the bodily system too long. One may lose impairment for driving, etc., in a few hours, but muddled thinking can last for weeks.
Of course not. Compared to the damage alcohol causes, the prohibition is counter-productive and silly. Everyone is already smoking cannabis.
I do have concerns because of some of the long term effects of use just as with alcohol.
Observed too many talented young people suffer arrested adolescence from use. When legal it becomes more easily accessible to youth.
Morality has little to do with my opposition. Most drug court participants experiment with marijuana and move onto more addictive drugs. A culture supporting the recreational use of drugs troubles and concerns me. While I understand that alcohol is a drug and addictive, it is viewed differently.
It's working in some states now.
I AM OPPOSED TO LEGALIZING RECREATIONAL USE OF MARIJUANA BUT NOT BECAUSE OF MORALS. INSTEAD, I OPPOSE IT BECUASE WE DO NOT NEED YET ANOTHER LEGAL METHOD TO ALTER ONE'S STATE OF MIND. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO AFFECT MORE THAN THE PERSON WHO CONSUMES/USES THEM - THEY AFFECT FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND STRANGERS. UNLESS THERE IS A STUDY THAT SHOWS IT IS SAFE TO DRIVE AFTER RECREATIONAL USE AND SAFE TO BREATHE THIS USUALLY UNFILTERED SMOKE -BOTH FIRST HAND AND SECOND HAND- AND THAT EATING OR SMOKING MARIJUANA DO NOT NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN, THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO BASE MY OPPOSITION ON MORALS.
It has serious risks for those predisposed to hallucination.
Nebraska has seen a huge influx of marijuana from CO, and it is impacting Nebraska youth and a large increase in DUI-drugs cases.
After reviewing recent scientific research on the effects of marijuana on unborn children and the adolescent, I have come to the conclusion that marijuana is not the harmless drug that its proponents would have us believe. Marijuana can have permanent significant detrimental effects on its users.

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Marijuana use creates a disability which will manifest itself in difficult-to-detect disabilities. At a DUI trial, evidence of ETOH intoxication is both essential and useful. No comparable evidence is available to show intoxication by Marijuana. This prosecutors would be hamstrung in attempting to present cases.

Isn't it ironic that just when health care professionals and society in general, have succeeded in making smoking unpopular, marijuana steps into to re-establish lung cancer as an unneeded and expensive concern. The state attorney generals' lawsuits at long last, to bring big tobacco to heel are now rendered much less effective in shaping public attitudes.

Marijuana is a bridge to even more harmful drugs as tolerance to Marijuana grows among repeat users, who then seek to achieve a high at even greater cost. There will be blood.

Same as alcohol

Legalizing marijuana increases the availability and acceptability of using the drug. Alcohol and tobacco are leading causes of preventable illness in the US. Adding another legalized drug will have undesirable effects on individuals, society and social services.

MJ is not "harmless ". It is a drug and should be treated as such.

I am morally opposed to criminalizing the recreational use of marijuana.

Many in my community considered it medicine decades ago.

I am opposed to legalizing the recreational use of marijuana for several reasons. I do not think your question has been phased in the most objective manner though. Asking if I am "morally" opposed may imply other issues. Why not simply poll membership with the question, "Are you opposed to legalizing marijuana"? If, however, you want to assess whether the judiciary has a bias to impose a personal moral belief on individuals, then, perhaps you have asked the correct question. I am opposed to such legalization as I have encountered numerous individuals who have used marijuana as a gateway drug to stronger substances. I think my opposition is then based initially on practical knowledge and not personal moral beliefs.

While not morally opposed, it is not healthy for anyone except perhaps for medical purposes and that remains up for debate despite what popular media has to say. It specifically is not good for developing brains and we are learning brains do not complete development until into the late 20's, particularly for males. Why do we want to legalize creation of impaired brains? Did we learn nothing from asbestos and tobacco litigation and health impacts of those?

Should be regulated and taxed like alcohol.

This is a ridiculous concept, and will inevitably lead to more problems, including an increase in drugged driving.

Misapplication of resources.

Just the reverse!

I'm actually on the fence. I think recreational marijuana may be far superior to alcohol in terms of the overall negative impact that both have upon society but given our history of dealing with alcohol, I don't know if adding another intoxicant is really the answer. I would love to see marijuana replace alcohol even though I do not partake of either. My experience is that there is far more to be feared from alcohol and alcoholics than from marijuana and habitual marijuana users.

We cheat ourselves and everyone whose lives we touch when we use substances "recreationally" in order to feel good, without having done anything to feel good about. Re-creation is a misnomer for this behavior.

It's a gateway drug and destroys brain cells.

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Should revenue from the sale of this relatively harmless substance go to organized crime or be used for the public good?

At least until there is a scientific way to protect against cannabis impaired drivers.

My personal opposition to recreational marijuana is not strong, but I must admit we would have a better society if the damn stuff didn't exist. I get tired of hearing how harmless it is because I have seen the harmful affect it has had on some chronic users.

Gateway Drug

There is too much evidence that its use has long term detrimental effects. It is the suppliers that need to be more severely dealt with.

I'm not sure how this could be a moral issue, at least not in the classical, philosophical sense. Perhaps "reflexively" should be substituted for "morally" in the sentence?

I believe this substance can and should be treated similar to alcohol and regulated appropriately.

It's less harmful than alcohol, which is readily available in our society.

I will follow the law of my state but I have objections:

1. I don't know any addicts that didn't start with pot, its called a gateway drug for a reason
2. Use is up in all ages and we know it harms brains that are still forming
3. They can't legislate responsible use
4. They thought cigarettes were harmless at first too. Pot hasn't been studied to determine its long term health effects--good and bad. Why not take the time to do that before more states legalize?

Not morally, but scientifically I am. Marijuana effects on children, teenagers and young adults are negative.

I am opposed not necessary for moral reasons but the knowledge that this type of drug use is more likely to increase more drug use than the ones who have recreational liquor.

As a Judge, and as an individual, I believe that legalizing recreational use of marijuana is irresponsible. There are so many legal substances that destroy lives, such as alcohol and certain prescription drugs that are abused. I believe that it is irresponsible to legalize yet another substance that can and will be abused to the point of destruction of relationships and lives. I work with a Treatment Court, and there are participants who are addicted to marijuana. It is not just meth, cocaine, and illegally obtained prescription drugs. Learning to control a marijuana addiction is just as hard as learning to control a heroin addiction. Why should society voluntarily make such substances legal, so that a person can justify his addiction because it "is not against the law"? This is the mentality that someone should be able to do whatever he wants because he is only hurting himself. Unfortunately, that rationale is not true. The addict IS hurting himself, but he is also hurting his parents, siblings, spouse or significant other, children, etc. because they have to watch his/her slide into addiction that is very difficult to reverse. An alcoholic justifies his addiction because it is not against the law, but it is very hard to make something illegal that was legal for decades or centuries. Why encourage legalizing yet another substance that, while not addictive to all, is certainly addictive and harmful to some?

If properly managed and regulated, I don't see it as any worse than alcohol and it can have health benefits. It may be more healthy than cigarettes.

Science has shown the devastating effects on brain development and long term brain damage from marijuana. Something we have all seen the negative effects of in the courtroom with drug idled defendants.

In my opinion, it is no more dangerous than alcohol and tobacco. I think it should be legalized and heavily taxed accordingly.



# Are you morally opposed to legalizing recreational use of marijuana?

<p>I am morally opposed to jailing or punishing a person for the mere possession of marijuana for his own personal use.</p>
<p>Marijuana makes people lose their ambitions to do anything with their lives.</p>
<p>I am not "morally " opposed but I think it is a terrible idea. Should be moved to a schedule 3 through 5 drug.</p>
<p>What people choose to do on their own is their business, provided no harm is brought to others by their actions or behavior.</p>
<p>This is not a decision for judges whose function is to enforce the policy choices of the political branches. We should have no moral decisionmaking role and should not be expressing a "moral" choice on the issue.</p>
<p>It is difficult to definitively respond to this question, because on the one hand, marijuana is not the most dangerous intoxicant available in our country, but on the other hand, it is an intoxicant that cannot be said to have no detrimental impacts, especially regarding our youth. Moreover, reports have indicated that legalization has contributed to greater use, which has contributed to, for example, an increase in traffic accidents and fatalities caused by drivers impaired by the use of marijuana. At bottom, as a nation we have experienced significant social and medical problems resulting from the legal use of alcohol, and I fail to appreciate why legalizing another intoxicant will not only increase the problems resulting from the use of such substances.</p>
<p>For better or worse there is an inevitability to some legalization or decriminalization of marijuana throughout the country in the foreseeable future, unless research develops an evidence based rationale for not doing so.</p>
<p>Personally opposed to recreational MJ use, but not morally opposed to legalization. Two distinct questions.</p>
<p>My opposition is only based on the lack of significant scientific research into the effects of marijuana on the level of impairment to the user and the impact on the users' health.</p>
<p>This is not good for any type of use but maybe medical. I see this as being abused as it kills the brain cells after a high usage.</p>
<p>Like with alcohol, some people can use without going to jail. But as a drug court judge, I don't appreciate the increased caseload we are already seeing, even with medical marijuana.</p>
<p>However, the use of any recreational drugs, including alcohol and marijuana, should be discouraged.</p>
<p>Our jurisdiction is surrounded by states where it is legal...the inconsistency is a problem.</p>
<p>Not for medicinal purposes</p>
<p>Research has shown the long term damage to the brain, especially in young people.</p>
<p>Morally? Not sure I would characterize it as that but I guess you could say that I am morally opposed to people controlling deadly weapons on the highway while under the influence or to the state making a boat load of money off of unhealthy, non-productive habits or to violence and home invasion, so yes, morally.</p>
<p>In the US every issue becomes big business! Legalization will grow and spin into unanticipated directions.</p>
<p>Marijuana is less threatening to society than alcohol or tobacco, and we should have realized long ago that illegality was counter-productive.</p>
<p>Legalized for adults only. People using only marijuana aren't as likely to be involved in accidents or commit crimes as people using ethol or poly substance abuse.</p>
<p>I am supportive of regulated medical marijuana. I am opposed to commercialization. It is morally wrong to sell a person a recreational product that is mind altering, addictive, harmful, and has the outcome of costing the public. Any current tax base I have seen in legal states is far exceeded by the public costs . In most cases, the tax is not dedicated or only a fraction is applied toward treatment, prevention, or education.</p>
<p>It is absurd for the state to be criminalizing such victimless activity. I favor complete de-regulation of adult consumption of marijuana, but funding for voluntary treatment of psychological addiction.</p>

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I am absolutely not opposed to the use or sale of marijuana.

For the past 22 years, I have attended the NJC. During the NJC classes I take the opportunity to ask the participants whether marijuana or alcohol is the biggest problem with defendants and other clients. Each time the response is overwhelming -- alcohol is the overwhelming problem. In my court, 70% of all crimes are alcohol-related.

The marijuana prohibition is one of the worst mistakes in American history. I studied with a former court reporter at the Nuremberg Class A War Trials. He was also the chief court reporter at the Tokyo Class A War Trials. In 1987, he told me that the sentencing of 1960's Texas marijuana prisoners to sentences of up to life for even a seed was evil.

I believe that the sentencing of anyone for marijuana use is evil. Recreational use with prohibitions on driving intoxicated is judicious and logical.

The phenomena of regulation of substances that have negative consequences to individuals seems to be a repeat of the use of alcohol in the 1900s. Prohibition was an attempt to legislate morality of citizens. It was finally recognized that it was a losing battle until alcohol was legalized and controlled by regulations regarding the personal use and regulating commerce by taxation. Marijuana is being regulated by an increasing number of states and will eventually be accepted by the federal government. The general population will continue to use marijuana and when their numbers reach a tipping point, voters will respond positively to such use and Congress will recognize that it is now acceptable by their constituents. It's simply a matter of time.

Marijuana causes impairment of the senses. It has been shown to cause developmental delays of the brain, especially when a person begins consumption at an early age. All of this results in a person's inability to maintain studies and steady employment, which can lead to parents and others taking care of otherwise capable people and can certainly lead to a criminal lifestyle.

Too many people are already mentally frail.

Both marijuana and heroin are sedating drugs. Everyone is wringing their hands over the sad increase in the use of heroin, without giving any thought to the fact that decriminalizing marijuana introduces many susceptible people into the mellow glow of a nice low, which is then chased.

The two "drugs" that cause the biggest burden/strain/drain on our society are both legal. Alcohol and Nicotine. I do not see how adding another will help us.

No reason to give more people to try and develop habit.

I continue to believe it is a gateway drug. Outside of medical necessity I am opposed.

People who wish to use it will do it anyway, laws only keep honest people honest. The monies spent on combating and incarcerating offenders can be better spent on other matters, not to mention the criminal/blackmarket it has created. It is a shame we learned nothing from prohibition.

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In my job I come into contact with so many individuals who started their path down to drug hell using marijuana. It was just for recreation purposes. After a while, the "buzz" was no longer there so they graduated to hard drugs such as cocaine, heroin or meth. Others turned to prescription drugs to obtain the "high" that was first experienced through the use of marijuana. In a lot of cases, it lives up to its name of being a "gateway" drug.

I am a juvenile court judge. Recreational use for adults is equal to recreational use for juveniles. The harm to the developing minds and bodies of juveniles is too high. The cost to society will be too high and society has refused to tax alcohol to pay for all the harm it causes. You can tax marijuana high enough to pay for the cost to the lives of kids as they work to become productive adults.

Over time, I have come to accept the medical use of marijuana in certain hardship situations. That being said, there are still too many abuses of medical/therapeutic marijuana.

As far as recreational marijuana, the substance is a dangerous drug. The recreational use of marijuana lacks sufficient oversight to protect the public. Anecdotal evidence shows the use of marijuana breaks down the barriers that otherwise might prevent people from moving on to other dangerous drugs. For example, I have not had a single 2017 methamphetamine case (criminal prosecution or child abuse/neglect action) where the individual using methamphetamine did not have a history of marijuana use.

I am morally opposed to the use of our tax dollars to fight this "crime" rather than using that money to educate and rehabilitate those with addictions. I don't smoke marijuana nor do I want to. And I don't want anyone driving under the influence of any intoxicant-which marijuana undoubtedly is- but the present state of affairs prevents us from reasonably regulating its commerce and use. The status quo further deprives us of valuable tax dollars which could be derived therefrom.

I think it is a very bad idea, mainly for the adverse long-term health and neurological effects, but don't have a moral objection.

But think more education and treatment for substance abuse -- alcohol and otherwise -- is needed to avoid an epidemic of addiction.

Morally, ethically, practically.

I do not believe drug or alcohol use to be moral issues.

Currently, there are practical problems that prevent me from supporting legalization. Primarily, how intoxication is proved in court, and at what level of intoxication should the law punish a person criminally for operation of a motor vehicle during such intoxication.

Alcohol is a much more serious problem.

it is no worse than alcohol and too many lives are destroyed by criminal conviction for illegal using or selling. . Although I do not advocate using a drug that, like alcohol, may be harmful overall, it is not rational to criminalize its sale or use.

The federal designation as a Schedule 1 drug with no medicinal benefits & susceptible to abuse is unsupported by any evidence but has prevented research. The pharmaceutical companies largely funded the campaign against recreational marijuana in Arizona because it would cut into their profits from opioids. Prohibition showed that drug policy that is not based on evidence & is geared toward the minority of the most vulnerable population is not good policy.

Not morally opposed, but we don't need more Americans living impaired.

Decriminalizing in other countries has shown promising decreases in funding jails and lower case loads of drug crimes.

But there needs to be strict enforcement of prohibitions on use by minors (individuals Under 21).

# Are you morally opposed to legalizing recreational use of

## marijuana?

With all that I have seen in the distraction of families and the moral fiber of the community based upon even recreational use of marijuana, I am opposed to its legalization.

Decriminalizing is different than legalizing and is less objectionable to me. I would support changes in the law to take no notice of marijuana, but I do not approve of using marijuana sales as a source of state or other government level tax money. Taxes on marijuana lead to black market transactions (as with cigarettes, but with worse consequences because marijuana is contraband regardless of whether taxes are paid). They also put the electorate in the position of having a financial gain from the increased addiction and depravity of drug users. ("My income taxes can go down if marijuana tax revenue goes up.") Marijuana is an agricultural product. Wheat or corn are 55-60 pounds to the bushel and sell for less than ten dollars a bushel. Marijuana isn't different from corn or wheat; it can be grown dozens of bushels to the acre. If the markets were allowed to work on marijuana like corn or wheat, the cost of marijuana would be so low there would be little financial incentive to sell it. Try paying the rent selling 1/4 ounce bags of flour when a 5 lb bag at the grocers is \$3.50.

My problem is no one seems to have a good way to regulate the substance cogently in a manner like we do with alcohol. Not that we don't have plenty of trouble with alcohol.

I'm not opposed to it but I hope that one day we will have the technology to quantify the levels of THC in the body for DWI purposes. My only concern is that we would see a huge increase in driving under the influence of marijuana.

Medicinal purposes only if approved by physician and monitored for serious illness(es).

This is a gateway drug and leads to the destruction of many young lives - through the theft of motivation, initiative and goal-making behavior in our young people. I'm sure it leads to many high school dropouts.

I'm finding that majority of the marijuana being confiscated is mixed with other drugs. This will only allow more people to be addicted to different kinds of drugs. I am not opposed for it to be used medically, still.

I have legal and practical, not moral concerns. Testing for driving under the influence? Long term effects in the same way alcohol can be damaging.

The "war" on drugs has cost our country (and the world) dearly in terms of human and financial capital, with neither hope for victory nor even substantial reduction. It would be better to divert such resources to rehabilitation and mental health treatment.

From a moral stand point, no, I see it no different than alcohol from a moral stand point. That doesn't mean it should be. I guess no one is willing to agree on the impact it has had on other crime or traffic. It appears in the States that legalized it, enforcement was so low that there was not a significant increase in its use after legalization.

I had a sister who was prescribed pain medication by the truckload for metastatic breast cancer. She was able to eliminate all of that once she was using marijuana. I also think the war on drugs has failed so better to regulate it and tax it. I think alcohol does more damage.

MJ is the least of our problems. Alcohol, prescription drugs and meth are the biggest problems we have in my jurisdiction.

While not morally opposed, I am opposed to legalizing recreational use of marijuana. The preferred way to ingest recreational marijuana is to smoke the drug. My opposition is based on health concerns, because marijuana smoke contains as many or more carcinogens than tobacco smoke. It's hypocritical for a society to make pariahs out of tobacco smokers, high-fructose soft drink users, and eaters of trans fat foods, yet praise the use of recreational marijuana.

Gateway drug and impairs the person. Totally against it.

But it's a qualified no. There should be restrictions akin to the restrictions accompanying recreational use of alcohol - legal age limit, driving under the influence restrictions, etc.

# Are you morally opposed to legalizing recreational use of

## marijuana?

Not morally, but I think we are seeing accidents and addictions beginning to rise in states that have enacted it so far.
Not morally opposed but I think it's a bad idea, even allowing the medical marijuana if allowed to smoke.
Kids can already get marijuana. Why would I want to make it easier. Secondly, we are dumbing down America. Why make it worse. Secondly, does no one see this as a tax on the poor?
Further, all addictive drugs should be legalized or at most classified as misdemeanors for possession of small amounts.
This should be a medical question, not a moral one.
I think this is a very poor question. I do not think the use or non use of marijuana has anything to do with morals. I am opposed to the legalization of recreational marijuana due to the effects it has on the brain. It is not a harmless drug.
Criminalization is ridiculous on all levels.
Recreational use of marijuana can and does lead to an addiction to marijuana which is both unhealthy and a danger to the public when those under the influence get behind the wheel of a car and drive.
I still believe that marijuana is a gateway drug, as do a lot of clinicians. As long as that issue remains unclear, I am certainly opposed to its recreational legalization.
I'm not a fan of recreational marijuana, but jailing people for using it seems unjust and a waste of public resources. If it remains illegal but not enforced, this promotes disrespect for the law. I do favor vigorous enforcement of laws against selling or providing marijuana to underaged people, however.
However as a parent I want to see strict controls on marijuana as on alcoholic beverages to protect minors from unauthorized use.
We have enough problems with impaired people using a legal intoxicating substance (alcohol). We do not need another legal reason to become impaired. Also, I have yet to see the addict who is hooked on heroin, cocaine or meth that did not start with marijuana. Not that all marijuana users progress to harder drugs but why make it easier for them to do so?
My problem is how do you regulate someone who smokes marijuana and gets behind the wheel of a vehicle. It then becomes a whole mess of DWI. No one should be injured or killed because of legalizing marijuana because of a thoughtless driver. It's bad enough when you have alcohol related injuries and this would be another added layer of bad judgments being made.
How is it different or worse than alcohol?
However not a good idea
I find that after 20 years on the bench not one defendant has benefited from using marijuana. Legalizing it will only create more users with more legal problems and health problems.
For those over age 21.
No, but it's a bad idea.
For most people in the criminal, family, and juvenile courts, it has been a gateway to stronger drugs and inability to lead a healthy and productive lifestyle. It sends the wrong message to our youth - smoke or ingest this and you can feel better and escape your problems.
Not morally opposed but professionally concerned.
It will create more problems in the future. Addiction will occur and drivers will be a danger on the roadway. Further addicted parents will have a problem in their parenting skills.

# Are you morally opposed to legalizing recreational use of

## marijuana?

Being a baby boomer, and as a never-user, I witnessed the wide scale marijuana use in the late 60's. Since I would not partake, I lost all of my friends and associates due to their paranoia for several years until they came back around to their senses. Most who used have been consistently more inclined to accept marijuana as acceptable, but not all. I think it is difficult to ridicule something one has done in their past, which is why so many in congress, the White House, entertainment, and the media all seem to think it is OK to make it legal. It is like a vindication for something they did knowing it was wrong at the time because it was illegal.

Based on 40 years working in the criminal justice system, my observation is that people will always find a way to get high or alter their state of consciousness. Alcohol, our "legal" pet drug does far more harm to society than marijuana ever can.

I oppose marijuana legalization for recreational or medical purposes for health reasons not for moral reasons. I favor the development of cannabinoids, and synthetic analogues, as potentially FDA approved medicines. I oppose marijuana legalization for reasons of health. NIDA has clearly demonstrated that marijuana use has many negative health and safety consequences and legalization encourages marijuana use. When marijuana use is legalized I favor a clear statements by health officials about its negative health effects, as is now done for tobacco, another legal drug.

Through working within the Court system, I have seen the devastating effects of mind-altering substances on users and their families, and do not personally believe that legalization is the best choice. De-criminalization is a better choice, such as making possession a misdemeanor rather than a felony.

Morally no, but issues about recreational use of marijuana is much more complicated than morality.

I think it encourages drug use.

I am opposed to the non-medical use of marijuana. Recent studies (esp. Harvard Med., 2014) show the permanent harm caused by chronic use among those under the age of 25, and legalizing recreational use for those over the age of 18 is harmful to younger users, harmful to families, and harmful to society. In my opinion, this harm is not outweighed by the economic benefits to marijuana producers and distributors, or by the economic benefits of taxation of producers and users.

This is a drug that reduces peoples motivation to work and accomplish more. I don't have an issue for legitimate medical uses and I know some Indian tribes use it for their religious ceremony which is fine.

Quite the contrary. I am morally challenged by the continued arbitrary prohibition against marijuana in the face of substantial evidence that it is less dangerous to the individual and less costly to society than the legal use of alcohol and tobacco.

Only because if it's used for pain, people with chronic disease. I feel it would be beneficial and probably cheaper than pills.

Not so sure that it's morally then the fact that it will cause an increase in drug trafficking dangerous drugs. Large amounts will happen. Medicinally, might be ok, but otherwise, It's not a good plan.

Morally? No. Legally and medically? Yes. How do we test roadside for someone driving under the influence?

Marijuana should be treated no differently than tobacco or alcohol. Set a minimum age at which it can be legally purchased, possessed, and consumed; regulate the THC levels and the licenses of those who may distribute it; and tax it accordingly.

Addiction is and will be the number one public health problem in the 21st century. I believe for the vast majority of the underclass in this country, it is a gateway drug leading to addiction.

90% of every felon I sentenced started their journey to addiction with marijuana.

Yes, but to the same extent that I am morally opposed to the consumption of alcoholic beverages and for much the same reasons. But, that argument was lost many years ago.

Not necessarily "morally" opposed but certainly opposed. Only additional societal problems will result with the legalization of marijuana.

# Are you morally opposed to legalizing recreational use of

## marijuana?

I would rather encounter someone 'High' vs. someone 'Drunk'.
I have sad personal, family experience that convinces me that the use of marijuana eventually results in addiction to other controlled substances and the use, possession, transfer or sale of it should be illegal throughout the country.
I feel it can be regulated much like we regulate alcohol consumption.
There is no need for our society to provide more ways for people to check out and avoid reality and responsibilities.
Yes, probably morally opposed. In the sense that it does more harm than good, but that could be said of prohibition. There seems to be a lot of excessive use of marijuana and not such much what might be considered social use, i.e. not daily and not to excess. The opposition is moral because it does harm to individuals (we see that in FM and PC case) and their children. But prohibition of alcohol did not work and prohibition of marijuana has not worked either. Bigger societal issues may be lurking here as elsewhere.
As I see it, it is the gateway to harder drugs!
It is a bad idea, like driving without a seat belt, bungee jumping, or voting for a democrat.
While legalization of marijuana may be an added tax base, personal experience indicates the tax benefit is not worth the dangers and effects of recreational marijuana use.
The societal costs outweigh the benefits.
Moral opposition is not the only reasonable basis for opposition -- opposition based on the better public policy is perfectly sound and compelling.
Actually, I think it is immoral to send people to jail for the recreational use of marijuana.
We now have dealers adding Fentanyl to marijuana resulting in deaths. This also is the beginning of an addictive pathway. I am opposed.
No worse than alcohol. Historically, the country tried to prohibit that and it failed. Now with various states legalizing it, it would probably be wise to get a uniform policy in place.
Morally, no; ethically, yes. This is an item that should be studied and prescribed medicinally. The recreational use is untested. We don't have reliable statistics as we do for alcohol. This opens society to more impaired people driving, boating, or even just working in some capacity that could have ill effects on the public. The rates of children or pets ingesting marijuana or marijuana products increased greatly in the states that allowed recreational use. The THCs in pot have been cultivated to a much higher concentration than in say the 70s or 80s. This is opening Pandora Box for no good reason.
Alcohol creates much greater harm to health and society. Marijuana has many health benefits and recreational use is no more a gateway than alcohol. Ban alcohol and legalize marijuana, we would see less violence, less fatalities on the highway, and probably less suicide rates. I realize it would not be without its consequences, but they should be managed as are alcohol consequences.
Not morally so much, as I believe it is detrimental to people long term.
In addition to all the negative effects of marijuana, I have found in my experience that marijuana has almost always been a gateway drug for those who now abuse meth, heroin, etc.
I am morally opposed to criminalizing private behavior.
It is the gateway drug. Why give out youth or anyone else another door to legally drag their lives into the dirt, and ruin the homes and lives of their children and families forever?
Stop sending me these absolutely stupid surveys. Is there somebody who has actually approved this garbage? Morality is NOT a judicial consideration. Get a life
Please take an honest look at Colorado.. Traffic accidents have increased 4x, crime has increased, Department of Social Services can't keep up with the incidents of child neglect and abuse because the parents (or guardians) are high.. Please.. It won't work. We have enough problems with substance abuse now. Legalizing drugs won't stop it. Even if it is legalized it will be abused even more.
Legalization will allow reasonable regulations and monitoring of use.

# Are you morally opposed to legalizing recreational use of

## **marijuana?**

I believe it should be decriminalized, regulated and taxed.

Though not "morally" opposed, I have not been convinced that legalization is the correct path. Instead of legalization, I favor an approach with fines rather than jail or prison sentences for possession; obviously, there would remain the question of what to do about dealers. I have not seen enough information to decide.

I am not "morally" opposed to legalizing marijuana. However, I do have concerns about access by minors. Remember, this not your grandfather's pot.

Despite contemporary popular sentiment, there is a straight line from marijuana use, however recreational, and more significant criminal activity. Nothing good, and plenty bad, comes from marijuana use - government sanction of its use is absurd, and ignores the simple facts on the ground.

Beer - Pot???

It has been a disaster here in Colorado.

I do not see how it is any different than legalizing alcohol.

Beer and other alcohol is deadlier to society than opiates. We now have a way to police what under the influence is. I don't use but I know many who do.

Alcohol, which is legal, is far more destructive than marijuana.

When I was a lawyer, I represented a multitude of people charged with committing violent crimes while under the influence of alcohol. As a judge, I have seen the same. I have never seen or represented anyone charged with a violent crime while under the influence of cannabis.

This is not a question of morals - it is a policy decision to be based upon our current collective thoughts on the matter.

Morally, no. But I am opposed to legalizing recreational use of marijuana for other reasons.

It's a filthy habit of slack jawed losers.

Marijuana is not any worse than alcohol, a drug that has been legal for centuries.