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## **Medical Marijuana Widely Supported By Likely Voters; Majority Want to Just Say ‘No’ to Proposition 300**

In an election where ‘No’ means ‘Yes’ and ‘Yes’ means ‘No’, a majority of likely voters in Arizona say they want doctors to be able to prescribe Schedule I drugs to their patients. It’s a confusing issue, say the voters, but the bottom line is that people are not happy that the Arizona legislature undermined the vote of the people in 1996 to allow for the medical use of marijuana and other Schedule I drugs.

This survey of 402 likely voters in Arizona was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. The survey was conducted between September 29 and October 7. Results are accurate within a 5% margin of error. This is the first survey of likely voters to be released to the public during the current election season.

### **Just Say ‘No’ To Proposition 300**

Four-out-of-five likely voters in Arizona say they are either not very familiar or not at all familiar with Proposition 300, also known as “The People Have Spoken Proposition.” Once likely voters hear the official wording of the proposition, however, a majority (56%) say they are going to vote ‘No’ on Proposition 300. A ‘No’ vote retains state law allowing doctors to prescribe Schedule I drugs to their patients. Just over one-third of likely voters (38%) say they will vote ‘Yes’ on Proposition 300 to require Federal Food and Drug Administration authorization before Schedule I drugs can be prescribed

for medical purposes. A ‘Yes’ vote on Proposition 300 effectively renders the medical use of Schedule I drugs an impossibility in Arizona.

Age is the most significant factor in determining one’s voting intentions on this issue. Sixty-five percent of likely voters between the ages of 36 and 55 say they will vote ‘No’ on Proposition 300. This compares to 53 percent of likely voters under 36 and 50 percent of likely voters older than 55.

According to Fred Solop, director of the survey, “We are seeing a generational effect when looking at who supports medical use of Schedule I drugs. Baby-boomers are more comfortable recognizing the medicinal effects of certain drugs.”

The issue is still confusing, however. After being read the official language of the proposition, 17 percent of likely voters said the wording is very confusing and another 39 percent said the wording is somewhat confusing.

### **Different Framing Leads to Different Attitudes**

What people think about Proposition 300 is shaped by the messages they hear. Different descriptions of the issue lead to different levels of support and opposition. When voters learn that people voted in 1996 to allow for medical use of Schedule I drugs and the Arizona legislature dismantled that legislation, support for the ‘Yes’ position on Proposition 300 declines from 38 percent to 32 percent. The ‘Yes’ vote today endorses the legislature’s actions, while a ‘No’ vote reaffirms the vote of the people in 1996.

“Voters are unhappy that the Arizona legislature overrode the will of the people in 1996. We are seeing a backlash in the Proposition 300 vote to the earlier actions of the legislature,” said Solop.

Alternatively, when likely voters are told that the federal government today deems Schedule I drugs to have no medical value, support for the ‘No’ position on Proposition 300 drops from 56 percent to 47 percent. The ‘No’ position allows for medical use of Schedule I drugs without federal government approval, while the ‘Yes’ vote on Proposition 300 would require federal government approval of Schedule I drugs for medical use before they are prescribed by doctors in Arizona.



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## STATEWIDE TELEPHONE POLL

**Social Research Laboratory  
Northern Arizona University**

### BACKGROUND MEMO

The statewide telephone poll of likely voters was conducted between September 30 and October 8, 1998. A random sample of 402 Arizonans who were registered to vote and likely to vote on Election Day was interviewed by telephone. Figures of this sampling size are subject to a sampling error of about +/- 5 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from the population. Sampling error does not take into account additional sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The data referred to in this release are presented below.

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about one of the propositions on this year's ballot: Proposition 300, also know as "The People Have Spoken" proposition.

How Familiar are you with this proposition--Very Familiar, Somewhat Familiar, Not Very Familiar, or Not At All Familiar?

	<b>%</b>
Very Familiar	4
Somewhat Familiar	10
Not Very Familiar	30
Not At All Familiar	53
Don't know/ Not sure	3
Refused/No Answer	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

(N= 402)

I'm going to read the official wording of this proposition to you and then ask you how you would vote on this measure if the election were held today.

A "Yes" vote shall have the effect of requiring authorization from the Federal Food and Drug Administration or the United States Congress for the medical use of marijuana before it will be lawful for doctors to prescribe Schedule I drugs, including heroin, LSD, marijuana, and analogs of PCP, to seriously or terminally ill patients in Arizona.

A "No" vote shall have the effect of retaining the provisions of state law allowing doctors to prescribe Schedule I drugs, including heroin, LSD, marijuana and analogs of PCP, to seriously or terminally ill patients without the authorization of the Federal Food and Drug Administration or the United States Congress.

If the election were held today, would you vote "Yes" or "No" on this Proposition?

	%	
1) Yes	38	(N=402)
2) No	56	
3) Don't know/Not sure	5	
4) No answer/Refused	2	
<b>Total</b>	101%	

	Yes	No	Don't Know	
<b>Party</b>				
Democrat	34	59	6	(N=137)
Republican	48	46	6	(N=145)
Independent	34	62	1	(N=74)
<b>Ideology</b>				
Liberal	29	67	4	(N=52)
Conservative	47	44	7	(N=133)
In Between	34	60	4	(N=207)
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	36	56	7	(N=198)
Male	41	55	4	(N=197)
<b>Age</b>				
<35	43	53	3	(N=74)
36-55	31	65	4	(N=135)
56+	40	50	7	(N=192)
<b>Income</b>				
< \$30K	30	58	9	(N=102)
\$30K - \$60K	36	58	6	(N=145)
> \$60K	40	56	3	(N=103)

Did you find the official wording of this proposition to be Very Confusing, Somewhat Confusing, or Not At All Confusing?

	%
1) Very Confusing	17
2) Somewhat Confusing	39
3) Not At All Confusing	41
4) Don't know/Not Sure	2
5) No answer/Refused	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

(N= 402)

In 1996, 65 percent of Arizonans voted to make it legal for doctors to prescribe marijuana and other Schedule I drugs to seriously or terminally ill patients in Arizona. Soon after, the Arizona legislature overrode this vote and dismantled the measure. A "Yes" vote on Proposition 300 supports the Legislature's actions. A "No" vote supports the Peoples' vote in 1996 and reverses the legislature's actions. Does knowing this information make you more likely to vote "Yes" to Proposition 300 and support the legislature or more likely to vote "No" to Proposition 300 and support the peoples' vote.

	%
1) More Likely to Vote "Yes"	32
2) More Likely to Vote "No"	57
3) Doesn't affect Vote	4
4) Don't know/ Not Sure	6
5) No answer/Refused	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

(N= 402)

Proposition 300 proposes that all Schedule I drug must have federal government approval before they are prescribed by doctors. Currently all drugs on Schedule I are deemed by the federal government to have no medical value. Does knowing this information make you more likely to vote "Yes" to Proposition 300 to require federal government approval of these drugs for medical use or more likely to vote "No" and allow for medical use of these drugs without federal government approval?

	%
1) More Likely to Vote "Yes"	39
2) More Likely to Vote "No"	47
3) Doesn't affect Vote	6
4) Don't know/Not sure	7
5) No answer/Refused	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

(N= 402)