



This Citizens' Statement is authored by an independent panel of 22 voters who participated in the Arizona Citizens' Initiative Review, Aug. 11-14, 2016 in Phoenix. CIR Panelists were randomly selected from registered voters in Arizona and balanced to fairly reflect the state's electorate and population. Pros & cons and the opinions expressed in this statement are those only of citizen panel members, developed through the CIR process as facilitated by Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University. They are not official opinions or positions of Morrison Institute, ASU, the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission, the Arizona Secretary of State's office, Healthy Democracy or any government agency. This final statement has not been altered.

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## Key Findings

These findings were ranked by citizen panelists, starting with the most important for voters to know.

- The initiative enacts a 15% tax on retail sales, allocated to K-12, full-day kindergarten programs, & education programs on relative harms of alcohol, marijuana, & other substances. Reports show that it would generate over \$80 million a year.
- A regulated system of legal sales creates economic opportunities to grow our economy and will create new jobs in our state. Other states with regulated marijuana have seen an economic benefit in legal sales and an increase in tax revenue.
- Compared to other controlled substances marijuana is less toxic, less harmful to the body and less likely to contribute to violent/reckless behavior. The CDC has determined marijuana causes less dependence than other controlled substances.
- Dispensaries must be located 500 feet or greater from all Pre K-thru 12 grades/programs, including adjacent recreational fenced-in facilities.
- Allowing legal, regulated sales for adults would stifle the criminal market. As some states have legalized recreational marijuana, confiscations of the drug along the southwest border has declined.

## Statement in Support of the Measure

As members of the 2016 Arizona Citizens' Initiative Review, we find the following statements as potential reasons to vote "yes" on the Arizona Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act:

- Drug-testing policies that are legal now will remain legal. The initiative protects employer's rights to enforce drug free policies and property owners and landlords will have the right to prohibit marijuana from being grown on their property.
- Prohibition policy has been a failure at keeping marijuana away from youth. This measure puts marijuana behind the counter & restricts its sale to adults only.
- Marijuana prohibition has been inefficient, wasteful, & counterproductive. This measure will bring much needed product standards & safeguards for consumers.

Prop 205 assures Arizonans of the societal and economic benefits to be gained by legalizing marijuana for recreational use. Safety, reassurance, and transparency are the core values incorporated in this measure.

## Statement in Opposition to the Measure

As members of the 2016 Arizona Citizens' Initiative Review, we find the following statements as potential reasons to vote "no" on the Arizona Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act:

- Packaged and labeled edibles which resemble popular, colorful candies, gummies, and snacks will be sold in recreational marijuana retail stores.
- Recreational marijuana may impact public safety since Arizona currently does not utilize a breathalyzer type device to detect impairment.
- Implementation of the initiative by the Dept. of Marijuana Licenses and Control will determine how it impacts the community, not the Governor or Legislature.

The safety and health of Arizonans should take priority over the financial benefits of Prop 205 (Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act). The future of recreational marijuana has the potential to negatively impact our communities and our youth. Safety, justice, and community are the core values at stake in this matter.