

About the Maine Marijuana Policy Initiative



The Maine Marijuana Policy Initiative is a new organization begun in April of 2006. We hope to stimulate a deliberative, open and truthful dialogue by all interested parties around this issue. We envision a state where marijuana is regulated and taxed in the interests of local communities.

We feel strongly that the creation of such a system will have a number of positive effects on our communities including:

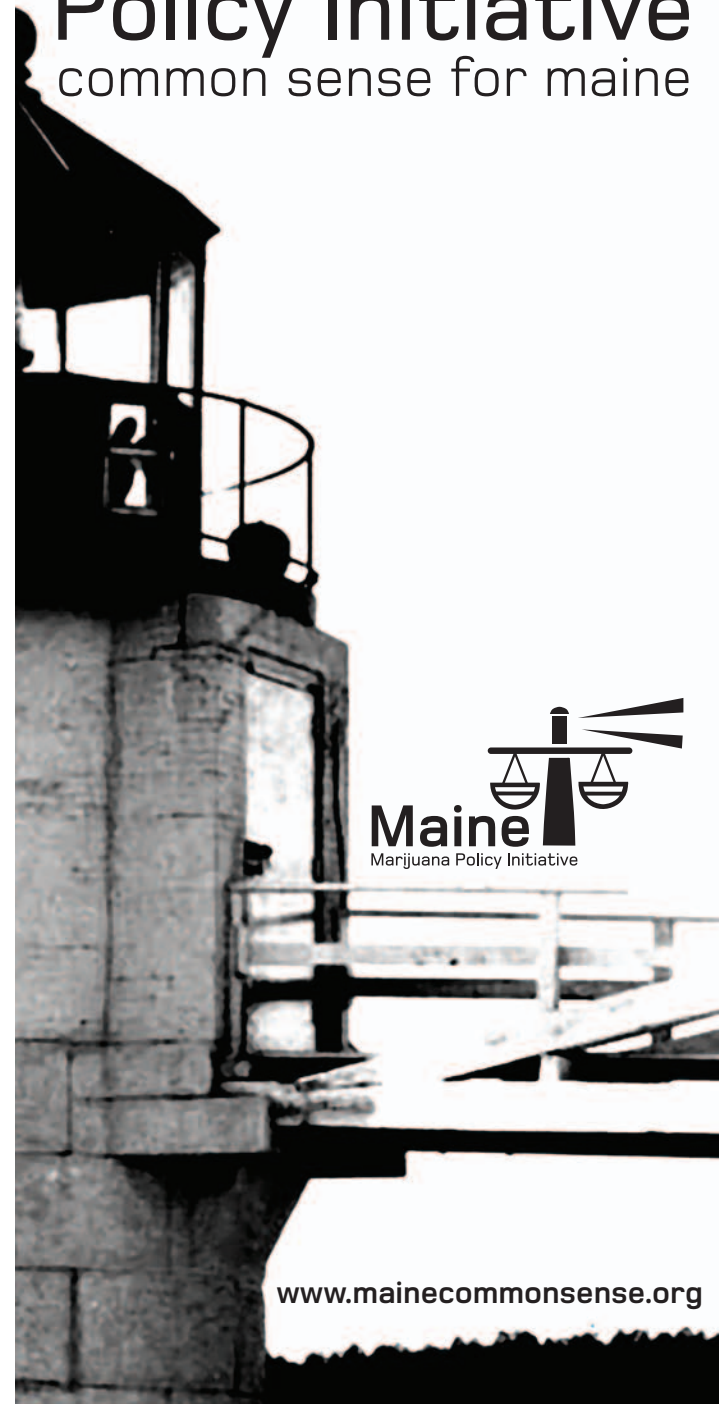
- Creating a revenue stream for local communities
- End the wasteful utilization of law enforcement resources on the “war on drugs”
- An end to the incarceration of individuals for buying, selling, or possessing marijuana

We believe that conditions are ideal in Maine to move forward with a campaign to regulate marijuana. As the economics of Maine and the world change we must always be considering other ways to effectively fund vital areas that keep a community healthy, such as education, public works projects, farmers markets, protection of open space for hunting and fishing, sustainable harvesting of our forests and other important priorities for local communities.



Maine Marijuana Policy Initiative

common sense for maine



www.mainecommonsense.org

It is estimated that 65% of Maine's citizens between ages 26-34 have used marijuana with approximately 95,000 Maine adults now using marijuana on a routine basis. A system that creates revenue and provides oversight and regulation for the small scale production and sale of marijuana could help cash strapped local governments, contribute to a sustainable economy, and help bring an end to the failed war on drugs.

The state's residents also pride themselves on a strong independent streak as shown historically by Maine elected officials at a national level such as Margaret Chase Smith (R) and George Mitchell (D) as well as the emergence as the only state to re-elect a Green Party (G) candidate to the statehouse, and a healthy Libertarian (L) movement that permeates much of Maine thinking.

We call on citizens, businesses, organizations and leaders from all aspects of civil society to join us in calling for "Maine Common Sense". What we envision is what Maine is known for; a rational, pragmatic, and common sense solution to the question in front of us. We call on all aspects of Maine civil society to join us to move this question forward. We want your input, your ideas, and your support!



Marijuana Prohibition Facts - 2006

- 1 Very few Americans had even heard about marijuana when it was first federally prohibited in 1937. Today, between 95 and 100 million Americans admit to having tried it, and about 14.5 million say they use it at least monthly.
- 2 According to government-funded researchers, high school seniors consistently report that marijuana is easily available, despite decades of a nationwide drug war. With little variation, every year about 85% consider marijuana "fairly easy" or "very easy" to obtain. Data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that more U.S. high school students currently smoke marijuana, which is completely unregulated, than smoke cigarettes, which are sold by regulated businesses.
- 3 There have been over seven million marijuana arrests in the United States since 1995, including 771,984 arrests in 2004—more than for all violent crimes combined, and an all-time record. One person is arrested for marijuana every 41 seconds. About 89% of all marijuana arrests are for possession—not manufacture or distribution.
- 4 Every comprehensive, objective government commission that has examined the marijuana phenomenon throughout the past 100 years has recommended that adults should not be criminalized for using marijuana.
- 5 Cultivation of even one marijuana plant is a federal felony.
- 6 Lengthy mandatory minimum sentences apply to myriad offenses. For example, a person must serve a five-year mandatory minimum sentence if federally convicted of cultivating 100 marijuana plants—including seedlings or bug-infested, sickly plants. This is longer than the average sentences for auto theft and manslaughter!

Membership form:

Sliding Scale

\$15 low income

\$25 individual

\$40 family

\$ other

Name _____

Occupation _____

Organization (if any) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Mail your check or money order made out to: Maine Marijuana Policy Initiative PO Box 1074, Lewiston, ME 04240

For more information or to get involved, please visit our website at www.mainecommonsense.org, call 207.333.6985 or email info@mainecommonsense.org

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