

# THE WMUR GRANITE STATE POLL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

April 9, 2014

### MOST GRANITE STATERS SUPPORT CHANGES TO STATE'S MARIJUANA LAWS

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DURHAM, NH – Support for legalizing marijuana and taxing it like alcohol remains stable. Three in five Granite Staters support a current bill that would decriminalize marijuana offenses. Almost half of New Hampshire residents would prefer the legislature legalizing and taxing marijuana instead of decriminalizing or keeping laws the way they are now.

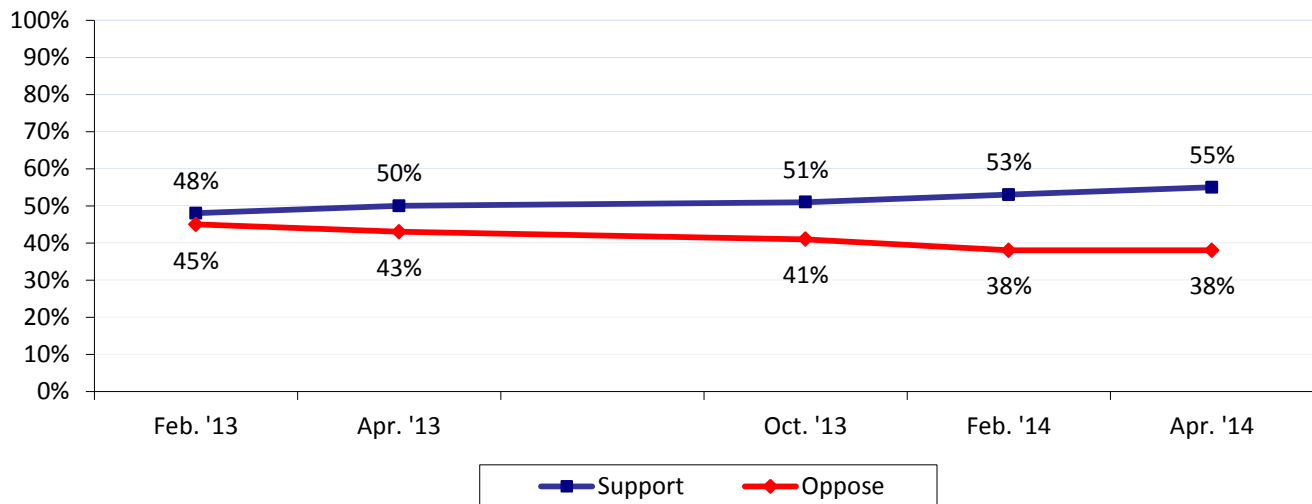
These findings are based on the latest **WMUR Granite State Poll**,\* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred and ten (510) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone between March 24 and April 1, 2014. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.3 percent.

### Recreational Marijuana Legalization

Last year, New Hampshire became the 19<sup>th</sup> state to legalize marijuana for medical purposes. Last month, the New Hampshire House killed a bill that would have legalized marijuana for recreational use. There is modest support for legalizing recreational marijuana in New Hampshire -- 55% support legalizing marijuana for recreational use (39% strongly and 16% somewhat), 38% oppose (29% strongly and 9% somewhat), 6% are neutral and 2% are unsure.

Support for recreational marijuana legalization is strongest among liberals (72%), Manchester area residents (68%), young people (67%), Democrats (65%) and high school graduates (65%). Opposition is strongest among regular churchgoers (63% oppose), older residents (56%), residents along the Massachusetts border (53%), Republicans (51%) and conservatives (47%).

### Support/Oppose Legalizing Marijuana For Recreational Use



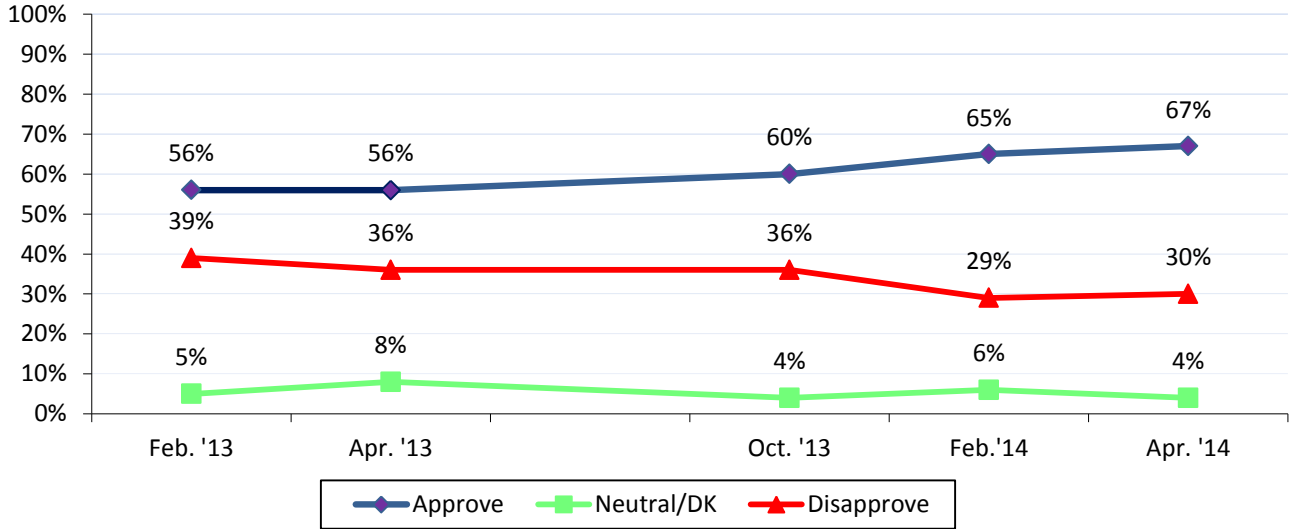
\* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Poll*, sponsored by WMUR-TV, and conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

### Approve Of Marijuana Sold At Licensed Outlets

If marijuana were legalized in the Granite State, two-thirds (67%) of New Hampshire residents approve of selling marijuana at licensed retail outlets and being taxed similar to alcohol (50% strongly and 17% somewhat), 30% disapprove of this idea (24% strongly and 6% somewhat), 3% are neutral and 1% are unsure. Support for this idea has increased eleven percentage points since this time last year.

Liberals (83%), Manchester area residents (79%), Democrats (77%) and young people (77%) are most likely to approve of this concept while regular churchgoers (51% oppose), Republicans (46%), older adults (42%), conservatives (42%) and North Country residents (41%) are most likely to disapprove.

### Approve Of Marijuana Being Sold At Licensed Outlets and Taxed At Liquor Levels

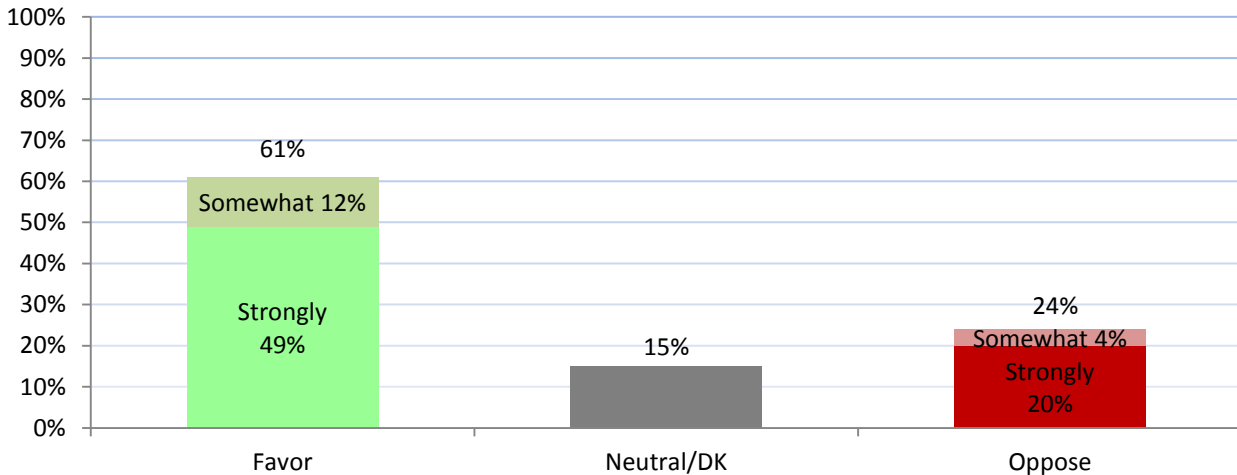


### Marijuana Decriminalization

Although the bill to legalize marijuana was voted down, the New Hampshire House did pass a decriminalization bill (HB1625) that would reduce penalties for minor marijuana offenses and make the punishment similar to minor traffic violations. Three in five (61%) Granite Staters favor decriminalization (49% strongly, 12% somewhat), 24% oppose it (20% strongly, 4% somewhat), 3% are neutral and 12% don't know enough to say.

While Democrats (72%) are more likely to support decriminalization, it is also supported by 69% of independents and 48% of Republicans. Liberals (73%) and Manchester area residents (71%) are more likely to support decriminalization while frequent churchgoers (43% oppose), older residents (39%), and North Country residents (39%) are more likely to oppose decriminalization.

### Support/Oppose Decriminalization of Marijuana in NH



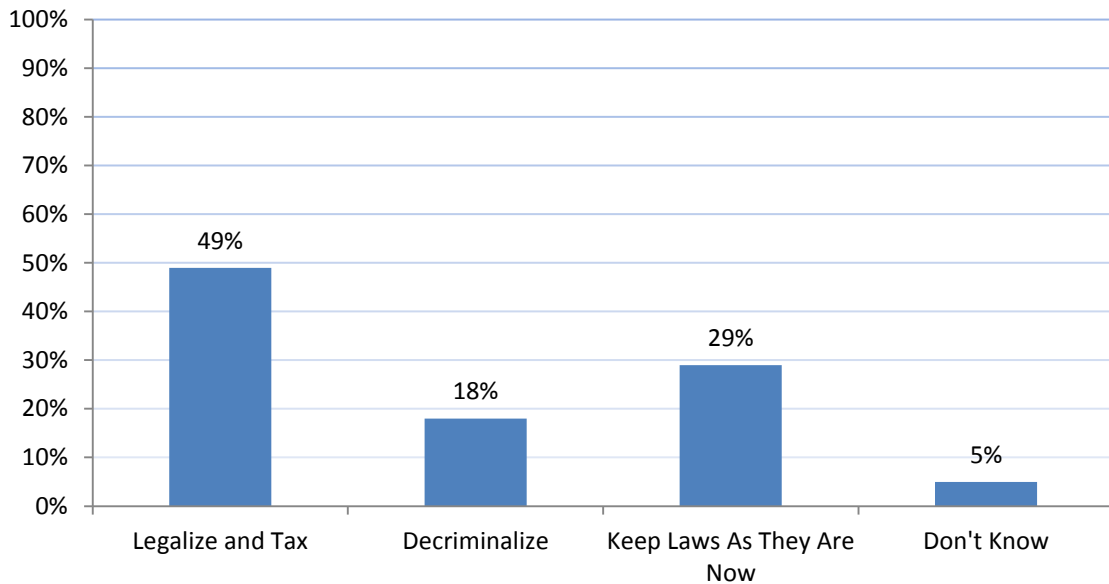
## Preference For Marijuana Laws

When asked what they would prefer the state legislature to do with marijuana laws, 49% want marijuana legalized and taxed like alcohol, 18% want it decriminalized, 29% want to keep marijuana laws as they are now and 5% don't know or are unsure.

Majorities of Democrats (57%) and Independents (57%) prefer legalizing and taxing marijuana, while Republicans are more divided on the issue as 37% prefer legalization and 37% prefer keeping laws the way they are now.

Legalization is most likely to be preferred by young people (67%), high school graduates (62%), liberals (61%) and residents of the Manchester area (66%) and North Country (60%). Decriminalization is most likely to be preferred by residents with a postgraduate education (29%). Keeping the laws as they are now is more likely to be preferred by regular churchgoers (51%), older residents (45%), conservatives (41%) and residents along the Mass Border (39%).

Preference for NH's Position on Marijuana Laws



## Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest WMUR Granite State Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred and ten (510) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone between March 24 and April 1, 2014. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.3 percent.

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households, respondent sex, age, and region of the state. In addition to potential sampling error, all surveys have other potential sources of non-sampling error including question order effects, question wording effects, and non-response.

### Marijuana Legalization

"Do you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal recreational use in New Hampshire?"

	<u>Feb. '13</u>	<u>Apr. '13</u>	<u>Oct. '13</u>	<u>Feb. '14</u>	<u>Apr. '14</u>
Strongly Support	31%	32%	36%	35%	<b>39%</b>
Somewhat Support	17%	18%	15%	18%	<b>16%</b>
Neutral	6%	6%	7%	8%	<b>6%</b>
Somewhat Oppose	8%	7%	11%	14%	<b>9%</b>
Strongly Oppose	37%	36%	30%	24%	<b>29%</b>
Don't Know	1%	1%	1%	2%	<b>2%</b>
(N=)	(578)	(506)	(602)	(566)	<b>(510)</b>

"If small amounts of marijuana were legalized for personal use in New Hampshire, would you approve or disapprove of marijuana being sold at licensed retail outlets (*In Feb-April 2013 "state liquor stores"*) and taxed at levels similar to alcohol or tobacco?"

*Asked in October 2013 "The New Hampshire House is currently considering a bill that would make possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal recreational use legal. Retailers would be required to get a yearly license from the state in order to sell marijuana. The state would collect a 15 percent tax on all marijuana sales. Based on what you have heard would you support or oppose this bill?"*

	<u>Feb. '13</u>	<u>Apr. '13</u>	<u>Oct. '13</u>	<u>Feb. '14</u>	<u>Apr. '14</u>
Strongly Approve/Support	40%	40%	44%	46%	<b>50%</b>
Somewhat Approve/Support	16%	17%	16%	19%	<b>17%</b>
Neutral	3%	5%	2%	4%	<b>3%</b>
Somewhat Oppose	6%	5%	8%	8%	<b>6%</b>
Strongly Oppose	33%	32%	28%	21%	<b>24%</b>
Don't Know	2%	3%	2%	2%	<b>1%</b>
(N=)	(577)	(503)	(602)	(564)	<b>(508)</b>

## Marijuana Decriminalization

“Recently the New Hampshire House passed a bill that would decriminalize marijuana in the state. If signed into law this bill would significantly reduce the penalties for minor marijuana offenses, making the punishment similar to minor traffic violations. Would you favor or oppose the decriminalization of marijuana in New Hampshire or don’t you know enough about this to say?”

IF FAVOR/OPPOSE: “Is that strongly or just somewhat?”

	<u>Apr. '14</u>
Strongly Favor	49%
Somewhat Favor	12%
Neutral	3%
Somewhat Oppose	4%
Strongly Oppose	20%
Don't Know	12%
(N=)	(509)

## Preference For Marijuana Laws in NH

“Which one of the following comes closest to what you would like to see the New Hampshire legislature do with marijuana laws –would you like lawmakers to legalize marijuana and tax it like alcohol ... decriminalize marijuana ... or keep marijuana laws as they are now?” ROTATE RESPONSES

	<u>Apr. '14</u>
Legalize & Tax Marijuana	49%
Decriminalize Marijuana	18%
Keep Marijuana Laws As They Are Now	29%
Don't Know	5%
(N=)	(507)

**Support/Oppose Recreational Marijuana?**

	<b><u>Strongly Support</u></b>	<b><u>Somewhat Support</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b>	<b><u>Somewhat Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>Strongly Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>DK</u></b>	<b><u>(N)</u></b>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>510</b>
Registered Democrat	44%	16%	9%	3%	25%	4%	97
Registered Undeclared	42%	19%	4%	8%	25%	1%	215
Registered Republican	23%	12%	9%	11%	44%	1%	119
Democrat	49%	16%	5%	6%	22%	3%	174
Independent	49%	13%	9%	7%	20%	1%	107
Republican	25%	18%	5%	10%	41%	1%	189
Liberal	57%	15%	3%	3%	21%	1%	102
Moderate	40%	13%	7%	11%	25%	3%	193
Conservative	28%	18%	6%	4%	43%	1%	156
Support Tea Party	35%	21%	5%	10%	28%	1%	98
Neutral	40%	15%	4%	8%	31%	1%	196
Oppose Tea Party	41%	14%	6%	8%	28%	3%	169
Romney/Ryan Voter	25%	16%	6%	10%	40%	2%	180
Obama/Biden Voter	45%	17%	5%	7%	24%	3%	209
Other	66%	7%	0%	6%	21%	0%	21
Did Not Vote in 2008	53%	17%	4%	8%	18%	0%	68
Union household	38%	21%	11%	5%	24%	1%	58
Non-union	39%	15%	5%	9%	30%	2%	440
Read Union Leader	30%	9%	8%	16%	36%	1%	106
Read Boston Globe	40%	18%	7%	5%	29%	1%	44
Watch WMUR	37%	15%	6%	9%	31%	2%	314
Listen to NHPR	46%	13%	4%	10%	24%	2%	156
10 yrs or less in NH	43%	8%	1%	19%	29%	0%	75
11 to 20 years	44%	9%	3%	8%	33%	2%	91
More than 20 years	37%	19%	7%	7%	28%	2%	324
18 to 34	51%	16%	4%	12%	18%	0%	127
35 to 49	47%	11%	5%	7%	28%	2%	140
50 to 64	36%	21%	6%	6%	29%	2%	137
65 and over	17%	15%	9%	12%	44%	3%	85
Male	41%	14%	5%	10%	29%	1%	251
Female	36%	18%	6%	8%	30%	2%	259
High school or less	54%	11%	5%	7%	23%	0%	102
Some college	35%	16%	6%	16%	24%	2%	128
College graduate	39%	17%	5%	6%	31%	3%	171
Post-graduate	30%	18%	7%	5%	38%	1%	95
Attend services 1 or more/week	18%	14%	4%	13%	50%	1%	111
1-2 times a month	25%	22%	16%	15%	21%	1%	31
Less often	39%	16%	3%	10%	30%	2%	138
Never	53%	16%	7%	5%	18%	2%	202
North Country	44%	14%	0%	12%	28%	3%	45
Central / Lakes	33%	26%	4%	8%	25%	3%	83
Connecticut Valley	34%	18%	9%	7%	32%	0%	71
Mass Border	33%	11%	3%	12%	41%	0%	136
Seacoast	44%	12%	9%	4%	29%	3%	98
Manchester Area	50%	18%	8%	9%	12%	2%	76
First Cong. Dist	40%	15%	8%	7%	28%	2%	251
Second Cong. Dist	38%	16%	4%	11%	31%	1%	255

**Approve/Disapprove Marijuana Sold At Licensed Retail Outlets?**

	<b><u>Strongly Approve</u></b>	<b><u>Somewhat Approve</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b>	<b><u>Somewhat Disapprove</u></b>	<b><u>Strongly Disapprove</u></b>	<b><u>DK</u></b>	<b><u>(N)</u></b>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>508</b>
Registered Democrat	56%	19%	2%	2%	17%	4%	96
Registered Undeclared	50%	21%	2%	6%	22%	0%	215
Registered Republican	35%	10%	5%	12%	36%	1%	119
Democrat	62%	15%	2%	3%	17%	2%	173
Independent	54%	23%	2%	5%	15%	1%	107
Republican	36%	14%	4%	10%	36%	1%	189
Liberal	65%	18%	1%	1%	13%	3%	101
Moderate	49%	19%	2%	10%	20%	1%	192
Conservative	43%	11%	3%	3%	39%	1%	156
Support Tea Party	49%	11%	4%	9%	28%	0%	98
Neutral	52%	15%	2%	4%	26%	2%	196
Oppose Tea Party	50%	20%	3%	7%	18%	1%	169
Romney/Ryan Voter	36%	16%	2%	9%	35%	1%	180
Obama/Biden Voter	57%	18%	2%	4%	18%	2%	208
Other	68%	4%	11%	1%	16%	0%	21
Did Not Vote in 2008	67%	7%	4%	6%	16%	0%	68
Union household	53%	24%	0%	11%	12%	0%	58
Non-union	50%	15%	3%	5%	26%	1%	439
Read Union Leader	38%	17%	5%	12%	26%	2%	106
Read Boston Globe	47%	5%	5%	9%	28%	5%	44
Watch WMUR	45%	18%	3%	6%	25%	2%	314
Listen to NHPR	50%	19%	3%	7%	19%	2%	156
10 yrs or less in NH	57%	12%	2%	6%	21%	2%	75
11 to 20 years	52%	11%	2%	7%	28%	0%	91
More than 20 years	48%	19%	3%	5%	24%	1%	324
18 to 34	64%	13%	2%	9%	11%	0%	127
35 to 49	54%	15%	2%	2%	25%	1%	140
50 to 64	50%	16%	3%	6%	24%	1%	136
65 and over	28%	23%	3%	6%	36%	4%	85
Male	53%	15%	1%	6%	23%	1%	251
Female	46%	18%	4%	6%	26%	1%	257
High school or less	65%	11%	3%	0%	19%	1%	102
Some college	47%	21%	0%	10%	20%	2%	127
College graduate	50%	15%	2%	6%	28%	0%	171
Post-graduate	38%	19%	7%	6%	27%	3%	95
Attend services 1 or more/week	31%	14%	2%	5%	46%	1%	111
1-2 times a month	36%	28%	4%	7%	20%	4%	31
Less often	43%	23%	2%	9%	23%	1%	138
Never	69%	12%	3%	3%	12%	1%	201
North Country	46%	13%	0%	13%	28%	0%	45
Central / Lakes	60%	10%	3%	2%	25%	0%	83
Connecticut Valley	44%	20%	2%	7%	25%	2%	71
Mass Border	41%	18%	3%	10%	26%	2%	136
Seacoast	49%	19%	1%	2%	29%	1%	98
Manchester Area	62%	17%	5%	4%	11%	1%	75
First Cong. Dist	52%	15%	3%	3%	27%	1%	250
Second Cong. Dist	48%	18%	2%	8%	22%	2%	254

**Support/Oppose Decriminalization Of Marijuana?**

	<b>Strongly Favor</b> <u>Favor</u> <b>49%</b>	<b>Somewhat Favor</b> <u>Favor</u> <b>12%</b>	<b>Neutral</b> <u>Neutral</u> <b>3%</b>	<b>Somewhat Oppose</b> <u>Oppose</u> <b>4%</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b> <u>Oppose</u> <b>20%</b>	<b>DK</b> <u>DK</u> <b>12%</b>	<b>(N)</b> <u>(N)</u> <b>509</b>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>							
Registered Democrat	57%	11%	1%	1%	13%	17%	97
Registered Undeclared	48%	16%	4%	3%	18%	11%	215
Registered Republican	36%	12%	6%	7%	29%	10%	118
Democrat	62%	10%	2%	1%	13%	12%	174
Independent	51%	18%	5%	2%	11%	12%	107
Republican	36%	12%	4%	7%	30%	12%	189
Liberal	62%	11%	1%	0%	14%	12%	102
Moderate	50%	16%	3%	5%	16%	11%	192
Conservative	41%	10%	3%	4%	31%	12%	156
Support Tea Party	59%	10%	6%	3%	19%	3%	98
Neutral	44%	15%	2%	4%	22%	13%	196
Oppose Tea Party	51%	13%	1%	5%	16%	15%	169
Romney/Ryan Voter	38%	13%	7%	5%	27%	10%	180
Obama/Biden Voter	56%	13%	1%	2%	15%	13%	209
Other	73%	1%	6%	0%	14%	6%	21
Did Not Vote in 2008	61%	3%	0%	7%	17%	12%	68
Union household	56%	7%	7%	6%	7%	16%	58
Non-union	48%	13%	3%	4%	22%	11%	439
Read Union Leader	49%	9%	6%	2%	20%	15%	106
Read Boston Globe	53%	17%	2%	2%	14%	12%	44
Watch WMUR	44%	14%	3%	3%	22%	14%	314
Listen to NHPR	54%	13%	5%	3%	12%	13%	156
10 yrs or less in NH	42%	15%	10%	0%	25%	8%	75
11 to 20 years	45%	16%	2%	3%	21%	12%	91
More than 20 years	52%	11%	2%	4%	19%	12%	324
18 to 34	62%	5%	4%	5%	14%	10%	127
35 to 49	50%	15%	5%	1%	15%	14%	140
50 to 64	51%	17%	1%	1%	22%	7%	137
65 and over	29%	14%	2%	10%	29%	17%	85
Male	52%	14%	2%	5%	19%	9%	251
Female	46%	11%	5%	3%	20%	15%	257
High school or less	55%	13%	2%	2%	13%	15%	102
Some college	50%	10%	7%	4%	20%	9%	128
College graduate	49%	15%	2%	4%	21%	9%	171
Post-graduate	43%	11%	1%	5%	23%	17%	94
Attend services 1 or more/week	28%	13%	2%	6%	37%	15%	111
1-2 times a month	36%	16%	13%	10%	13%	12%	31
Less often	48%	12%	4%	4%	19%	13%	138
Never	64%	12%	2%	1%	12%	9%	201
North Country	49%	6%	3%	9%	30%	3%	45
Central / Lakes	48%	13%	0%	3%	24%	12%	83
Connecticut Valley	42%	11%	9%	2%	22%	15%	71
Mass Border	42%	16%	2%	6%	22%	12%	136
Seacoast	54%	13%	4%	2%	17%	10%	98
Manchester Area	62%	9%	3%	2%	7%	17%	75
First Cong. Dist	53%	10%	3%	3%	18%	13%	250
Second Cong. Dist	46%	14%	4%	4%	22%	10%	254



**Preference of Marijuana Laws in NH**

	<u>Legalize &amp; Tax</u>	<u>Decriminalize</u>	<u>Keep Laws As They Are Now</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>(N)</u>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>507</b>
Registered Democrat	57%	15%	25%	3%	97
Registered Undeclared	50%	21%	24%	4%	215
Registered Republican	34%	21%	41%	4%	117
Democrat	57%	18%	21%	3%	173
Independent	57%	17%	23%	3%	107
Republican	37%	21%	37%	5%	188
Liberal	61%	14%	24%	2%	102
Moderate	52%	21%	22%	6%	191
Conservative	42%	14%	41%	3%	155
Support Tea Party	43%	28%	25%	4%	97
Neutral	52%	13%	32%	3%	196
Oppose Tea Party	49%	20%	27%	4%	169
Romney/Ryan Voter	35%	22%	38%	4%	179
Obama/Biden Voter	56%	19%	23%	3%	208
Other	66%	7%	27%	0%	21
Did Not Vote in 2008	62%	9%	20%	8%	68
Union household	43%	25%	25%	7%	58
Non-union	50%	17%	29%	4%	438
Read Union Leader	39%	23%	33%	5%	104
Read Boston Globe	45%	33%	18%	4%	43
Watch WMUR	45%	19%	31%	4%	312
Listen to NHPR	48%	25%	24%	3%	156
10 yrs or less in NH	48%	16%	32%	4%	75
11 to 20 years	54%	12%	31%	2%	91
More than 20 years	48%	21%	27%	4%	322
18 to 34	67%	10%	21%	2%	127
35 to 49	52%	21%	22%	5%	140
50 to 64	42%	25%	29%	3%	136
65 and over	34%	15%	45%	6%	84
Male	52%	17%	27%	4%	251
Female	46%	18%	30%	6%	256
High school or less	62%	14%	22%	3%	102
Some college	50%	15%	28%	7%	128
College graduate	49%	17%	31%	4%	169
Post-graduate	37%	29%	31%	4%	95
Attend services 1 or more/week	32%	15%	51%	2%	110
1-2 times a month	49%	12%	29%	10%	31
Less often	46%	23%	26%	5%	137
Never	62%	17%	17%	5%	202
North Country	60%	11%	25%	5%	45
Central / Lakes	47%	20%	29%	4%	83
Connecticut Valley	42%	25%	28%	6%	71
Mass Border	36%	20%	39%	5%	136
Seacoast	54%	16%	26%	4%	97
Manchester Area	66%	12%	16%	6%	75
First Cong. Dist	53%	14%	27%	6%	249
Second Cong. Dist	45%	22%	30%	3%	254

