

Marijuana in California: The player **politics** and policy **issues.**

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All eyes on California

- One of the world's largest economies
- Quasi-legal marijuana for 19 years
- Tourism
- Hemp production
- Future exports
- Heavy lift and big responsibility

Today's talk

- Where are we now?
- Who are the players?
- What are the policy considerations?

Two decades of “legal” marijuana

- Prop. 215 passed in 1996
- No state level regulation
- Open list of conditions
- Patchwork of regulation: feast or famine
- No protections for medical marijuana patients
- Same banking issues as legal states
- Feds not obeying their own rules
- Cultivation: don't ask don't tell
- Impact on youth use and crime? Both down since 1996.

The cast of characters...AFD

- Marijuana reform groups (MPP, CCPR, CANORML)
- Social justice reform groups (DPA, ACLU, NAACP)
- Medical Marijuana advocates (ASA, GLACA)
- Academic and research interests (BRC, CSAM, RAND)
- Politicians (Gavin, Kamala, Diane, Jerry)
- Special interest groups (Enviro, labor, parents)
- The marijuana and hemp industry (CCIA, HIA)
- The opposition (SAM, law enforcement, many treatment folks, some Republicans)
- The Faith community

Policy Considerations

- Home grow
- Regulation of edibles
- Licensing structure for cultivation
- Priority licensing for dispensaries
- Barriers to entry for the industry
- Tax structure
- How to handle medical marijuana
- DUI and workplace drug testing
- Labor considerations
- Environmental impact
- Revenue allocation

What will help/hurt us

HELP

- A unified voice in terms of policy demands
- A willingness to compromise
- An understanding of the difference between “right” and “winnable”
- Keeping the big picture in mind: stop the bleeding and begin to stitch the wound caused by marijuana prohibition.

HURT

- Presenting as a base of chaotic support
- Big money from opposition
- Multiple ballot measures
- Getting bogged down in details

No matter how light the punishment...

- 2010-2013: African Americans make up 7% of CA population but 23% of those arrested for marijuana felonies.
- African Americans more likely to be charged with possession with intent, which can carry a stiffer penalty and is largely subjective.
- Infractions still administered in a racially biased way
 - Fresno: 974 infractions in 2012. African Americans 21% (8% of pop); whites 19% (30% of pop)
 - Los Angeles: 2,459 infractions in 2012. African Americans 25% (<10% pop); whites 21% (33% pop).

Questions?

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Thank you!

