



behavior research center's

# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

Rated in the Top 15% of Political Polls in the U.S.

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2015-II-04]

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**MARIJUANA: MAJORITY FAVOR LEGALIZING SIMPLE POSSESSION.**  
**83% FAVOR PERMITTING ARIZONA UNIVERSITIES TO CONDUCT RESEARCH**  
**ON MEDICAL BENEFITS OF MARIJUANA FOR SOLDIERS, EPILEPTIC**  
**CHILDREN & ALZHEIMERS SUFFERS**

Phoenix, Arizona, June 03, 2015 – In the wake of the University of Arizona decision to fire a prominent researcher who had received federal approval from drug officials to study the effects of marijuana on patients suffering from post traumatic stress disorder, the public here in Arizona overwhelmingly supports (83%) research of the type she proposed. Suzanne A. Sisley, an assistant professor of clinical psychiatry and the lead person in the research program alleges that her firing traced to pressure put on the university by Republican state legislators who control the university purse strings. University officials deny that they were pressured in any way by elected officials.

Whether Sisley's allegations are true or not, 83 percent of the public favors this type of university research in Arizona. Sisley's research proposal has since been considered for approval by the University of Colorado, along with the two million dollar grant that would come with approval. Eighty percent or more of each age group studied support this type of research.

On the question of legalization of simple possession of small amounts of marijuana, 53 percent of Arizonans favor legalizing for personal use – a finding almost identical with a national Pew poll released earlier this month. While 53 percent favor legalization of personal possession, there remains a partisan divide on this issue. Thus, 64 percent of Democrats approve, as do 53 percent of Independent voters. The only outliers are Republican voters, among whom a third are

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in support but 61 percent oppose. Strongest support for legalizing possession is found in rural Arizona (58%) and in Maricopa County (53%) The public in Pima County also favors such legalization but by a lower ratio of 47 to 43 percent.

As might be expected, younger residents are the most supportive of legalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana, but older residents are not outside of what seems to be a growing trend for approval. Thus, residents under 35 years of age approve of legalization by 71 to 26 percent, while 35 to 54 year olds favor it by 47 to 42 percent. Forty-five percent of residents over 54 years of age, are in favor while 46 percent are opposed.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2015-II-04), is based on 701 interviews with adult heads of household statewide including 457 registered voters, conducted between April 29 and May 10, 2015. Interviewing was conducted in English or Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on both land lines and cell phones. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, and race were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.8 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed and plus or minus 4.7 percent among voters. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program sponsored by the Center.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**Rocky Mountain Poll is rated in top 15 percent of polls in America:** In 2014, Nate Silver of the noted analytics website *fivethirtyeight.com* rated BRC in the top tier of political polling firms in America for methodology and accuracy. Mr. Silver and his website have correctly predicted national and state election outcomes in recent election cycles by aggregating polling results from multiple research firms.

ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

## STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll – Arizona  
RMP (2015-II-04)

For this and other Rocky Mountain Polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results)

“Do you favor or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?”

“Do you favor or oppose permitting Arizona universities to conduct research on the medical benefits of marijuana to treat soldiers with post traumatic stress syndrome, children with epilepsy or people with Alzheimer’s disease?”

|                 | Legalizing possession of small<br>amounts for personal use? |        |                 | For University Research? |        |                  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------|------------------|
|                 | Favor                                                       | Oppose | Net in<br>favor | Favor                    | Oppose | (Net n<br>favor) |
| Statewide       | 53%                                                         | 39%    | (+14)           | 83%                      | 10%    | (+73)            |
| Maricopa        | 53                                                          | 38     | (+15)           | 84                       | 11     | (+73)            |
| Pima            | 47                                                          | 43     | (+4)            | 78                       | 14     | (+64)            |
| Rural           | 58                                                          | 38     | (+20)           | 85                       | 8      | (+77)            |
| Democrats       | 64                                                          | 32     | (+32)           | 90                       | 8      | (+82)            |
| Independents    | 53                                                          | 37     | (+16)           | 85                       | 9      | (+76)            |
| Republicans     | 33                                                          | 61     | (-28)           | 79                       | 15     | (+64)            |
| Age under<br>35 | 71                                                          | 26     | (+45)           | 86                       | 10     | (+76)            |
| 35 to 54        | 47                                                          | 42     | (+5)            | 85                       | 9      | (+76)            |
| 55 or older     | 45                                                          | 46     | (-1)            | 80                       | 11     | (+69)            |