



# TEAMM

TEXANS FOR EXPANDED ACCESS TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA

## How to Think About Polls on Medical Marijuana

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A recent Texas Poll conducted by the *Texas Tribune* and the University of Texas included questions related to the legalization of medical marijuana. The first of these was a four-part question about both legalization for recreational purposes and legalization for medical purposes:

### **Q44. What is your opinion on the legalization of marijuana possession?**

<b>1. Marijuana possession should not be legal under any circumstances</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>2. Marijuana possession should be legal for medical purposes only</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>3. Possession of small amounts of marijuana for any purpose should be legal</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>4. Possession of any amount of marijuana for any purpose should be legal</b>	<b>22</b>

A quick glance would suggest that only 26% of Texans support medical marijuana. But a poll that I recently conducted for TEAMM showed that 72% of Texans support medical marijuana and 81% of Texans support expanded access to medical marijuana. So why the difference?

I think it makes sense to treat the Texas Poll findings as cumulative. In other words, it is safe to assume that people who support legalization in any amount also support legalization in small amounts. That would mean that 54% of Texans support recreational use. In that same way, if you combine those results with support for medical use you would get a much higher number for Texans who support medical marijuana, in range with what my poll found.

Regardless of the distinctions between the polls, the most important takeaway should be that support for medical marijuana has been consistently strong. In fact, the issue is supported by Texans from all walks of life and all backgrounds. It is one of the few truly bipartisan issues we have. – JAN R VAN LOHUIZEN

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Jan R van Lohuizen is the founder of Houston-based Voter Surveys & Consulting, a premier polling firm that has worked for clients such as the Republican National Committee, President George W. Bush, and Senator Mitch McConnell.