

Surveyor: _____

Respondent: _____

Date: _____

LEGALIZING DRUGS

Opinions

- All drugs should be legalized - production, distribution, selling, and use
- Using drugs should be decriminalized - production, distribution, and sales should remain illegal
- Maintain the battle against drugs - prosecute all illegal drug activity
- Treat drug use as a public health crisis - fully fund treatment, rehabilitation, and job placement
- _____

Beliefs – if we legalize or decriminalize drugs, there will be

- Economic benefits - tax revenues, job growth, law enforcement budgets
- Reduction of drug-related violence - less black market and drug trafficking
- A need for overhaul of mental health and drug treatment system as shift away from punishment/ jail - most drug offenders have some mental health issues as well.
- Freed-up prison capacity to focus on violent criminals
- Reduced stigma of drug use - that will lead to users seeking recovery and trying to remain full members of society
- Better drug quality and safety - for example, regulation would reduce fentanyl overdoses and block cannabis that is too strong
- Research opportunities to discover new medical benefits from drugs
- Increased access to drugs leading to more experimentation and drug abuse - especially among young people and former addicts
- Increased burden on public health and social services - drugs (including alcohol) ruin the lives of both users and their families/ community
- Increased safety risk at work and on highways - accidents due to impaired judgement and driving,
- Economic burdens - subsidizing treatment and rehab care, enforcing drug laws (such as tax evasion, avoiding regulations, underage use)
- Increased health care costs - heart and lung disease, psychological illness
- Normalization of unhealthy behavior - people will be less likely to obey the law and follow social norms
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

INSTRUCTIONS

For the Respondent

Review the survey. You should be able to find some statements that you agree with and check them off. Feel free to add some of your own opinions and beliefs. Perhaps add a personal note. Then, ask that the document be stored in a way that a future generation will discover it.

For the Surveyor

Find someone in your life who is part of an older generation. Don't confront them. Just work with them to capture their point of view. Archive the document in a way that someone you trust can access it in the year 2070. Storing a digital image is a fine idea, but how many of the thousands of images you have stored will ever see the light of day? Consider preserving a physical copy.

Background Information

There are many strongly held opinions about this survey topic. There is some uncertainty about how it will play out over the next few decades. Many of us will not be here to defend ourselves when future generations judge us. More importantly, how will our direct descendants remember us?

You can fill out and archive this survey for yourself. Or you can ask someone else to fill it out and archive it for them. The survey is meant to cover a wide range of beliefs about a topic without being biased. Whoever fills out the survey should be able to find a few comments that they agree with. There are blank lines for respondents to write-in their own beliefs. If respondents do not have clearly defined beliefs on this topic, then it is OK for them to take a little time and do some research.

This survey may inspire you to archive hard copy versions of documents and photos that are important to you. We all have thousands of digital files and images stored in the cloud or backup drives. It won't hurt to print and store key items from your life: birth and marriage certificates, concert tickets, family portraits, and this survey! Use acid-free paper (most ordinary copy paper will do). Keep items away from sunlight, heat, humidity – a closet is better than the attic or garage.

Call to Action

Be ready for the year 2070. We may not be there, but our adult children or grandchildren probably will be. At a family gathering, our descendants might be pulled aside by a young child. That child will ask about the olden days, back in the early 21st century, saying, "What were they thinking?" Don't let your adult descendants be caught flat-footed. Don't let them misrepresent your views – throw you under the bus – and blame you and your generation for the state of the world in 2070. Make sure your adult descendants have a record of your thoughts and beliefs. This survey is the simplest way to do that.

Good luck