



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

TO Interested Parties

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FM3 Research

RE: California Voter Views of a Psychedelics Decriminalization Bill

DATE August 29, 2023

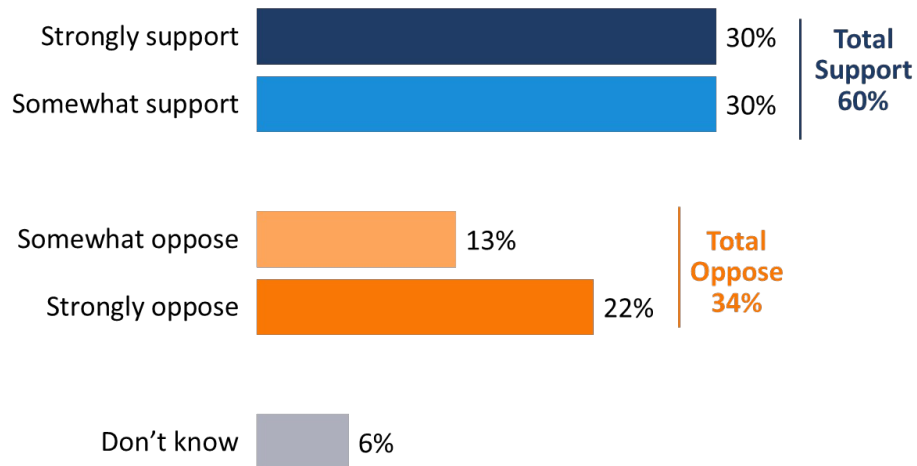
Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) recently completed a survey of California voters to assess their views of legislation to remove criminal penalties for adults found to be in possession of small, personal use amounts of plant-based psychedelics.¹ **The study found that voters broadly support such a bill, and a plurality says that a vote for it would make them view their state legislator more favorably.**

Key findings include:

- **Three in five support a plant-based psychedelics decriminalization bill.** As shown in Figure 1, 30% support the bill with a brief description, and 30% "strongly support" it -- while just one-third (34%) oppose it.

Figure 1: Support for a Bill to Remove Criminal Penalties for Personal Possession of Psychedelics

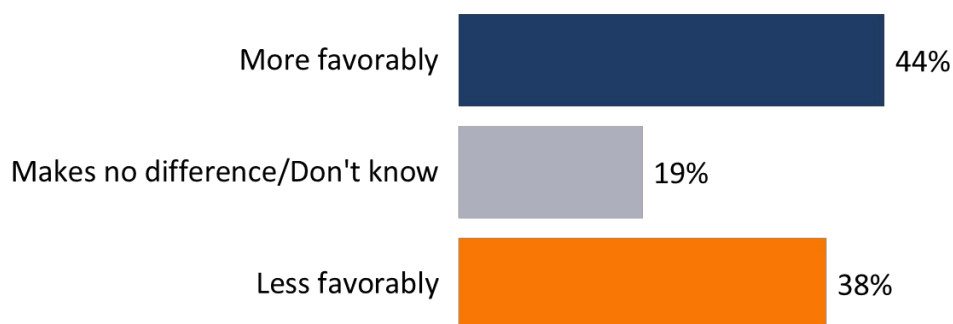
As you may know, psychedelic substances such as psilocybin mushrooms are currently illegal. However, studies have found that they can be effective in treating mental health conditions like PTSD, anxiety, and depression. This bill would remove criminal penalties in state law for adults 21 and over found to be in possession of small, personal use amounts of such plant-based psychedelic substances. It would also direct State government to research the development of a statewide licensed therapeutic program treatment with psychedelic medicines.



- **Nearly two-thirds say support for this bill would have a positive or no impact in their opinion of a state legislator.** By a six-point margin, California voters see supporting this bill as more positive than negative. Notably, another 19% say it would make no difference in their opinion -- meaning that taken together, 63% say support for this bill is a positive or has no impact on their opinion.

Figure 2: Impact on Support for a State Legislator

Suppose that your state legislator supported this bill to decriminalize the possession of personal use amounts of psychedelics. Would that make you view your legislator more favorably or less favorably?



In conclusion, **California voters broadly support reforming laws around personal possession of plant-based psychedelics which can be effective in treating PTSD, anxiety and depression.** Support for such a bill is a net-positive for a state legislator as well.

ⁱ **Methodology:** From August 19-28, 2023, FM3 completed 908 interviews by phone (cell and landline) and email with randomly selected likely November 2024 voters in California. The margin of sampling error for the study is +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for subsamples will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.