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Contact: Kelly Rossman-McKinney
Office: 517-487-9320
Cell: 517-749-0529
Dennis Denno
517-402-2453
John T. Reurink
517-482-2125

Michigan Voters High On Proposal 1

Poll indicates 58 percent of likely voters to support the use of medical marijuana

LANSING, Mich. — With less than one month until November’s election, a recent poll finds strong support for Proposal 1 which, if passed, will allow the cultivation and use of marijuana for patients with debilitating medical conditions such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer’s and Crohn’s disease.

The latest poll from Denno Noor Research, The Rossman Group and MIRS shows that 58 percent of Michigan’s likely voters favor the ballot initiative, while 33 percent do not. Another nine percent indicated they were undecided. Only one percent refused to answer.

“With less than a month to go, it’s clear legalizing medical marijuana is high on voters minds,” said Kelly Rossman-McKinney, CEO of The Rossman Group. “Michigan voters are not going to let the medical marijuana proposal go up in smoke.”

Denno Noor Research conducted the survey in partnership with The Rossman Group and Michigan Information & Research Services (MIRS). The Rossman Group was recently named Lansing’s Most Effective Public Relations Firm by a survey of political insiders, and MIRS is Michigan’s leading daily legislative and state government newsletter.

The question was worded as follows:

“There will be a ballot proposal this November to allow terminally and seriously ill people to legally use marijuana if a doctor certified the drug could ease their suffering. The ballot language is:

Permit physician approved use of marijuana by registered patients with debilitating medical conditions including cancer, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, hepatitis C, MS and other conditions as may be approved by the Department of Community Health.

- *Permit registered individuals to grow limited amounts of marijuana for qualifying patients in an enclosed, locked facility.*

- *Require Department of Community Health to establish an identification card system for patients qualified to use marijuana and individuals qualified to grow marijuana.*

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- *Permit registered and unregistered patients and primary caregivers to assert medical reasons for using marijuana as a defense to any prosecution involving marijuana.*

If the election were held today, do you think you would vote for the ballot initiative or against the ballot initiative?

Among female voters, the poll results showed 60 percent in favor of the ballot proposal and only 30 percent opposed. Male voters were slightly less supportive, with 56 percent backing the proposal and 36 percent opposed. Among age groups, the strongest support for the proposal was among voters between the ages of 50-64 with 63 percent in support. The lowest came from those over the age of 65, with only 50 percent backing.

“It’s interesting to note the generational differences,” said MIRS President John T. Reurink. “Baby-boomers, children of the ‘60s, could be the ones who put this proposal over the top.”

The regional data for the ballot initiative poll is as follows:

| <u>Region</u> | <u>For</u> | <u>Against</u> | <u>Undecided/Refused</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Central Michigan | 61% | 27% | 13% |
| Detroit | 60% | 31% | 9% |
| Macomb | 64% | 30% | 6% |
| Oakland | 60% | 33% | 8% |
| Balance of SE Michigan | 60% | 33% | 7% |
| Tri-Cities/Thumb | 59% | 35% | 6% |
| Upper Lower Peninsula | 63% | 37% | 0% |
| Upper Peninsula | 44% | 44% | 11% |
| Wayne | 68% | 22% | 11% |
| West Michigan | 47% | 38% | 15% |

“Support for medical marijuana is more than 60 percent in every geographic region of the state, with the exception of the Upper Peninsula and West Michigan,” said Denno Noor Research President Dennis Denno. “Maybe voters in those areas are worried about the possible introduction of a new cash crop?”

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Methodology:

This survey was part of the Rossman Group/MIRS/Denno Noor Research Quarterly Survey of the Michigan electorate. 600 respondents were surveyed between October 1 and October 4, and the participation was stratified based on census data and past voter behavior. A screen was employed to include only those participants who said they intended on voting, either at the polls or by absentee ballot, in the November 2008 Election. The margin of error is plus/minus four percent.

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