

N size: TOTAL
 800

GENDER OF RESPONDENT

Male48
 Female52

REGION

L.A. County25
 Orange County9
 Inland Empire9
 San Diego9
 Central Coast6
 Fresno6
 Sacramento12
 Bay Area21
 North2

1. How likely are you to vote in the 2012 General Election for President, U.S. Congress, and other offices – are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, will you probably not vote, or are you definitely not going to vote?

Almost certain92
 Probably8
 50-501
 Probably not **TERMINATE**
 Definitely not **TERMINATE**
 (Don't know) **TERMINATE**

2. Let's say someone is found in possession of a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use. In your opinion, what is the maximum length of time that person should be imprisoned for?

Less than 3 months27
 More than 3 months to 6 months9
 More than 6 months to 9 months0
 More than 9 months to 1 year6
 More than 1 year to 2 years3
 More than 2 years to 3 years1
 More than 3 years to 5 years2
 More than 5 years to 10 years1
 More than 10 years1
 Shouldn't be imprisoned24
 Don't know/Depends/Other25

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3. As you may know, a felony crime means an individual can be sent to state prison for 16 months to three years. A misdemeanor crime means an individual can be sentenced to a maximum of 1 year, served in a county jail. And an infraction means an individual can be fined but not imprisoned. Knowing this, do you think those found in possession of a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use should be charged with a felony crime, a misdemeanor crime, or an infraction?

[IF NOT UNDECIDED] And do you feel that way strongly or just somewhat?

[IF UNDECIDED] Well which side do you lean toward?

Felony – strongly.....	10
Felony – somewhat.....	1
Undecided – lean felony	1
Misdemeanor – strongly.....	23
Misdemeanor – somewhat.....	8
Undecided – lean misdemeanor	4
Infraction – strongly.....	31
Infraction – somewhat.....	7
Undecided – lean infraction	2
Undecided	9
(Shouldn't be any charge – vol)	4
Felony	12
Misdemeanor	35
Infraction	40

4. Currently, possession of a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use is a felony crime. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose reducing possession of a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use from a felony crime to a misdemeanor crime, or aren't you sure?

[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE] And do you [favor/oppose] that proposal strongly or just somewhat?

[IF NOT SURE/ UNDECIDED] Well which side do you lean toward?

Strongly favor	54
Somewhat favor	12
Undecided – lean favor	6
Favor	72
Undecided	11
Oppose.....	16
Undecided – lean oppose	2
Somewhat oppose	2
Strongly oppose	12

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SPLIT SAMPLE A

5. And if your state representative voted FOR reducing possession of a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use from a felony crime to a misdemeanor crime, would you be more likely to vote for that person, less likely, or wouldn't it make a difference? **[IF MORE/LESS]** And is that much [more/less] likely, or just somewhat [more/less] likely?

Much more	27
Somewhat more	14
Somewhat less	4
Much less	11
No difference	41
(Not sure)	3
More	41
Less	15

END SPLIT SAMPLE A

SPLIT SAMPLE B

6. And if your state representative voted AGAINST reducing possession of a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use from a felony crime to a misdemeanor crime, would you be more likely to vote for that person, less likely, or wouldn't it make a difference? **[IF MORE/LESS]** And is that much [more/less] likely, or just somewhat [more/less] likely?

Much more	13
Somewhat more	5
Somewhat less	11
Much less	20
No difference	47
(Not sure)	5
More	18
Less	31

END SPLIT SAMPLE B

RESUME ASKING ALL

7. Generally speaking, do you believe the state of California imprisons too many people, too few people, or about the right amount of people?

Too many	56
Too few	13
About the right amount	18
(Unsure, don't know – vol)	13

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SPLIT SAMPLE C

[ROTATE PARAGRAPHS]

Now I would like to read you two short statements on this proposal.

[SOME PEOPLE SAY/OTHER PEOPLE SAY] at a time when increasing numbers of Californians, many of them children, are harmed or killed by drug overdoses, the last thing we should do is make it easier for drugs to circulate without real consequences. People who possess small amounts of drugs rarely go to prison in California. Most just get a slap on the wrist. The only people that go to prison for drug possession are repeat offenders, many of whom have committed a serious or violent crime at some point or are actually drug dealers. We need to keep this a felony crime to discourage drug use and punish repeat offenders. This proposal is just a back door effort to legalize drugs—at the expense of our communities and families, and regardless of the cost.

[SOME PEOPLE SAY/OTHER PEOPLE SAY] California taxpayers spend over \$450 million every year to imprison people for possession of a small amount of drugs for personal use. That’s \$50,000 per year, per person. Our state budget is in crisis, with drastic cuts to health care, education, and services for the elderly and the disabled. But our prisons received 9 billion dollars this year alone, enough to pay for the deepest cuts to these programs. It’s time to check our priorities. By changing this crime from a felony to misdemeanor, we can still hold individuals accountable for their actions while taking a huge burden off of state prisons. This would save billions of dollars, money that could fill the budget shortfall or that could be invested in schools, health care, and local law enforcement.

- 8. Sometimes over the course of a survey like this, people change their minds. Do you favor or oppose reducing possession of a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use from a felony crime to a misdemeanor crime, or aren’t you sure?

[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE] And do you [favor/oppose] that proposal strongly or just somewhat?

[IF NOT SURE/ UNDECIDED] Well which side do you lean toward?

Strongly favor	56
Somewhat favor	13
Undecided – lean favor	4
Favor	73
Undecided	7
Oppose.....	20
Undecided – lean oppose	3
Somewhat oppose	4
Strongly oppose	14

END SPLIT SAMPLE C

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SPLIT SAMPLE D

[ROTATE PARAGRAPHS]

Now I would like to read you two short statements on this proposal.

[SOME PEOPLE SAY/OTHER PEOPLE SAY] at a time when increasing numbers of Californians, many of them children, are harmed or killed by drug overdoses, the last thing we should do is make it easier for drugs to circulate without real consequences. People who possess small amounts of drugs rarely go to prison in California. Most just get a slap on the wrist. The only people that go to prison for drug possession are repeat offenders, many of whom have committed a serious or violent crime at some point or are actually drug dealers. We need to keep this a felony crime to discourage drug use and punish repeat offenders. This proposal is just a back door effort to legalize drugs—at the expense of our communities and families, and regardless of the cost.

[SOME PEOPLE SAY/OTHER PEOPLE SAY] treating people whose crime was possession of a small amount of drugs for personal use like hardened criminals by sending them to state prison for up to three years is wrong. State prisons are notorious for violence, rape, and disease and there is little, if any, drug treatment. Prison is the worst possible environment for people struggling with addiction. And after prison, the punishment continues. The consequences of a felony conviction are severe and life-long, including reduced access to job opportunities, student loans, and small business loans. The right thing to do is to treat these offenses as misdemeanors and hold people accountable to the community at the local level, with drug treatment, probation, or county jail.

- 9. Sometimes over the course of a survey like this, people change their minds. Do you favor or oppose reducing possession of a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use from a felony crime to a misdemeanor crime, or aren't you sure?

[IF FAVOR/OPOSE] And do you [favor/oppose] that proposal strongly or just somewhat?

[IF NOT SURE/ UNDECIDED] Well which side do you lean toward?

Strongly favor	55
Somewhat favor	13
Undecided – lean favor	5
Favor	73
Undecided	9
Oppose.....	18
Undecided – lean oppose	1
Somewhat oppose	3
Strongly oppose	14

END SPLIT SAMPLE D

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Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

10. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else?

[IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT ASK]: Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)?

[IF INDEPENDENT ASK]: Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?

Strong Republican.....	21
Not-so-strong Republican	5
Independent - lean Republican	5
Republican	31
Independent	23
Democrat.....	41
Independent - lean Democratic.....	5
Not-so-strong Democrat	5
Strong Democrat	31
(Don't know/other).....	5

11. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed? **[DO NOT READ.]**

1 - 11th grade.....	3
High school graduate	19
Non-college post H.S.	1
Some college	29
College graduate.....	31
Post-graduate school	16
(Don't know)	1

12. Just to make sure we have a representative sample, could you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background? **[IF "NO", ASK:]** What is your race - white, black, Asian, or something else?

White	61
Black	10
Spanish speaking/Latino.....	21
Native American	0
Asian/ Pacific Islander.....	6
(Other).....	2
(Don't know/refused)	1

N size: TOTAL
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AGE (FROM FILE)

18 – 24	12
25 – 29	6
30 – 34	7
35 – 39	9
40 – 44	9
45 – 49	11
50 – 54	7
55 – 59	9
60 – 64	10
65 – 69	5
70 – 74	3
Over 75	10
(Not recorded)	2