

Caroline Jordan
Talking Points Assignment
03/30/2023

Democratic Candidate Running for Congress

ISSUE: In support of federal marijuana legalization

AUDIENCE: Moderate/centrist Democratic voters who are not well informed about the issue of marijuana legalization, yet can be persuaded.

- It's time to end the federal prohibition of marijuana and end the stigmatization of a drug that has put so many people of color in prison for minor offenses.
 - Marijuana arrests cost the country between \$1.19 billion and \$6.03 billion annually. Many of these arrests are of minorities, unfairly targeted because of their race or ethnicity.
 - Federally legalizing marijuana would save the country money and protect people of color from being unfairly targeted due to stereotypes.
- When I'm in Washington, I'll advocate for regulations to make sure that when marijuana is legalized federally, it's safe for consumers to use and that vulnerable populations are protected from abuse.
 - Restrictions on marketing and packaging and childproofing products would help prevent youth use.
 - Product testing and quality control regulations will be doable through government agencies and help keep adult consumers safe if they choose to use the drug.
- Marijuana legalization has broad based support among the American people. A 2022 Gallup poll found that nearly 60% of adults support the cause— so I know I won't be alone in this fight.
- If you vote for me, I promise to advocate for marijuana policy reform in Washington. I'm well versed on the issue, so I'll be a champion of the cause at the Capitol.

Republican Incumbent Member of Congress

ISSUE: In defense of federal marijuana prohibition

AUDIENCE: Members of the incumbent's base who are looking for continued prohibition of marijuana

- I have been a constant and stalwart supporter of states rights to legalize marijuana. Federally, marijuana is where it belongs: on the list of Schedule I drugs.
- Health experts agree that marijuana should not be legalized. Unlike what some people might claim, marijuana is not harmless.
 - Like tobacco, smoking marijuana can cause respiratory issues. But marijuana can contain five times the carbon monoxide and three times the tar found in tobacco— making it arguably worse.
 - Medical experts cite the increased number of car accidents, ER visits, and hospitalizations associated with marijuana legalization as reasons why it shouldn't be legalized federally.
- The potential impact of marijuana on our economy is not worth the cost of creating another Big Tobacco.
 - In states that have legalized, we've already seen an increase in youth use and we see the industry using the same tactics of appealing to children that tobacco used decades ago.
 - Normalizing marijuana use by legalizing it just reinforces the idea that the drug is safe— it's not.
- In Congress, I have supported the continued federal prohibition of marijuana by voting down dangerous and ill-advised bills that would legalize the drug with little regulation. These bills are another example of the rampant woke ideology that has infected our politics.

Sources:

<https://marijuana.procon.org/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/06/14/the-arguments-for-and-against-marijuana-legalization-in-the-u-s-infographic/?sh=341da894678b>