

A new poll shows more voters now [oppose Prop 19](#), than support the measure that would legalize recreational marijuana use.



The poll from the Public Policy Institute of California found that 49 to 44 percent of Californians oppose the [legalization of pot](#). It was a startling 8-point turnaround from September when support for the measure peaked at 52 percent.

Prop. 19 would allow Californians over the age of 21 to grow and possess marijuana and allow for local municipalities to tax commercial cultivation of the plant.

Erosion of the support strongly came from Southern California and Latino voters. A poll of likely voters in September indicated that 56 percent supported the measure in Los Angeles County and 52% in other Southern California counties. The support in these counties has now slipped to 41% and 42% percent respectively.

Latino voters also have swayed their support. The same poll in last month showed this demographic were strongly in favor of Prop. 19, with 63 percent backing it. Today, 51 percent oppose it.

Of the top 30 newspapers in California, 26 have printed an editorial on Prop. 19, with every single one opposing the measure. The largest newspapers to endorse the proposition are the *Santa Barbara New-Press* and the *Victorville Daily Press*.

If the measure does pass, the Golden State could run into more problems as Attorney General [Eric Holder](#) plans to “vigorously enforce” federal laws under which marijuana is still considered illegal. Holder told The Associated Press that passage of the law would deal a “significant impediment” to enforcing the Controlled Substances Act and joint efforts by federal and local authorities to target [drug traffickers](#) who distribute pot alongside other drugs.

Earlier this year, former DEA chiefs wrote a letter to the Attorney General asking the Obama Administration to sue California if the measure does pass. If that happens, the Justice Department will likely file suit to block

California from carrying out the law by citing the Supremacy Clause, which gives federal government precedence over the issue.

California also faces losing federal funding if the state does enforce Prop. 19. Currently the state received \$9.4 billion in federal funding for K-12 education. A newly Republican-controlled House could feel the need to use the Golden State as an example when states buck federal laws.

The loss in federal dollars is comparatively large to the varying estimates of how much revenue taxation of pot is expected to raise. California is expecting to generate a windfall of \$1.4 billion in taxes and reduced criminal expenditures. However, the [Cato Institute](#) estimates California will raise only \$352 million in additional revenue and \$960 million on savings from a reduction of arrest, prosecutions and prisons. But these saving would only come at the cost of laying-off police and judge — a difficult political fight even during more prosperous times.

Both of California's gubernatorial candidates, Jerry Brown (D) and Meg Whitman (R) oppose Prop. 19.

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