Post-Election Polling on Cannabis - *Media Fact Sheet*

What's the news?	New polling, conducted by a bipartisan team including <u>Trump campaign pollster Tony Fabrizio</u>, digs into the success of cannabis legalization initiatives in **South Dakota**, **Montana**, **Arizona**, and **New Jersey** in 2020. The results carry important insights, especially for Republican elected officials. (A more detailed polling memo is attached below this fact sheet.) *1) The legalization of cannabis in conservative states like South Dakota and Montana is not a fluke. A majority of Republicans - <u>and a large majority of young Republicans</u> - in the four 2020 states support legalization in principle.* **<u>Support adult-use cannabis legalization in principle</u>** ● 68% of all voters in these four states, with 55% favoring it "strongly" ● 53% of Republicans and 54% of Trump voters ● <u>64% of Republicans under the age of 40</u> *2) Federal elected officials, regardless of party, should be actively supporting legislation that gets federal interference out of state cannabis legalization.* **<u>Oppose federal interference in state cannabis legalization decisions</u>** ● 81% of all voters in these four states ● <u>74% of Republicans</u>, 82% of independents *3) Continuing to treat federal cannabis reform like a partisan wedge issue is a mistake.* **<u>View cannabis legalization as a *nonpartisan* issue</u>** ● 65% of all voters in these four states ● <u>53% of Republicans</u>, including 51% of self-described "conservative Republicans"
Why is this interesting?	In recent weeks, Republican leadership in Congress has cast cannabis legalization as a partisan wedge issue, attacking House Democrats for a vote on the MORE Act to decriminalize cannabis at the federal level. <u>But their own voters don't see it that way.</u> And <u>3 times as many Republicans</u> in these 2020 cannabis states *support* federal descheduling (i.e., getting federal interference out of state cannabis laws) as oppose it. This is particularly relevant for the Republican electeds who represent these states, including Senators **John Thune** (SD), **Mike Rounds** (SD), and **Steve Daines** (MT).

	Many Republican pundits and advocates see the writing on the wall - see, for example, this week's _National Review_ editorial in favor of legalization. How much longer can Republican political leadership hold their increasingly untenable position on cannabis?
Who can I talk to?	All of the people listed in this section are available to talk with media about the poll and its implications. **Tony Fabrizio** _Partner, Fabrizio, Lee & Associates (poll partner)_ Tony Fabrizio is widely recognized as an expert in public opinion and politics and one of the nation's leading GOP pollsters and strategists. Fabrizio has served as the Chief Pollster on four Presidential campaigns, most notably and recently Donald Trump's successful 2016 upset victory. Some of Fabrizio's other recent clients include Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), Gov. Matt Bevin (R-KY), Gov. Rick Scott (R-FL), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA). **Dave Metz** _Partner and President, FM3 Research (poll partner)_ Dave Metz has provided opinion research and strategic guidance to hundreds of non-profit organizations, government agencies, businesses, and political campaigns in all 50 states since 1998. In the 2018 and 2020 election cycles, Dave's research helped guide successful ballot measures to legalize marijuana in Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, and South Dakota and approve medical marijuana in Utah, Missouri, and Mississippi. Dave's other successful work on ballot measure campaigns has included conservation finance measures, tobacco prevention, health care funding, reproductive rights, clean energy, drug policy reform, early childhood education, arts funding, stem cell research, transportation funding, and political reform. **Graham Boyd** _Founder and Executive Director, New Approach PAC (poll sponsor)_ Graham Boyd has guided the funding, campaign strategy, opinion research, and legal drafting for nearly all of the successful cannabis ballot measures in the U.S. for the last decade. Operating largely behind the scenes, he has racked up 16 wins for adult-use and medical cannabis legalization. He has also led an ongoing opinion research project on voter views about cannabis reform, creating a data set that has guided political strategy and messaging on these issues. Previously, Graham was the founding director of the national ACLU's Drug Law Reform Project, a national litigation project addressing civil rights and civil liberties consequences of punitive drug policies.