

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **Petition to end prohibition clears first hurdle**

MELBOURNE, FL – The road to ending cannabis prohibition took a new turn on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 when the Florida Secretary of Elections approved the citizens’ initiative, “The Right of Adults to Cannabis” to begin collecting signatures. Florida voters in 2016 could have the opportunity to determine if cannabis use, possession and cultivation should be a right protected by in the Constitution if the group can meet the February 1, 2016 deadline.

The political action committee associated with the petition, Floridians for Freedom is made up of a group of longtime cannabis advocates associated with the Florida Cannabis Action Network. Jodi James, chairperson of Floridians for Freedom said, “We believe the people of Florida are ready to end the costly prohibition of cannabis. It has not only been a costly endeavor to enforce; it has disrupted many families throughout Florida for minor offenses and displaced medical refugees seeking cannabis treatment.”

Floridians for Freedom, headed by Ms. James, also includes well known patient and activist Cathy Jordan and her husband Bob Jordan on their Board of Trustees; as well as, Vice-Chair Arnold Diehl, Treasurer Robert Ohlwiler, legal adviser Shannon Stallings and several other longtime cannabis advocates.

The campaign website, [www.FloridiansforFreedom.com](http://www.FloridiansforFreedom.com) has a printable copy of the petition, resources for volunteers, a fact sheet on the proposed amendment and answers to the most typical questions on cannabis legalization vs prohibition.

Polling throughout the country is consistent with the end of the prohibition of cannabis. In April 2015, a Quinnipiac poll showed 55% of Floridians surveyed supported recreational use of cannabis.

“This is not a recreational amendment,” Cathy Jordan, of Bradenton is quick to point out. “This is not about just about recreational use, this is not about just medical use; this is about ending the prohibition of cannabis.” The cannabis plant and all of its parts, including the non-euphoric industrial product hemp, is currently prohibited under state law. The Federal government has made exceptions for hemp and our own legislature has made exceptions for low THC cannabis.

“Marijuana prohibition has failed and the majority of Floridians believe it is time for a more sensible approach. Our proposed amendment guarantees the right of adults to use, possess and cultivate cannabis, leaving regulating sales and purchase to the lawmakers. This is a fresh approach to cannabis reform and we feel making cannabis legal is the right place to start,” said Shannon Stalling, the legal mind behind the petition.

In short, the proposed initiative makes possession, use and cultivation of cannabis (aka Marijuana) legal for adults 21 years of age or older. Nothing in the amendment prohibits lawmaker’s from passing laws governing sales and purchase for the purpose of protecting public safety.

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More information about the campaign, including a summary and full text of the initiative, is available at [www.FloridiansForFreedom.com](http://www.FloridiansForFreedom.com).

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