

## **Drug Legalization Ballot Initiative Fact Sheet**

- **Legalizes dangerous drugs.** The ballot proposal effectively legalizes possession and use of dangerous and highly addictive drugs such crack, heroin, PCP and other harmful substances.
- **Makes spending for drug treatment a higher priority than education.** This proposal mandates an additional \$120 million in spending for drug treatment on top of the \$160 million Michigan already spends to treat drug users. This spending cannot be reduced and is mandated by the constitution.
- **Sends the wrong message to children.** Serious crime is at a 30-year low. Michigan's comprehensive anti-drug strategy of education, enforcement and treatment is working. Now is not the time to tell our children to say "yes" to drugs and create a new generation of addicts.
- **Makes prosecutions of major drug dealers impossible.** Without the threat of incarceration, prosecutors will lose all leverage in finding users or low level dealers to testify against major traffickers.
- **Imposes California values on Michigan.** Three wealthy out-of-state liberals, including California billionaire George Soros, are funding this campaign to impose their lifestyle and values on Michigan families.
- **Allows drug users to care for kids.** Teachers or day care providers would be able to keep drug offenses shielded from parents, principals and school boards. In fact, the ballot proposal would: "Require law enforcement agencies to keep confidential records of drug possession offenses..."
- **Reduces effectiveness of drug treatment.** Eliminating the threat of incarceration removes accountability from drug treatment. Users will have no reason to stay clean and reach recovery.
- **Allows drug dealers in prison to petition for release.** Taxpayers would be forced to pay for thousands of defense lawyers to help convicted drug dealers petition for release under the new law.
- **Free violent felons from prosecution.** Dangerous offenders whose last conviction is more than five years old (they could have been in prison) will be diverted from prosecution if they used or possessed drugs when committing a new crime.

## **What experts are saying about the Drug Legalization Initiative...**

*We do not oppose reform; we oppose this reform...The California approach is antithetical to the drug rehabilitation court approach, which uses both positive and negative reinforcement. The drug court approach is far more workable than an approach that removes all discretion from all three branches of government and places it in the hands of a commission totally removed from the people.*

**Bryan H. Levy** Chief Judge, 46th District Court Southfield, Detroit Free Press,  
June 24, 2002

*The initiative would put an abrupt end to the highly effective drug treatment courts now in use across the state, replacing them with a system the judges say would create new addicts instead of helping treat current ones. That logic may work in California, but it won't sell in Michigan.*

**James J. Halushka** Deputy Prosecutor Warrants and Investigations Oakland  
County Pontiac, Detroit Free Press, June 24, 2002

*The proposal would make it nearly impossible to prosecute major drug traffickers and create a new generation of drug addicts. The proposed amendment would give those charged with possessing illegal drugs, like heroin and crack, the right to have their case dismissed. All a criminal defendant would have to do is claim the new constitutional right to treatment, and the case is over.*

*The proposal would create an unelected fourth branch of government to set drug policy in this state. This new branch of government would never be answerable to voters. The net-profit section of this proposal would thwart prosecutors from convicting major drug traffickers. No prosecutor would ever be able to prove a drug dealer earned a \$500,000 net profit, because it is nearly impossible to show the costs for such deductible items as guns, bullets and hit men.*

*The wealthy individuals funding this petition drive may believe no one should go to prison for selling heroin to kids, and that any teenager should be free to decide whether to use crack. They may be willing to gamble with our children's future. I am not.*

**Brian W. MacKenzie** District Judge, Novi, Detroit Free Press, June 24, 2002

*"It's phony and a big lie by the drug legalization movement, paid for by three billionaires who don't live here and don't care about our Michigan quality of life."*

**Mike Thomas**, Saginaw County Prosecuting Attorney, MIRS, August 12, 2002