

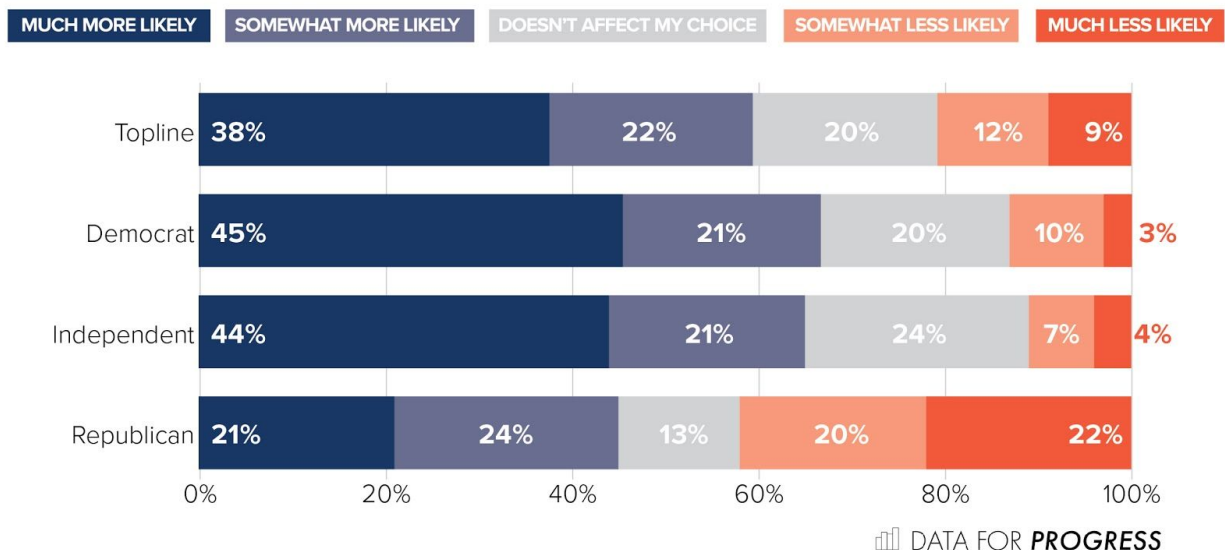
To: Interested Parties
From: Sean McElwee and Lindsey Carlson McLendon
Re: Majority of Maricopa County Voters Don't Support Prosecuting or Criminalizing Marijuana Possession
Date: 10/16/2020

A new Data For Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute poll shows that Maricopa County residents would be more likely to vote for a Maricopa County Attorney (head prosecutor) if she supported ending the prosecution of marijuana possession offenses, commuting sentences currently being served for marijuana possession, and expunging previously convicted possession convictions.

Specific Findings

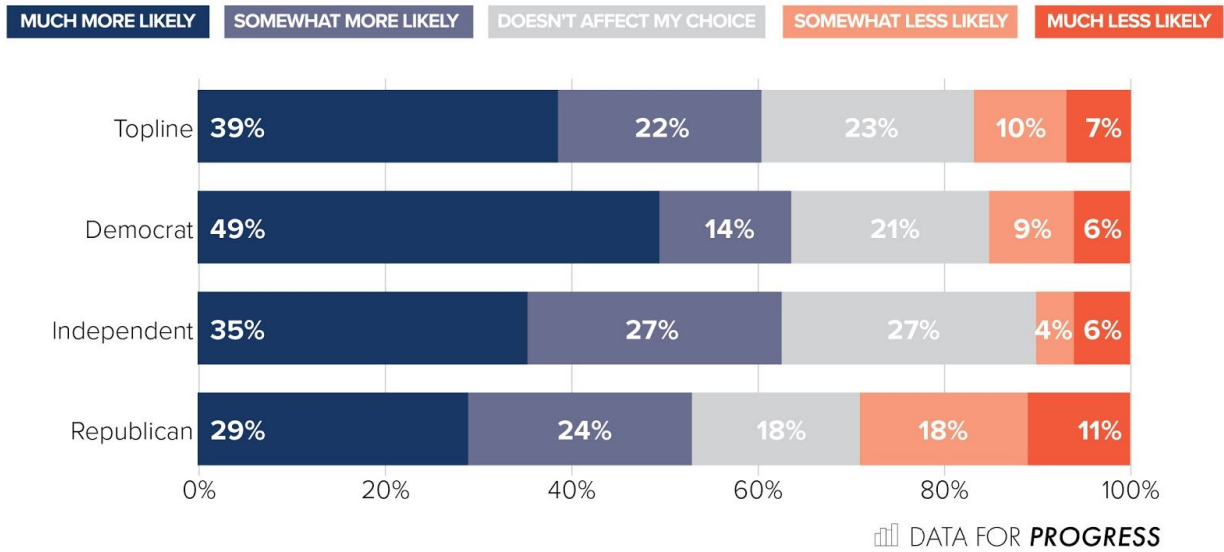
- 60% of likely voters are more likely to vote for a county attorney who will end prosecution of marijuana possession offenses.

In November, there will be an election for Maricopa County. Below you'll read a list of proposals. For each, indicate if you'd be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports any of these proposals. -- Ending prosecution of marijuana possession.



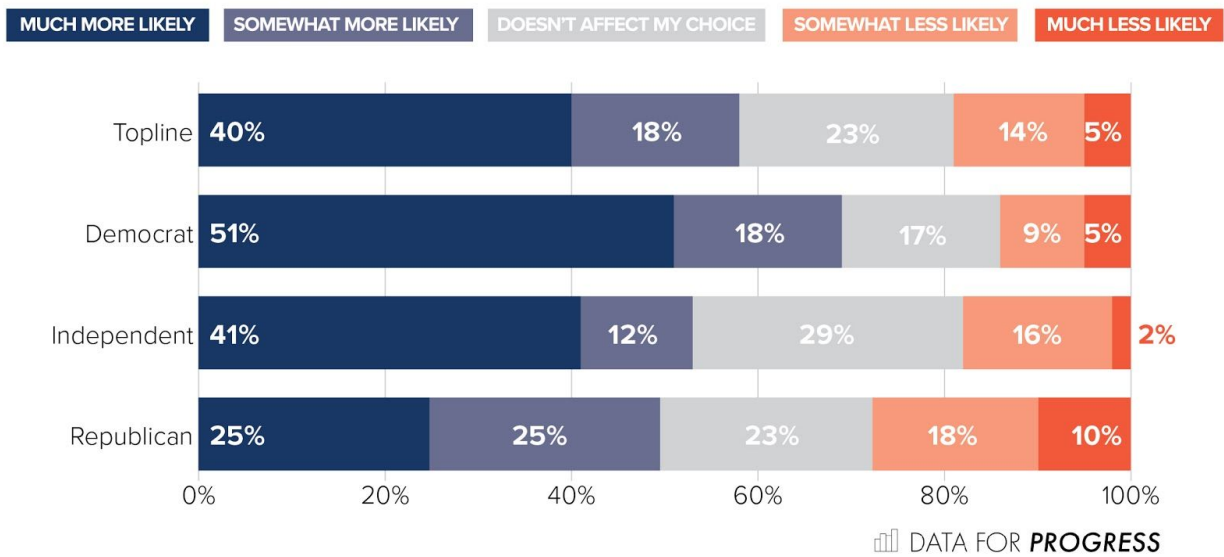
- 61% of voters, including 53% of Republicans, support commuting sentences currently being served for marijuana possession.

Commuting the sentences currently being served for marijuana possession.



- 58% of voters are more likely to vote for a county attorney who will support expungement of previous marijuana possession convictions.

Expunging previous marijuana possession offenses.



Key Takeaways

In 2018, [nearly 43% of drug arrests in Arizona were for marijuana possession](#). Arizona is currently the only state that allows the [possession of any amount of marijuana, no matter how small, to be prosecuted as a felony](#). Moreover, a recent [ACLU study](#) found that Black people are three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession in Arizona than white people. This selective enforcement of the law wreaks devastation on Black communities, not only from more [frequent stops and repeat arrests](#), jail time, and [more severe sentences](#), but from the cascade of collateral consequences. Felony convictions can lead to the loss of voting rights, child custody, employment opportunities, federal benefits, and access to housing.

These polling results make clear that Maricopa County voters want assurance from the next elected prosecutor in Arizona's most populous county that they will stop criminalizing and punishing people for marijuana possession; an issue that [starkly divides](#) the candidates for Maricopa County Attorney, Republican incumbent Allister Adel and Democratic Challenger Julie Gunnigle.

Methodology

From 10/2/2020 to 10/8/2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 386 likely voters in Maricopa County using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is +/- 5 percentage points.