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Survey Says:

A new survey of likely voters in Virginia shows strong support for legal retail marijuana sales. The poll of 800 people, conducted by Christopher Newport University earlier this Fall found that 58 percent of respondents favor allowing commercial sales.

That number includes nearly 3 in 4 Democrats (76 percent) and 59 percent of independents. Only 38 percent of Republican voters said they supported the change.

Younger voters were also more likely to favor legal sales, the poll found, with voters 18-44 showing 69 percent support compared to 54 percent among voters 45 and older.

This election, Democrats won control of both chambers, but still face potential opposition from Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R), who is slated to serve through the end of 2025.



Virginia won't begin retail sales of marijuana by 2024 after the last remaining bill to set up a legal market failed.

Last February, a Republican-controlled House of Delegates subcommittee voted 5-3 along party lines Tuesday to kill legislation from state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria) that would have paved the way for recreational sales to begin in January 2024.

"We are kind of dragging our feet on establishing a retail market that could provide hundreds of millions in tax revenue," Ebbin told the subcommittee Tuesday, adding that his bill would also provide a tested product for adults while taking steps to protect children.



a Political Map by Manders, Jerry E 42 Second District

Blacksburg is a textbook example of gerrymandering. The town is the darkened area in the above map. Republican Jason Ballard ran unopposed.

An Opinion from the Editor:

It is a question of how laws are enforced and if the enforcers are actually at the behest of the people as Virginia politicians continue to disregard public sentiment regarding cannabis legislation. The Commonwealth's policies are commonly compared to the lawless and corrupt "Wild West" by journalists trying to make sense of rudderless direction while other states have already begun to tap into the multiple benefits of THC.

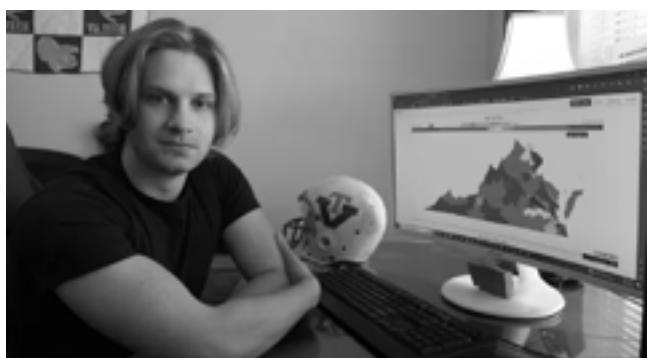
Recent raids involving DEA, Virginia State Police, and the USPS on local Adult Cannabis sharing shops led to no arrests and only seizure of property, with the only communication from law enforcement to press on the draconian measures is that the investigation is ongoing. That's a lot of tax-payer dollars and man-power spent on pursuing the question of what sharing marijuana between adults means with a reckless abandon while in the dark depths of an opioid epidemic.

While the results of the raids may never see a courtroom, the Virginia State Supreme Court did rule on gas-station video-gambling as not being a game of skill, twice, and it is currently illegal once again as of November 15.

As of press time, Town and County Law enforcement did not respond with answers to a request as to whether local police would be actively shutting down statewide illegal gambling, a billion dollar industry that surely preys the most on the poor and the addicted.

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We appreciate coverage
ideas, article pitches, and
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Election Aftermath

Chaz Nuttycombe ran the table correctly predicting 100 percent of Virginia state elections on November 6. He has become a nationally sought after predictor and analyst, and following up interviews with the *New York Times* and *The Guardian*, the Virginia Tech Senior spoke with 16 Blocks about his optimism and pessimism for the future of democracy on the local and national level. Here are some of the highlights:

There's been some good improvements for our democracy in Virginia. We have 45 days of early voting now and same day registration. Two short years ago we didn't have that.

We had nearly a fair map this year in Virginia. At least the party that got the majority of the vote got about as many seats. That's an estimated popular vote when adjusting for uncontested races.

That's really great but you know there are some things with American democracy that I'm very pessimistic about, that I know that will never be changed. The US Senate. I would prefer that be abolished because it's the most undemocratic institution in the Western Free World.

The Electoral College is never going to go away. We're never going to have a national popular vote. There's gerrymandering in many state legislatures that this Supreme Court will not do anything about so it's going to be a generation before it is outlawed nationwide, at least.