

Latest Poll Shows More Voters Opposing Question 2

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Robert Repucci, CAPIC (Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc.)
Alexandra Oliver-Davila, Sociedad Latina
Reverend Shaun Harrison, Bird Street Community Center
Jeremy Galvin, The Gavin House
Lisa Morales, Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion (IBA), South End

Good Morning,

With less than two weeks remaining till the November 4th election, more and more Massachusetts voters are opposing [Question 2](#), especially as they continue to learn about the serious public health and safety consequences that the decriminalization of marijuana poses for our families and communities.

A new Rasmussen poll says only "a very narrow majority of voters" - 51 percent - favor Question 2, while 41 percent oppose the decriminalization of marijuana. That's a twenty point shift from just eight weeks ago, when a 7 News/Suffolk University Poll indicated Question 2 was "all but certain to pass." In that poll, 72 percent of Massachusetts voters indicated they favored the decriminalization of marijuana.

In a story published today in [The Boston Herald](#), the Boston Police Department and Mayor Thomas Menino ripped marijuana proponents for new television ads that insinuate local police and public officials support Question 2, even after they have publicly stated their opposition.

"It's an unfair tactic to try and confuse voters," Menino spokeswoman Dot Joyce told the *Herald*. "The mayor doesn't support this ad."

"Their decision to incorporate the BPD brand into their ad campaign was very inappropriate," Boston Police Department spokeswoman Elaine Driscoll said in the article. "They did not ask for permission and we in no way endorse this advertisement."

The [Coalition for Safe Streets](#) invites you to read the full story below.

For more information on [Question 2](#), and to visit our Web site, click on the Vote No on 2 image above. A member of the No Question 2 staff can also be reached at info@noquestion2.org.

Sincerely,

Boston TenPoint Coalition

Community Voices

Mass. Association of
Superintendents

Mass. Chiefs of Police
Association

Mothers Against Drunk
Driving

Students Against Drunk
Driving

The Coalition for Safe Streets

The Boston Herald

Hub rips cops featured in soft-on-marijuana ads

By Dave Wedge | Thursday, October 23, 2008 |

Boston cops and Mayor Thomas M. Menino are up in arms that pictures of two uniformed officers and a marked cruiser appear in new political ads supporting a controversial proposal to decriminalize marijuana.

"Their decision to incorporate the BPD brand into their ad campaign was very inappropriate," Boston Police Department spokeswoman Elaine Driscoll said. "They did not ask for permission and we in no way endorse this advertisement."

In one ad, retired Sgt. Howard Donahue says he supports Question 2 because it would free up cops to fight "violent criminals." The ad features an old picture of Donahue in uniform in front of a BPD cruiser.

Another ad features retired Lt. Tom Nolan and a picture of him in uniform while he argues that existing weed laws give offenders a lifetime criminal record that makes it hard to get jobs and student loans. Question 2 would make possession of up to one ounce of pot a civil offense punishable by a fine.

"I entered law enforcement to catch bad guys, not to deny someone an education for life just because they made a mistake," Nolan says.

While state ethics laws ban the use of taxpayer-funded resources in political ads, Yes on Question 2 spokeswoman Whitney Taylor said, "There are no ethics violations. Those were personal pictures from retired police officers."

Menino spokeswoman Dot Joyce also slammed the group's use of the BPD car and uniforms, saying, "It's an unfair tactic to try and confuse voters. The mayor doesn't support this ad."

In 1998, several Boston cops came under fire for

appearing in uniform in a political ad for former state Sen. Lois Pines. In 1996, Sen. John F. Kerry drew sharp criticism for using a uniformed cop in an ad filmed in Lowell.

And in 2006, Somerville Police Chief Robert Bradley was accused of ethics violations for appearing in uniform in a political ad opposing the sale of wine at supermarkets.

About the Coalition for Safe Streets

The Coalition for Safe Streets is a grassroots organization composed of the state's 11 district attorneys, sheriffs, chiefs of police and educational, religious, community, political, public health and business leaders who strongly oppose efforts to make illicit drugs more readily available in our communities. The Coalition for Safe Streets was formed to educate the public about the dangers of Question 2 on the November ballot, a radical proposal to decriminalize marijuana in the Commonwealth that will put more drugs on our streets, empower the drug dealers who sell them, put more drivers - particularly young people - behind the wheel of a car under the influence of drugs, and send the wrong message to our young people. For more information, and to visit our Website, click on the Vote No on 2 image above.