



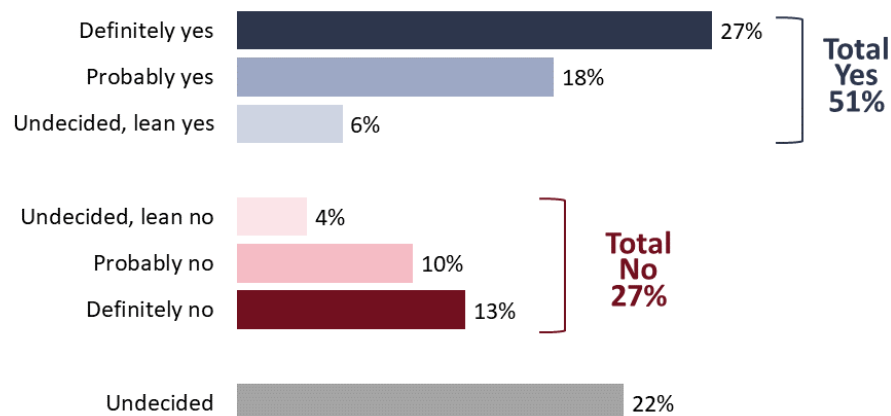
TO Interested Parties
FROM Dave Metz and Miranda Everitt
FM3 Research
RE: DC Voter Views of Initiative 81
DATE April 17, 2020

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) recently completed a survey of Washington, D.C., voters to understand their views of Initiative 81, a measure that would make restrictions on plant medicines among the Metropolitan Police Department’s lowest law enforcement priorities.ⁱ The study found majority support for the measure, which only increases and solidifies as voters learn more. Given voters' lack of familiarity with the subject, the measure will require a strong campaign to broaden understanding of the benefits of plant medicines; given such a campaign, however, the measure is in strong position to win approval from DC voters. Specific survey findings included the following:

- **Given initiative measure language alone, a slim majority supports Initiative 81.** As shown in Figure 1, 51% of DC voters back Initiative 81 initially - nearly double the level of opposition. However, more than one in five are undecided.

Figure 1: Initiative 81 Initial Vote

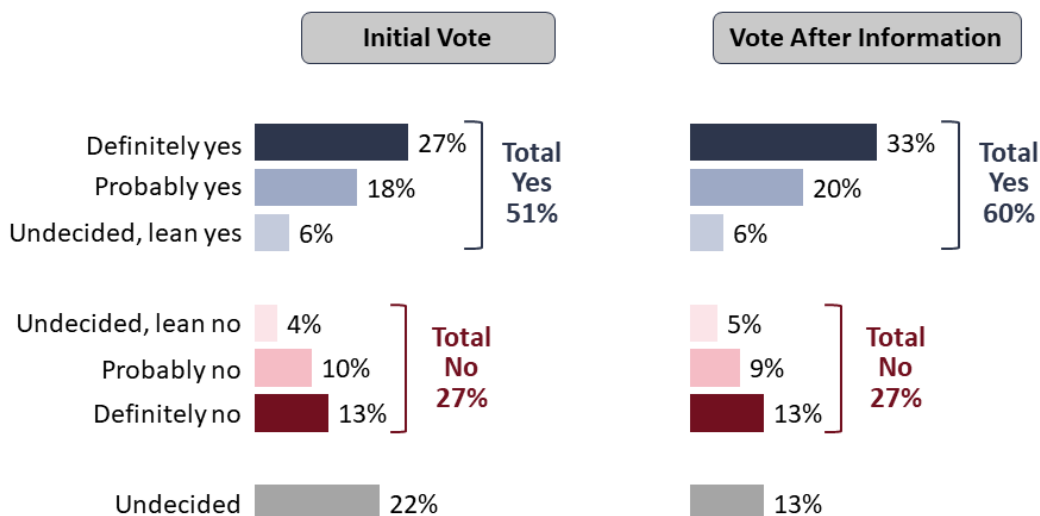
ENTHEOGENIC PLANT AND FUNGUS POLICY ACT OF 2020. If enacted, this Initiative would: Make the investigation and arrest of adults for non-commercial planting, cultivating, purchasing, transporting, distributing, possessing, and/or engaging in practices with entheogenic plants and fungi among the Metropolitan Police Department’s lowest law enforcement priorities; and codify that the people of the District of Columbia call upon the Attorney General for the District of Columbia and the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia to cease prosecution of residents of the District of Columbia for these activities.



- Given a plain-language explanation, support increases nine points, and the share who are undecided also shrinks. As shown in Figure 2, three in five (60%) support Initiative 81 given a plain-language explanation of the measure. In addition, the share who are undecided reduces from more than one in five to 13%. The proportion "definitely" in favor rises by six points.

Figure 2: Vote After Information

It would change current law having to do with plant medicines known as entheogens, which include substances like psilocybin, the active ingredient in "magic mushrooms"; cacti which contain mescaline, iboga, which contains ibogaine and ayahuasca, which contains DMT. The measure would make investigation and arrest of adults for non-commercial growing, gathering, and gifting of these plant medicines among the lowest law enforcement priorities for the District of Columbia. The measure instructs the DC Attorney General to not prosecute people arrested for entheogens. The measure does not legalize these substances, allow their retail sales, or permit marketing of any products containing these substances.



- Support for the measure is strong despite the fact that concern about COVID-19 is substantial and broadly shared.** Fully 83% of DC voters say they are either "extremely" or "very concerned" about the coronavirus pandemic, with nearly half (46%) registering the highest level of concern. Another 13% are "somewhat concerned," and just 3% say they are "not too concerned" about the pandemic. Notably, this concern is substantial across gender, age, party and racial groups, with at least two-thirds "extremely" or "very concerned." There seems to be little connection between concern about coronavirus and support for the measure, however. 55% of those at least "very concerned" support the measure, as do 50% of those less concerned -- within the study's margin of error.
- While very few have used any type of plant medicine personally, many DC voters have a connection to someone who has experienced the type of mental health issues the substances can treat.** As shown in Figure 3 on the next page, majorities have either experienced, or are close to someone who has experienced, anxiety or depression. Fewer than one-quarter have a close tie to someone who has used psilocybin; very few have personally used ayahuasca, mescaline or iboga, or know someone who has. This lack of direct personal

experience underscores the need for public education about plant medicines, and their benefits for addressing these widespread mental health conditions.

Figure 3: Voter Experiences with Plant Medicines and the Conditions They Treat

Keeping in mind that this survey is completely confidential, have you, or has anyone close to you, ever done any of the following:

Experience	Personal Experience	Experience by Self or Person Close
Experienced anxiety	39%	64%
Experienced depression	28%	57%
Experienced PTSD	10%	28%
Used psilocybin or magic mushrooms	10%	23%
Used ayahuasca	1%	6%
Used cacti containing mescaline	1%	5%
Used iboga	1%	2%

- **Support for Initiative 81 remains strong after an exchange of pro and con arguments.** As shown in Figure 4 below, both voters’ overall support and the intensity of their support steadily increase as voters get more information about the measure – including after an exchange of pro and con arguments.

Figure 4: Progression of Support for Initiative 81 After Messages

Position	Initial Vote	After Information	After Pro and Con Messages	Change
Definitely yes	27%	33%	37%	+10%
Probably/lean yes	24%	26%	22%	-2%
TOTAL YES	51%	60%	59%	+8%
Definitely no	13%	13%	16%	+3%
Probably/lean no	14%	14%	16%	+2%
TOTAL NO	27%	27%	32%	+5%
UNDECIDED	22%	13%	9%	-13%

In sum, **the survey results show a clear path to victory for Initiative 81 with a strong campaign**. Despite very few voters having a personal experience with plant medicines like psilocybin, ayahuasca, iboga or mescaline, DC voters largely support a measure that would re-focus public safety resources on more important issues than possession of these substances.

ⁱ **Methodology:** From March 31 - April 5, 2020, FM3 completed 801 live telephone interviews (on both landlines and cell phones) with likely November 2020 voters in Washington, D.C. The margin of sampling error for the study is +/-4.0% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.