

Name _____

Precinct _____

Senate District _____

Resolution Regarding Criminal Justice:

Whereas, enforcement of marijuana prohibition costs an enormous amount of money and law enforcement resources, but fails to achieve success in reducing marijuana use and availability. In 2012, Texas police officers arrested more than 73,000 people for marijuana; 97% of those arrests were for possession alone.¹ Every 10 minutes, a Texan is arrested for marijuana possession costing Texas over \$251 million per year.²

Whereas, marijuana prohibition is harming the futures of our youth. In Texas, minors and adults under 21 make up almost 50% of all marijuana possession arrests.³ African Americans in Texas are twice as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession though black and white usage rates are equal.⁴ These youths are then branded with criminal records, loss of scholarships and job opportunities, and many face jail time.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Republican Party of Texas supports a change in the law to make it a civil, not criminal, offense to possess an ounce or less of marijuana for personal use, punishable by a fine of up to \$100, but without jail time.

1. Texas Department of Public Safety. *Crime in Texas: 2012 Texas Arrest Data*. p 75. <http://www.dps.texas.gov/crimereports/12/citCh9.pdf>
2. American Civil Liberties Union. *The War on Marijuana in Black and White*. p 178. June 2013. <https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/1114413-mj-report-rfs-rell.pdf>
3. Texas Department of Public Safety. *Crime in Texas: 2012 Texas Arrest Data*. p 76. <http://www.dps.texas.gov/crimereports/12/citCh9.pdf>
4. American Civil Liberties Union. p 178, 21