

# REPUBLICANS AGAINST MARIJUANA PROHIBITION

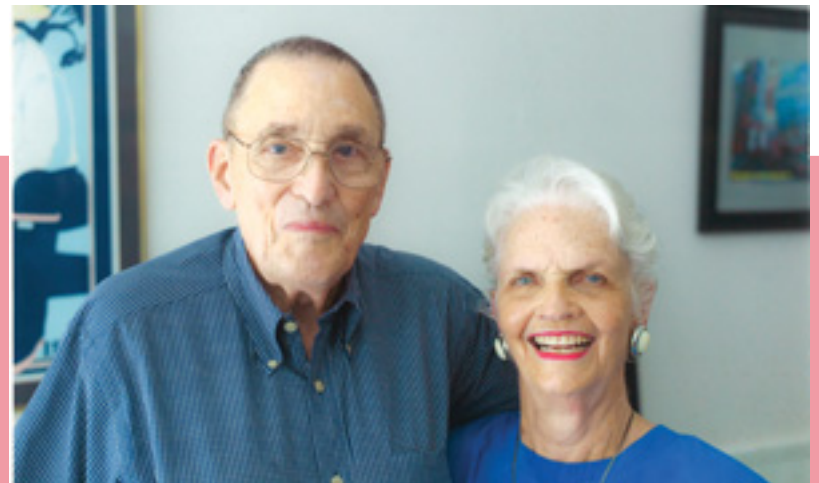
*If you have questions, please post them in the chat feature of Uber Conference or on the Facebook Event Page.*

# WHO IS RAMP


Republicans Against Marijuana Prohibition is made up of regular Texans who believe the policy of arresting and prosecuting low-level marijuana users is not an efficient use of law enforcement resources and is rather an ineffective public safety strategy.

We also support access to marijuana as medicine for certain medical conditions, as it has been safely used for thousands of years prior to being outlawed in the United States, and in 23 US states beginning in 1996.

We were founded by lifelong Republican activists Ann and Bob Lee in Houston, Texas.



# HOW DOES A LAW PASS IN TEXAS

- We cannot submit signatures for a petition.
  - Bill must be filed in the House, or Senate, or both.
  - Bill passes through committee(s) and then to floor of the House, Senate, or both.
  - Bill must pass both chambers during the 140 days in session or during a special session.
  - Texas Legislature meets every other year.
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# RAMP GOALS FOR 2015

HB 507 - reclassifies 0-1 ounce of marijuana possession from a class B misdemeanor to a civil penalty.

- \* No arrest

- \* No criminal record

Medical Marijuana – draft form only

Qualifying conditions of cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, agitation of Alzheimer's disease, PTSD, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, chronic pain, or chronic nausea.

Upon the recommendation of a doctor, you may apply for an ID card that would allow you to purchase up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana every 14 days from your registered dispensary.

# WHO REPRESENTS ME?

You have a State Representative and State Senator.

Go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx> or Google 'Who represents me Texas'



## Who Represents Me? Home

[About](#) | [Contact](#)

[Find District](#) | [Member Information](#) | [District Information](#)

Street Address:

City: , TX

ZIP Code:

District Type:

Read cautions about [matching addresses to districts](#).

*Who Represents Me* provides information about current districts and members of the Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives, the Texas delegation to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and the State Board of Education. Find out when information about [new districts](#) and [new members](#) is added to the website.

[Home](#) | [Find District](#) | [Member Information](#) | [District Information](#) | [Texas Redistricting](#) | [District Viewer](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Top](#)

## Texas U.S. Senators

U.S. Senators represent the entire state. Texas' current U.S. Senators are [Senator John Cornyn](#) and [Senator Ted Cruz](#). See their websites for current contact information.

## Texas U.S. Representative

Congressional District 36--Congressman Brian Babin  
[Texas Congressional Member Websites](#)

## Texas State Senator

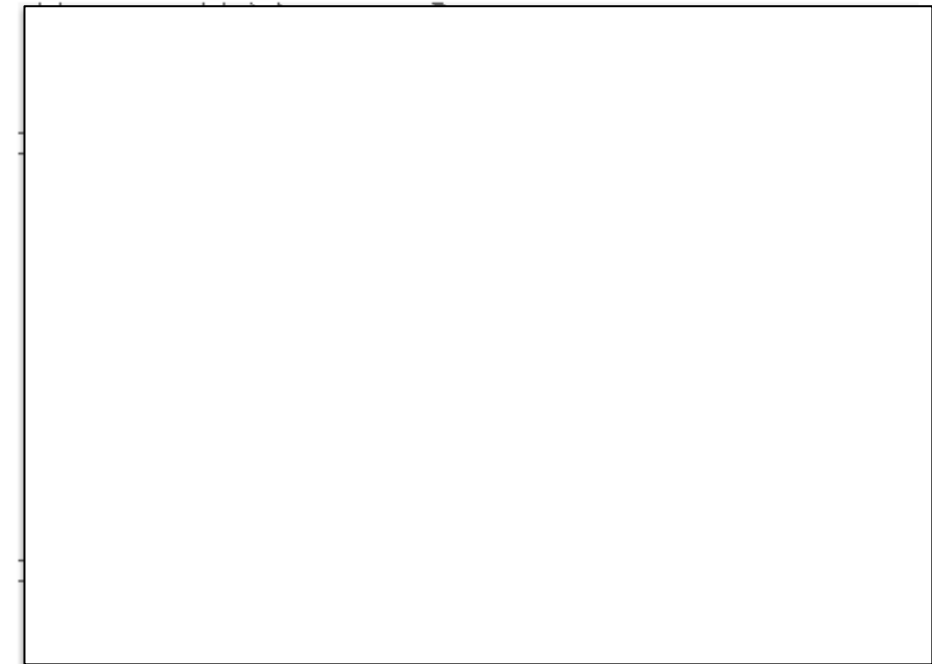
Texas State Senate District 11--[Senator Larry Taylor](#)  
Capitol Office: CAP GE.5  
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0111  
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711  
District Address: 6117 Broadway, Suite 122  
Pearland TX 77581  
Phone: (281) 485-9800  
[State District Offices](#)

## Texas State Representative

Texas State House District 129--[Representative Dennis Paul](#)  
Capitol Office: EXT E2.814  
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0734  
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768  
District Address: P.O. Box 2910  
Austin TX 78768

## Texas State Board of Education Member

Texas State SBOE District 8--Ms. Barbara Cargill  
[State Board of Education Member Websites](#)



Select District Type:

# HOW TO SET UP A MEETING WITH YOUR REP.

RAMP is a member of the coalition Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy.

Lobby Day February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Register as a RAMP for Lobby Day with your full address at

[www.RAMPGOP.org/lobby-day](http://www.RAMPGOP.org/lobby-day)

WEAR RED!



# WHAT TO SAY IN YOUR MEETING

Resources to print and bring to your meeting are available at

[www.RAMPGOP.org/resources](http://www.RAMPGOP.org/resources)

If you have a medical need, type a 1-2 page testimonial to leave with your rep.

Be respectful and professional.

Who in your network can you bring to the meeting? Law enforcement, medical professionals, businesspeople.

Ask for their support, whether that is a positive vote in committee, on the floor, or to sponsor the bill.

“I am a Republican, and it’s time to rethink marijuana policy in Texas.”

Also, if you would like a RAMP leader in the meeting, contact us and we can arrange it.

[info@rampgop.org](mailto:info@rampgop.org)





# CURRENT TEXAS LAW

A person found with 0-2 ounces of marijuana is charged with a class B misdemeanor, which means the police officer must arrest and book the offender into county jail.

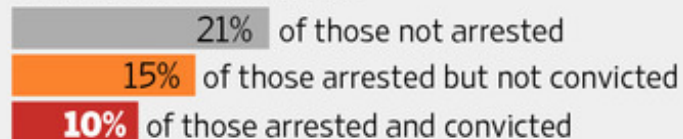
## Consequences:

- Probationary period from 6 months to 2 years (includes drug testing, rehabilitation, curfew)
- Up to 6 months in jail
- Up to \$2,000 in fines
- Crimestoppers donation
- Court costs
- Suspension of drivers license from 6 months to 1 year
- Barred from receiving CHL
- Loss of student financial aid
- Negative impact on employment, housing options, and professional licensing

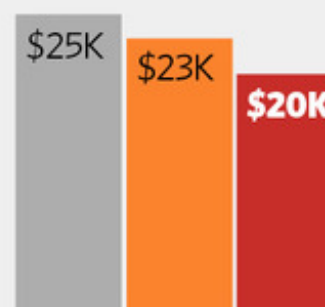
## Impact | What happens after arrest

A national survey of youth indicates that being arrested by the age of 23, regardless of whether convicted, correlates with negative outcomes in one's life. Below, indicators of respondents who have been arrested (convicted and not convicted) compared with those not arrested.

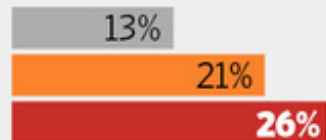
### Own a home at age 25



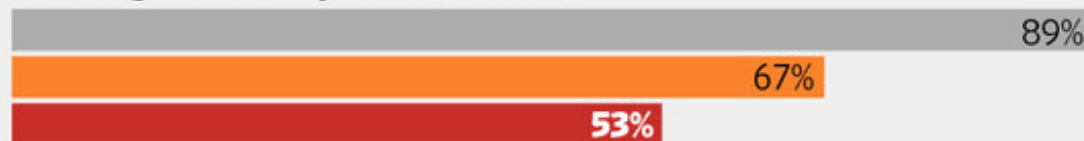
### Median income at age 25



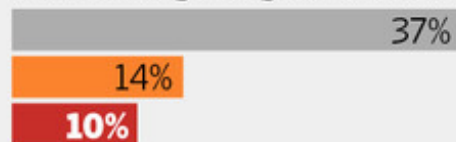
### Household income below poverty line at age 25



### With high school diploma (or more)




### With college degree (or more)



Source: Tia Stevens Andersen of University of South Carolina's analysis of a National Longitudinal Survey of Youth conducted in 1997-2010 by the Labor Department which studied 8,984 people born in 1980-84

# HOW MANY ARRESTS ARE THERE?

## 2013 Texas Stats

- 70,276 marijuana possession arrests (0-4 ounces)
  - Approximately 2/3 or 45,000 are less than 1 ounce
  - 45% of marijuana possession arrests are people 21 and under
  - 75% of marijuana possession arrests are people under 30
  - Marijuana possession arrests account for 7.5% of all arrests in Texas
  - ACLU estimated that Texas spends \$251 million each year enforcing marijuana possession arrests.
  - Rep. Moody estimates the number may be up to \$731 million per year
  - Marijuana possession accounts for over 97% of all marijuana arrests (as compared to distribution)
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[www.RAMPGOP.org/resources](http://www.RAMPGOP.org/resources)

**MPP Study: Do Harsh Penalties  
for Marijuana Possession  
Reduce Teen Use?**

**HARSH MARIJUANA POLICIES  
DO THEY WORK?**



# MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Good resource on how medical marijuana works is at

[www.RAMPGOP.org/issues/medical-marijuana/](http://www.RAMPGOP.org/issues/medical-marijuana/)

Common objections:

- In Colorado, anyone can get a medical marijuana card.
- There's not enough research.
- Marijuana gets you high.
- There's already enough medicine to treat what ails you.
- Why don't pharmaceutical companies make it into a pill?
- It's a slippery slope to legalization.

# PLEDGE TO MEET YOUR REP!

[www.RAMPGOP.org/lobby-day](http://www.RAMPGOP.org/lobby-day)

February 18<sup>th</sup>

[www.RAMPGOP.org/pledge-form](http://www.RAMPGOP.org/pledge-form)

[www.txmjpolicy.org](http://www.txmjpolicy.org)

