

Sensible Drug Policy

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Political Backdrop

- Costly political campaigns cause politicians to work for donors
- Results in lying to themselves and voters; and:
- Drug policies that protect the white establishment
- Long term deceit and disinformation

Cannabis Prohibition

- Started in 1937 with Marijuana Tax Act
- Protected wood pulp paper industry from hemp pulp competition
- Supported by wild racist lies:
 - Smoking marijuana makes white women want to have sex with black men; turns mild-mannered people into wild killers
- Now protects pharmaceutical, prison, alcohol, and tobacco industries
- Racist enforcement continues

Alcohol Consequences

- Alcohol reduces inhibitions, encourages foolish aggression
- Murder, assault, disorderly conduct often alcohol-related
- Drunk drivers kill
- Fetal alcohol syndrome damages fetus
- CDC: 178,000 annual USA alcohol deaths
- Slide added March 2024

Ranking Danger

- Considering harm to self and harm to others ...
- Alcohol is the most dangerous recreational drug
- See “Drug harms in the UK: a multicriteria decision analysis”
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61462-6](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61462-6)
- Cannabis causes zero overdose deaths
- Medical cannabis is actually medicine

Related Problems

- Dealers mix powerful fentanyl with common recreational drugs
- Improper dosage results in overdose deaths
- USA's giant prison system fueled largely by alcohol and drug related crimes
- Alcohol/drug policies encourage addiction, disease, crime
- No treatment options in Minnehaha County jail
- Information is irrelevant in the face of dogma and corruption

Economics

- Treatment is more cost effective than incarceration for reducing addiction
- But USA relies on an incarceration-based approach
- Something is wrong here – bad politics, bad motives
- Caring for people and investing in them is my preference
- Status quo prefers controlling people and taking their money

Local Drug Policy

- Not based on science
- Based on power politics
- Dangerous addictive alcohol is everywhere
- Much safer recreational cannabis illegal, subject to racist enforcement
- Medical cannabis strongly discouraged with excessive fees and regulations

Heroin Safety

- Prescription heroin actually helps
- Reduces addiction by saving addicts from pushing drugs to pay for their habit
- Reduces disease via clean drugs and needles
- Reduces crime because costly illegal drugs spur theft
- Probably not politically viable here
- Safe injection sites are more likely politically
- Reducing addiction would also help

Recommended Policies

- Sioux Falls health department should advertise truth about risk
- Discourage use of alcohol
- Encourage migration to cannabis
- Start free testing program to find laced drugs
- Prosecute dealers' suppliers and send addicts to treatment
- Encourage healthy living, not drugs
- Enjoy nature & life!

Enjoy Winter's Beauty

