



Brookline PAX

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Recommendations on November 6, 2012 Ballot Questions

There are five yes-or-no questions on the November 6 ballot. PAX takes no position of **Question 1** and recommends YES votes on **Questions 2-5**.

Questions 2 and 3 are binding. Each would create a law establishing a medical policy that has received increasingly widespread support across the nation in recent years. Both affirm important civil libertarian and humane values, and we feel that their time has come.

Question 2 would permit Massachusetts doctors, at a terminally ill patient's voluntary request, to prescribe medication to end that patient's life. The patient must be an adult Massachusetts resident, medically determined to be capable of making an informed decision and diagnosed with an incurable, irreversible disease likely to cause death within six months.

Question 3 would eliminate state penalties for the medical use of marijuana by patients diagnosed with debilitating medical conditions such as cancer, AIDS or multiple sclerosis. A written certification is required, from a doctor with a genuine physician/patient relationship, that the patient would likely benefit from marijuana use. Non-profit medical marijuana treatment centers would grow and process the marijuana in accordance with Department of Public Health rules.

Question 4 urges our congressional representatives to support a federal budget plan that protects Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and accelerates job creation. It would provide funding for these purposes by raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans, closing corporate tax loopholes, cutting defense spending, and ending the war in Afghanistan. These steps, supported again and again by substantial majorities in national opinion polls, would accelerate economic recovery, maintain fiscal responsibility, and raise the living standards of ordinary Americans.

Question 5 (precincts 2-13 only) urges Representative Smizik to support a resolution calling on Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution affirming that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of human beings, and that both Congress and the States may limit political contributions and spending. This amendment would reverse the Supreme Court decision "Citizens United," which said that corporations are "people" and can spend unlimited amounts in political campaigns.

Frank Farlow and Marty Rosenthal are co-chairs of Brookline PAX