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1 denied, 2 approved

Matt Rocheleau, Collegian Staff

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Media Credit: William McGuinness / Collegian

Massa voters decide to leave the state income tax as it is and chose to decrim marija by answe "no" to ballot Question 1 and "yes" on Question 2.

During Election Day, Amherst voters, including town residents and students from the University of Massachusetts, were asked how they felt on the top two propositions.

All of the 14 voters questioned at the Immanuel Lutheran Church polling station on North Pleasant Street said they voted "no" on Question 1 to repeal the state income tax.

Eleven of those same 14 voters said they were in favor of voting "yes" on Question 2 to decriminalize marijuana. Two others planned to vote "no," while another said he was still undecided on Question 2.

Most of those opposed to Question 1, a proposal which would eliminate personal state income tax by 2010, noted the state's and country's declining economic status in explaining their vote.

"The budget is bad enough as it is," said Amherst resident Eric Johnson. "I think it [passing Question 1] would just exacerbate the situation."

Funding for state education was also a common concern.

"I don't want there to be cuts in public education," said Amherst resident

Eboni Rafus.

Bryan Man, a UMass senior majoring in plant and soil science, said he had a name for Question 1.

"I call it the 'shoot-Massachusetts-in-the-foot bill,'" he said.

The UMass Republican Club held an on-campus rally Monday and set up tables in the Campus Center Tuesday to encourage students to vote in favor of abolishing the state's income tax.

"Realistically, there is more focus on Question 1 than the candidates at this point," said Republican Club president Greg Collins. "The majority of the Republican club supports Question 1."

The UMass Democrats also did some last-minute campaigning in the Campus Center.

POLL

Who are you voting for in the upcoming Presidential election?

- John McCain
- Barack Obama
- Bob Barr
- Ralph Nader
- Mickey Mouse

Submit Vote

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24 Hour News

"We're all about Obama, but also very serious in our opposition to Question 1," said Charlie Felder, campaign coordinator for UMass Democrats.

Several of those who voted "yes" on Question 2 felt the penalties for marijuana possession were unfair.

"The penalty for marijuana possession is too steep and is focused more on penalizing than on reform," said Rafus. "I think our prison system is clogged up with too many drug offenders. We should focus on other, more serious crimes."

Others agreed that state law enforcement should focus on other priorities.

Continued...

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Jane Goggin
posted 11/05/08 @ 9:29 AM EST

Massachusettes is on the right track. Next we need to approve medical marijuana for the many illnesses it helps to a greater extent than current meds used. (Continued…)

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John Eight ThirtyTwo

John Eight Thirty-Two
posted 11/05/08 @ 11:57 AM EST

Marijuana should be legalized. How is it different from alcohol, which can disable dangerously and even kill, but when handled with care is pleasant and safe and (dare I say?) fun?

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Students get free ride
Now awake, students recognize an election
Students phone bank for Obama
UMass Democrats "rally for hope"
4 fails by slim margin
Many students unaware of Congress bids
Long lines await UM voters
Candidate queries fielded via text message

Arts & Living

The Breakfast celebrates tenth anniversary at Iron Horse
"Saw" just doesn't cut it

Editorial / Opinion

Forgetting lessons of 9/11
The bottom line
Freedom in fraternity
Open discussion, honest response

Sports

Kellogg looks for effort in tonight's exhibition
UMASS HOCKEY: Minutemen display power
UMASS FOOTBALL: UMass still on playoff pace
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