

I'm Bill Wayne, Libertarian candidate for State Senate. If you're wondering about my middle name- 2nd cousin, twice removed.

As a Libertarian (who has never used illegal drugs), I believe that drug use should be considered a public health problem, not a criminal problem. We've seen what happened to drug use overall in Portugal, where they essentially decriminalized all drug use – it declined. In the U.S., the experiments in decriminalizing marijuana in Colorado & Washington are too new to provide valid statistics.

What we do know is that suppression – the so-called war on drugs- has been a failure.

- It's made not a dent in use rates;**
- it's enriched murderous gangs at home & abroad;**
- it's destabilized neighboring countries such as Mexico & Columbia;**
- and, worst of all, it's made the US the leader among developed nations in incarcerating our citizens – which has borne most directly on poor black & hispanic minorities by destroying families and making them truly second class citizens.**

It's time we try something different.

Quit locking people up for doing things that harm nobody but themselves. Treat them, instead.

Quit making smuggling so lucrative.

Quit supporting gangs.

Alcohol prohibition didn't work, so we got rid of it.

Let's do the same for drug prohibition.

Thank you.