

**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.**