

# Assessing Cannabis Stances of Potential Biden Successors

**Washington, D.C.** — President Joe Biden's recent executive order to reschedule marijuana has sent ripples through the political landscape, igniting discussions on the future of cannabis policy in the United States. As the 2024 presidential election looms, the cannabis industry, valued at \$36 billion, faces significant uncertainty. Key Democratic contenders are already positioning themselves, and their stances on marijuana legalization could shape the industry's trajectory for years to come.

## **Biden's Executive Order: A Historic Shift**

Biden's executive order to reschedule marijuana marks a historic shift in federal cannabis policy. The order, which aims to reclassify marijuana from a Schedule I to a Schedule III substance, is seen as a move to facilitate research, decriminalize its use, and potentially pave the way for broader legalization. This policy shift reflects growing public support for marijuana reform and addresses long-standing issues related to criminal justice and public health.

## **Kamala Harris: A Progressive Approach**

Vice President Kamala Harris has emerged as a prominent figure in the cannabis legalization debate. Known for her progressive stance on criminal justice reform, Harris has previously co-sponsored the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act, which seeks to decriminalize marijuana at the federal level and address the socio-economic disparities caused by the war on drugs. Her potential candidacy for the presidency signals a strong likelihood of continued support for comprehensive cannabis reform.

## **Gavin Newsom: A Record of Advocacy**

California Governor Gavin Newsom has long been an advocate for marijuana legalization. Under his leadership, California has become a model for state-level cannabis regulation, balancing economic growth with public safety. Newsom's track record and vocal support for federal legalization position him as a formidable contender who could significantly influence national cannabis policy if elected.

## **Gretchen Whitmer: A Balanced Perspective**

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer offers a balanced perspective on cannabis legalization. Having overseen the implementation of Michigan's recreational marijuana market, Whitmer emphasizes regulatory oversight and public health considerations. Her pragmatic approach could appeal to a broad spectrum of voters and stakeholders within the cannabis industry, making her a key player to watch in the upcoming election cycle.

## **Other Democratic Contenders**

Other potential Democratic contenders, such as Senators Cory Booker and Elizabeth Warren, have also shown strong support for marijuana reform. Booker has been a vocal proponent of criminal justice reform and co-sponsor of the MORE Act, while Warren has advocated for states' rights to determine their cannabis policies without federal interference. Their involvement in the presidential race would further diversify the cannabis policy debate within the Democratic Party.

### **Future Directions: How Biden's Successors Could Shape Cannabis Legislation**

The future of federal cannabis policy hinges on the outcome of the 2024 presidential election. Potential successors to President Biden, including Kamala Harris, Gavin Newsom, and others, bring varied perspectives and policy priorities to the table.

- **Kamala Harris** is likely to push for comprehensive federal legalization, focusing on social equity and criminal justice reform.
- **Gavin Newsom** could leverage his experience in California to advocate for robust regulatory frameworks and economic opportunities within the cannabis industry.
- **Gretchen Whitmer** might prioritize a balanced approach, ensuring public health and safety while supporting industry growth.

### **Biden's Legacy and Cannabis: What's at Stake in the 2024 Election?**

President Biden's executive order to reschedule marijuana has set a new course for cannabis policy, but its long-term impact will depend on his successors' actions. The 2024 election presents a pivotal moment for the U.S. cannabis industry, with potential outcomes ranging from full federal legalization to continued regulatory uncertainty.

The \$36 billion [cannabis industry](#) stands at a crossroads, with the potential for significant growth and innovation under supportive leadership. Conversely, a lack of clear federal policy could perpetuate challenges related to banking, taxation, and interstate commerce.

As Democratic contenders prepare for the upcoming election, their positions on cannabis legalization will be closely scrutinized by industry stakeholders, policymakers, and voters. The future of federal cannabis policy, and its broader social and economic implications, will be a critical issue in the 2024 presidential race.

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