

News, Announcements and Information from

WILLAMETTE VALLEY NORML



your local chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

Your Country Needs YOU!

Register, **Vote** and Get **Everybody** You Know to Do So Also

Query every candidate running for office - from local dog-catcher to presidential contender - on how they would vote on these bills -

The (past!) Time to 'Make Room for Serious Criminals' Act

Federal Decriminalization Bill Introduced -- Bill Would End Federal Authority to Arrest Adults for Pot Possession

Washington, DC: US Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) introduced legislation in Congress to strip the federal government of its authority to arrest responsible adult cannabis consumers. The measure, H.R. 5843, known as an "Act to Remove Federal Penalties for Personal Use of Marijuana by Responsible Adults," is the first federal decriminalization legislation introduced in 24 years. "It's time for the politicians to catch up with the public on this [issue],"

<continued on page 3 >

Cannabis Law Reform



As American As Apple Pie!

A Citizen's Guide to the Oregon State Legislative Process

With stuff like How to Testify in Front of Committee is at:

www.leg.state.or.us/citizenguide/ *
NOTE: You may call your legislators by contacting the WATS operator. Within Salem, call 503-986-1187. Outside of Salem, please call 1-800-332-2313.

Getting to the Capitol > 900 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301 * Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00-5:30 ~ Saturday: Closed ~ Sunday: Closed * Visitor Services Phone: 503-986-1388 * For more information on How to get to the Capitol, including things like Where to Park visit: www.leg.state.or.us/capinfo/

<continued on page 5 >

Vote Smart!

Visit NORMLs Campaign 2008 web page - http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6966

Also, Project Vote Smart has profiles about nearly all candidates for federal and state offices, to include what the candidates have stated is their position on drug issues. Biographical Information, Voting Records, Issue Positions, Interest Group Ratings, Public Statements, Campaign Finances, Voter Registration, Ballot Measures, Issues and Legislation, Political Resources, and more. Politics is going to the Dogs You can Bite Back with Project Vote Smart. **Visit -** <http://www.vote-smart.org/>

And Spread the Word!

Industrial Hemp Information and Advocacy | Vote Hemp is a national, single-issue, non-profit advocacy group founded in

<continued on page 4 >



The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

----- Making contact -----

You can Snail Mail:

The W-V-NORML Newsletter team by writing to -

**P.O. Box 10957
Eugene, OR 97440**

E-mailing:

newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org

or phoning: **541-517-0957**

Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

WillametteValleyNORML.org

A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: www.norml.org**

Today Willamette Valley NORML joins the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from QUERY ABOUT BILLS, page 1 > Frank said. "The notion that you lock people up for smoking marijuana is pretty silly."

Frank's pending bill, co-sponsored by presidential candidate Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), seeks to eliminate all federal penalties prohibiting the personal use and possession of up to 100 grams (3 1/2 ounces) of marijuana. Under this measure, adults who consume cannabis would no longer face arrest, prison, or even the threat of a civil fine. The bill also eliminates all penalties for the not-for-profit transfers of up to one ounce of pot.

According to a nationwide CNN/Time Magazine poll, more than three-quarters of American adults favor decriminalizing marijuana. For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500 - or visit -

http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7581

Supporters can write their Representatives in favor of this bill at:

<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=11280301&type=CO>

Federal Medical Marijuana Bill Introduced by Rep. Ron Paul

Washington, DC: Representative Ron Paul (R-TX) has introduced [H.R. 5842](#), the "Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act,". This bill would make federal authorities respect states' current laws on medicinal cannabis and end DEA raids on facilities distributing medical marijuana legally under state law.

Representative Paul, whose presidential campaign prominently featured the ending of the drug war as a platform plank, was joined by Reps. Barney Frank (D-MA), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), and Sam Farr (D-CA) in co-sponsoring this bill.

"I think marijuana is a helpful medical treatment for the people who have intractable nausea," Paul said in a 2004 House debate regarding a similar measure. "I would like to point out this is not something strange that we are suggesting here. For the first 163 years of

our history in this country, the federal government had total hands off, they never interfered with what the states were doing."

[Twelve states](#) have approved the use of medical marijuana, beginning with California in 1996 with the passage of Proposition 215. The DEA continues to raid and harass medicinal cannabis dispensaries operating within these states' laws. Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have both indicated they would end such raids should they be elected.

[Michigan](#) will vote on an initiative to adopt medical cannabis legislation this November. [Minnesota](#) and [Rhode Island's](#) respective legislatures are also considering pro-reform legislation this year.

For more information, contact NORML Legal Director Keith Stroup at (202) 483-5500. Supporters can write their Representatives in favor of this bill at:
<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=11280351&type=CO>

Help End Cannabis Prohibition in the State of Oregon

Oregon NORML and the Campaign for the Restoration and Regulation of Hemp as "Oregonians for Cannabis Reform" are currently campaigning for Initiative #2 which would re-legalize cannabis and hemp in Oregon in the year 2010. The OCTA 2010 Petition is currently available for Download. In order to be successful, the mission will require key assistance from Volunteers all over Oregon.

This simple plant, Cannabis, can be put to use as medicine, recreation, fiber, fuel, delicious and nutritious food, among many other things. It would fill so many needs and put Oregon on a path toward sustainability. Our forward-thinking attitude toward hemp and cannabis would create jobs, revitalize our farming communities, boost tourism, and create millions of dollars in revenue for the state. visit - <http://cannabistaxact.org/>

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Voter Power Introduces Dispensary Initiative for Oregon

Where's the Medicine? Too many sick and disabled patients are without medicine. Initiative Petition 28 will allow for licensed and regulated medical marijuana dispensaries and establish a program designed to ensure that patients in need have an adequate supply of medicine. The proposal will also generate revenue for the state and fund research.

Currently, there are four ways for patients to obtain medical marijuana:

1. Grow your own
2. Designate a grower
3. Buy on the black market
4. Have medicine donated from another patient

Voter Power's vision: More freedom, more choices, help patients in need

Their proposal, Initiative 28, creates a revenue-generating regulated medical marijuana supply system that increases choices and freedom for patients (while not taking away the choices currently available). Patient Resource Centers (PRCs) and dispensaries would be able to dispense medicine, plants and products to patients, providing patients with products and services that aren't normally available, such as edibles, tinctures and lozenges. PRCs would provide patients with numerous choices of strains and products while also providing socializing and networking opportunities. Producers would be able to sell to dispensaries and PRCs and donate to cardholders, helping keep prices low. 10% of all gross revenue would go back into the OMMP. The money generated from the system would allow for scientific research and provide a comprehensive plan to assist Oregon patients battling poverty, disease, and disability.

They are now collecting signatures. You can download the signature sheet, sign it and mail it back to Voter Power. To help their efforts please contact the Portland office at 503-224-3051 or the Medford office at 541-245-6634. **Voter Power**, 3236 S.E. 50th Ave., Portland, OR. 97206 * <http://www.voterpower.org>

<continued from VOTE SMART, page 1 > 2000 by members of the hemp industry to remove barriers to industrial hemp farming in the U.S. through education, legislation and advocacy. They work to build grassroots support for hemp through voter education, registration and mobilization, as well as defend against any new laws, regulations or policies that would prohibit or restrict hemp trade. VoteHemp.com was created to educate and reactivate voters who have lost faith in the political system. Visit - <http://votehemp.com/>

Please check out their newly-updated **2008 Voter Guide** and see for yourself the presidential candidates' positions on industrial hemp. Visit - http://votehemp.com/voter_guide.html

A Citizen's Guide to Federal Legislation

The United States Congress is the bicameral legislature of the federal government of the United States of America, consisting of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. Both senators and representatives are chosen through direct election. Visit - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress

United States House of Representatives | Information on the lower body of the federal legislature: about the legislative process, this week's House calendar, committee schedules, roll call vote ... Washington, DC 20515 * call (202) 224-3121 | TTY: (202) 225-1904 or visit - <http://www.house.gov/>

United States Senate | History on ... the two houses of Congress, giving each state equal representation in the Senate. ... Contacting Senators, by mail Washington, D.C. 20510, By Telephone: Alternatively, you may phone the United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. A switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request. visit - <http://www.senate.gov/>

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Congressional Record: Main Page | The official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. Visit - <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html>

Congress.Org | News, information and resources on Congress including votes, bills, assignments and information about individual members. Congress.org is a service of Capitol Advantage and Knowlegis, LLC; private, non-partisan companies that specialize in facilitating civic participation. Congress.org allows users to: Identify and contact elected leaders in Congress, Have your representative's votes sent to you weekly via e-mail, Search alerts and take action in the Issues and Calls to Action area. Visit - <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/>

Congressional Committee Materials Online via GPO Access | Joint Committee of Congress on the Library. Joint Economic Committee. Joint Committee ... Deschler's Precedents of the United States House of Representatives ... Legislative Resources > Congressional Committee Materials Online via GPO Access. visit - <http://www.gpo.gov/congress/>

Congress of the United States: Information from Answers.com | Legislature of the U.S., separated structurally from the executive and judicial (see judiciary) branches of government. Established by the Constitution of the United States, it succeeded the unicameral congress created by the Articles of Confederation (1781). It consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress of the United States Legislature of the U.S., separated structurally from the executive and judicial (see judiciary) branches of government ... Visit - <http://www.answers.com/topic/congress-of-the-united-states>

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Find Your Legislator
www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/findset.htm online. Visit: www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/home.htm and fill out the form entering your home address. Then click on the "submit" button and you will then be given your state and US legislators.

Write your legislator
www.leg.state.or.us/writelegsltr/ online. To send a message to your State Senator or State Representative please visit: www.leg.state.or.us/writelegsltr/ and fill out the form. By entering your information, you will be automatically matched to either your State Senator or your State Representative. Click "submit" when you are ready to send your message.

See a List of OR St. House of Reps at: www.leg.state.or.us/house/ and a **List of OR St. Senate** at: www.leg.state.or.us/house/ There is also the Senate and House District Listing www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/shlist.pdf from Secretary of State, Elections Division which includes a table of Senators and the two corresponding Representatives for all districts see: www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/shlist.pdf

Phoning Your Legislator. During a legislative session, you may call your legislators by contacting the WATS operator. Within Salem, call 503-986-1187. Outside of Salem, please call 1-800-332-2313.

Members Email Address formats
Senator's email address:
sen.firstname.lastname@state.or.us
example: sen.ralphsmith@state.or.us
Representative's email address:
rep.firstname.lastname@state.or.us
example: rep.betsyjones@state.or.us

To check up on bills; here is the link to the search bills page www.leg.state.or.us/searchmeas.html click on search for specific measure ...fill in the blanks

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on the page, hit enter and you will get the text of any bill. For example, try typing "marijuana" in the search engine for new bills. Also look for "cannabis" and we should not forget to mention "hemp" at some time. Or ... If one wants PDF with changes bolded one can also go here: landru.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measure/ click on the directory like HB 2600's and find it in PDF instead of just HTML.

These web links tell you what committee a bill goes to. For senate bills: www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/pubs/senmh.html for house bills: www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/pubs/hsemh.html

If you need information regarding the legislative process, email the Legislative Liaison at help.leg@state.or.us -or- call 503-986-1000 -or- visit: www.leg.state.or.us/

Register, Vote and Get Everybody You Know to Do So Also.

Elections 101: New Voters. Thank you for your interest in voting in Oregon! Voting is how you can participate in democracy and make your voice count.

Does my vote really count? Yes. In the 2002 election, in District 28 (southern Oregon), only 42 votes came between the two candidates. That means 22 votes would have changed the outcome, and close elections like this are not unusual. Next time, the vote that changes the outcome could be yours.

Just as with any other new activity, voting for the first time comes with questions and maybe even a little anxiety. The following information should help answer any questions you may have, ease the voting process, and empower you to become an active citizen.

If you have any questions please call the toll-free voter information line at 1-866-ORE-VOTE (1-866-673-8683). The voter information line is available Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, se habla Espanol. TTY services for the hearing impaired are available at 1-866-350-0596. Additional voting resources are also available online at the Elections Division website; visit: www.sos.state.or.us/elections/elechp.htm.

Read the Voting in Oregon Guide at www.uhavavote.org/votingguide/index.html. get to the link and others by visiting: www.oregonvotes.org/elec101.htm

The basics of Oregon State Voter Registration

You may register to vote in Oregon if:

- 1. You are a resident of Oregon.**
- 2. You are a United States citizen.**
- 3. You will be 18 years old by Election Day.**

To register to vote or update your current registration:

- (1.> Complete the Voter Registration Form (visit: www.sos.state.or.us/elections/votreg/sel500.pdf. The form is in a fillable .pdf format. Open the form using the free Adobe Acrobat® Reader and complete it online by tabbing through the fields and typing in the requested information.**
- (2.> Print the completed form and sign it. Mail the form to your county elections office or drop it off in person.**
- (3.> If you do not wish to complete the voter registration form online, you may print the form and complete it using black ink.**

Your county elections office will mail you a card to let you know that your registration was received. If you are registering in Oregon for the first time, your completed voter registration form must be postmarked by the 21st day before an election in order to vote in that election.

A voter who is unable, because of the disability, to sign their name should also complete the Signature Stamp Attestation form. If you have any questions, be sure to call your county elections office. Source: www.sos.state.or.us/elections/votreg/vreg.htm

Oregon Voter Registration Card. you may use this card to: register to vote in Oregon.

The deadline to register to vote is the 21st day before an election. Visit:

www.sos.state.or.us/elections/votreg/sel500.pdf

State Voter Registration Deadlines - U.S. Government Info/Resources. This table shows the last day on which you can register to vote in each state, visit: usgovinfo.about.com/blvrdeadline.htm and State Voter Registration Requirements - U.S. Government Info/Resources visit: usgovinfo.about.com/blvrystate.htm

a Voting in Oregon Guide: If this is your first time registering to vote in Oregon, you must register at least 21 days before, and more. Visit: www.uhavavote.org/votingguide/register.html

And Remember - Register, Vote and Get Everybody You Know to Do So Also.

* **How about a Voter Registration Party?** Come Together, Register and Make a Difference whenever and wherever two or more potential sympathizers of the cause gather together!

* Notes For Votes - music by local bands. Tunes, Food, Fun and More.

HeadCount - Musical Activism | Register to vote - and Register Voters - with Headcount, a non-profit connecting potential voters through live music and events. They are a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization devoted to voter registration and participation in democracy. They were created in 2004 by a group of artists, music industry professionals and fans, all determined to make sure the live music community is well-represented at the polls. Visit - <http://www.headcount.org/>

Latest News - Prison-Reform Groups Work To Educate Former Felons | The November Coalition, Working to end drug war injustice. But what of the millions of felons in the United States who can vote? ... in Oregon anyone can vote once they're out of prison; and in Washington, ... Founded in 1997, the November Coalition is a growing body of citizens whose lives have been gravely affected by our government's present drug policy. We are prisoners, parents of those incarcerated, wives, sisters, brothers, children, aunts, uncles and cousins. Some of us are loving

friends and concerned citizens, each of us alarmed that drug war casualties are rising in absolutely horrific proportions. Visit - <http://www.november.org/stayinfo/breaking2/XFactor.html>

Oregon Voter Rights Coalition: The right to vote is the foundation for all other rights | The Oregon Voter Rights Coalition is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)4 corporation. The mission of the Oregon Voter Rights Coalition is to restore public ownership and oversight of elections, and to ensure the fundamental right of every American citizen to vote and to have each vote counted as intended in a secure, transparent, impartial, and independently verified election process. ... **GOP Computer Professional & McCain Supporter Reveals Plan to Steal Next Election.** Here, in this shattering new interview, Stephen Spoonamore goes into harrowing detail about the Bush regime's election fraud, past, present and--if we don't spread the word right now--to come. Visit - <http://www.oregonvrc.org/>

Voting In Oregon. The following are some important facts about voting in Oregon. With the General election coming up in November, you will soon be hearing a lot about issues that will affect your life. Registering to vote in Oregon is a very simple and quick process, and now that Oregon has vote-by-mail, the whole process is even easier. Watch for the Voters Pamphlet in the mail, and make a difference by voting! Visit: www.osbar.org/public/vote/Voting.htm

Lists of Political Parties to contact about and act with upon The Issues

Political Parties, by Vote Smart. Vote Smart is a non-profit, non-demoniational, a-political organization providing citizens information that would be both trusted regardless of the citizen's political point of view and relevant to their own unique interests. Visit - http://www.votessmart.org/resource_political_resources.php?category=1

D.C.'s Political Report: List of American Political Parties | D.C.'s Political Report is dedicated to bringing to the public complete summaries of all Congressional, Gubernatorial, and state wide races from across the United States of America and its territories. Visit - <http://www.dcpoliticalreport.com/Disclaimer.htm>



News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

**NATIONAL ACTION ALERT from ASA:
Call the Obama and McCain Campaigns**

Two candidates, one president. Both Obama and McCain have public positions on medical cannabis, and one is better than the other, but neither is perfect. But you can help. Call both campaigns right now and set them straight about medical cannabis.

Sen. Barack Obama has stated publicly that he will end DEA raids on medical cannabis patients. Call his campaign - **(866) 675-2008** - or visit his website at: <http://www.barackobama.com/> and say:

"Hi, my name is _____ and I want to thank Sen. Obama for promising to end DEA raids on medical cannabis patients in California. But, 80% of Americans live in states where they can be arrested for using medical cannabis as recommended by their doctors. I urge the Senator to support cannabis research and legal protections for all medical cannabis patients.

On the other hand, Sen. John McCain will not end DEA raids, and does not even believe that cannabis can be an effective treatment. Call his campaign - **(703) 418-2008** - or visit his website at: <http://www.johnmccain.com/> and say:

"Hi, my name is _____ and I understand Sen. McCain is opposed to ending DEA raids on seriously ill patients in states that have medical cannabis laws. But medical research, public opinion, and states' rights all say Sen. McCain is wrong, and I strongly urge him to change his position in favor of protecting patients who use medical cannabis legally in their own state."

Please Update the Organizers of this Action Item with any Feedback from the Candidates, where possible.

Contact Americans for Safe Access (ASA) by phone: 510-251-1856 or on the web at:

www.AmericansForSafeAccess.org by postal mail to
Americans for Safe Access, 1322 Webster St. Suite 402,
Oakland, CA 94612.

**YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS
YOU!**



**To REGISTER, VOTE and Get
EVERYONE
You Know To Do So Also!**

