



## Feds a Get Record High from Pot War Efforts

### Marijuana Arrests For Year 2006 – 829,625 – Tops Previous Mark Nearly 6 Percent Increase Over 2005

**Washington, DC, USA:** Police arrested a record 829,625 persons for marijuana violations in 2006, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual Uniform Crime Report, released today. This is the largest total number of annual arrests for pot ever recorded by the FBI. Marijuana arrests now comprise nearly 44 percent of all drug arrests in the United States.

"These numbers belie the myth that police do not target and arrest minor marijuana offenders," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre, who noted that at current rates, **a marijuana smoker is arrested every 38 seconds in America.** "This effort is a tremendous waste of criminal justice resources that diverts law enforcement personnel away from focusing on serious and violent crime, including the war on terrorism."

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### Members Of Congress Demand DEA Allow For The Private Production Of Pot

**Washington, DC, USA:** Forty-five members of Congress signed a letter this week demanding that the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) allow private sources to manufacture cannabis for FDA-approved clinical research.

The bipartisan letter, addressed to DEA Administrator Karen Tandy, urges the agency to abide by a February 2007 ruling by DEA Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner that found that the private production of pot is "in the public interest."

Bittner's ruling was in response to the DEA's rejection of a 2001 application by the University of Massachusetts (UMass) at Amherst that sought permission to manufacture cannabis for FDA-approved clinical protocols.

Because Judge Bittner's 2007 ruling is non-binding, the DEA has no deadline to act on it.

Under current policy, all federally approved research on marijuana must utilize cannabis supplied by and grown under contract with the US National Institute on Drug

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### Pot Compound Protective Against 'Mad Cow' Disease, Other Fatal Brain Disorders, Study Says

**Valbonne, France, EUR:** The administration of the nonpsychoactive cannabinoid cannabidiol (CBD) inhibits prion accumulation in the brain and protects neurons against prion toxicity, according to preclinical data published in the September 5th edition of the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

Prion accumulation (the accumulation of abnormal, protein-based infectious particles in the brain) is the cause of various transmissible, fatal neurodegenerative diseases in both humans and animals – including bovine spongiform encephalopathy (commonly known as 'Mad Cow' disease) and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. No therapeutic treatments for prion-diseases are currently available.

Investigators at the National Center for Scientific Research in France reported that the administration of CBD "limited the cerebral accumulation of protease-resistant prion protein and significantly increased the survival time" in a dose-dependent manner

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## 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

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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](http://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 ARRESTs, page 1 > Of those charged with marijuana violations, approximately 89 percent, **738,915** Americans were charged with possession only. The remaining **90,710** individuals were charged with "sale/manufacture," a category that includes all cultivation offenses, even those where the marijuana was being grown for personal or medical use. In past years, roughly 30 percent of those arrested were age 19 or younger.

"Present policies have done little if anything to decrease marijuana's availability or dissuade youth from trying it," St. Pierre said, noting young people in the U.S. now frequently report that they have easier access to pot than alcohol or tobacco.

"Two other major points stand out from today's record marijuana arrests: Overall, there has been a dramatic 188 percent increase in marijuana arrests in the last 15 years -- yet the public's access to pot remains largely unfettered and the self-reported use of cannabis remains largely unchanged. Second, America's Midwest is decidedly the hotbed for marijuana-related arrests with 57 percent of all marijuana-related arrests. The region of America with the least amount of marijuana-related arrests is the West with 30 percent. This latter result is arguably a testament to the passage of various state and local decriminalization efforts over the past several years."

The total number of marijuana arrests in the U.S. for 2006 far exceeded the total number of arrests in the U.S. for all violent crimes combined, including murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Annual marijuana arrests have nearly tripled since the early 1990s.

"Arresting hundreds of thousands of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly needlessly destroys the lives of otherwise law abiding citizens," St. Pierre said, adding that over 8 million Americans have been arrested on marijuana charges in the past ten years. During this same time, arrests for cocaine and heroin have declined sharply, implying that increased enforcement of marijuana laws is being achieved at the expense of enforcing laws against the possession and trafficking of more dangerous drugs.

St. Pierre concluded: "Enforcing marijuana prohibition costs taxpayers between \$10 billion and \$12 billion annually and has led to the arrest of nearly 20 million Americans. Nevertheless, some 94 million Americans acknowledge having used marijuana during their lives.

It makes no sense to continue to treat nearly half of all Americans as criminals for their use of a substance that poses no greater - and arguably far fewer - health risks than alcohol or tobacco. A better and more sensible solution would be to tax and regulate cannabis in a manner similar to alcohol and tobacco."

YEAR	MARIJUANA ARRESTS
<b>2006</b>	<b>829,625</b>
2005	786,545
2004	771,608
2003	755,187
2002	697,082
2001	723,627
2000	734,498
1999	704,812
1998	682,885
1997	695,200
1996	641,642
1995	588,963
1994	499,122
1993	380,689
1992	342,314
1991	287,850
1990	326,850

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. For a comprehensive breakdown and analysis of US marijuana arrests, please see NORML's report: "Crimes of Indiscretion: Marijuana Arrests in the United States".*

<continued from CONGRESS DEMANDS, page 1 > Abuse (NIDA). By contrast, other controlled substances - including LSD, heroin, and MDMA (Ecstasy) - are available to researchers from multiple private manufacturers.

In 2004, the agency's director, Nora Volkow, stated that it is "not NIDA's mission to study the medical uses of marijuana."

NIDA's "monopoly [is] unjustified, since federal law clearly requires adequate competition in the manufacture of Schedule I and Schedule II [controlled] substances," the Congressional letter states.

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<continued from previous page> "The University of Massachusetts-Amherst is one of the most distinguished research universities, and it is highly qualified to manufacture marijuana for legitimate medical and research purposes. ... We urge you to accept Judge Bittner's recommendation ... so that ... legitimate and privately-funded scientific research will be conducted."

Representatives John Olver (D-MA) and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) co-sponsored the letter. Massachusetts Senators John Kerry (D) and Edward Kennedy (D) have previously written the DEA in support of the UMass proposal.

For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500 or visit <http://www.maps.org>. Text of the Olver/Rohrabacher letter is available online at: <http://www.aclu.org/drugpolicy/medmarijuana/31861leg20070918.html>

**Pot May Alleviate Anorexia, Study Says Sydney, Australia:** Cannabis may stimulate appetite in patients with anorexia, according to clinical trial data conducted by investigators at the Hadassah University Hospital in Israel.

Australian news outlets report that the administration of cannabis tincture stimulates chemicals in the brain that can boost appetite in women with the disorder. The study has not yet been published.

Cannabis has long been used historically as an appetite stimulant. Currently, a synthetic version of the cannabinoid delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is available by prescription in the US to treat HIV and/or cancer-related cachexia (wasting syndrome).

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).

<continued from MAD COW, page 1 > in animals infected with a strain of prion disease.

"Our results suggest that CBD may protect neurons against the multiple molecular and cellular factors involved in the different steps of the neurodegenerative process, which takes place during prion infection," authors concluded. "When combined with its ability to target the brain and its lack of toxic side effects, CBD may represent a promising new anti-prion drug."

Previous preclinical studies of CBD have shown the compound to inhibit malignant cancer cell

growth and protect neurons against alcohol-induced brain damage. Other studies have demonstrated that cannabinoids can delay disease progression in animal models of several neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease).

Full text of the study, "Nonpsychoactive Cannabidiol Prevents Prion Accumulation and Protects Neurons Against Prion Toxicity," appears in the *Journal of Neuroscience*. Abstracts of the study are available online at: <http://www.jneurosci.org/cgi/content/abstract/27/36/9537> Additional information on CBD is available in the NORML report, "Emerging Clinical Applications for Cannabis and Cannabinoids," available online at: [http://www.norml.org/pdf\\_files/NORML\\_Clinical\\_Applications\\_for\\_Cannabis\\_and\\_Cannabinoids.pdf](http://www.norml.org/pdf_files/NORML_Clinical_Applications_for_Cannabis_and_Cannabinoids.pdf)

## Criminal Penalties, Youth Drug Prevention Programs Don't Influence Drug-Making Decisions, Study Says - Impact of drug education programs like DARE is "minimal"

**Norman, OK, USA:** Exposure to drug prevention programs and the threat of criminal legal sanctions play little if any role in determining whether or not Americans use cannabis or other drugs, according to a survey data published in the journal *Substance Abuse & Misuse*.

Investigators at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Central Oklahoma surveyed 51 current and ex-users of marijuana over a two-year period. Respondents were asked about their decisions to use, continue to use, and/or cease using marijuana and other illicit substances. All of the subjects in the study were described as being employed, enrolled in school, or acting as the head of their household.

Subjects said that past exposure to youth drug education programs such as DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) did not dissuade them from trying marijuana. "While a number of individuals were exposed to drug education and prevention programs in school, the influence of these programs were viewed by respondents as minimal in retrospect," authors wrote. "None of the respondents described these programs as having any long-term influence on their abstinence from drug use."

Subjects also said that they did not make determinations regarding <continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> the health effects or safety of drugs based on their legal or illegal status. Investigators wrote, "During the later stages of drug involvement, the distinction between legal and illegal substances [became] a less important basis for differentiating between different types of drugs than the specific benefits and risks of different types of drugs."

Investigators reported that most cannabis users initiated their use based on a "general curiosity about drugs" rather than because of "a desire to achieve a specific drug-related effect." Users' decisions to either continue or discontinue their use, particularly as they grew older, were based on "incrementally ... more complex" factors, such as the drugs' "cost ... potential health risks, and length of high," as well as other so-called "life factors," such as becoming a parent.

Commenting on the study, NORML Senior Policy Analyst Paul Armentano said: "It is telling, though hardly surprising, that adult marijuana users share more in common with 'conventional,' non-illicit drug using citizens than they do with the federal government's image of the stereotypical pot smoker. Further, this study reinforces the notion that adults base their decisions to use or not use cannabis on a set of sophisticated criterion and cost/benefit analyses. When the consumer has determined that the cost of continuing their cannabis use outweighs its potential rewards, they voluntarily cease their use accordingly.

He continued: "Fear-mongering disguised as drug education and the enforcement of harsh criminal penalties factor little into Americans' decision-making process regarding whether or not to experiment with cannabis – even in Oklahoma, the state with arguably the harshest pot penalties in the nation. It's time for the federal government to cease playing to inaccurate stereotypes, and abandon its current heavy-handed criminal justice policies that waste billions of taxpayers' dollars, but have little influence upon Americans' decisions to use or not use illicit drugs." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Investigating how decisions to use marijuana change over time," appears in the journal Substance Use & Misuse.*

## Hemp Cultivation Bill Sent To Governor

**Sacramento, CA, USA:** California legislators approved bi-partisan legislation this week defining industrial hemp as an "agricultural field crop" and establishing regulations governing its cultivation by state-authorized farmers. Assembly Bill 684 – known as the California Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2007 – now awaits action from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R).

Under the measure, the legislature would institute a pilot program permitting farmers to cultivate hemp in four California counties: Imperial, Kings, Mendocino, and Yolo. The proposal defines hemp as varieties of cannabis containing less than 0.3 percent THC (the primary psychoactive compound in marijuana). Farmers would be required by law to submit random samples of their plants to an authorized laboratory to assure that their crop does not contain greater THC potencies.

Industrial hemp is currently grown commercially in Canada and in the European Union for its fiber content. According to a 2005 Congressional Research Service (CRS) report, the United States is the only developed nation that fails to cultivate the plant as an economic crop. Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed a similar bill last year, citing concerns that the measure could negatively impact law enforcement efforts prohibiting the recreational use of marijuana.

A statewide telephone poll performed earlier this year by Zogby International found that 71 percent of Californians supported allowing authorized farmers legal access to cultivate the crop.

*For more information, please contact Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at (415) 563-5858 or visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' at:*

<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=10301731>

## Defense Contractors Awarded Billions To Assist Drug War

**Washington, DC, USA:** Federal contracts totaling \$15 billion dollars have been awarded to five US defense contractors – including Raytheon and Lockheed Martin – to pay for counter-narcotics efforts overseas, according to a recent report published online by GovernmentExecutive.com.

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<continued from previous page> "Contractors shall provide security and related services in support of counter-narcoterrorism," the article states. "Due to the rapid adaptability of the counter-narcoterrorist threat, special federal government spending authorities are [now] available" on behalf on the Pentagon's Counter-Narcoterrorism Technology Program Office. The contractors will provide equipment, material and services to the Pentagon's counter-narcotics program, a separate *Washington Post* article states.

The program develops and deploys "technology that aids in disrupting, deterring, and denying the flow of [illegal] drugs, people, information, money, and weapons related to illegal drug trafficking and narcoterrorism."

The size and scope of the contracts highlight the expanded role private contractors are now playing in federal anti-drug efforts, reports *GovernmentExecutive.com*.

Contract awardees include Raytheon Technical Services Company, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Arinc Inc., and Blackwater USA.

"The awarding of these contracts illustrates once again that the federal government's so-called 'war on drugs' is not rhetorical," NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "To politicians and federal bureaucrats, the drug war is just as 'real' as America's current military efforts in Iraq or Afghanistan – though most Americans remain unaware that billions of their hard-earned dollars are being siphoned to pay for these so-called 'anti-drug' operations conducted by corporate mercenaries."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the *GovernmentExecutive.com* story is available online at:

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0907/091207kp1.htm>

## Cannabis May Offer Alzheimer's Hope, Study Says

**Dublin, Ireland, UK:** Marijuana compounds offer an alternative approach for treating the neurodegeneration associated with Alzheimer's disease (AD), according to a forthcoming review in the *British Journal of Pharmacology*.

Investigators at the Trinity College, Institute for Neuroscience, in Dublin report that cannabinoids have been shown to protect neurons from the

deleterious effects of amyloid plaque – the primary pathological hallmark of Alzheimer's. Cannabinoids also demonstrate a propensity to reduce oxidative stress and inflammation, while also promoting neurogenesis (the birth of new neuronal cells), authors report.

Authors write: "In recent years the proclivity of cannabinoids to exert a neuroprotective influence has received substantial interest as a means to mitigate the symptoms of neurodegenerative conditions. ... [C]annabinoids offer a multi-faceted approach for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease by providing neuroprotection and reducing neuroinflammation, whilst simultaneously supporting the brain's intrinsic repair mechanisms by augmenting neurotrophin expression and enhancing neurogenesis. ... Manipulation of the cannabinoid pathway offers a pharmacological approach for the treatment of AD that may be efficacious than current treatment regimens."

Preclinical studies have demonstrated that cannabinoids can delay disease progression in animal models of several neurodegenerative diseases, including multiple sclerosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease).

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Alzheimer's disease: taking the edge off with cannabinoids?" appears online at: <http://www.nature.com/bjp/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/0707446a.html>

## Texas: Cops Say They Will Continue To Jail Minor Pot Possession Offenders Despite New Law

**Austin, TX, USA:** Many Texas law enforcement personnel say that they will continue to arrest and jail minor pot offenders, despite the enactment of a new state law granting police the option of issuing a citation in lieu of making an arrest.

"Marijuana is an introduction to more dangerous drugs and we are going to keep fighting drug use of any kind as long as I am in office," Lamar County Sheriff B.J. McCoy told

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<continued from previous page> news outlets this week. "They are going to jail no matter how much they've got." Numerous district attorneys and police throughout Texas have issued similar statements. By contrast, law enforcement in Travis County and in the city of Austin have said that they will comply with the new law - which is intended to reduce jail overcrowding.

Passed by the legislature this summer, House Bill 2391 grants law enforcement the discretion to issue a citation mandating local individuals who commit specific Class A and/or Class B misdemeanor crimes to appear in court. An arrest warrant will be issued for defendants who fail to appear in court by the date specified in the citation.

Under **Texas law**, possession of up to four ounces of marijuana is a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to one-year in jail and a fine of up to \$4,000. Individuals who sell less than one-quarter ounce of cannabis are also guilty of a misdemeanor. The possession and/or sale of larger quantities of cannabis are felony offenses.

"Law enforcement officers are fond of alleging that they don't make the laws - they just enforce them," NORML Senior Policy Analyst Paul Armentano said. "However, when it comes to the subject of marijuana, we've seen time and time again that police not only make the law and enforce the law, they also ignore the law when it suits them to do so."

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, of the 62,741 persons arrested in 2005 (the last year for which data is available) for marijuana violations, 61,076 of them (97 percent) were for possession offenses.

House Bill 2391 was signed into law by Republican Gov. Rick Perry in June. The law took effect on September 1, 2007.

*For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst at: paul@norml.org.*

## Tens Of Thousands Attend Boston Freedom Rally'

**Boston, MA, USA:** Event organizers expected - and got - nearly 50,000 attendees for Saturday's 18th annual 'Boston Freedom Rally,' taking place at the Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common at 'high noon.' Sponsored by the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition/NORML (MassCann/NORML), the event is the largest marijuana law reform gathering on the east coast.

NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre and NORML founder Keith Stroup spoke at the event. Representatives from *High Times Magazine*, Common Sense for Drug Policy, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, and the Drug Policy Alliance also appeared.

Musical artists Darkbuster, Three Day Threshold, and several others performed. A complete list of featured speakers and entertainers is available online at:

<http://www.masscann.org/rally08details01.shtml>

MassCann/NORML also hosted a pre-party fundraiser on Friday evening at Boston's Bullfinch Yacht Club (on Friend Street next to North Station).

Since 2000, the organization has successfully sponsored non-binding voter initiatives in support of scaling back marijuana law enforcement in 127 Massachusetts communities.

*For more information, please contact Steve Epstein, Mass/Cann NORML Treasurer at (978) 352-3300 or visit:*

<http://www.masscann.org>



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

## NORML Launches 'In-World' Office On Second Life

**Washington, DC, USA:** The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) is expanding its online message and presence to the popular 3-D virtual world Second Life.

On Thursday, September 6, NORML will launch its Second Life virtual office. Visitors to the digital 3-D office will be able to pick up information and free materials about NORML and marijuana law reform, as well as obtain NORML merchandise for their online characters. The 'in world' office will also make available specially produced podcasts for Second Life visitors.

NORML Founder Keith Stroup will be available to chat with visitors who stop by the office for its grand opening, which takes place at noon (PDT/SLT).

"Building effective and influential coalitions within online communities – in particular, emerging Web 2.0 social networking communities such as Second Life – is an integral part of NORML's educational and outreach activities," NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "Whether it's in the real world or the virtual world, NORML is committed to educating the public on the need to end the senseless criminal prohibition of marijuana."

Launched in 2003, Second Life is an ever-growing 3-D online digital world inhabited by more than 9 million online 'residents' from over 100 countries. Visitors create three-dimensional personas (known as 'avatars') to interact with other residents and engage in online commerce.

*For more information on NORML's Second Life office, please visit:*

[http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=7341](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7341)

**\* NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting \* Happens every 4th Sat. of the month. And will be at Laughing Plant Café, 760 Blair, in Eugene \***  
call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit:  
<http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>

## Idaho: City To Vote On Multiple Pot Measures

**Hailey, ID, USA:** Municipal voters in Hailey, Idaho will vote this November on a series of local initiatives seeking to liberalize marijuana penalties.

Four separate ballot questions will appear on the November 6 ballot, including language that calls upon local police to make marijuana law enforcement their lowest priority. In recent years, voters in various cities nationwide – including Seattle, Washington and Columbia, Missouri – have enacted similar measures.

Separate ballot questions will address the use of medical cannabis and industrial hemp, as well as the regulation of marijuana for personal use.

Last year, the Idaho Supreme Court ruled that citizens can vote on the issue of legalizing marijuana – even if the proposed initiative conflicts with state and federal laws.

The sponsor of the initiatives, the Liberty Lobby of Idaho, is also seeking to place marijuana-law reform questions on the ballots in Ketchum and Sun Valley.

*For more information on these and other pending ballot measures, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*



