



Americans Reject Bush Drug War Doctrine Landslide At The Ballot Box: Voters Approve Nine Out Of Ten Marijuana Law Reform Measures

Washington, DC, USA: Millions of Americans nationwide cast votes Tuesday in favor of marijuana law reform, approving nine out of ten ballot measures seeking to liberalize penalties on cannabis use and possession.

In **Massachusetts**, 65 percent of voters approved Question 2, which replaces criminal penalties for the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana (punishable by up to six-months in jail and a \$500 fine) with a civil fine of no more than \$100. More than 1.9 million Massachusetts voters (and all but three cities) backed the measure - a greater total than the number of

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Study Questions Validity Of So- Called "Cannabis- Induced Psychosis"

Aarhus, Denmark: People who experience long-lasting psychotic episodes after consuming cannabis may be exhibiting early signs of schizophrenia, according to clinical trial data published in the journal Archives of General Psychiatry.

Investigators at a pair of Denmark universities compared the family histories of 609 people treated for so-called "cannabis-induced psychosis" and 6,476 individuals who had been treated for schizophrenia or a related psychiatric

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Prohibition Plays Little Role In Teens' Decision To Abstain From Marijuana, Study Says

Ann Arbor, MI, USA: Criminal policies that seek to prohibit the use and availability of cannabis have little influence on whether young people refrain from using marijuana, according to survey data published in the November issue of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.

Investigators at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research analyzed in-school surveys obtained from nationally representative cross-sectional samples of US high school seniors from

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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**

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 LANDSLIDE, page 1 > voters who endorsed President Elect Barack Obama (1.88 million). Question 2 is expected to become law within 30 days - making Massachusetts the thirteenth state to decriminalize the personal use and possession of cannabis. However, opponents of the measure - which include the state's governor, attorney general, and all twelve state district attorneys - note that lawmakers still have the legal option to amend or repeal the new law.

In **Michigan**, 63 percent of voters approved Proposal 1, which legalizes the physician-supervised use and cultivation of medicinal cannabis by state-authorized patients. More than 3 million voters endorsed the measure, which received approximately 150,000 more votes in Michigan than did Obama. Proposal 1 goes into effect on December 4th, at which time nearly one-quarter of the US population will live in a state that authorizes the legal use of medical cannabis.

Thousands of voters in various municipalities also backed local ballot initiatives supportive of marijuana law reform. In **Arkansas**, 66 percent of Fayetteville (population: 67,000) voters approved Question 16, which directs law enforcement to make activities related to the investigation and prosecution of adults who possess up to one ounce of marijuana their lowest priority. The measure also requires the city clerk to submit letters to state and federal legislators urging them to "take immediate steps to enact similar

['deprioritization'] laws."

In **Hawaii**, Big Island (population: 172,000) voters approved a similar initiative (Ballot Question 1), which directs law enforcement to make activities related to the investigation and arrest of adults who possess up to 24 ounces of cannabis and/or 24 plants their lowest priority. The measure, which voters backed by nearly a 3 to 2 margin, also forbids the County Council from accepting government funding to promote federal marijuana eradication efforts on the Big Island.

In **Massachusetts**, voters in four state House districts (encompassing 15 towns) passed nonbinding public policy questions directing each district's state representative to vote in favor of legislation to legalize the medical use of cannabis. More than 70 percent of voters in each district backed the measures.

Finally, voters in Berkeley, **California** endorsed Measure JJ, which eliminates local limits on the quantity of medicinal cannabis that may be possessed by patients, and liberalizes municipal zoning guidelines for patient dispensaries.

By contrast, California voters rejected a statewide sentencing reform measure (Proposition 5), which sought expand the diversion of non-violent offenders to drug treatment and would have decreased minor marijuana penalties to a non-criminal infraction. Numerous politicians, including Republican

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"Voters on Election Day demonstrated overwhelmingly that they favor political reform in this country, and that reform includes new directions in marijuana policy," NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "These election results emphasize that the voters are well ahead of the politicians when it comes to the decriminalization and legalization of cannabis for adults.

"Let us hope that President Elect Obama and the Democrat majority in Congress recognize that marijuana law reform is a populist issue. Voters should not have to take to the ballot box to enact sensible marijuana law reforms; these reforms should be championed by their elected officials."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director.

<continued from CANNABIS-INDUCED PSYCHOSIS, page 1 > condition. Researchers found that people treated for post-pot "psychosis" were just as likely to have a family history of schizophrenia as were those diagnosed with the mental illness. "Cannabis-induced psychosis could be an early sign of schizophrenia rather than a distinct clinical entity,"

researchers concluded.

Researchers said that their finding challenges the hypothesis that heavy marijuana use may cause schizophrenia in a minority of users, noting, "These people would have developed schizophrenia whether or not they used cannabis."

Despite recent claims purporting a potential link between cannabis use and mental illness, there is no empirical data indicating a rise in incidences of schizophrenia in populations with statistically higher rates of marijuana use.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director. Full text of the study, "Comparison of subjects treated for cannabis-induced psychosis and schizophrenia," appears in the Archives of General Psychiatry.

<continued from TEENS' DECISION, page 1 > 1977 to 2005. Researchers reported that teens were unlikely to cite factors associated with the illegality of cannabis as motivating reasons not to use the drug.

"The reason for not using or stopping marijuana use cited by the fewest seniors over the 29 years of data ... was availability (less than 10 percent of seniors)," the study found.

In addition, respondents seldom cited the cost of cannabis or "concern about getting arrested" as reasons to refrain

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By contrast, "concern for psychological and physical damage, as well as not wanting to get high, were the most commonly cited reasons for quitting or abstaining from marijuana use," investigators concluded. Roughly half of those surveyed also cited concerns that their marijuana use might lead to the use of other illicit drugs.

NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said that the study's findings "reaffirm that the federal government's draconian cannabis policies do little, if anything, to shape young peoples' decisions whether to try cannabis." He added: "Taxpayers have spent hundreds of billions of dollars arresting more than 20 million Americans on pot charges, yet there's no evidence to indicate that this criminal prohibition discourages marijuana use. There's no doubt that these resources would be better spent educating America's young people about the potential risks of cannabis – rather than arresting them."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the study, "Saying no to marijuana: Why American youth report quitting or abstaining," appears in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.

**You Too Can Help End
Cannabis Prohibition,
Just Act NORML!**

NORML Says Cannabis Should Be Regulated Like Tobacco On Influential Capitol Hill Blog

Washington, DC, USA: Lawmakers could reduce Americans' use of cannabis by regulating its sale in a manner similar to tobacco, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano opined this week on *The Hill's* Congress blog. *The Hill* is one of the most influential publications among Washington DC lawmakers and their staff.

Armentano notes that Americans' use of cigarettes has dropped dramatically since the 1960s, and is now at an all-time low. By contrast, Americans use of cannabis has risen dramatically during this same period, from an annual rate of 0.6 million new users in 1965 to some 2.5 annual new users today.

He writes: "There's a lesson to be learned here, of course. Tobacco, though harmful to health, is a legally regulated commodity. ... By contrast, marijuana remains an unregulated black market commodity. Sellers are typically criminal entrepreneurs who, for the most part, operate undetected from law enforcement and are free to sell their product to any person.

Unlike tobacco, marijuana's packaging carries no warning label, and government 'education' campaigns regarding cannabis' use are based almost explicitly upon hyperbole,

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<continued from previous page> propaganda, and laughable stereotypes."

Armentano concludes: "If federal lawmakers truly wished to address marijuana use, they would take a page from their successful campaign to reduce the use of cigarettes. This would include taxing and regulating cannabis with the drug's sale and use restricted to specific markets and consumers."

Full text of NORML's commentary, "We've Cut Cigarette Smoking By Half and We Didn't Have To Arrest 20 Million Americans To Do It," appears online.

Previous posts by NORML to *The Hill's* blog have received hundreds of readers' comments and are among the most frequently visited on the website.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

NORML Daily Audio Stash Tops 100,000 Downloads In October Run Up To Election Day Spurs Record Listenership

Washington, DC, USA: The popularity of NORML's podcast, the Daily Audio Stash, has grown significantly in recent months - topping more than 110,000 downloads in October, it's highest monthly tally ever!

"When it comes to the subject of

marijuana, more and more people are turning away from the federal government and away from the mainstream media; instead, they are turning to groups like NORML and the NORML Daily Audio Stash as their most trusted source of information for all things cannabis," Daily Audio Stash host Russ Belville said.

Belville attributed the show's recent spike in popularity to marijuana law reformers' unprecedented interest in the 2008 Presidential election. "Voters in November approved 10 out of 11 state and local ballot initiatives to liberalize marijuana policy," he said. "In both Massachusetts and Michigan, marijuana reform measures gained more votes than President Elect Obama. It's clear that a record numbers of cannabis consumers participated in the 2008 election, and that they played a significant role in its outcome. In the days and weeks leading up to Election Day, many thousands of these voters turned to the Daily Audio Stash in record numbers as well."

Episodes of the Daily Audio Stash averaged over 7,000 downloads per day in October, with one broadcast (October 10, 2008) receiving nearly 35,000 downloads. More people are also logging on to the NORML Daily Audio Stash blog. Belville says that the blog received over 12,000 hits for its post-Election Day coverage, and now averages approximately 35,000 hits per month.

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<continued from previous page> Available for download Monday through Friday at: <http://www.norml.org>, the Daily Audio Stash provides a forum for politicians, celebrities, physicians, scientists, and citizen activists to participate in uninhibited conversations about marijuana policy and legal reform.

Since its initial broadcast on Monday, June 5, 2006, NORML's Daily Audio Stash has consistently ranked among the top 15 'most subscribed' podcasts in the 'government and organizations' category of Apple Computer's iTunes Music Store - averaging more than one million listeners per year.

Recent guests on the Stash include: Congressmen Ron Paul (R-TX) and Barney Frank (D-MA), actor Tommy Chong, Doors co-founder Ray Manzarek, screenwriter Mike Gray, comedian Doug Benson, PBS television travel guru Rick Steves, authors Wendy Chapkis and Richard Webb (*Dying to Get High*), and film director Jed Riffe (*Waiting to Inhale*).

For more information or to learn how you can advertise on NORML's top-rated podcast, please contact host Russ Belville or Daily Audio Stash Executive Producer Allen St. Pierre at (202) 483-5500.

Totalitarianism is when people believe they can punish their way to perfection. -- House Speaker Newt Gingrich, at a President's Day Republican fundraiser, May 1998

[In] my era everybody smoked and everybody drank and there was no drug use -- then DEA Chief Thomas Constantine, July 1, 1998

NORML Extends Deadline For \$10,000 Ad Contest

Washington, DC, USA: Want to express your outrage at America's draconian marijuana policies - and win thousands in cash too? Then enter NORML's 2008 ad contest and compete for \$10,000 in prizes.

NORML has extended the submission deadline for flash animation and video entries until January 15, 2009. Contest rules and submission guidelines are available online.

Submission for this year's ad contest should highlight the 20-million+ pot arrests that have occurred since 1965. Possible ad narratives could include: "What if President-Elect Barack Obama had been one of the 20 million Americans busted for pot?"

Previous contest winners have had their ad designs promoted by NORML in national magazines and aired on cable television.

This year's contest could be your opportunity to express your opinion before tens of thousands of like-minded reformers nationwide, as well as help NORML's ongoing education efforts.

Submit your entry today to:
media@norml.org.

Make the most of the Indian Hemp Seed and sow it everywhere. -

- George Washington, circa 1776



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

Last Chance To Register For 25th Annual Key West Legal Seminar

Washington, DC, USA: NORML is still accepting registrations from criminal defense attorneys and public defenders for its 25th annual Key West Legal Seminar, taking place Thursday, December 4 through Sunday, December 6 at the Pier House Resort and Caribbean Spa in downtown Key West.

Join NORML's staff and many of the nation's top marijuana lawyers in one of the most 'pot-friendly' cities on the planet.

Topics to be covered at this year's conference include: "Paraphernalia Issues: Best Business Practices for Retailers and Defending Against A Criminal Charge;" "Using Experts In A Marijuana Case;" "Federal Sentencing and Mitigation;" and "How To Keep Your Client From Being Deported."

NORML's annual legal seminar is fully accredited in every state that requires continuing legal education (CLE) for attorneys. *For more information about this year's seminar or to register online, please visit us on the web at: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=5341*

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at h'ERb'S Toasted Subs, 1210 Willamette St, Eugene call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>**



It's One Hell of A Joint!

Visit - <http://herbstoastedsubs.com/> - and see!

Prohibition was introduced as a fraud; it has been nursed as a fraud. It is wrapped in the livery of Heaven, but it comes to serve the devil. It comes to regulate by law our appetites and our daily lives. It comes to tear down liberty and build up fanaticism, hypocrisy, and intolerance. It comes to confiscate by legislative decree the property of many of our fellow citizens. It comes to send spies, detectives, and informers into our homes; to have us arrested and carried before courts and condemned to fines and imprisonments. It comes to dissipate the sunlight of happiness, peace, and prosperity in which we are now living and to fill our land with alienations, estrangements, and bitterness. It comes to bring us evil - only evil - and that continually. Let us rise in our might as one and overwhelm it with such indignation that we shall never hear of it again as long as grass grows and water runs. -- Roger Q. Mills of Texas, 1887, quoted repeatedly during a December 1914 debate in Congress over alcohol Prohibition

*Narcotics police are an enormous, corrupt international bureaucracy ... and now fund a coterie of researchers who provide them with 'scientific support' ... fanatics who distort the legitimate research of others. ... The anti-marijuana campaign is a cancerous tissue of lies, undermining law enforcement, aggravating the drug problem, depriving the sick of needed help, and suckering well-intentioned conservatives and countless frightened parents. -- William F. Buckley, Commentary in *The National Review*, April 29, 1983, p. 495*

* THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY (W-V) NORML NEWS REPORT > * P.O. Box 10957, EUGENE, OREGON, 97440 * PH: (541) 517-0957 * EMAIL: newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org * OR VISIT: www.WillametteValleyNORML.org