

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

## 2010: The Year In Review -- NORML's Top 10 Events That Shaped Marijuana Policy

Washington, DC, USA - NORML and NORML Foundation are supported by cannabis consumers and other caring citizens ... like you! Please make a [donation](#) to help them keep going strong into and thru 2011. --- Thanks from W-V-NORML on behalf of National NORML's staff and nationwide chapter network! Visit - <https://secure.norml.org/join/> - for more. Their 10 top stories in 2010 -

### #1 'Gold Standard' Studies Show That Inhaled Cannabis Is Medicine

The results of a series of randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trials assessing the efficacy of inhaled cannabis concluded that it is safe and effective compared to conventional medications, according to the findings of a 24-page [report](#) published in February by the [California Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research](#). "This (report) confirms all of the anecdotal evidence - how lives have been saved and pain has been eased," said California Democrat Senator Mark Leno at the press conference announcing the findings. "Now we have the science to prove it." *Read the full story at: [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=8106](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8106).*

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### Arizona: State Issues Draft Regulations For Forthcoming Medical Marijuana Program

Phoenix, AZ, USA: State health officials have made public [draft regulations](#) regarding the implementation of the state's nascent medical cannabis program. In November, a majority of voters decided in favor of Proposition 203, making Arizona the [15th state](#) to allow for the physician-supervised use of marijuana.

The public has three weeks to comment on the proposed regulations, which must be finalized by April 13, 2011.

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### New Orleans: City Council Unanimously Votes In Favor Of Depenalizing Pot Possession Offenses

New Orleans, LA, USA: Members of the New Orleans City Council [unanimously decided](#) last week to designate minor marijuana possession crimes as municipal offenses, *The Times-Picayune* newspaper has reported.

Under the new law, city police may issue a summons (similar to a traffic ticket) for minor marijuana crimes in lieu of making an arrest and taking a defendant to jail. "Because a summons is prosecuted in Municipal Court, not Criminal District Court, the change will reduce the caseload of the judges and prosecutors who handle serious felonies," *The Times-Picayune* reported.

Councilwoman Susan Guidry, co-chairwoman of the council's Criminal Justice Committee, [called](#) the

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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

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

*You can Snail Mail:*

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

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Eugene, OR 97440**

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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](http://www.norml.org)**

Willamette Valley NORML is your local network in 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 TOP TEN STORIES, page 1 > **#2 Record Number Of Americans Nationwide Say They Back Pot Legalization**

National polling [data](#) published by Gallup in October showed that Americans' support for 'making marijuana legal' is now at its highest reported level of support ever. The poll reported that a new high of 46 percent of Americans are now in favor of legalizing use of the drug, and a new low of 50 percent are opposed. The increase in support this year from 44 percent in 2009 continues an upward trend that has been consistent since 2000. *Read the full story at:* <http://blog.norml.org/2010/10/29/gallup-record-number-of-americans-now-say-they-support-marijuana-legalization/>.

**#3 Over 4.6 Million Californians Vote For Legalization**

More than [4.6 million Californians](#) voted in November in favor of Proposition 19, which sought to legalize the private adult use of marijuana and enact regulations regarding its commercial production and distribution. The measure was defeated 47 percent to 53 percent, but garnered the greatest percentage of citizen support ever recorded on a statewide marijuana legalization effort. Commenting on the result, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "Legalizing the adult use of marijuana in a regulated manner is no longer a matter of 'if;' it is a matter of 'when.'" A similar measure is expected to qualify for the 2012 statewide ballot. *Read the full story at:* [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=8385](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8385).

**#4 Washington DC Approves Medical Marijuana Dispensary Measure**

Members of the DC City Council gave [final approval](#) in May to legislation authorizing the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries in the District of Columbia. The legislation seeks to enact components of Initiative 59 – a 1998 DC ballot measure that garnered 69 percent of the vote, but was never implemented. In July, Congress [declined to overrule](#) the legislation, which is expected to take effect by summer 2011.

*Read the full story at:* [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=8276](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8276)

**#5 California: Marijuana Possession No Longer A Criminal Offense**

Outgoing California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in October [signed Senate Bill 1449](#) into law, reducing adult, non-medical marijuana possession charges from a criminal misdemeanor to a civil infraction. The measure amends the California Health and Safety Code so that the adult possession of up to 28.5 grams of marijuana is classified as an infraction, punishable by a \$100 fine – no court appearance, no court costs, and no criminal record. The measure takes effect on January 1, 2011. *Read the full story at:* [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=8364](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8364)

**#6 California Supreme Court Affirms State's Medi-Pot Possession Laws Are A Floor, Not A Ceiling**

The California Supreme Court unanimously ruled in January that the state's medical marijuana possession and cultivation guidelines, enacted by the legislature in 2004, do not supersede the broader patient protections provided by California's Compassionate Use Act of 1996. In a 53-page decision ([The People v. Patrick K. Kelly](#)), the Court found that patients who possess quantities of medical cannabis above those recommended under the state's 2004 law (six mature or twelve immature plants and/or eight ounces) may still be afforded legal protections if this amount is "related to meet (the patient's) current medical needs." *Read the full story at:* [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=8093](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8093).

**#7 NORML Launches NYC Times Square Ad Campaign**

NORML debuted a pair of digital ads this spring on the CBS Super Screen in New York City's Times Square. NORML's ads appeared eighteen times per day on the CBS's digital billboard, located on 42nd Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues. Approximately 1.5 million people walk <continued on next page>

by the billboard each day. *Read the full story at:*  
[http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=8163](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8163).

### **#8 United Kingdom, Other Countries Approve Marijuana Spray As Medicine**

British health regulators in June [approved](#) the sale and marketing of [Sativex](#), an oral spray consisting of natural cannabis extracts (primarily the plant cannabinoids THC and cannabidiol aka CBD) as a treatment for symptoms of multiple sclerosis. Regulators in Spain and New Zealand also approved the prescription use of the drug in 2011. *Read the full story at:*  
[http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=8232](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8232).

### **#9 Arizona Becomes The 15th State To Legalize Medical Cannabis**

Arizona voters in November narrowly [passed Proposition 203](#), making Arizona the 15th state to allow for the physician-supervised use of marijuana. [Regulations](#) overseeing the new law, which allows for the licensed production and dispensing of medical marijuana to state-authorized patients, are expected to be finalized by April 2011. Lawmakers in New Jersey also passed medical marijuana legislation in 2010, although that law has yet to be implemented. *Read the full story at:*  
[http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=8403](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8403).

### **#10 NORML Launches The NORML Women's Alliance**

In January NORML launched the NORML Women's Alliance (NWA) – a nonpartisan coalition of prominent, educated, successful, geographically diverse, professional women who believe that cannabis prohibition is a self-destructive and hypocritical policy that undermines the American family, sends a mixed and false message to our young people, and destroys the cherished principles of personal liberty and local self-government. Visit the NWA online *at:*  
[http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=8059](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8059).

<continued from ARIZONA, page 1 > Full text of the draft rules are available online at:  
<http://www.azcentral.com/ic/pdf/arizona-medical-marijuana-draft-rules.pdf>. Public comments may be submitted to the state Department of Health Services from the same link.

Under the rules, state officials may license only one nonprofit medical marijuana dispensary for every ten existing pharmacies.

Neither state-authorized patients nor their caregivers may legally cultivate marijuana under the law if they reside within 25 miles of an operating dispensary.

*For more information, please visit:*  
<http://stoparrestingpatients.org>.

### **New Mexico: Revised Regulations Allow For Licensed Production Of Up To 150 Medical Marijuana Plants**

Albuquerque, NM, USA: Department of Health officials have [finalized regulatory changes](#) to the state's medical marijuana program that increase the number of mature plants that may be cultivated at any one time by a state-licensed producer from 95 to 150.

Under [state law](#), regulators may license nonprofit facilities to manufacture and dispense medical cannabis to authorized patients. There are now 25 state-licensed cultivators of medical marijuana in New Mexico, the *Associated Press* reports.

Regulators said that they increased the plant limits to address reports of medical marijuana shortages at state dispensaries.

The revised regulations also allow for licensed manufacturers to obtain plants, seeds, and/or usable cannabis from other non-profit producers.

State approved cultivators must pay an annual licensing fee to state ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

There are more than 3,000 medical marijuana

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

## New Zealand Approves Marijuana Spray As Medicine

Wellington, New Zealand: New Zealand health regulators have [approved](#) the sale and marketing of [Sativex](#), an oral spray consisting of natural cannabis extracts (primarily the plant cannabinoids THC and cannabidiol aka CBD) as a treatment for symptoms of multiple sclerosis.

The spray is produced in the United Kingdom and will be exported to New Zealand, where it will be available by prescription.

Sativex has already been approved as a prescription drug in [Canada](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) and is pending regulatory approval in Spain, France, Germany, and Italy.

For more information, please visit: <http://gwpharm.com>.

## Pot Compound Mitigates Diabetic Cardiomyopathy

Bethesda, MD, USA: The administration of the [cannabidiol](#) (CBD), a non-psychoactive component of marijuana, reduces various symptoms of diabetic cardiomyopathy (weakening of the heart muscle), according to [preclinical data](#) published online by the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

An international team of researchers from the United States, Switzerland, and Israel assessed the effects of CBD on myocardial dysfunction, inflammation, oxidative/nitrative stress, cell death, and interrelated signaling pathways, using a mouse model of type I diabetic cardiomyopathy.

Authors reported: "CBD attenuated myocardial dysfunction, cardiac fibrosis, oxidative/nitrative stress, inflammation, cell death, and interrelated signaling pathways. ... [T]hese

results coupled with the excellent safety and tolerability profile of CBD in humans, strongly suggest that it may have great therapeutic potential in the treatment of diabetic complications, and perhaps other cardiovascular disorders, by attenuating oxidative/nitrative stress, inflammation, cell death and fibrosis."

Previous preclinical data published in 2006 in the journal *Autoimmunity* reported that the administration of CBD in mice [significantly reduced incidences](#) of diabetes compared to controls. Cannabidiol has also been shown to be [protective](#) in an animal model of cardiac ischemia.

Full text of the study, "Cannabidiol Attenuates Cardiac Dysfunction, Oxidative Stress, Fibrosis, and Inflammatory and Cell Death Signaling Pathways in Diabetic Cardiomyopathy," is available online from the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

## Obama Administration Opposes Oakland Medical Marijuana Grow Plan -- Justice Department Also Threatens Potential Statewide Crack Down

Oakland, CA, USA: Obama administration officials oppose plans by the city of Oakland to license and tax industrial sized medical cannabis producers, according to a published report this week by

CaliforniaWatch.org, the website of the Center for Investigative Reporting.

Sources at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the United States attorney's office in San Francisco said that federal officials would likely pursue criminal or civil litigation against local marijuana growers as well as Oakland city officials if they decide to move forward with plans to license medical cannabis farming. "Oakland would be on the hook for violating state and federal law," an unnamed



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Oakland City Attorney John Russo confirmed that DOJ officials are opposed to the city's licensing plan. "They've expressed their concerns that the path Oakland is taking is in violation of the law," Russo said in a prepared statement.

Russo had previously voiced objections to the legislation, and had issued a memo to members of the City Council in August raising legal concerns about the plan, The Bay Citizen reported on Tuesday.

Oakland officials are seeking to license up to four industrial sized medical marijuana grow operations. The permits do not set limits regarding the quantity of cannabis that licensed producers may cultivate at each given site. City officials began accepting applications from prospective growers in November. Licensed growers are required to pay a \$211,000 annual fee to the city of Oakland to operate the cultivation sites.

It has been estimated that the four facilities could yield the city between \$4.8 million and \$7.7 million per year in tax revenues.

According to the California Watch report, federal officials are also planning to initiate a broader crack down on marijuana production and distribution statewide. The story reports that DOJ and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officials met with California's four U.S. attorneys on November 10 "to develop a plan to deal with some of the loopholes and gray areas in the state's medical marijuana program."

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.

## California: Judge Rules Against Los Angeles Dispensary Ban

Los Angeles, CA, USA: A Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge has granted a [preliminary injunction](#) barring local officials from taking legal action against hundreds of medical cannabis facilities presently operating within

the city.

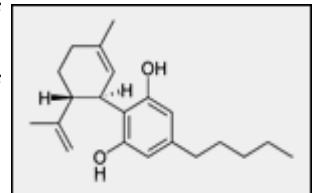
The decision finds that the city's six-month-old [ordinance](#) seeking to curtail the number of dispensaries operating in L.A. is unconstitutional. It states that the ordinance "violated the due-process rights of the dispensaries because it shut them down without a hearing, and the privacy rights of patients because it required dispensaries to make records on members available to the police," according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Members of the Los Angeles City Council will most likely attempt to rewrite the ordinance in a manner that complies with the ruling, the *L.A. Times* reported.

Since the enactment of the L.A. ordinance in June, over 40 lawsuits had been filed challenging the constitutionality of the measure. *For more information, please visit California NORML at: <http://www.canorml.org>.*

## New Jersey: Lawmakers Mandate Health Regulators To Revise Guidelines For State's Nascent Medical Marijuana Program

Trenton, NJ, USA: Senate lawmakers [voted](#) 22 to 16 this week in favor of a concurrent resolution forcing the Department of Health and Senior Services to revise [draft regulations](#) regarding the implementation of the [New Jersey Compassionate Medical Marijuana Act](#). Assembly lawmakers had [previously approved](#) the resolution in November.



In accordance with the resolution, the Department has 30 days to rewrite the regulations. "Failure to publish proposed rules that are consistent with the intent of the legislature may result in the legislature passing a concurrent resolution to prohibit those proposed rules from taking effect in whole or in part," the resolutions states.

Lawmakers, patients, and reform activists took issue with several aspects of the draft

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<continued from previous page> regulations, which they argued violated the intent of New Jersey's yet-to-be implemented medical marijuana law. These included provisions requiring qualifying patients to establish that their diagnosed condition is resistant to all other conventional therapies; capping the number of state-licensed medical cannabis producers to no more than two; restricting the varieties of marijuana available to patients to six strains, limiting the plant's THC content to no more than ten percent; prohibiting the dissemination of any edible medical cannabis product; and mandating that doctors who authorize their patients to use marijuana "make reasonable efforts" at least every three months to wean them off the substance.

Earlier this month Republican Gov. Chris Christie — who had previously [voiced disapproval](#) of the state's nascent medical cannabis law — agreed to allow for the establishment of six licensed facilities to produce and dispense marijuana to authorized patients. Governor Christie also agreed to loosen the eligibility requirements for specific patients. Nevertheless, this week's Senate vote indicates that lawmakers will demand the administration to make further concessions before law is ultimately implemented.

Chris Goldstein of [New Jersey NORML](#) and the [Coalition for Medical Marijuana - New Jersey](#) said: "[We are] pleased that the New Jersey Legislature heard the concerns of severely ill residents in the continued fight for fair and legal access to marijuana. The vote today sends a strong message to the Department of Health and Senior Services as well as Governor Christie that officials need to craft more reasonable rules for the medical cannabis program. This can only be accomplished by engaging in a transparent process that involves patients and advocates." *For more information please visit NORML New Jersey at: <http://www.normlnj.org> or the Coalition for Medical Marijuana - New Jersey at: <http://www.cmmnj.org>.*

<continued from NEW ORLEANS, page 1 > change "an important step in increasing the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of our criminal justice system."

Under Louisiana [state law](#), first-time marijuana possession offenses are classified as a criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail. Subsequent offenses are categorized as felonies punishable by between five and [twenty years](#) in prison. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

## Netherlands: Court Says Tourists Can Be Barred From Dutch 'Coffee Shops'

The Hague, Netherlands: Dutch lawmakers have the legal authority to prohibit non-residents from patronizing 'coffee shops' that openly sell small quantities of marijuana, Europe's highest court ruled last week. 'Coffee shops' have operated in various Dutch cities since the early 1980s.



The European Court of Justice [decided](#) last week that Maastricht city officials were within their rights to prohibit so-called 'drug tourists' from visiting local 'coffee shops.' Maastricht is located in the southern part of the country, in close proximity to the borders of Belgium and Germany.

Government officials in recent months have threatened to impose regulations mandating that Dutch 'coffee shops' become [members-only](#) clubs for legal residents only.

The E.U. court determined that banning foreigners from the Netherlands' 'coffee shops' "constitutes a measure capable of substantially limiting drug tourism and, consequently, of reducing the problems it causes."

The court reasoned that Dutch officials could legally impose the ban because marijuana is illegal throughout most of Europe. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*



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

## CafePress Makes NORML's Holiday Hempful

Washington, DC, USA - Longtime partner CafePress.com, on behalf of its users, has kindly donated \$5,000 through its Charities program to NORML. In addition, from December 17, 2010 through December 23, 2010, CafePress will donate \$10 for every order sold through the [NORML store](#).

For almost a decade, CafePress.com quickly, safely and efficiently fulfills many of NORML supporters' product needs by placing the organization's logos and artwork on dozens of products and clothing of nearly every color, size and shape.

NORML's many members, supporters, chapter network of volunteers and Washington, D.C. staff thank CafePress for partnering with NORML and making a generous end-of-the-year donation in support of personal freedom and responsibility.

Owners and managers of companies that would like to work with and support NORML's longstanding cannabis law reform efforts, such as the businesses currently listed in '[business supporters](#)' section at [norml.org](#), please send and email to: [media@norml.org](mailto:media@norml.org).

**\* NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting \* Happens (most!) every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at**



**Cozmic Pizza - in Theo's Coffee House Meeting Room - at 199 W 8th Av, Eugene, Oregon \* Excepting Holidays - Nov., Dec. - when it takes place 3rd Sat.! For more info on meeting call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit:**

**<http://w-v-norml.org/meeting.html>**

**Toasted h'ERb'S Kitchen,  
1210 Willamette St, Eugene  
*It's One Hell of A Joint!*  
call: 541.343-2845 -or- visit:**



**<http://toastedherbs.com/> - and see!**

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