



Chicago: City Council Reduces Marijuana Possession To A Non-Arrestable Offense

Chicago, IL, USA: Members of the Chicago City Council on Wednesday [overwhelmingly voted](#) in favor of a municipal measure to halt the arrest of minor marijuana offenders.



Members of the Council voted 43 to 3 to allow city police the discretion of citing, rather than arresting, those found in the possession of 15 grams of marijuana or less (about one-half ounce) on their person. The new policy [will not apply](#) to cases involving the possession of marijuana in public parks or on school grounds, nor would it apply to incidences involving public cannabis smoking.

The new measure takes effect on August 4, 2012.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel - a [former opponent](#) of reducing marijuana penalties - advocated in favor of the new measure, which mimics police policy in many of the city's

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New York: Governor Endorses Legislation To Halt Tens Of Thousands Of Marijuana Possession Arrests

Albany, NY, USA: Democrat Gov. Andrew Cuomo has [endorsed](#) a legislative effort to equalize marijuana possession penalties, regardless of whether the cannabis is possessed in private or in public view. Governor Cuomo announced his support at a press conference on Monday.

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Rhode Island: Marijuana Decriminalization Measure Signed Into Law

Providence, RI: Governor Lincoln Chafee, an Independent, last week [signed legislation](#) into law that significantly reduces the penalties associated with the possession of marijuana for personal use. Under the new law, the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana by an individual 18 years or older is amended from a [criminal misdemeanor](#) (punishable by one year in jail and a \$500

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Study: Medical Marijuana Legalization Is Not Accompanied By Increases In Teen Cannabis Use

Bonn, Germany: The legalization of cannabis for therapeutic purposes is not associated with increases in the use of marijuana or other illicit substances among adolescents, according to a discussion [paper](#) commissioned by the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Germany.

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Connecticut: Medicinal Marijuana Legalization Measure Signed Into Law

Hartford, CT, USA: Democrat Gov. Dan Malloy [signed legislation](#) into law on Friday, June 1, allowing for the state-sanctioned production, distribution, and use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes. The new law - Public Act 12-55, [An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana](#) - will take effect on October 1, 2012. <continued on page 7 >



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**

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 CHICAGO: CITY COUNCIL REDUCES MARIJUANA POSSESSION TO A NON-ARRESTABLE OFFENSE, page 1 > surrounding suburbs. In 2010, the city of Philadelphia [enacted](#) a similar policy.

Advocates for the policy change argued that the present criminal enforcement of marijuana possession laws disproportionately targeted African American and Hispanic youth. According to data compiled and posted by the website [marijuana-arrests.com](#), 95 percent of all defendants arrested on marijuana charges in Chicago are either Black or Hispanic. Of those individuals criminally convicted of low-level marijuana possession offenses, [98 percent](#) are either Black or Hispanic.

Under Illinois state law, the possession of any amount of marijuana is defined as a criminal misdemeanor offense, [punishable by 30 days to one-year](#) imprisonment. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.*

<continued from NEW YORK: GOVERNOR ENDORSES LEGISLATION TO HALT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MARIJUANA POSSESSION ARRESTS, page 1 > New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly are also backing the effort.

Under [state law](#), the private possession of up to 25 grams of marijuana is a non-criminal civil citation, punishable by a \$100 fine. By contrast, the possession of any amount of cannabis in public view is a criminal misdemeanor [NY State Penal Law 221.10].

In 2011, New York City law enforcement spent \$75 million [arresting approximately 50,000 minor marijuana offenders](#) under Penal Law 221.10. Many of these offenders had marijuana on their person, and only revealed the cannabis publicly [after being ordered by police](#) to empty their pockets during 'stop-and-frisk' searches. According to the Governor's office, [94 percent of arrests](#) for small amounts of marijuana in the state are in New York City. Over [85 percent](#) of those charged were either African American or Latino.

Governor Cuomo [said](#) that the present law is "incongruous" and "disproportionately" effects

black and Hispanic youth. Pending [bipartisan legislation](#) - Senate Bill 5187 and Assembly Bill 7620 - would equalize minor marijuana possession penalties to a non-criminal, fine-only offense. According to the *Associated Press*, Cuomo's proposal [differs](#) slightly from these measures because it would retain criminal misdemeanor penalties for cannabis smoking in public.

State lawmakers are expected to be in session for three more weeks.

On Tuesday, a coalition of advocacy groups, including [ColorOfChange.org](#) and the [Drug Policy Alliance](#), [launched](#) an online advocacy campaign featuring video testimonials from people who the campaign says have been illegally searched or falsely charged with misdemeanor marijuana possession in New York City. *For more information or to view the video testimonials, please visit: <http://www.drugpolicy.org/NYarrestvideos>.*

Michigan: Supreme Court Says Detroit Voters Can Decide On Marijuana Legalization Ballot Measure

Lansing, MI, USA: The Supreme Court for the state of Michigan has [ruled](#) that city election officials cannot prevent Detroit voters from deciding on a municipal ballot measure that seeks to remove marijuana possession penalties for those age 21 or older.

The Court refused to review an appeal brought by the Detroit City Clerk's office and the Detroit Election Commission that sought to strike down the proposed ballot question, sponsored by the group [Coalition for a Safer Detroit](#).

In 2010, the Coalition collected over 6,000 signatures from registered voters to place the measure on that year's electoral ballot. The vote failed to take place, however, because election officials at the time alleged that the proposal conflicted with state anti-drug laws.

This past February, the Michigan Court of Appeals [ruled 2-1](#) that Detroit election officials acted illegally in 2010 when they denied voters

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<continued from previous page> the opportunity to decide on the issue. "[Plaintiff[s] had a clear legal right to the placement of the initiative on the ballot," the court ruled. The Supreme Court's ruling upholds the Appellate court's decision. Detroit voters will now decide on the measure this November.

Commenting on the ruling, Tim Beck - head of the Coalition for a Safer Detroit and the former Executive Director of [Michigan NORML](#) - said: "This case in Detroit was not just about marijuana. Had we lost in court, the local initiative process itself would have been rendered meaningless statewide, no matter what the issue might be."

He added, "We expect a major victory for Detroit cannabis consumers this November." For more information, please visit: <http://saferdetroit.net/>.

<continued from RHODE ISLAND: MARIJUANA DECRIMINALIZATION MEASURE SIGNED INTO LAW, page 1 > maximum fine) to a non-arrestable civil offense - punishable by a \$150 fine, no jail time, and no criminal record. Rhode Island's decriminalization law takes effect on April 1, 2013.

Rhode Island is one of 15 states that have reduced marijuana possession to a fine-only offense. [Eight states](#) - California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, and Oregon - similarly define the private, non-medical possession of marijuana by adults as a civil, non-criminal offense. [Five additional states](#) - Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, and Ohio - treat marijuana possession offenses as a fine-only misdemeanor offense. [Alaska](#) imposes no criminal or civil penalty for the private possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Rhode Island: General Assembly Overwhelmingly Passes Marijuana Decriminalization Measures

Providence, RI, USA: By a vote of more than 2 to 1, members of the General Assembly on Tuesday [approved](#) legislation to significantly reduce marijuana possession penalties.

Members of the House and Senate passed twin

bills, [House Bill 7092](#) and [Senate Bill 2253](#), which amend state law.

Speaking publicly about the issue on Wednesday, Gov. Lincoln Chafee, an Independent, [said](#) that he is "inclined" to sign the measures into law, stating that he believes that decriminalization could reduce the state's prosecutorial costs. 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.



New Jersey: State Assembly Backs Marijuana Decriminalization Measure

Trenton, NJ, USA: Members of the state Assembly on Monday [voted](#) 44 to 30 in favor of [Assembly Bill 1465](#), which removes criminal penalties for the possession of approximately one-half ounce of marijuana. Members of the state Assembly Judiciary Committee had [previously approved](#) the measure by a unanimous vote.

The bill now awaits action from the Senate. If the Senate also approves the measure then it faces action from Republican Gov. Chris Christie, who last week said that he would likely veto the bill, [stating](#), "I don't think we should send any sort tacit approval to our children that somehow this is not bad anymore."

An [override](#) of the Governor's veto would require 54 'yes' votes in the Assembly and 27 'yes' votes in the Senate.

Under [present law](#), the possession of small quantities of marijuana carries a penalty of up to a \$1000 fine and six months in jail. A conviction also [results](#) in a criminal record that cannot be expunged for at least five years, the loss of driving privileges, and other penalties.

Earlier this month, Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee [enacted](#) a similar marijuana decriminalization measure into law, amending

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<continued from previous page> pot possession penalties from a criminal misdemeanor (punishable by one year in jail and a \$500 maximum fine) to a non-arrestable civil offense - punishable by a \$150 fine, no jail time, and no criminal record.

[Seven states](#) - California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and New York - similarly define the private, non-medical possession of marijuana by adults as a civil, non-criminal offense.

[Six additional states](#) - Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, and Oregon - treat marijuana possession offenses as a fine-only misdemeanor offense. [Alaska](#) imposes no criminal or civil penalty for the private possession of small amounts of marijuana.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500. Additional information regarding Assembly Bill 1465 is available from <http://www.normlnj.org> or NORML's 'Take Action' Center at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=61508736>.

New Hampshire: Governor's Veto Dooms Medical Marijuana Measure

Concord, NH, USA: Members of the state Senate on Wednesday [failed to override](#) Governor John Lynch's veto of Senate Bill 409, which sought to allow qualified patients to possess and cultivate cannabis for therapeutic purposes. Senators voted 13 to 10 to override the Governor's veto. However, 16 total 'yes' votes were necessary to achieve the two-thirds Senate majority necessary to enact SB 409 into law.

Although House members had overwhelmingly backed SB 409 during this year's legislative session, Senate support was more evenly split, with Senators having voted 13 to 9 last week in favor of the bill. Two Democratic Senators, Lou D'Allesandro and Sylvia Larsen, on Wednesday [reversed](#) their previous 'yes' votes, siding with Gov. Lynch, who is also a Democrat.

In 2009, Gov. Lynch [vetoed](#) a far more restrictive medicinal cannabis measure. Senators that year also fell just short of the votes necessary to override him. Governor Lynch announced earlier this year that he will not seek re-election in 2012.

To date, [17 states](#) - including four in New England: Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont - have enacted laws that allow for the limited use of cannabis with a physician's recommendation.

Lawmakers Send Medical Cannabis Measure To Governor

New Hampshire state House and Senate lawmakers last week [gave final approval](#) to [Senate Bill 409](#), which allows for the personal possession, cultivation, and use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes.

More than two-thirds of House lawmakers endorsed the measure while Senators voted 13 to 9 in favor of the legislation. The Senate vote is [two votes shy](#) of the necessary two-thirds majority necessary to override Gov. John Lynch's expected veto. Governor Lynch, a Democrat, has voiced his [opposition](#) to SB 409 and [previously vetoed](#) similar legislation in 2009.

In a [press release](#) issued by the [Marijuana Policy Project](#) immediately following last week's vote, Senator Jim Forsythe (R-Strafford), the bill's prime sponsor, said that he would continue lobbying to gain the two additional Senate votes necessary to override the Governor's anticipated veto. "Most senators now agree we have a moral obligation to protect seriously ill patients from being arrested in our state," he said.

On Friday, June 1, Connecticut became the 17th state since 1996 to legalize the limited use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes. It is the fourth state in New England to do so, joining Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

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

<continued from STUDY: MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASES IN TEEN CANNABIS USE, page 1 > Economists from Montana State University, the University of Oregon, and the University of Colorado, Denver [examined the relationship](#) between state medical cannabis laws and marijuana consumption among high school students. Authors analyzed data from the national and state Youth Risky Behavior Surveys (YRBS) for the years 1993 through 2009 - during which time 13 states enacted laws allowing for the production and use of cannabis for medicinal purposes.

The national YRBS is conducted biennially by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is a nationally representative sample of U.S. high school students.

Authors found no evidence that the enactment of medical cannabis legalization adversely impacted adolescents' drug consumption. They concluded: "Our results are not consistent with the hypothesis that the legalization of medical marijuana caused an increase in the use of marijuana and other substances among high school students. ... Our results suggest that the legalization of medical marijuana was not accompanied by increases in the use of marijuana or other substances such as alcohol and cocaine among high school students. Interestingly, several of our estimates suggest that marijuana use actually declined with the passage of medical marijuana laws."

A 2012 study by researchers at McGill University in Montreal and published in the journal *Annals of Epidemiology* previously reported similar findings, [concluding](#): "[P]assing MMLs (medical marijuana laws) decreased past-month use among adolescents ... and had no discernible effect on the perceived riskiness of monthly use. ... [These] estimates suggest that reported adolescent marijuana use may actually decrease following the passing of medical marijuana laws."

Previous investigations by research teams at [Brown University](#) in 2011 and [Texas A&M](#) in 2007 made similar determinations, concluding, "[C]onsistent with other studies of the liberalization of cannabis laws, medical cannabis

laws do not appear to increase use of the drug."

The findings of these studies contradict public statements made by Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske and other medical cannabis [opponents](#), who in recent years have repeatedly [alleged](#) that the passage of medical cannabis laws is directly responsible for higher levels of self-reported marijuana consumption among U.S. teenagers.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Medical Marijuana Laws and Teen Marijuana Use," is available online at: <http://ftp.iza.org/dp6592.pdf>.

Study: Medical Cannabis Dispensaries Not Associated With Neighborhood Crime

Los Angeles, CA, USA:

The establishment of medical cannabis dispensaries does not adversely impact local crime rates, according to a federally funded [study](#) published in the July issue of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.



Investigators at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) [examined](#) whether the proliferation of medical marijuana dispensaries is associated with elevated crimes rates. Researchers assessed the spatial relationship between density of medical marijuana dispensaries and two types of crime rates (violent crime and property crime) in 95 census tracts in Sacramento, California, during the year 2009.

Researchers reported: "There were no observed cross-sectional associations between the density of medical marijuana dispensaries and either violent or property crime rates in this study. These results suggest that the density of medical marijuana dispensaries may not be associated with crime rates or that other factors, such as measures dispensaries

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take to reduce crime (i.e., doormen, video cameras), may increase guardianship such that it deters possible motivated offenders."

Authors acknowledged that their findings "run contrary to public perceptions" and that they conflict with public statements made by the California Police Chief's Association, which had previously claimed, "Drug dealing, sales to minors, loitering, heavy vehicle and foot traffic in retail areas, increased noise, and robberies of customers just outside dispensaries are ... common ancillary by-products of (medicinal cannabis) operations."

The UCLA is not the first study to dispute the allegation that brick-and-mortar dispensaries are adversely associated with crime. A 2011 study of crime rates in Los Angeles published by the RAND Corporation similarly [concluded](#), "[W]e found no evidence that medical marijuana dispensaries in general cause crime to rise." However, shortly following its publication RAND [removed the study from its website](#) after their findings were publicly criticized by the Los Angeles city attorney's office.

Other analyses of crime statistics in the cities of [Denver](#), [Los Angeles](#), and [Colorado Springs](#) have separately disputed the notion that the locations of dispensaries are associated with elevated incidences of criminal activity.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Exploring the Ecological Association Between Crime and Medical Marijuana Dispensaries," appears in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.

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"For years, we've heard from so many patients with chronic diseases who undergo treatments like chemotherapy or radiation and are denied the palliative benefits that medical marijuana would provide," Governor Malloy said in a [prepared statement](#). "With careful regulation and safeguards, this law will allow a doctor and a patient to decide what is in that patient's

best interest." Under the law, patients with a qualifying "debilitating medical condition" must receive "written certification" from a physician and register with the state's Department of Consumer Protection (DCP).

Qualifying patients and their primary caregivers will be allowed to possess a combined one-month supply of cannabis, the specific amount of which will be determined by a board consisting of eight physicians certified by appropriate medical boards and enforced through DCP regulations.

Patients must obtain marijuana from certified pharmacists at licensed dispensaries, who will obtain it from licensed producers. The law allows for the licensing of at least three, but no more than ten, producers statewide.

Patients will not be permitted to cultivate their own cannabis.

Connecticut is the 17th [state](#) since 1996 to allow for the limited legalization of medicinal cannabis. It is the fourth New England state to do so, joining Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

In May, Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee [signed into law](#) similar legislation allowing for the state-licensed production and limited distribution of medicinal cannabis. Vermont lawmakers in 2011 [approved](#) a similar measure; however, to date the state has yet to license any statewide dispensaries. Presently, a total of [eight](#) state-licensed medical marijuana dispensaries are operating in Maine.

Similar state-licensed dispensaries operate in Colorado and New Mexico. Additional licensing legislation awaits implementation in Arizona, Delaware, New Jersey, and Washington, DC.

For more information, please visit <http://norml.org/legal/item/connecticut-medical-marijuana>, or contact Connecticut NORML at: <http://norml.org/ct/item/connecticut-norml>.





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

Polls: Majority Of Voters Back Legalizing Cannabis

Vancouver, Canada: Two-thirds of US adults believe that the drug war is failing, and a majority of respondents say that marijuana ought to be legalized, according a recent Angus Reid Public opinion [poll](#) of 1,017 Americans. According to the poll, only 10 percent of respondents believe that the so-called 'War on Drugs' has been successful, while [66 percent](#) deem it a "failure." Pollsters also found that 52 percent of Americans support the legalization of marijuana (versus 44 percent opposed).

Support for marijuana legalization was highest among men (60 percent), self-identified political Independents (57 percent), and Democrats (54 percent). Women (45 percent), respondents over the age of 55 (48 percent) and self-identified Republicans (43 percent) were less supportive of legalization. The poll's margin of error is +/- 3.1%

It is the fourth consecutive survey conducted by Angus Reid to report majority support among Americans for legalizing marijuana.

A separate statewide poll of likely Colorado voters published on Monday by Rasmussen Reports found that [61 percent](#) of likely state voters favor legalizing and regulating marijuana like alcohol. Only 27 percent of respondents opposed the idea.

The poll result is a positive sign for proponents of [Amendment 64](#) - a statewide [ballot initiative](#) that seeks to eliminate civil and criminal penalties for the limited possession and cultivation of cannabis by those age 21 or older. The measure also seeks to establish regulations governing the commercial production and

* **NOTE!** The Willamette Valley NORML Member meeting happens **every 2nd Sat. of the month** and will be at The Voter Power Office. For more info on meeting visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/Members/meeting.html>



The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting happens (most!) **every 4th Sat. of the month**

(Excepting Holidays - Nov., Dec. - when it takes place 3rd Sat.!)

and will also be at The Voter Power Office at **687 River Av, Eugene, Oregon** * For more info on meeting call: **541.517-0957** -or- visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/meeting.html>

distribution of marijuana by licensed retailers. Colorado voters will decide on the measure in November.

Amendment 64 is backed by a broad [coalition](#) of drug law reform organizations, including NORML, the [American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado](#), [SAFER](#), [Sensible Colorado](#), [Law Enforcement Against Prohibition \(LEAP\)](#), [Students for Sensible Drug Policy \(SSDP\)](#), the [Drug Policy Alliance](#), and the [Marijuana Policy Project](#). For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org or visit: <http://www.regulatemarijuana.org>.

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