



Most Statewide Marijuana Initiatives Leading In Polls, Former DEA Heads Urge Justice Department To Oppose the Will Of The People



Washington, DC: Four of the six statewide marijuana initiatives appearing on the November 2012 ballot are solidly favored among likely voters.

Voters in [six states](#) - Arkansas, Colorado, Massachusetts, Montana, Oregon, and Washington - will be deciding on marijuana-specific ballot measures this November. In Massachusetts, voters will decide on [Question 3](#), a statewide proposal that seeks to allow for the physician-recommended possession and state-licensed distribution of cannabis for therapeutic purposes. Arkansas voters will

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House Bill Would Stop Federal Forfeiture Actions

Nine co-sponsors introduce HR 6335 to protect state-authorized businesses

Federal property forfeiture actions targeting state-authorized medical cannabis businesses would be stopped if a new House bill becomes law.

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Montana: Supreme Court Says Patients Possess No Fundamental Right To Cannabis

Helena, MT: Members of the Montana Supreme Court [ruled](#) 6 to 1 on Tuesday that patients do not possess a fundamental right to access and consume cannabis for therapeutic purposes. The decision reverses a District Court ruling enjoining the state from enforcing various provisions of a 2011 state law that limits the public's access to medical marijuana.

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Study: Synthetic THC Analogue Mitigates Diabetic Neuropathy, Is 'Well Tolerated' In Patients

Calgary, Canada: The oral administration of the synthetic THC analogue nabilone (brand name: Cesamet) mitigates neuropathic pain and is well tolerated, according to clinical trial [data](#) published online by the scientific journal *Pain*.

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Republican Vice Presidential Nominee Vacillates On Medical Marijuana Issue

Colorado Springs, CO: Republican Vice Presidential candidate Paul Ryan (R-WI) has expressed conflicting views in recent days regarding his position on the state-authorized use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes.

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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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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 MARIJUANA INITIATIVES LEADING IN POLLS, page 1 > decide on a similar measure, the [Arkansas Medical Marijuana Act of 2012](#). Montana voters will decide on [Initiative Referendum 124](#), which is a referendum on Senate Bill 423 - a 2011 measure that seeks to [restrict](#) the state's 2004 voter approved medical cannabis law.

Colorado voters will decide on [Amendment 64](#), which immediately allows for the legal possession of up to one ounce of marijuana and/or the cultivation of up to six cannabis plants by those persons age 21 and over. Longer-term, the measure seeks to establish regulations governing the commercial production and distribution of marijuana by licensed retailers. Oregon voters will decide on Measure 80, the [Oregon Cannabis Tax Act](#), which provides for the state-licensed production and retail sale of cannabis to adults. The measure does not impose state-licensing or taxation requirements upon those who wish to cultivate cannabis for non-commercial purposes. Finally, in Washington, voters will decide on [Initiative 502](#), which seeks to regulate the production and sale of limited amounts of marijuana for adults. The measure also removes criminal penalties specific to the adult possession of up to one ounce of cannabis for personal use.

According to the most recently available polling, several of these measures hold firm leads among likely voters. In Colorado, 51 percent of respondents say that they are backing Amendment 64, according to the latest SurveyUSA [telephone poll](#) of 615 likely voters. In Massachusetts, a strong majority of likely voters support Question 3. A newly released Suffolk University/7News [poll](#) of 600 likely voters finds that 59 percent of respondents support the initiative versus 35 percent who oppose it. In Montana, a majority of likely voters [do not support](#) enacting limits on the state's medical marijuana law, according to a just-published poll of 656 likely voters.

And in Washington, nearly [six out of ten](#) voters say they intend to decide in favor of I-502, according to a Survey USA poll released late last week. Fifty-seven percent of respondents

said that they will vote 'yes' on the measure, versus only 34 percent who said they would vote 'no.' Nine percent remain undecided. In Oregon, a July poll not specific to the initiative conducted by Public Policy Polling reported that [only 43 percent](#) of Oregonians believed that cannabis use should be legal, versus 46 percent who endorsed it remaining illegal. A more recent [Survey USA poll](#) of 552 likely voters reported that 37 percent of respondents favored Measure 80, while 41 percent said that they opposed it. Democrat voters said that they backed the measure by a vote of 2 to 1, while Republicans opposed it by a margin of 4 to 1. No recent polling is available for Arkansas. *NORML has additional details about this November's statewide and municipal ballot proposals* [here: http://norml.org/about/smoke-the-vote](http://norml.org/about/smoke-the-vote).

Former DEA Heads Urge Justice Department To Oppose Statewide Marijuana Initiatives



Washington, DC: Nine former directors of the United States Drug Enforcement

Administration (DEA) [sent a letter](#) last week to US Attorney General Eric Holder urging his office to actively oppose several statewide ballot measures that seek to depenalize the personal use and possession of cannabis by adults.

"We urge you to oppose publicly [Amendment 64](#) in Colorado, [Initiative 502](#) in Washington, and [Measure 80](#) in Oregon," the letter states. "To continue to remain silent conveys to the American public ... a tacit acceptance of these dangerous initiatives." Signatories include every former director of the DEA since the agency's inception.

Amendment 64, the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act, Initiative 502, and Measure 80,

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<continued from previous page> the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act, all seek to amend state law to allow for the limited possession and distribution of cannabis to adults. Both Amendment 64 in Colorado and Initiative 502 in Washington hold solid [leads](#) among likely voters. This week, a Survey USA [poll](#) of Washington voters showed I-502 ahead by a margin of 57 percent to 34 percent. The DEA letter did not specifically address separate state initiatives in [Arkansas](#), [Massachusetts](#), and [Montana](#) that seek to regulate the physician-recommended use and distribution of cannabis.

Holder's office previously spoke out in 2010 against Proposition 19 in California after receiving a similar letter from past chiefs of the DEA. That measure sought to allow for the limited possession and cultivation of cannabis for adults. The measure was defeated at the polls by a vote of 46.5 percent to 53.5 percent.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director at (202) 483-5500. NORML has additional details about this November's statewide and municipal ballot proposals here: <http://norml.org/about/smoke-the-vote>.

<continued from STUDY: SYNTHETIC THC ANALOGUE MITIGATES DIABETIC NEUROPATHY, IS 'WELL TOLERATED' IN PATIENTS, page 1 >



Investigators at the University of Calgary, Department of Neurosciences assessed the use of [nabilone](#) versus placebo in patients with diabetic neuropathy (nerve pain) in a randomize, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.

Researchers administered daily oral doses of nabilone to 37 participants in combination with their existing medications for a period of four weeks. Twenty-six of the initial 37 subjects achieved pain relief greater than 30 percent during this period. Those subjects who responded favorably to nabilone treatment continued to receive either treatment or placebo for an additional five-week period.

Researchers reported that nabilone treatment

of 2.9mg per day significantly reduced subjects' pain compared to placebo, as well as participants' level of anxiety. Improved sleep and patients' overall quality of life was also positively associated with nabilone treatment.

Authors concluded: "[N]abilone ... was effective in relieving diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain (DPN) symptoms, improving disturbed sleep, quality of life, and overall patient status. Nabilone was well tolerated and successful as adjuvant in patients with DPN."

Neuropathy is a difficult to treat pain condition that is estimated to effect between five and ten percent of the population. A literature [review](#) of clinical trials data published in *The Clinical Journal of Pain* in March reported that cannabis and its organic compounds have been demonstrated to be safe and modestly effective treatments for neuropathy and other chronic pain conditions. Other studies have also reported that the use of cannabis [augments](#) the analgesic effects of opiates, potentially allowing users to eventually [reduce their use](#) of opioid drugs.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "An enriched-enrolment, randomized withdrawal, flexible-dose, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel assignment efficacy study of nabilone as adjuvant in the treatment of diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain," appears online in the journal *Pain*.

<continued from MONTANA: SUPREME COURT SAYS PATIENTS POSSESS NO FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO CANNABIS, page 1 >

"In pursuing one's health, an individual has a fundamental right to obtain and reject medical treatment," Justice Michael Wheat [opined](#) for the majority. "But, this right does not extend to give a patient a fundamental right to use any drug, regardless of its legality."

He added, "A patient's 'selection of a particular treatment, or at least a medication, is within the area of government interest in protecting public health,' and regulation of that medication does not implicate a fundamental

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<continued from previous page> constitutional right." The Court further opined that a patient's "right to privacy does not encompass the affirmative right of access to medical marijuana."

The majority concluded, "[T]he plaintiffs cannot seriously contend that they have a fundamental right to medical marijuana when it is still unequivocally illegal under the (federal) Controlled Substances Act."

The Court's decision allows for the state to fully implement [Senate Bill 423](#), a 2011 law that sought to significantly limit the use, production, and distribution of cannabis among patients who possess a physician's authorization to consume the substance.

Montana voters will [decide](#) in November on [Initiative Referendum 124](#), which seeks to repeal SB 423. Montana voters in 2004 approved patients' use of medical cannabis for qualified illnesses by a vote of 62 percent. *Full text of the decision, Montana Cannabis Industry Association et al. v State is available online at: http://missoulia.com/montana-supreme-court-ruling-on-medical-marijuana/pdf_af1ddf04-fc7e-11e1-9a80-001a4bcf887a.html.*



<continued from HOUSE BILL WOULD STOP FEDERAL FORFEITURE ACTIONS, page 1 > HR 6335, the States' Medical Marijuana Property Rights Protection Act, was introduced August 2 by Rep. Barbara Lee (D, CA-9) with eight initial co-sponsors representing districts in Massachusetts, Oregon, New York, and California.

The bill comes in response to escalating forfeiture actions and threats against landlords of licensed medical cannabis businesses. In July, federal prosecutors served an asset forfeiture lawsuit against one of California's largest dispensaries, Harborside Health Center, which operates in Oakland and San Jose. The action by U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag is the latest in a series targeting state-compliant facilities in California and sparked an outcry from local and state officials. Federal prosecutors have sent letters threatening forfeiture to more than 300 property owners in California, as well as landlords in Colorado and other states with



Rep. Barbara Lee

medical cannabis programs. The threats have resulted in the closure of more than 400 dispensaries in California alone, including nine recently in San Francisco.

HR 6335 would prohibit the Justice Department from using the civil asset forfeiture statute, 21 U.S.C. 881(7), against real property owners only if their tenants are in compliance with state medical cannabis law.

While property owners have an opportunity to retrieve seized property in civil court, they are not afforded many of the constitutional rights granted to criminal defendants, such as the right to an attorney and a jury trial. In addition, the burden of proof is on the property owner to show their innocence rather than the government having to prove their guilt. *Source = Americans for Safe Access (ASA) Monthly Activist Newsletter - Volume 7, Issue 9 - for SEPTEMBER, 2012 * Americans for Safe Access * 1322 Webster Street, Ste. 402 * Oakland, CA 94612 * info@AmericansForSafeAccess.org * 510-251-1856 * www.AmericansForSafeAccess.org*

<continued from REPUBLICAN VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE VACILLATES ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA ISSUE, page 1 > Speaking with a local Colorado Springs television station on Friday, Ryan [said](#) that he personally opposed the use of cannabis for any purpose, but also acknowledged that the issue "is up to (each individual state) to decide."



[Seventeen states](#) - including Colorado - and the District of Columbia have enacted laws that allow for the limited legalization of cannabis for therapeutic purposes.

Immediately following Ryan's public remarks, however, campaign aids [told reporters](#) that Ryan "agrees" with Presidential candidate Mitt Romney views opposing any liberalization of cannabis prohibition. Romney has previously [stated](#): "I would not legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes. ... I know there are some on the Democratic side of the aisle who will be happy to get in your campaign. But I'm opposed to it, and if you elect me president, you're not going to see legalized marijuana. I'm going to fight it tooth and nail."

In Congress, Rep. Ryan in May [voted against legislation](#) that would have limited the federal

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<continued from previous page> government from interfering in states that allow for the physician-authorized use of cannabis.

As a Presidential candidate in 2008, President Obama [pledged](#) to cease utilizing "Justice Department resources to try and circumvent state laws" - a position he has failed to uphold while in office. Obama's running mate, Vice President Joe Biden, [sponsored](#) legislation as a Senator to institute the Office of National Drug Control Policy, among other anti-drug laws and drug sentencing provisions. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director at (202) 483-5500. NORML has additional details about the federal Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates here: <http://norml.org/about/smoke-the-vote>.*

North Dakota: Statewide Medical Cannabis Proposal Will Not Appear On 2012 Ballot



Bismarck, ND: A statewide proposal to allow for the possession and state-licensed distribution of cannabis for therapeutic purposes will not appear on the November 2012 ballot, the *Associated Press* reported this week.

The measure was one of two citizens initiatives [rejected](#) by the Secretary of States office on Monday. According to the *AP*, paid petitioners [falsified](#) thousands of names that they purported to have collected from registered voters.

Eight players on North Dakota State University's football team [are facing charges](#) of petition fraud for their participation in the alleged scheme.

The citizens [initiative](#), proposed by [North Dakotans for Compassionate Care](#), sought to eliminate statewide criminal and civil penalties regarding the physician-recommended use, possession and/or cultivation of cannabis for various qualifying medical conditions, including cancer, Crohn's disease, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Voters in [six states](#) - Arkansas, Colorado, Massachusetts, Montana, Oregon, and Washington - will be deciding on marijuana-specific ballot measures this November. In Massachusetts, voters will decide on [Question 3](#), a statewide proposal that seeks to allow for the physician-recommended possession and state-licensed distribution of cannabis for therapeutic purposes.

Arkansas voters [will decide](#) on a similar measure, the [Arkansas Medical Marijuana Act of 2012](#). Montana voters will decide on [Initiative Referendum 124](#), which seeks to [repeal](#) amendments enacted by lawmakers in 2011 to [restrict](#) the state's 2004, voter approved medical cannabis law.

Colorado voters will decide on [Amendment 64](#), which immediately allows for the legal possession of up to one ounce of marijuana and/or the cultivation of up to six cannabis plants by those persons age 21 and over. Longer-term, the measure seeks to establish regulations governing the commercial production and distribution of marijuana by licensed retailers.

Oregon voters will decide on [Measure 80](#), the [Oregon Cannabis Tax Act](#), which provides for the state-licensed production and retail sale of cannabis to adults. The measure does not impose state-licensing or taxation requirements upon those who wish to cultivate cannabis for non-commercial purposes. Finally, in Washington, voters will decide on [Initiative 502](#), which seeks to regulate the production and sale of limited amounts of marijuana for adults. The measure also removes criminal penalties specific to the adult possession of up to one ounce of cannabis for personal use.

NORML has additional details about this November's statewide and municipal ballot proposals here: <http://norml.org/about/smoke-the-vote>.

Study: Non-Psychotropic Cannabinoid "Proven To Be Safe" In Humans

London, United Kingdom: The oral administration of the non-psychoactive cannabis plant constituent [cannabidiol](#) (CBD) is safe and well tolerated in humans, according to clinical trial [data](#) published online by the journal *Current Pharmaceutical Design*.

Investigators at Kings College in London assessed the physiological and behavioral effects of CBD and THC versus placebo in 16 healthy volunteers in a randomized, double-blind, crossover trial. Investigators reported that the oral administration of 10 mg of THC was associated with various physiological and behavioral effects - such as increased heart rate and sedation - whereas the oral

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<continued from previous page> administration of 600 mg of CBD was not. They concluded, "There were no differences between CBD and placebo on any symptomatic, physiological variable. ... In healthy volunteers, THC has marked acute behavioral and physiological effects, whereas CBD has proven to be safe and well tolerated."

A previous review of the use of CBD in human subjects, published in the scientific journal *Current Drug Safety* last year, [similarly concluded](#) that the compound was safe, non-toxic, and well tolerated.

Separate investigations of CBD have documented the cannabinoid to possess [a variety of therapeutic properties](#), including anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, anti-epileptic, anti-cancer, and bone-stimulating properties. In recent years, patients in states that allow for the use of cannabis therapy, particularly California, have [expressed an interest](#) in plant [strains](#) that contain uniquely high percentages of the compound.

Cannabidiol is presently classified under federal law as a [schedule I](#) prohibited substance. Such substances are required by law to possess "a high potential for abuse," "a lack of accepted safety ... under medical supervision," and "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Acute effects of a single, oral dose of d9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) administration in healthy volunteers" appears online in *Current Pharmaceutical Design*.*

Michigan: Flint Voters To Decide On Marijuana Depenalization Ordinance

Flint, MI: Flint voters this November will [decide](#) on a municipal measure that seeks to remove marijuana possession penalties for those age 19 or older. City officials approved the citizens initiative last week. If enacted, it would [amend the city code](#) so that the possession on private property of up to one ounce of marijuana or cannabis paraphernalia by those age 19 or older is no longer a criminal offense. Proponents of the ordinance submitted over 1,000 signatures from registered Flint voters to place the proposal on the November ballot.

Voters in Detroit will similarly [decide](#) this November on a local citywide measure, [Proposal M](#), to remove

criminal penalties pertaining to the possession on private property of up to one ounce of marijuana by adults over age 21.

Voters in two additional Michigan cities will also be deciding on marijuana-specific municipal measures this November. Grand Rapid voters will [act on Proposal 2](#), which seeks to allow local law enforcement the discretion to ticket first-time marijuana offenders with a civil citation, punishable by a \$25 fine and no criminal record. In Ypsilanti, voters will decide on a proposal to make the local enforcement of marijuana possession offenses the city's lowest law enforcement priority.

Under [state law](#), possessing cannabis is a criminal misdemeanor offense, punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. *NORML has additional details about this November's statewide and municipal ballot proposals* [here: http://norml.org/about/smoke-the-vote](http://norml.org/about/smoke-the-vote).

First New Jersey Distribution Center to Open in September

After more than two years of delays by Governor Chris Christie, medical cannabis should be available to New Jersey patients through a state-regulated distribution center in September.

Greenleaf Compassion Center, the first of six slated to operate in the state, expects to begin serving qualified patients at its Montclair location this month. The center is producing the medicinal plants in a secure 5,000 square-foot warehouse in a secret location.

Another center, the Compassionate Care Foundation, expects to open by November, but finding suitable locations to operate for the other four has proven difficult, in what has turned into a battle over land use with local zoning officials.

State lawmakers want answers on why implementation of the program has been so delayed from the original July 2011 projected launch. Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (D-Trenton) in July called for hearings.

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

<continued from FIRST NEW JERSEY DISTRIBUTION CENTER TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER , previous page> Gov. Jon Corzine signed the Compassionate Care Act in January 2010. *Source = Americans for Safe Access (ASA) Monthly Activist Newsletter - Volume 7, Issue 9 - for SEPTEMBER, 2012 * Americans for Safe Access * 1322 Webster Street, Ste. 402 * Oakland, CA 94612 * info@AmericansForSafeAccess.org * 510-251-1856 * www.AmericansForSafeAccess.org*

NORML's 41st Annual National Conference -- It's 'The Final Days Of Prohibition' – Takes Place October 4th-6th In Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA: NORML's 2012 national conference, '[The Final Days of Prohibition](#),' took place Thursday, October 4th through Saturday, October 6th at the [Omni Los Angeles Hotel](#).

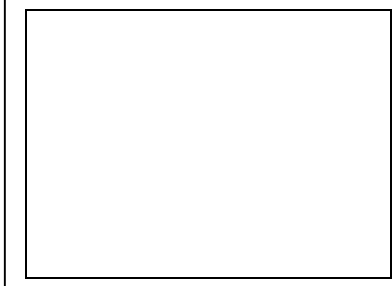
Former CA Assemblyman and peace activist [Tom Hayden](#) spoke on Thursday morning, while best-selling travel author and TV host [Rick Steves](#) and NORML Founder Keith Stroup addressed attendees at Friday's Keynote luncheon, "*Observations on the Final Days of Prohibition*".

States NORML's Executive Director Allen St. Pierre: "2012 marks the beginning of the end of cannabis prohibition. A [majority](#) of Americans for the first time now acknowledge their support for ending marijuana prohibition and replacing it with a system of legalization and regulation, and this November a handful of states are [poised](#) to embrace this common sense policy. The 2012 national NORML Conference reflects upon the decades of failure imposed by prohibition, celebrates our recent progress at amending this policy, and looks forward to the very near future when cannabis prohibition is abolished once and for all."

NORML invited the public – as it does every year – to join hundreds of likeminded marijuana law reformers at the nation's only annual conference dedicated to ending cannabis prohibition. Round-table [sessions](#) and plenary speeches at NORML's 41st annual conference included:

- **Pot-n-Politics 2012: A Review of Statewide Reform Initiatives Impacting Cannabis Consumers**
- **Cannabis and the 'Demo' Gap: Who Does Not Support Cannabis Legalization and What Can We Do About It**
- **Cannabis Legalization and Taxation: What Might It Look Like?**
- **Broken Promises: Obama Administration and Federal Blowback Against Medical Cannabis Industry**
- **The Changing Face of the Medical Cannabis Community**
- **Seventy-Five Years of Cannabis Prohibition in America: A Review of the Cannabis Prohibition Epoch in America**
- **Past is Prologue - Women's Role in Ending American Prohibition[s]**

[Social events](#) included a Wednesday night welcoming reception, a Thursday night Activist Awards Ceremony and 'Not-So-Silent' Auction, and a Saturday night fundraiser at The Hemp Museum in downtown Los Angeles.



More information, is available at: <http://norml.org/conference/>.

