



## Marijuana Legalization Questions Top Obama's 'Citizen's Briefing Book'

**Washington, DC, USA:** Ending the federal prosecution of adults who use cannabis is the most popular public policy issue facing the Obama administration, according to the results of a new poll conducted by Change.gov – the official website of the President's Transition Team.

More than 125,000 visitors to the site voted on 44,000 specific policy proposals. The leading vote getters are slated to appear in a 'Citizen's Briefing Book,' which will be delivered to the new President imminently.

The public's demand to "stop imprisoning responsible adult citizens" who use marijuana received more votes than any other issue in the online poll.

A related question calling on the new administration to "stop using federal resources to undermine states' medicinal marijuana laws" finished in third place.

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### DEA Rejects Order To Allow For Private Production Of Marijuana For FDA-Approved Research

**Washington, DC, USA:** The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has rejected a 2007 administrative ruling demanding that the agency license non-government entities to produce cannabis for FDA-approved clinical research.

DEA Deputy Administrator Michele Leonhart said that its own administrative law judge (ALJ) erred when she determined that the agency should grant a license to the University of Massachusetts (U-Mass) at Amherst's Medicinal Plant Program for the purposes of manufacturing research-grade cannabis. The DEA had rejected the U-Mass request in 2004.

In her 2007 decision, DEA administrative law judge Mary Ellen Bittner opined:

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### Updated NORML Report Highlights Marijuana's Role In Moderating Disease Progression; 'Emerging Clinical Applications' Booklet Reviews Nearly 200 Studies On The Therapeutic Use Of Cannabis

**Washington, DC, USA:** Clinical and preclinical research on the therapeutic use of cannabis indicates that cannabinoids may curb the progression of various life-threatening diseases – including multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, and brain cancer, according to an updated report published today by the NORML Foundation.

Now in its third edition, NORML's revised report, "**Emerging Clinical Applications for Cannabis &**

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## The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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Check 'em out on-line! visit:

**WillametteValleyNORML.org**

## A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

**The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.**

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org)**

Today Willamette Valley NORML joins the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from OBAMA'S 'CITIZEN'S BRIEFING BOOK', page 1 > The Citizens' Briefing Book poll marks the third time the Obama Transition Team has asked for the public's input regarding what they perceive to be the most important public policy questions facing America.

Questions pertaining to the legalization of marijuana have dominated online voting in each poll, and have twice finished in the #1 position.

A separate poll, conducted last week by Change.org and the Case Foundation, also reported that the legalization of cannabis for personal use is the most popular issue among online voters.

Commenting on the poll results, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "This past August House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in a live interview with CNN, called on the public to actively voice their support for marijuana law reform. Since then, Americans have expressed their desire to amend our nation's antiquated and punitive cannabis laws in unprecedented numbers. In short, the people have spoken. Are Congress and the Barack Obama administration listening?"

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

## **DEA Makes First Federal Medical Marijuana Raids Under Obama Administration**

**South Lake Tahoe, CA, USA:** Federal drug enforcement officials, working cooperatively with state and local police, seized marijuana and cash from a medical marijuana dispensary in Lake Tahoe, California last week. The raid was the first action of its type taken by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) since President Barack Obama took office on January 20.

While campaigning for the presidency, Obama

pledged not to "use Justice Department resources to try and circumvent state (medical marijuana) laws."

No arrests were made in last week's raid, and a new facility has already opened to serve patients in the Lake Tahoe region.

The bust received national media attention, with many news outlets expressing criticism over the raid.

In response to the DEA's actions, several prominent drug law reform groups have asked voters to contact the White House and urge the President to suspend Justice Department activities that target medical marijuana providers who are compliant with their state laws.

In a separate action last week, the DEA also raided two medical marijuana providers in Colorado, but did not make any arrests.

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

## **Change.org: Marijuana Legalization Question Leads In Final Round Of Online Voting**

**San Francisco, CA, USA:** The legalization of cannabis for personal use is the lead issue in an online poll sponsored by the social networking website Change.org. Online voting in the poll will continue through Thursday, January 15, 2008.

According to the website: "The top 10 rated ideas [from the poll] ... will be presented to the Obama administration on January 16th at an event at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. ... At the event we will also announce the launch of a national advocacy campaign behind each idea in collaboration with our nonprofit partners to turn each idea into actual policy."

Since launching its poll in December,

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<continued from previous page> marijuana legalization has outpolled almost every other question by a 2 to 1 margin. Two additional drug law reform questions – one calling for the legalization of hemp for industrial purposes and another calling on the new administration to reevaluate the entire 'war on drugs' – also rank among the top 15 questions on the site.

In a separate poll sponsored last month by Change.gov, the official website of the office President-Elect Obama, a similar question asking the incoming administration to consider taxing and regulating marijuana like alcohol was the top rated issue out of more than 7,300 questions posed by the public. In an ongoing Change.gov poll, a question calling for an end to marijuana possession arrests is polling fourth out of more than 20,000 questions.

Commenting on the popularity of the marijuana law reform questions NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "These online poll results illustrate two important points. One: there is a significant, vocal, and identifiable segment of our society that wants to see an end to America's archaic and overly punitive marijuana laws. Two: the American public is ready and willing to engage in a serious and objective political debate regarding the merits of legalizing the use of cannabis by adults. The Obama administration should heed these poll results and understand that marijuana law reform is not a political liability; rather, it is a political opportunity."

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. To log in to the Change.org website or to vote in their poll, please visit: Additional information is available online.*

<continued from DEA REJECTS ORDER, page 1 > "I conclude that granting Respondent's application would not be inconsistent with the Single Convention, that there would be minimal risk of diversion of marijuana resulting from Respondent's registration, that there is currently an inadequate supply of marijuana available for research purposes, that

competition in the provision of marijuana for such purposes is inadequate, and that Respondent has complied with applicable laws and has never been convicted of any violation of any law pertaining to controlled substances. I therefore find that Respondent's registration to cultivate marijuana would be in the public interest."

The DEA set aside Judge Bittner's ruling in a 118-page decision, issued late last week. Administrator Leonhart contended that international treaty obligations demand a "government monopoly" on the bulk manufacturing and distribution of cannabis. Leonhart also argued that US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) possesses "adequate" quantities of cannabis to meet the needs of privately funded researchers. (Under current policy, all federally approved research on marijuana must utilize cannabis supplied by and grown under contract with NIDA.)

The DEA further alleged that the non-profit group MAPS (the Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Studies) was ineligible to underwrite the U-Mass project because the organization's director, NORML Board Member Rick Doblin, had admitted using marijuana. Leonhart wrote, "It is simply inconceivable that DEA would ... grant a registration to engage in certain activities involving controlled substances where it is clear that a person who will have any role in the oversight and management of such activities ... engages in the illegal use of controlled substances."

Leonhart concluded: "I have determined that Respondent's proposed registration is inconsistent with United States obligations under the Single Convention and with the public interest. ... Respondent's ... goal of ending the Federal Government's monopoly on the wholesale distribution of marijuana can not be squared with the requirement under the Convention that there be precisely such a monopoly. With respect to the public interest, Respondent's failure to demonstrate that the longstanding existing system in the United

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<continued from previous page> States of producing and distributing research-grade marijuana under the oversight of [the US Department of Health and Human Services] and NIDA is inadequate ... weighs heavily against his application. Also, with respect to the public interest, the admitted conduct relating to controlled substances of Respondent's sponsor ... is unacceptable for anyone seeking to have a prominent role in overseeing the controlled substance activities of a DEA registrant. In sum, [these] three independent grounds ... provide a sufficient (indeed compelling) legal basis for denying Respondent's application."

Responding to the DEA's rejection, MAPS Executive Director Rick Doblin said: "The DEA and NIDA, but not the FDA, are clearly frightened of permitting privately-funded, scientific research into the risks and benefits of the medical uses of marijuana. We need the Obama Administration to reverse this egregious suppression of scientific research that the outgoing administration so fears will reveal inconvenient truths." He also added that "this ruling will strengthen efforts to obtain state-level medical marijuana reforms."

The DEA has a history of overruling decisions favorable to the medical use of cannabis. In 1989, former DEA Administrator John Lawn rejected a 1988 ALJ ruling (*NORML et al. v. DEA*) that determined that cannabis possessed "currently accepted medical value, The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia upheld Lawn's decision in 1994.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.maps.org](http://www.maps.org) or:  
[aclu.org/drugpolicy/medmarijuana/](http://aclu.org/drugpolicy/medmarijuana/)

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**Cannabinoids: A Review of the Recent Scientific Literature, 2000 – 2009,**" reviews nearly 200 scientific trials assessing the therapeutic utility of cannabinoids for the treatment of nineteen clinical indications: **Alzheimer's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), chronic pain, diabetes mellitus, dystonia, fibromyalgia, gastrointestinal disorders, gliomas,**

**hepatitis C, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hypertension, incontinence, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, pruritus, rheumatoid arthritis, sleep apnea, and Tourette's syndrome.**

NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano, who authored the report, said: "The conditions profiled in this report were chosen because patients frequently ask me about the use of cannabis to treat these disorders. Ideally, with this report in their hands, patients can now begin talking openly with their physicians about whether cannabis therapy is appropriate for them."

Full text of the report is now available online at: [norml.org](http://norml.org). Hard copies will be available for purchase shortly. For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).

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## New Mexico: Guidelines For State Medical Marijuana Program Finalized

**Albuquerque, NM, USA:** The New Mexico Department of Health has finalized rules governing the production, distribution, and use of medicinal cannabis under state law.

The new guidelines specify that state qualified patients may possess up to six ounces of medical cannabis (or more if authorized by their physician) and/or 16 plants (four mature, 12 immature) in accordance with state law.

To qualify under the law, patients must be registered with the state Department of Health and be must diagnosed by a physician to be suffering from one of the following medical conditions: cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, spinal cord damage, or HIV/AIDS. Any patient in hospice care may also qualify to use medicinal marijuana under state law.

Additional qualifying conditions, including nerve pain, Hepatitis C, and post-traumatic

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State regulations also authorize non-profit facilities to apply with the state to produce and dispense medical cannabis. State licensed producers may grow up to 95 mature plants at one time. The guidelines stipulate, "The non-profit will sell medical cannabis at a consistent unit price and without volume discounts."

To date, no organizations have applied with the state government to cultivate marijuana.

New Mexico lawmakers approved the use of marijuana under a physician's supervision in 2007. More than 200 patients have since registered with the state Health Department to possess cannabis under state law.

*Application information for patients and nonprofit providers is available from the New Mexico Department of Health at: <http://www.health.state.nm.us/marijuana.html>*

## **Endocannabinoid System Regulates Emotional Homeostasis, Study Says**

**Madrid, Spain:** Naturally occurring chemicals in the human body that mimic the effects of plant cannabinoids moderate human emotions and control anxiety, according to findings published in the Spanish scientific journal *Revista de Neurologica*.

Investigators at Complutense University in Madrid report that manipulating of the endocannabinoid system may one day be a course of treatment in the management of certain emotional disorders.

"[P]resent data reinforce the involvement of the endocannabinoid system in the control of emotional homeostasis and further suggest the pharmacological manipulation of the endocannabinoid system [is] a potential

therapeutic tool in the management of anxiety-related disorders," authors concluded.

Previous research on the endocannabinoid system indicates that endogenous cannabinoids moderate numerous biological functions, including appetite, blood pressure, reproduction, motor coordination, and bone mass.

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Functional role of the endocannabinoid system in emotional homeostasis," appears in the January issue of *Revista de Neurologica*.*

## **Saliva Testing Technology Still Unable To Consistently Detect THC**

**Illkirch, France:** Saliva testing technology fails to detect the recent use of cannabis over 50 percent of the time, according to findings published in the February issue of the journal *Therapeutic Drug Monitoring*.

French investigators evaluated the ability of oral fluid testing to detect the presence of THC in 20 subjects. Each of the subjects declared that they had smoked cannabis in the 30 minutes to 24 hours prior to testing.

Researchers reported that saliva testing identified THC in only eight of the 20 participants. By contrast, urinalysis testing identified 18 subjects as having previously used cannabis.

Previous evaluations of oral fluid drug testing devices have reported similar results – finding that saliva testing is rarely sensitive to THC beyond one or two hours after past use, and that false positive results are not uncommon.

Presently, several European nations and a handful of US states are testing the use of

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<continued from previous page> such devices in an on-going field study investigating the prevalence of motorists who drive under the influence of controlled substances.

Because saliva tests detect the presence of THC, not marijuana's inactive metabolites, and have a much more narrow window of detection compared to urinalysis, advocates of the technology believe that it is far more likely than urine testing to provide evidence regarding whether someone may be under the influence of cannabis.

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Evaluation of the Cozart DDSV test for cannabis in oral fluid," appears in the journal Therapeutic Drug Monitoring.*

## **Teen Team Sports Associated With Higher Use Of Booze, Less Use Of Marijuana, Study Says**

**Trondheim, Norway:** Teens who engage in organized high-school athletics are more likely to use alcohol, but less likely to use cannabis, compared to adolescents who do not participate in sports, according to findings published in the January issue of the journal *Addiction*.

Researchers at the Lade Treatment Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Norway examined the drug and alcohol habits of over 3,000 Norwegian high school students over a period of twelve years.

They concluded, "Sports participation in adolescence, and participation in team sports in particular, may increase the growth in alcohol intoxication during late adolescent and early adult years, whereas participation in team sports and endurance sports may reduce later increase in tobacco and cannabis use."

NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said that the results illustrate how random student drug testing policies can be inadvertently detrimental to youth.

"Most U.S. random student drug testing policies bar students who test positive from participating school athletic programs and other extracurricular activities. Yet ironically it is students' participation in these programs – not the implementation of random drug testing – that has been shown to reduce kids use of pot and other drugs," he said. "Why would we prohibit those students most at risk for illicit drug abuse from engaging in behaviors that have been shown to lower teens' use of certain illicit drugs?"

Since 2005, the US Department of Education has appropriated over \$10 million dollars to enact random student drug testing programs in public middle schools and high schools around the nation. The Bush administration repeatedly lauded the programs, claiming, "Student drug testing has proven to be effective in schools that have tried it."

However, a 2003 cross-sectional study of student drug testing in 894 schools nationwide reported, "Drug testing, as practiced in recent years in American secondary schools, does not prevent or inhibit student drug use."

*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. Full text of the study, "Does sports participation during adolescence prevent later alcohol, tobacco and cannabis use?," appears in *Addiction*.*

## **Dr. Grinspoon Needs Your Help Answering The Question: Why Do I Use Marijuana?**

Author, Harvard academician, NORML Advisory Board member and respected physician, Lester Grinspoon, recently updated his webpage and is seeking cannabis consumers to contribute essays to his newly launched blog devoted to furthering understanding and appreciation of the way in which cannabis enhances a variety of human experiences. Visit –

<http://tinyurl.com/Grinspoon>



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

## Massachusetts Becomes Thirteenth US State To Decriminalize Pot

**Boston, MA, USA:** A voter-approved initiative reducing penalties for the possession of marijuana in Massachusetts took effect last week, making it the thirteenth US state to eliminate criminal sanctions for adults who use cannabis.

Under the new law, police are authorized to issue \$100 civil citations in lieu of making an arrest for adults found to be in possession of one ounce or less of marijuana or hashish. Under prior state law, minor marijuana possession was punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

Sixty-five percent of state voters decided in November to liberalize the state's marijuana laws.

Law enforcement personnel have expressed strong opposition to the law change, and some police have stated publicly that they do not intend to abide by the new law. State officials have also expressed interest in amending the new law to allow for stricter penalties for the use of cannabis in public.

Twelve other states, including Maine and Nebraska, have enacted similar laws – reducing pot possession to a civil violation punishable by a fine only. Approximately one-third of the US population now lives under some form of marijuana decriminalization.

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

**\* 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!

## Final Week To Enter \$10,000 NORML Ad Challenge

**Washington, DC, USA:** How should the incoming Barack Obama administration reform America's pot policies? You tell us!

NORML is accepting entries through next week in its \$10,000 ad contest. The deadline for flash animation and video submissions is Thursday, January 15. The grand prize winner will received a \$3,500 award, and have their ad featured online and on local cable television.

Runners up will also receive cash prize awards.

This is 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 to [media@norml.org](mailto:media@norml.org). Contest rules and awards information is available online.*

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