



## California Marijuana DePenalization And Regulation Measure Qualifies For Ballot; Voters To Decide in November

**Los Angeles, CA, USA:** Election officials on Wednesday affirmed that proponents of a statewide ballot measure to eliminate criminal penalties on the adult personal possession and cultivation of marijuana have gathered enough valid signatures to qualify for the 2010 November ballot.

Proponents of the measure – the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010 – collected nearly 700,000 signatures in favor of the measure, over 60 percent more than the total number required by state law.

The measure will allow adults 21 years or older to possess, share or transport up to one ounce of cannabis for personal consumption, and/or cultivate the plant in an area of not more than twenty-five square feet per private residence. It would also permit local governments the option to authorize the retail sale of marijuana and/or commercial

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### NORML Foundation To Relaunch NYC Times Square Ad Campaign "Money Can Grow On Trees," Marijuana Legalization Group Announces



**Washington, DC, USA:** "Money can grow on trees." That is the message of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws Foundation (NORML) in a 15-second digital ad scheduled to debut in New York City's Times Square next week. The advertisement, produced and paid for by NORML's

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### NORML Responds To Latest Warnings Regarding Marijuana Use And Schizophrenia

**Washington, DC, USA:** The findings of a study published earlier this week in the *Archives of General Psychiatry* alleging that smoking marijuana can 'double' one's risk of psychosis or schizophrenia are in conflict with those previous reviews and ought to be interpreted with caution, says NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano.

"Despite claims that marijuana use may play a causal role in diagnosed incidences of schizophrenia, there exists no empirical evidence anywhere on Earth indicating that populations which have experienced rising rates of cannabis use have also experienced a parallel increase in rates of mental illness," Armentano said.

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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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newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org

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 CALIFORNIA MEASURE, page 1 > cultivation of cannabis to adults and to impose taxes on such sales. Personal marijuana cultivation or not-for-profit sales of marijuana would not be taxed under the measure.

The proposal will continue to prohibit citizens from possessing marijuana on school grounds, consuming cannabis in public or smoking while minors are present, or providing it to anyone under 21 years old.

The measure will not alter or amend any aspect of the California Health and Safety code pertaining to the use of marijuana for medical purposes, when such use is authorized by a physician.

According to an April 2009 California Field Poll, 56 percent of state voters back legalizing and regulating the adult use and sale of cannabis.

"Right now, there is an estimated \$15 billion in cannabis transactions every year in California, but since cannabis remains illegal, our state sees none of the revenue," initiative proponents said in a prepared statement. "Taxing and regulating cannabis could bring in billions of dollars in revenue to help fund what matters most in California: jobs, healthcare, schools and libraries, parks, roads, transportation, and more."

NORML's Board of Directors and the NORML Women's Alliance have both formally endorsed the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act.

"The immediate effect of the passage of this measure would be to protect the individual from arrest if he/she possesses or grows a small quantity of marijuana in the privacy of their own home," NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said. "The long-term effect of this measure will be two-fold. One, it will provide local governments with the option to regulate and tax the retail distribution of marijuana to adults in a manner similar to the way society controls alcohol. Such a change, for those municipalities that opt in, will raise revenue for local governments while simultaneously imposing necessary regulations and controls to the marijuana market. Two, local regulations will one day open the door for job creation, tourism, and the legitimization of an above

ground legal marijuana industry. This is a common sense, fiscally responsible proposal that will raise revenue and reduce law enforcement and judicial costs without adversely impacting public safety."

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

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<continued from NORML AD, page 1 > educational arm, The NORML Foundation, will air on the CBS Super Screen through May 31, 2010.

"Regulating the adult use of marijuana in a manner similar to alcohol could raise over \$30 billion annually in new tax revenue, while saving an additional \$15 billion per year in law enforcement costs," NORML Foundation Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "This tax season, why not ask your elected politicians why the federal government continues to spend billions of tax dollars enforcing this failed and archaic public policy."

Fifty-three percent of Americans now support legalizing marijuana, according to the results of a December 2009 Angus Reid survey of over 1,000 adults nationwide.

The NORML Foundation's 'Money Tree' ad will appear eighteen times per day on the CBS's digital billboard, located on 42nd Street. Approximately 1.5 million people walk by the billboard each day.

In January, CBS and the NORML Foundation entered into a contractual agreement to air the NORML Foundation ad, beginning on February 1, 2010. However, representatives from CBS and Neutron Media abruptly pulled the ad prior to its scheduled air date, stating that its content did not comply with the network's outdoor advertising standards.

Last month, representatives from the political advocacy organization Change.org organized an online petition targeting CBS Broadcasting and demanding the network to reverse their decision. Nearly 10,000 people signed and sent the petition.

CBS formally changed their position shortly after receiving the petitions.

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<continued from previous page> "NORML would publicly like to thank Change.org for taking on this important political and First Amendment issue," St. Pierre said. "We would also like to thank the thousands of concerned citizens who contacted CBS on NORML's behalf. Without your participation, this important NORML ad campaign would not have been possible.

"Finally, NORML would also like to extend its appreciation to the CBS Corporation for responding to the will of its viewers, and acknowledging that marijuana law reform is a topic deserving of such a prominent public forum. Over 20 million Americans have been arrested for marijuana violations since 1965. It is time to end 70-plus years of federal marijuana prohibition with a policy of legalization, taxation, regulation and education."

The 'Money Tree' is anticipated to be the first of two planned ad buys. The second advertisement is scheduled to debut in Times Square on April 20, 2010 – in conjunction with the informal marijuana celebratory holiday '4/20.'

Founded in 1970, NORML is the nation's oldest and largest grassroots organization advocating on behalf of marijuana law reform. The NORML Foundation was founded in 1997 to support public education, research, stake holder organizing and impact litigation. In 2009, NORML Foundation launched the first-ever nationwide television ad campaign calling for the regulation of marijuana by adults.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Foundation Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or at: [director@norml.org](mailto:director@norml.org). The NORML Foundation ad is also available online from NORML's YouTube channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NatINORML>

<continued from SCHIZOPHRENIA, page 1 > Most recently, a 2009 systematic review published in the scientific journal *Schizophrenia Research* compared trends in marijuana use and incidences of schizophrenia in the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2005. Researchers reported that the "incidence and prevalence of schizophrenia and psychoses were either stable

or declining" during this period, even the use of cannabis among the general population was rising.

Armentano said that a non-causal association likely exists between marijuana use and psychosis because the symptoms of mental illness often strike early in life — at a time when young people are likely to be already experimenting with cannabis. He also speculated that some people diagnosed with psychotic disorders might be turning to cannabis after the onset of symptoms as a form of self-medication.

Ultimately, however, Armentano said that even if the latest concerns about the potential adverse effect of marijuana use are to be taken at face value, then such findings support a policy of cannabis legalization and regulation – not criminal prohibition.

"Health risks connected with pot use — when scientifically documented — should not be seen as legitimate reasons for criminal prohibition, but instead, as reasons for the plant's legal regulation," he said. "For example, we as a society don't regulate the production, use, and sale of alcohol because it is innocuous, but rather because we acknowledge that its consumption, in some situations, may pose a risk of harm. Placed in this context, today's latest warnings do little to advance the government's position in favor of tightening prohibition, and provide ample ammunition to wage for its repeal."

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). NORML's commentary on the subject of marijuana use and mental illness is available on the NORML blog at: <http://blog.norml.org>.*

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## **Rhode Island: Senate Commission Backs Decriminalizing Marijuana**

**Providence, RI, USA:** Members of a special Senate committee last week called on lawmakers to decriminalize adult marijuana possession offenses.

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<continued from previous page> "Rhode Island should adopt a decriminalization policy," the Senate panel concluded.

Lawmakers last year called for the creation of the panel to review the state's marijuana policies and make recommendations to the legislature.

To date, thirteen states have decriminalized minor marijuana offenses – replacing criminal sanctions and/or incarceration with fine-only penalties.

Legislation to adopt a similar policy in Rhode Island is presently before the House Judiciary Committee.

The Senate panel reported that over 91 percent of the state's marijuana arrests are for possession only. Of those first-time offenders sentenced to incarceration, defendants on average were sentenced to 3.5 months in jail.

"The majority of the Commission agrees that marijuana law reform will not only benefit the state from a budget perspective, but would also avoid costly arrests or incarcerations due to simple possession of marijuana," authors reported.

Full text of the Senate Commission's final report is available online at: [http://www.projo.com/news/2010/pdf/0316\\_marijuana\\_commission\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.projo.com/news/2010/pdf/0316_marijuana_commission_final_report.pdf).

For more information, please visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.

## **Rhode Island Lawmakers Introduce State's First Ever Marijuana Legalization Bill**

**Providence, RI, USA:** House lawmakers on Wednesday for the first time introduced statewide legislation that seeks to legalize the production, distribution, and personal use of marijuana for adults age 21 and older.

As introduced, House Bill 7838: The Taxation and Regulation of Marijuana Act, would exempt adults from any statewide criminal or civil penalty for the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana, the not-for-profit transfer of small

amounts of marijuana, and/or the cultivation of up to three marijuana plants. The proposal also establishes licensing requirements for the commercial cultivation and distribution of marijuana via retail facilities. Licensed commercial producers will be imposed a \$50 per ounce excise tax under the measure.

Under current law, the possession of any amount of marijuana is a criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$500 fine. The cultivation or sale of marijuana of any amount of marijuana is classified as a felony offense, punishable by up to 30 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

In February, lawmakers introduced separate legislation – H. 7317 – which seeks to reduce minor marijuana possession offenses to a civil offense punishable by no more than a \$150 fine.

A special legislative task force is conducting an ongoing review of the state's marijuana policies. The nine-member panel is required to issue its recommendations to the legislature by March 31, 2010.

Similar marijuana legalization bills have been debated already this year in California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Washington.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at 202-483-5500. For additional information regarding HB 7317, please visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.

## **Medical Marijuana Legalization Measure Qualifies For South Dakota Ballot**

**Pierre, SD, USA:** State officials announced last week that proponents of a statewide initiative to allow for the physician-supervised use of medical marijuana have turned in sufficient signatures to qualify for this November's electoral ballot.

Proponents of the measure, the South Dakota Coalition for Compassion, collected over twice the number of signatures necessary to place

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<continued from previous page> the proposal on the 2010 ballot. If approved by voters, Measure 13 – the South Dakota Safe Access Act – would exempt state criminal penalties for the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana or six plants by authorized patients.

"The coalition could not be more proud of this truly grassroots accomplishment," said Emmit Reistroffer, Coalition communications director, in a statement. "Our members are united behind protecting the sick and the dying, and we now aim to educate the public about the various medical applications for cannabis before the election this November."

In 2006, voters narrowly rejected a similar proposal – marking the only time that citizens have rejected a statewide medical marijuana legalization proposal.

Fourteen states have enacted medical marijuana laws since 1996; ten have done so by voter initiative.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.sdcompassion.org/>.

## Hawaii: Marijuana Law Reform Bills Pass Senate, Move Forward In House

**Honolulu, HI, USA:** Senate lawmakers recently passed a series of measures seeking to amend the state's marijuana laws.

Senate Bill 2450 seeks to reduce minor marijuana possession penalties from a criminal misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$1000 fine, to a civil infraction punishable by a fine only. NORML presented written testimony in support of the measure, which would reallocate over \$6 million in criminal justice costs annually. Senate lawmakers passed the bill unopposed on March 2, and the measure now awaits action from members of the House Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 2213 would amend Hawaii's nearly ten-year-old medical marijuana law by allowing for the establishment of licensed 'compassion centers' to engage in the regulated and controlled production and distribution of

cannabis for state-authorized patients. NORML also presented written testimony in support of this proposal, which passed the Senate by a 20 to 1 vote. On March 11, House lawmakers on the Health Committee and the Public Safety Committee overwhelmingly passed the measure. It now awaits action from House Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 2141 seeks to increase the quantities of medical marijuana that a patient may legally possess at any given time to ten cannabis plants and/or five ounces. Senators voted 24 to 1 in favor of the measure, which is now before the House Committees on Health, Public Safety, and Judiciary.

Hawaii Republican Gov. Laura Lingle has yet to publically comment on the measures, but has vetoed past efforts to reform the state's marijuana laws.

For more information, please visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.

## New Hampshire: House Passes Marijuana Decriminalization Measure

**Concord, NH, USA:** House lawmakers last week voted 214 to 137 in favor of legislation to decriminalize minor marijuana possession offenses.

House Bill 1653 would reduce criminal penalties on up to one-quarter ounce of cannabis from a misdemeanor (punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine) to a fine-only offense.

The measure now goes to the Senate for further action. If enacted by the Senate, the measure will be before Democrat Gov. John Lynch, who has threatened to veto the proposal. "Marijuana is a controlled drug that remains illegal under federal law," said Lynch. "We should not make the jobs of parents – or law enforcement – harder by sending a false message that some marijuana use is acceptable."

To date, thirteen states have decriminalized  
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<continued from previous page> the personal use and possession of marijuana by adults. According to a 2009 University of Washington study, "There is no evidence that the decriminalization of marijuana by certain states ... caused an increase in marijuana use or related problems."

For more information, please visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.

## Washington: Legislature Expands Medical Marijuana Law

**Olympia, WA, USA:** House and Senate lawmakers approved legislation last week to expand the state's nearly twelve-year-old medical marijuana law.

As approved, Senate Bill 5798 will allow additional health care professionals – including naturopaths, physician's assistants, osteopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians assistants, and advanced registered nurse practitioners – to legally recommend marijuana therapy to their patients. Under present law, only licensed physicians may legally recommend medicinal cannabis.

Washington lawmakers are the first legislators to codify these expanded recommendation rights into state law.

The measure now goes before Democrat Governor Christine Gregoire for final approval. Gregoire is believed to be supportive of the measure.

For more information, please visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.

## Medical Cannabis Use Doesn't Adversely Impact Substance Abuse Treatment Outcomes, Study Says

**Arcata, CA, USA:** The physician-supervised use of medical marijuana does not adversely affect the outcomes of individuals enrolled in substance abuse treatment programs, according to clinical trial data published last

week in the *Harm Reduction Journal*.

An investigator at Humboldt State University in California assessed whether medical cannabis use was associated with negative outcomes in patients referred to a substance abuse treatment program.

The study reported that treatment outcomes for medically authorized cannabis users were comparable to those of subjects who were not supervised to use the drug.

"Cannabis use did not seem to compromise substance abuse treatment amongst the medical marijuana using group, who (based on these preliminary data) fared equal to or better than non-medical marijuana users in several important outcome categories (e.g., treatment completion, criminal justice involvement, medical concerns)," the study concluded. "This exploratory study suggests that medical marijuana ... may not adversely affect positive treatment outcomes."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Marijuana users in substance abuse treatment," appears online on the website for the *Harm Reduction Journal* at: <http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/>.

## Imposition Of Punitive Punishments For Student Drug Test Failures Conflict With Federal Guidelines

**Chapel Hill, NC, USA:** More than one-half of school districts that randomly drug test their students impose punitive punishments for test failures that are contrary to federal advisory guidelines, according to a national study published in the *Journal of School Health* and summarized in the January 2010 online edition of the NIDA (National Institutes on Drug Abuse) News Scan.

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

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Researchers at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation in North Carolina analyzed data from a national sample of 1,922 school districts, of which 205 administered suspicionless drug testing programs to the student body. Authors found that more than half of the districts that enacted random drug testing imposed severely punitive punishments upon those students with test failures.

Many districts "reported consequences contraindicated by federal advisory guides, such as notifying law enforcement officials (45.1%) and suspending the student from an athletic team (65.0%) or from school (31.0%)," investigators reported – noting that schools that contacted police following a positive test result engaged in "a serious breach of protocol."

Commenting on the study, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "Random student drug testing is a humiliating, invasive, and expensive practice that may inadvertently drive at-risk students toward socially deviant behavior through the misuse of these type of punitive sanctions."

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Responses to positive results from suspicionless random drug tests in US public school districts," appears in the Journal of School Health.*

**\* 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>

**for more on W-V-NORML, meetings and cannabis law reform in general. For great food at good prices come on in and check out**



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