



Study: Regulating Cannabis Sales Would Yield Over \$17 Billion In Annual Savings And Revenue

Washington, DC, USA: Treating marijuana as a legally regulated commodity would yield some \$17.4 billion dollars annually in cost savings and new tax revenue, according to an economic report published by the CATO Institute think tank in Washington, DC.

The report, entitled "The Budgetary Impact of Ending Drug Prohibition," estimates that taxing the commercial sale of marijuana in a manner similar to alcohol would generate some \$8.7 billion in annual revenue. The report further estimates that abolishing marijuana prohibition would additionally yield approximately \$9 billion in annual law enforcement savings.

A previous 2005 study commissioned by NORML estimated that marijuana law enforcement cost taxpayers some \$7.6 billion per year.

A separate California statewide analysis published in 2009 by the state Board of Equalization and Taxation estimated that imposing retail taxes on the commercial sale of cannabis in California

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Voters Nationwide To Decide On Marijuana Legalization Measures Tuesday

In **California**, voters will decide **Proposition 19, The Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010**, which legalizes the adult possession of limited quantities of marijuana for adults in private, and allows local governments to regulate its commercial production and retail distribution. If passed, the measure would be the most expansive modern law ever enacted regarding the adult use, production, and distribution of marijuana. Learn more about Prop. 19 at: <http://yeson19.com>.

In **Arizona**, voters will decide **Proposition 203, the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act**, which permits state-registered patients to obtain cannabis legally from licensed facilities. Authorized patients who do not have a state-licensed dispensary in their local area (defined as within 25 miles of their residence) would be permitted under the law to cultivate their own cannabis for medicinal purposes.

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Marijuana May Offset Alcohol-Induced Cognitive Impairment Among Teens

San Diego, CA, USA: Compounds in cannabis may offset some of the adverse effects of alcohol on the adolescent brain, according to clinical trial data published online by *The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.

Investigators at the University of California at San Diego assessed the cognitive performance of 130 adolescents (65 with histories of heavy marijuana use, and 65 non-marijuana-using controls), ranging in age from 15.7 to 19.1 years. Authors reported that the use of marijuana appeared to moderate the adverse effects of alcohol on verbal learning and memory.

Researchers determined, "Regression models revealed

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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**

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 STUDY: REGULATING CANNABIS SALES WOULD YIELD OVER \$17 BILLION IN ANNUAL SAVINGS AND REVENUE, page 1 > would yield approximately \$1.4 billion in yearly revenue. *Full text of the study is available online from the CATO Institute at: http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=12169.*

RAND Study: Legalizing Marijuana In California Would "Effectively Eliminate" Cartels Involvement In State's Pot Trade

Santa Cruz, CA, USA: A study released on Tuesday by the RAND Drug Policy Research Center concludes that legalizing marijuana in California would "effectively eliminate" the involvement of Mexican drug traffickers in the state's commercial marijuana trade.

Authors of the report conclude (on page 19): "We believe that legalizing marijuana in California would effectively eliminate Mexican DTOs' (drug trafficking organizations) revenues from supplying Mexican-grown marijuana to the California market. ... [E]ven with taxes, legally produced marijuana would likely cost no more than would illegal marijuana from Mexico and would cost less than half as much per unit of THC. Thus, the needs of the California market would be supplied by the new legal industry. While, in theory, some DTO employees might choose to work in the legal marijuana industry, they would not be able to generate unusual profits, nor be able to draw on talents that are particular to a criminal organization."

Authors also determined that Mexican cartels would have no incentive to try and provide illicit cannabis to the youth market in California, who would be restricted from purchasing marijuana legally until age 21. They wrote: "We also believe that Mexican DTOs would eventually lose all revenue stemming from the selling of Mexican marijuana to underage users in California. When it becomes possible in California for anyone over the age of 21 to provide juveniles with marijuana that is cheaper, better, and subject to more quality control, Mexican DTOs will have no more competitive advantage than they would trying to sell alcohol and cigarettes to California youth today."

On November 2, California voters will decide on Proposition 19, which would legalize the private adult use and cultivation of limited amounts of cannabis, and allow local governments to regulate

the commercial production and distribution of marijuana.

The report did state that the exportation of marijuana by Mexican drug cartels would remain lucrative even if Californians decided to legalize the plant statewide. The authors estimated that Mexican drug traffickers would likely generate some \$1.5 billion in revenue annually exporting marijuana to other regions of the country.

The report criticized previous estimates made by the federal government alleging that Mexican cartels generated some \$8.5 billion per year trafficking in cannabis. The RAND report called the estimate "not credible," instead determining, "Mexican DTOs' annual gross revenues from illegally exporting marijuana and selling it to wholesalers in the United States are likely less than \$2 billion."

Commenting on the report, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "Regardless of whether Mexican cartels are reaping 60 percent of their profits from exporting pot or 16 percent, the fundamental principle remains the same: the criminal prohibition of marijuana fuels an underground, unregulated, often times violent black market economy that empowers criminal entrepreneurs and jeopardizes the public's — and the marijuana consumer's — safety."

He continued: "Californians this November have a choice. A 'yes' vote on Prop. 19 seeks to take control of this illegal market and turn it over to regulators, lawmakers, and licensed business. A 'no' vote continues to abdicate control of this market to criminal gangs and drug traffickers."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the report, "Reducing Drug Trafficking Revenues and Violence in Mexico," is available online at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/OP325/.

<continued from VOTERS DECIDE, page 1 > Other patients would not be allowed to grow their own marijuana. Learn more about Proposition 203 here: <http://stoparrestingpatients.org/home/>.

In **South Dakota**, voters will decide **Measure 13, the South Dakota Safe Access Act**, which exempts state criminal penalties for state-authorized patients who possess up to one ounce of marijuana or six cannabis plants.

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<continued from previous page> Fourteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted medical marijuana laws since 1996; ten have done so by voter initiative. Learn more about Measure 13 here: <http://sdcompassion.org/>.

In **Oregon**, voters will decide **Measure 74, The Oregon Regulate Medical Marijuana Supply System Act of 2010**, which creates state-licensed not-for-profit facilities to assist in the production and distribution of marijuana to qualified patients. Oregon voters initially authorized the physician-authorized use of marijuana in 1998. Several states, including Colorado, New Mexico, and Maine, have enacted statewide regulations licensing the production and dispensing of medical cannabis. Learn more about Measure 74 here: <http://coalitionforpatientsrights2010.com/>.

In **Massachusetts**, voters in **73 cities and towns** will decide November 2 on non-binding public policy questions regarding the taxation of the adult use of marijuana and the legalization of the physician-supervised use of medical cannabis. Approximately 13 percent of the state's registered voters will be weighing in on the questions. The results will likely influence the language of a proposed statewide, binding ballot measure in 2012. Learn more about this campaign here: <http://www.masscann.org/>.

Massachusetts Voters To Decide Non-Binding Marijuana Proposals

Georgetown, MA, USA: Voters in 73 cities and towns will decide November 2 on non-binding public policy questions regarding the taxation of the adult use of marijuana and the legalization of the physician-supervised use of medical cannabis. Approximately 13 percent of the state's registered voters will be weighing in on the questions.

The results of these votes will likely influence the language of a proposed statewide, binding ballot measure in 2012, said Steven Epstein, spokesperson for the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition (MassCann), NORML's Massachusetts affiliate. MassCann and the Drug Policy Forum of Massachusetts are sponsoring the ballot measures.

Since 2000, voters in one-third of the Commonwealth have voted overwhelmingly in favor of marijuana reform on over 40 separate public policy questions.

For more information, please contact Steven S. Epstein, Esq. of MassCann at 978-352-3300 or visit: <http://www.masscann.org/>.

California's Proposition 19 More Popular Than Leading Senate, Gubernatorial Candidates

Sacramento, CA, USA: More than half of California voters support Proposition 19, a ballot initiative to legalize the private adult use and cultivation of limited amounts of cannabis, 49 percent to 42 percent, according to a statewide Public Policy Institute of California poll released last week.

Fifty-two percent of voters now back the measure, versus 41 percent who oppose it, according to the poll of 2,004 likely voters.

Of the statewide propositions polled, only Prop. 19 possessed majority support among California voters. The poll also reported that a greater percentage of voters now back Prop. 19 than support incumbent Democrat Senators Barbara Boxer (42%) and Dianne Feinstein (44%), Senate Republican challenger Carly Fiorina (35%), Gubernatorial Democrat candidate Jerry Brown (37%) or Gubernatorial Republican candidate Meg Whitman (38%).

PollTracker.com, a website that posts aggregates results of all of the polls conducted on this issue to date shows Prop. 19 leading 47 percent to 43 percent.

On Tuesday the measure was endorsed by the California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). LULAC is the largest and oldest Hispanic Organization in the United States.

For more information, please visit: <http://yeson19.com>.

California: 11 Point Shift In Support For Prop. 19

San Francisco, CA, USA: The result is a significant shift in public opinion in favor of the measure, which voters previously opposed in a July Field Poll by a margin of 48 percent to 44 percent.

Sixty percent of Democrats and 62 percent of non-partisan voters said that they would vote 'yes' on Prop. 19 'if the election were being held today.' A majority of all voters age 18 to 49 said they backed the measure.

The Field Poll has been conducting non-partisan surveys of California voters since 1947. Two additional polls released last week also emphasize voter support for Prop. 19. A Public Policy Polling

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<continued from previous page> firm survey of 630 likely California voters found 47 percent of likely voters backed Proposition 19, versus 38 percent against.

A separate Survey USA poll of 569 California adults reported similar support, with 47 percent of respondents saying that they are 'certain' to back the measure, versus 43 percent opposed.

PollTracker.com, a website that posts aggregates results of all of the polls conducted on this issue to date shows Prop. 19 leading by 47 percent to 40 percent.

If passed by California voters, Proposition 19 would make lawful the private possession and cultivation, within specified limits, of cannabis, and would also allow local governments to enact regulations regarding its private production and commercial distribution.

For more information, please visit: <http://yeson19.com>. A detailed analysis of the Field Poll is available at: <http://www.field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2356.pdf>.

In June, state lawmakers passed legislation enacting statewide regulations and licensing procedures governing the operation of facilities that distribute medical cannabis to authorized patients.

For more information, please visit: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3391#Colorado.

New Jersey: Medical Marijuana Law Takes Effect Friday

Trenton, NJ, USA: State law authorizing the limited medical use and distribution of cannabis in New Jersey takes effect Friday, October 1. New Jersey is one of fourteen states, as well as the District of Columbia, that allows for the physician-recommended use of marijuana.

Under the law, the New Jersey Compassionate Medical Marijuana Act, the state Department of Health is mandated to issue regulations overseeing the licensed production and distribution of medical cannabis to authorized patients. Health officials have 90 days following the law's enactment to adopt the regulations for the state's medical marijuana program.

Outgoing Gov. Jon Corzine initially signed the measure into law in January. However, in June state lawmakers – at the behest of Gov. Chris Christie – amended the law so that it would not take effect until October.

New Jersey's regulations, once instituted, are expected to be the strictest medical cannabis law in the nation.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.normlnj.org> or <http://www.cmmnj.org/>.

New Jersey: Patient Groups Castigate Proposed Medical Marijuana Regulations

Trenton, NJ, USA: Medical cannabis advocates are criticizing draft regulations circulated by the Department of Health that seek to implement the

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Colorado: Bureaucrats Propose Regulations For Tracking Medical Marijuana Purchases

Denver, CO, USA: State officials are contemplating regulations to track patients' medical marijuana purchases, according to an *Associated Press* report published last week.

The *AP* story stated: "Specifics of Colorado's tracking plans haven't yet been drafted. Regulators say they'll have a plan by January to use video surveillance and a central computer system to flag multiple purchases. Other ideas include using biometrics to track patients, requiring a fingerprint scan before each sale to make sure the customer matches the marijuana card. They are also considering mandating that medical pot include radio-frequency identification devices, somewhat like coded tags on library books, to keep track of who's getting what. In addition, tracking could include requiring dispensaries to capture patient driver's licenses on camera to record their purchases."

The story did not specify which state agency would be involved in drafting the proposed regulations.

<continued from previous page> New Jersey Compassionate Medical Marijuana Act. Advocates, including the act's chief legislative sponsor, believe that the proposed measures are unduly restrictive and are not responsive to patients needs.

The **proposed** regulations call for the state to begin overseeing the distribution of medical marijuana to state-authorized patients by July 2011. The manufacturing of medical cannabis would be limited to two licensed facilities. The proposed rules also restrict the percentage to THC that may be present in the plant to no more than ten percent, and limit the varieties of cannabis that may be produced to no more than three strains.

Four additional state licensed facilities would be permitted to dispense cannabis.

Patients would be authorized to possess no more than two ounces of cannabis per month, and would not be permitted to grow their own marijuana or share it with other registered patients.

Patients who possess unauthorized amounts or strains of marijuana will still be subject to arrest and criminal prosecution under the law. Democratic Senator Nick Scutari, who sponsored the Compassionate Medical Marijuana Act, said that the regulations significantly alter state law, which mandate a total of six marijuana cultivation and distribution centers to be licensed throughout the state.

Chris Goldstein of NORML New Jersey and the Coalition for Medical Marijuana - New Jersey also criticized the draft regulations.

"Rather than create a reasonable set of regulations, the Christie Administration is playing politics with the lives of New Jersey's most severely ill residents," he said in a prepared statement. "Instead of opening a pathway to safe marijuana access these draft regulations only create more barriers." Health regulators have 60 days to review the regulations and accept public comment.

According to the Department of Health's website, patients may begin applying in November to participate in the program.

Speaking at a town hall meeting on Tuesday, Republican Gov. Chris Christie said that he "would not have signed the law," which was approved by former Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine.

Full text of the draft rules is available here: http://www.nj.gov/health/draft_mm.pdf.

For more information please visit NORML New Jersey at: <http://www.normlnj.org> or the Coalition for Medical Marijuana - New Jersey at: <http://www.cmmnj.org>.

<continued from MARIJUANA MAY OFFSET ALCOHOL-INDUCED COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AMONG TEENS, page 1 > that greater alcohol hangover symptoms predicted worse verbal learning and memory scores for non-marijuana users, but alcohol hangover symptoms were not linked to performance among marijuana users."

They concluded: "Results confirm previous studies linking adolescent heavy drinking to reduced verbal learning and memory performance. However, this relationship is not seen in adolescents with similar levels of alcohol involvement who also are heavy users of marijuana."

A previous study published in 2009 reported that binge drinkers who also used cannabis experienced significantly less white matter damage to the brain as compared to subjects who consumed alcohol alone.

"Binge drinkers who also use marijuana did not show as consistent a divergence from non-users as did the binge drink-only group," investigators concluded. "[It is] possible that marijuana may have some neuroprotective properties in mitigating alcohol-related oxidative stress or excitotoxic cell death."

Commenting on the findings, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "Alcohol and cannabis appear to have contrasting effects on

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<continued from previous page> the human brain," he said. "Ethanol is clearly toxic to healthy and developing cells whereas moderate doses of cannabinoids appear to be relatively non-toxic and possibly even neuroprotective."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Learning and memory performances in adolescent users of alcohol and marijuana: interactive effects," appears in The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.

Combined Use Of THC And Alcohol Increases Driver Accident Risk, Study Says

Jerusalem, Israel: Subjects engaged in the simultaneous ingestion of cannabis and alcohol experience an exponentially increased risk of motor accident compared to those who consume either substance alone, according to clinical data published in the journal *Accident Analysis and Prevention*.

Investigators at Ben Gurion University in Israel assessed the impact of alcohol and THC cigarettes on psychomotor performance in 12 subjects on a driving simulator test. Authors reported: "Subjects were generally impaired under the influence of the drugs with the highest impairment observed after intake of the combined alcohol and THC. In terms of vehicular control, five out of the twelve subjects that participated in the study had a collision while under the influence of the combination of alcohol and THC, three had collisions after smoking THC alone, and 2 had collisions after drinking alcohol alone. None had collisions during the placebo ... sessions."

Authors concluded, "In conclusion, the results indicated that the overall effect of the combination of THC and alcohol had greater effects and caused more impairments than the two drugs separately."

Previous studies have also reported that alcohol can exacerbate the psychomotor impairing effects of cannabis.

Separate reviews assessing the crash culpability

risk of drivers under the influence of cannabis have reported a positive association between recent marijuana exposure (as typically measured by the presence of active THC in the driver's blood) and a gradually increased, dose-dependent risk of vehicle accident. However, these studies have consistently found that this elevated risk to be below the risk presented by drivers who have consumed legal quantities of alcohol.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "The effect of alcohol, THC and their combination on perceived effects, willingness to drive and performance of driving and non-driving tasks," appears in Accident Analysis and Prevention.

NORML Issues State-By-State DUI Cannabis Report

Washington, DC, USA: The website of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) now includes detailed information on the drugged driving laws and penalties in all 50 states.

NORML's new report provides detailed information regarding statutory language, case law, and penalties for driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) in every state. Special attention is paid to those states that have enacted zero tolerance *per se* statutes which outlaw motorists from operating a vehicle if they have the trace presence of an illicit substance or the metabolite of such a substance present in their bodily fluids – regardless of whether or not the driver is actually impaired.

Links to NORML's new report can be found on NORML's 'state by state' marijuana laws page, or interested parties may access the report directly by visiting: http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6669.

NORML's 2008 report assessing marijuana use and psychomotor impairment, entitled 'Cannabis and Driving: A Scientific and Rational Review,' is also available online at: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7459.



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

California: Marijuana Possession No Longer A Criminal Offense Under State Law

Sacramento, CA, USA: Outgoing California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Friday signed Senate Bill 1449 into law – reducing adult, non-medical marijuana possession charges from a criminal misdemeanor to a civil infraction.

The measure amends the California Health and Safety Code so that the adult possession of up to 28.5 grams of marijuana is classified as an infraction, punishable by a \$100 fine — no court appearance, no court costs, and no criminal record.

"In this time of drastic budget cuts, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, and the courts cannot afford to expend limited resources prosecuting (marijuana misdemeanor offenses," Gov. Schwarzenegger stated.

California NORML director Dale Gieringer praised the governor's decision. "Governor Schwarzenegger deserves credit for sparing the state's taxpayers the cost of prosecuting minor pot offenders," he said. "Californians increasingly recognize that the war on marijuana is a waste of law enforcement resources."

In 2009, there were over 61,000 misdemeanor marijuana prosecutions in California, the second-highest annual total ever reported. The new law goes into effect on January 1, 2011. *For more information, please visit: <http://www.canorml.org>.*

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



Cozmik Pizza - in Theo's Coffee House Meeting Room - at 199 W 8th Av, Eugene, Oregon * Excepting Holidays - Nov., Dec. - when it takes place 3rd Sat.! For more info on meeting call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/meeting.html>

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