



Happy Birthday, NORML! National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws Celebrates 40-Year Anniversary

Washington, DC, USA: NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, celebrated the 40-year anniversary of its founding on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. NORML is the oldest and most respected marijuana law reform organization in the nation, and the only such organization to represent itself as the marijuana consumers' lobby.

"Over the last four decades, NORML

took what was then a nascent marijuana legalization movement in this country, and moved it into the political mainstream.," NORML founder Keith Stroup said. "Because of NORML's willingness to challenge marijuana prohibition and to make the case that marijuana consumers are good citizens, not criminals, we are now approaching the tipping point

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Marijuana Compounds Hold Promise In Treatment Of Cardiovascular Diseases

Jerusalem, Israel: The active constituents in marijuana influence the cardiovascular system and hold promise in the management of certain cardiovascular diseases, including arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat) and ischemia, according to a scientific [review](#) appearing in the journal *Cardiovascular Therapeutics*.

Investigators at the Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center in Israel and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston assessed preclinical data on cannabinoids and their role in various cardiovascular pathologies.

They reported: "[T]he endocannabinoid system has a physiological role in the cardiovascular systems. This system is involved in modulating cardiac inflammatory processes, maintaining hemodynamic homeostasis and rhythm

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Poll: Montanans Oppose Lawmakers' Effort To Repeal Medical Marijuana Law

Helena, MT, USA: A majority of Montana citizens oppose efforts by House lawmakers to repeal the state's six-year-old medical marijuana [law](#), according to a statewide [poll](#) published on Tuesday.

According to a Public Policy Polling [survey](#) of 2,212 Montanans, 63 percent of respondents "support allowing patients ... to have the freedom to use marijuana for medical purposes with their doctors' approval." Only 20 percent of respondents said that the law should be "repealed entirely." Of the respondents, 36 percent identified themselves as 'independent' voters; 35 percent said that they were Republicans, and 29 percent said they were Democrats.

In 2004, 62 percent of state voters approved a ballot

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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 NORML, page 1 > with this issue in America. In the end, we are only incidentally talking about marijuana — we are really talking about personal freedom."

NORML celebrates this 40th anniversary with an exciting find from its voluminous archive of marijuana-related media: a public service advertisement for the organization recorded in 1976 by reggae legend Peter Tosh. The reintroduction of the Tosh PSA coincides with Sony Music's April 16 reissue of classic Tosh albums, including 'Legalize It'.

"We are excited to partner with the Tosh Family Estate and Sony Music in releasing this historic clip from the man who touched millions of cannabis consumers with anthems like 'Legalize It' and 'Get Up, Stand Up,'" said NORML Outreach Coordinator Russ Belville, host of the organization's daily webstream / podcast, [NORML SHOW LIVE](#).

NORML SHOW LIVE and the *NORML Stash Blog* will be featuring more material from the NORML Archives in celebration of the 40th anniversary, leading up to the organization's [40th annual conference](#) this April 21-23 in Denver, Colorado. The Tosh Family and Sony Music will also be working with NORML for more exciting Peter Tosh releases later this year.

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

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PROMISE, page 1 > control. It is not surprising, therefore, that cannabinoids offers intervention opportunities to alter the course of cardiovascular diseases. Such is the case in ischemic reperfusion injuries, where there is evidence that activating the cannabinoid system may prevent ischemic



injuries and arrhythmia. Such is the case in the rhythm control mechanisms, where a few studies indicate potential antiarrhythmic properties for cannabinoids, and such is the case in heart failure."

Authors concluded, "The evidence of a potential role for cannabinoid in various cardiovascular pathologies, together with the safety data gleaned from various human intervention studies, indicate that now is the time to show efficacy across species and continue toward human trials."

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "The potential for clinical use of cannabinoids in treatment of cardiovascular diseases," appears in the journal *Cardiovascular Therapeutics*.*

<continued from MONTANA POLL, page 1 > initiative exempting state-qualified patients from criminal arrest for their use of marijuana as a medicine.

On Monday, House lawmakers gave [final approval](#) to legislation, HB 161, which would repeal the state's marijuana law. Virtually all House Republicans voted in favor of the measure while House Democrats largely voted against it.

Opponents of the law have claimed that it is associated with rising rates of teen drug use and traffic fatalities. However, state statistics [do not support](#) either claim.

House Bill 161 now goes to the Senate. If approved by Senate lawmakers, the repeal measure will go to the desk of Gov. Brian Schweitzer, a Democrat, who has previously [voiced support](#) for the state law.

Montana is one of [fifteen states](#) recognizing the physician-supervised use of cannabis. To date, no legislature has repealed such a law.

For more information, please visit: <http://montananorml.org> or visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' here: <http://www.capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=21950501>.

Vox Pop: "Voice of the People"; Nearly 60 Percent Of Americans Say Tax And Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol



Palo Alto, CA, USA: Nearly six out of ten people believe that marijuana should be "treated like alcohol and tobacco," according to a national [poll](#) of 1,000 Americans. The poll, conducted by [YouGov America](#) and commissioned by *The Economist*, has a margin of error of ± 4.2 percent.

Thirty-four percent of respondents said that they 'strongly agreed' with the [statement](#): "Some people say marijuana should be treated like alcohol and tobacco. They say it should be regulated and taxed and made illegal for minors. Do you agree?" Twenty-four percent of respondents agreed with the statement.

Only 23 percent of those surveyed said that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with the notion of taxing and regulating adult marijuana consumption.

A majority of respondents [in all age groups](#) endorsed ending criminal marijuana prohibition, with those age 18 to 29 expressing the strongest support for legalization. Among those over age 65 with an opinion on the subject, approximately 45 percent endorsed regulating pot; fewer than 40 percent of older Americans opposed the idea.

Those respondents who identified themselves as Democrats were more likely to support the idea of taxing and regulating cannabis than Republicans, the poll found. Overall, however, majorities of both parties said that they supported legalization.

"If our poll is right, then it can only be a matter of time before laws start to change, at least in the more liberal states," pollsters concluded.

The YouGov/Economist poll was conducted February 5-8, 2011. Details of the poll are available online at: http://www.economist.com/node/18118857?story_id=18118857.

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

New Mexico: Governor Backs Off Pledge To Repeal State's Medical Marijuana Law

Santa Fe, NM, USA: Repealing New Mexico's three-year-old medical marijuana [law](#) is "not a priority in the 2011 legislative session" for the state's newly elected governor, Republican Susana Martinez, the *Associated Press* [reported](#) this week. Governor Martinez had pledged to rescind the law while campaigning for the office last year.

Martinez's nominee for health secretary, Dr. Catherine Torres, told the *Associated Press* that the state-run program, which presently authorizes some 3,200 patients to use cannabis medically, "continues to function according to current state law."

New Mexico is one of [fifteen states](#) recognizing the physician-supervised use of cannabis. To date, no legislature has repealed such a law.

The law's sponsor, Democratic Sen. Gerry Ortiz y Pino of Albuquerque, told the *AP* that he "doesn't believe repeal would go anywhere without the governor actively pushing it."

In November, officials from the New Mexico Department of Health – which oversees the state's program – finalized regulatory [changes](#) increasing the number of licensed medical marijuana producers to 25, and increasing the amount of cannabis such producers may cultivate at one time to 150 plants.

Under New Mexico law, authorized patients may grow their own cannabis or obtain it from a state-licensed facility.

Also this week, in Montana, lawmakers on Wednesday heard testimony regarding [House Bill 161](#), which seeks to [repeal](#) that state's six-year-old medical marijuana [law](#).

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

New York City: Pot Arrests For 2010 Top 50,000

New York, NY, USA: City police made [over 50,000 arrests](#) in 2010 for the crime of marijuana possession in public, according to statistics from the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services and analyzed by Queens College sociologist Harry Levine.

New York city police made 50,383 lowest level marijuana possession arrests [NY State Penal Law 221.10] involving cases where marijuana was either used or possessed in public. The total is the [second highest](#) in the city's history and is an increase of over 5,000 percent from 1990, when police reported fewer than 1,000 low-level pot arrests.

Marijuana offenses now comprise [15 percent](#) of all arrests made in New York City.

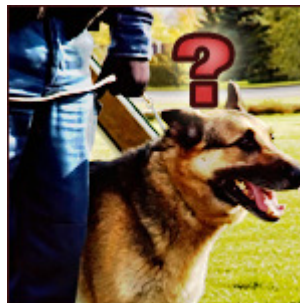
According to a [press release](#) published by the Drug Policy Alliance, "Almost 70 percent of those arrested [were] younger than 30 years old. Eighty-six percent of those arrested [were] Black or Latino, even though research consistently shows that young whites use marijuana at higher rates."

Since New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg took office in 2002, city police have made 350,000 arrests for low-level marijuana offenses.

Although simple marijuana possession is a [violation](#) and not a crime in New York State, if the marijuana is "open to public view" it can be charged as a misdemeanor.

A 2008 [study](#) released by the New York Civil Liberties Union estimated that marijuana arrests in New York City cost taxpayers between \$50 million and \$90 million annually.

For more information, please contact NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre at (202) 483-5500, or visit: <http://www.drugpolicy.org>.



Drug Dogs More Likely To 'False Report' When Their Handlers Believe Contraband Is Present

Sacramento, CA, USA:

The performance of drug-sniffing dogs is significantly influenced by whether or not their handlers believe illicit substances are present, according to a [study](#) published in the January issue of the journal *Animal Cognition*.

Investigators at the University of California at Davis [assessed](#) the accuracy of 18 drug and/or explosive detection dog/handler teams in a four-room church. No drugs or target scents were present in any of the rooms, but handlers were falsely told that contraband was present in two of the rooms, each marked by a piece of red construction paper.

Authors reported 225 incorrect responses overall, but found that dogs were more likely to provide false alerts in rooms where their handlers believed that illicit substances were present.

"Handlers' beliefs that scent was present potentiated handler identification of detection dog alerts," investigators concluded. "This confirms that handler beliefs affect outcomes of scent detection dog deployments."

The study's authors speculated that the high rate of false alerts is because the dogs respond to subtle visual cues from their handlers.

"Dogs are exceptionally keen at interpreting subtle cues, so handlers need to be cognizant of that to optimize the overall team performance," co-author Anita Oberbauer stated in a [press release](#).

In 2005, the United States Supreme Court ruled in [Illinois v. Caballes](#) that an alert from a police dog during a traffic stop provides a

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<continued from previous page> constitutional basis for law enforcement to search the interior of the vehicle.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at: (202) 483-5500. Full text of the study, "Handler beliefs affect scent detection dog outcomes," is available [online at: http://www.springerlink.com/content/j477277481125291/](http://www.springerlink.com/content/j477277481125291/).

DEA Considering Reclassifying Plant-Derived THC Under Federal Law

Washington, DC, USA: The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is considering reclassifying plant-derived THC, the primary psychoactive compound in marijuana, from schedule I to schedule III controlled substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act, according to a [report](#) published last week in *The Daily Caller*.

The agency first announced its proposed action in the Federal Register on November 1, 2010, [stating](#) its intent to "expand the schedule III listing to include formulations having naturally-derived dronabinol and products encapsulated in hard gelatin capsules."

The DEA presently defines dronabinol as synthetic THC in sesame oil and encapsulated in a soft gelatin capsule in a US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved product.

The November 1, 2010 DEA announcement states that the agency has received four petitions from companies wishing to potentially bring products to market containing "naturally-derived or synthetically produced dronabinol." Those products, if approved by the FDA, would be marketed as generic alternatives to [Marinol](#), which has been legally available in the United States by prescription since 1985. In 1999, the DEA downgraded Marinol from a schedule II to a schedule III controlled substance.

Under the proposed change, both the marijuana

plant and plant-derived THC that is not contained in a FDA-approved pharmaceutical drug would remain classified as schedule I illicit substances.

"THC, natural or synthetic, remains a schedule I controlled substance," DEA spokesman Rusty Payne told *The Daily Caller* in an e-mail. "Under the proposed rule, in those instances in the future where FDA might approve a generic version of Marinol, that version of the drug will be in the same schedule as the brand name version of the drug, regardless of whether the THC used in the generic version was synthesized by man or derived from the cannabis plant."

Without changes in federal policy, pharmaceutical manufacturers wishing to develop products containing plant-derived THC would need to acquire it from the University of Mississippi at Oxford, the [only federally-licensed marijuana production facility](#) in America. For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

Arizona: Lawmaker Introduces Measure To 'Defelonize' Marijuana Possession

Phoenix, AZ, USA: First-year member of the state House of Representatives, Republican John Fillmore (Apache Junction) [introduced](#) legislation this week to 'defelonize' Arizona's marijuana possession penalties.

[House Bill 2228](#) amends state law so that the adult possession of up to two ounces of marijuana is reduced from a potential felony (punishable by 1.5 years in prison and a \$150,000 fine) to a "petty offense" punishable by a \$100 fine.

Lawmakers in several other states – including [Connecticut](#), [Hawaii](#), [Illinois](#), [Rhode Island](#), and [Texas](#) – are considering similar legislation to reduce statewide marijuana possession penalties to fine-only offenses.

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<continued from previous page> [Thirteen states](#) have enacted similar laws 'decriminalizing' marijuana possession offenses, removing the threat of jail time (and in some cases, the threat of arrest or a criminal record) for cannabis possession.

In November, Arizona voters narrowly [approved](#) Proposition 203, the [Arizona Medical Marijuana Act](#), which allows the state to regulate the use and distribution of medical cannabis to authorized patients. On Tuesday, the Arizona Department of Health released draft [rules](#) for the forthcoming medical marijuana program, which is expected to be implemented later this spring.

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. A state-by-state summary of pending state marijuana law reform legislation is available from NORML at: <http://www.capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.

Connecticut: Governor Backs Decriminalizing Marijuana

Hartford, CT, USA: Newly elected Democrat Gov. Dan Malloy last week reaffirmed his [support](#) for legislation that seeks to [reduce](#) minor marijuana possession to a noncriminal offense.

Malloy endorsed reducing adult marijuana possession penalties from a criminal misdemeanor ([punishable](#) by one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine) to an infraction, punishable by a nominal fine, no jail time, and no criminal record. Malloy advocated for the change as a way for the state to [reallocate](#) criminal justice resources and reduce taxpayer expenditures.

Gov. Malloy also reaffirmed his support for [legalizing](#) the physician-authorized use of [medical marijuana](#). State lawmakers passed medical cannabis legislation in 2007 only to have it [vetoed](#) by then-Gov. Jodi Rell, a Republican. *For more information, please contact Connecticut NORML at: http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3433#Connecticut.*

Indiana: Senate Approves Measure To Study Alternatives To Marijuana Prohibition

Indianapolis, IN, USA: Senate lawmakers on Tuesday [voted](#) 28 to 21 in favor of legislation, [SB 192](#), which calls for a legislative review of the state's criminal marijuana enforcement policies. The measure now awaits action from the House of Representatives.

If enacted, the measure would establish a legislative committee to assess the costs associated with marijuana law enforcement and to consider other public policy alternatives such as 'decriminalization.'

Approximately six percent of all arrests in Indiana are for marijuana offenses, mostly minor possession offense. Under existing state [law](#), a minor marijuana possession offense is classified as criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

For more information, please visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' [here](http://www.capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=24011501): <http://www.capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=24011501> or follow Indiana NORML on Facebook [here](http://www.facebook.com/IndianaNORML): <http://www.facebook.com/IndianaNORML>.

Median CBD Potency Decreasing In Confiscated Marijuana Samples, Study Says

Santa Monica, CA, USA: Detectable levels of the cannabinoid CBD ([cannabidiol](#)) are declining, according to a review of over 5,000 marijuana samples seized by law enforcement in California. The [review](#) appears on the website of the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

Investigators at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica assessed changes in the median THC and CBD levels of cannabis samples seized in California between the years 1996 and 2008. Researchers reported that median THC levels rose during this time period while median CBD levels fell.

"[M]edian THC potency has increased from 4.56 percent in 1996 to 11.75 percent in 2008," authors reported. "The increase in THC was far

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

<continued from previous page> more dramatic in non-border areas (from 4.18 percent in 1996 to 13.95 percent in 2008) than in border areas (4.52 percent in 1996 to 6.84 percent in 2008). ... [W]e see the opposite trend for CBD. ... The median level of CBD dropped from 0.24 percent in 1996 to 0.08 percent in 2008."

Authors of the paper speculated that the falling potency of CBD in seized samples was because "growers are making greater use of plant strains that favor THC production over CBD production."

Cannabidiol is a nonpsychotropic cannabinoid that is believed to temper the psychoactive effects of THC. In preclinical trials, the compound has [demonstrated](#) the ability to both treat symptoms and modify the course of various diseases. A recent [review](#) published in the journal *Trends in Pharmacological Sciences* reported that CBD possesses over a dozen separate therapeutic properties – including [anti-cancer](#) properties, [anti-diabetic](#) properties, [anti-epileptic](#) properties, and [anti-bacterial](#) properties.

In recent years, a select number of growers have begun breeding 'CBD-rich' strains of cannabis (defined as four percent CBD or higher) specifically for the medical marijuana market. Information on these strains, their CBD content, and their availability to the public is available online at the website: <http://www.projectcbd.com>.

For more information, please contact either Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org, or Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at: (415) 453-5858. Full text of the study, "Heterogeneity in the composition of marijuana seized in California," will appear in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

Voter Power Resource Days are held every **Wednesday** from **5PM - 7PM** and on **Thursdays** from **4PM - 6PM** at **687 River Ave., Eugene, 97404-2513**. Also, every **Tuesday thru Friday** from **3PM - 6PM** in **Portland - 6701 SE Foster Rd, Suite D** - and on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from **4:20PM - 6PM** at **1708 W. Main St., Medford**. Cardholders only (yes, bring your Card and ID) **\$10 donation, medicine for all**. Contacting **Voter Power** * In **PORTLAND: 6701 SE Foster Rd, Suite D, 97206** * In **EUGENE: 687 River Ave, 97404** * phone: 503-224-3051, Fax: 503-235-5365 for PDX and EUG clinics. In **MEDFORD: 1708 W. Main St., 97501** * phone (541) 245-6634, Fax: (541) 245-6684 or visit: <http://voterpower.org/>

* NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens (most!) every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at The Voter Power Office - at 687 River Ave, 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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