



## Emerald Empire HempFest Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The tenth anniversary festival of the Emerald Empire Hempfest will be, as usual, on the third week-end in July (the w/e after the Oregon Country Fair: 20TH - 22ND, 2012. It happens this year on Friday: High Noon - 10:00p, Saturday: 10 AM - 10:00p, Sunday: 10 AM - 10 PM in Eugene at Maurie Jacobs Park, 301 N Adams St, Eugene, OR, 97402 (navigational devices use the address 130 Fir Lane - or- 400 N Polk St), across from the Valley River shopping center at the end of the footbridge over the Willamette River. As always FREE TO THE PUBLIC / ALL AGES WELCOME in order to educate the general public about the plant Cannabis (HEMP).

While Education is the primary goal of this all-volunteer effort, there will be two stages with great musical bands, a food court featuring nutritious foods, art booths, and vendors featuring many hemp products, and nonprofit booths.

<continued on page 3 >

### Common-Sense Marijuana and Hemp Regulation Makes Oregon Ballot as Measure 80

Portland, Ore. - Cannabis Law Reformers in Oregon united, if just for a time, in hope and joy when the Oregon Secretary of State's Office certified Initiative 9, the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act (OCTA), which will appear as Measure 80 on the Oregon ballot in November. "Today is an historic day for Oregon and for the national movement for common-sense marijuana policy," said Paul Stanford, chief petitioner.

<continued on page 9 >

### (Just!) 3 Accounting Tricks the Obama Administration Uses to Hide the Cost of the Drug War

"Since day one, President Obama has led the way in reforming our Nation's drug policies by, among other things, addressing drug use and its consequences as a public health problem," reads a statement posted on We the People, the petition site started by the, er, Obama administration. If you've been the victim of a federal raid—one in which, say, your two-year-old was yanked out of his crib—or worked at one of the 500 California

<continued on page 3 >

### There's Been a Tectonic Shift on Marijuana Across the US, Except in Washington -- Why Can't We Pop the Beltway Bubble?

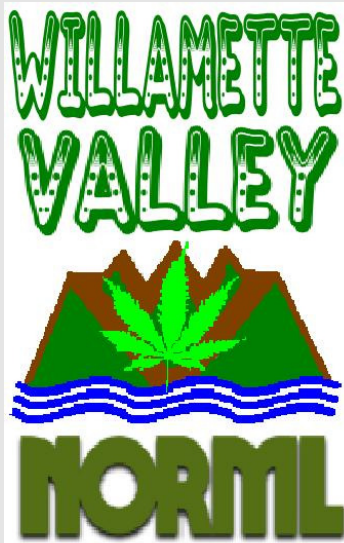
July 10, 2012 | America is at a tipping point when it comes to the politics of pot. Never in modern history has there existed greater public support for ending this nation's nearly century-long experiment with cannabis prohibition and replacing it with a system legalization and regulation.

<continued on page 6 >

### Schedule I Prohibitive Status For Pot "Untenable," Scientists Say

San Diego, CA: The classification of cannabis and its organic compounds as [Schedule I](#) prohibited substances under federal law is [scientifically indefensible](#), according to a [review](#) published online in *The Open Neurology Journal*. Investigators at the University of California at San Diego and the University of California, Davis reviewed the results of

<continued on page 8 >



## 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)**

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 EMERALD EMPIRE HEMPFEST, page 1 >  
They're planning a gigantic three-day blowout celebration with all kinds of fun-filled activities, educational and exciting events, bands both electric and acoustic, a hemp apparel fashion show and new product demonstrations modeled by Ganja Goddesses, raffle and giveaways, cutting-edge speakers, information and education stations, and many fabulous food booths.

They see their mission as one of unite citizens in calling for sweeping reforms in America's laws against cannabis and hemp, to provide knowledge about the many uses of hemp in the home, field and factory: as a highly nutritious food whose seeds have prevented famines, as a fiber for cloth and paper, and as a safe source for making products like particle board, cement, fuel, plastic, and paint currently made from toxic fossil fuels.

This is a uniquely valuable plant: it provides high levels of key nutrients, relieves symptoms for patients suffering from an array of medical conditions, and can be made into environmentally positive products such as clothing, paper, paint, biodegradable plastics, and replacements for above mentioned fossil fuels.

Guest speakers will discuss the environmental benefits of hemp, medical uses of Marijuana and the futility and negative consequences of prohibition. As former organizer Eileen Erdelt once stated: "The HempFest is a family-oriented event celebrating a God-given plant that has been prohibited by man."

They've planned and organized their festival as a family-friendly (alcohol-free and drug-free as required by the City of Eugene), where No illegal activities will be tolerated. Dogs are permitted on leashes. For schedule, list of bands, directions and more, go to > [www.EmeraldEmpireHempfest.com](http://www.EmeraldEmpireHempfest.com)

"We expect this year to be a banner year. A small group of VERY dedicated people have spent many hours working on decorations for EEH." says EEH Organizer Dan Koozer, "We've been working on recruiting and the better organization of our volunteer staff. We've had

to extend our hours due to all of the great entertainment provided pro bono." "We are fashioned after the Seattle HempFest, a free-to-the-public event held in a city park educating the public on Cannabis/Hemp issues." continued Mr. Koozer, a/k/a "Dank the Bagman" of Eugene's own Cannabis TV. "Seattle HempFest followed our lead and have expanded to a three-day event. We've been a three-day event since 2007. Also, our event is 100% non-profit and volunteer, and we run on donations. Many thanks to all our sponsors and volunteers!" For more CONTACT: Dan Koozer at 541-517-0957 \* FAX: 888-420-1755 \* or Email [emeraldempirehempfest@hotmail.com](mailto:emeraldempirehempfest@hotmail.com) Address [www.EmeraldEmpireHempfest.com](http://www.EmeraldEmpireHempfest.com) \* Website URL

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**<continued from 3 ACCOUNTING TRICKS THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION USES TO HIDE THE COST OF THE DRUG WAR, page 1 > From ditchweed to rehab, the Obama administration finds clever ways to cook the drug war books**

medical pot dispensaries the DEA and the IRS have shut down in the last year, you're probably rolling your eyes right now.

No way, no how, has Obama ended the war on drugs. So why does the drug czar insist that he has? Magical thinking helps, but so does magical accounting. Washington's drug warriors have relied for decades on wacky stats and context-free claims to justify banning some drugs while rubber-stamping the sale of others. Fuzzy campaign promises aside, the Obama administration is no different. Here are three accounting tricks federal agencies under Obama continue to use to justify the war on drugs and hide its true costs.

3.) Anti-drug agencies obscure alcohol abuse numbers in order to exaggerate the dangers of illegal drugs.

When veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan asked the Obama administration for legal cover to treat their PTSD with medical marijuana instead of heavy duty prescription narcotics, Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske told them, "We know from an array of treatment admission information and Federal data that marijuana use is a significant source for voluntary drug treatment admissions and visits to emergency rooms."

How significant? Click the link in Kerlikowske's letter  
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<continued from previous page> about emergency room visits and you get a report put together by DAWN, the Drug Abuse Warning Network, which documents emergency room visits by substance:

**Table 2. Misused or Abused Drugs Most Commonly Involved in Emergency Department (ED) Visits: 2009**

Drugs	Number of ED Visits	Number of ED Visits per 100,000 Population
Alcohol in Combination with Other Drugs*	519,650	169.3
Underage Drinking**	199,429	227.2
Illicit Drugs	973,591	317.1
Cocaine	422,896	137.7
Marijuana	376,467	122.6
Heroin	213,118	69.4
Pharmaceuticals	1,244,679	405.4
Pain Relievers	595,551	194.0
Narcotic Pain Relievers	397,160	129.4
Oxycodone Products	175,949	57.3
Hydrocodone Products	104,490	34.0
Drugs to Treat Insomnia and Anxiety	433,600	141.2
Benzodiazepines	373,328	121.6
Antidepressants	104,940	34.2

\* Use of alcohol in combination with other drugs is recorded by DAWN for patients of all ages.  
 \*\* Underage drinking includes both use of alcohol in combination with other drugs and use of alcohol only for persons aged 20 or younger.  
 Source: 2009 SAMHSA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN).

With 376,467 visits a year, marijuana seems like a big offender. But there are two problems with that figure. The first is that the data, which comes from the annual National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS), doesn't distinguish between people who sought emergency care because of marijuana, and people who were high on marijuana when they sought care. Hence the careful wording at the top of DAWN's chart: "drugs most commonly involved in emergency department visits."

But let's say marijuana was actually responsible for all those marijuana-related ER visits. How does that compare to, say, alcohol? If you read the fine print, you'll notice that NIDA accounts for alcohol only when used in conjunction with other drugs or when used by minors. A footnote at the end of the report tells us why: "Underage use of alcohol only is considered to be drug misuse or abuse."

Put another way, the National Institute for Drug Abuse doesn't consider adults who go to the emergency room solely as a result of alcohol to be misusing or abusing a drug. But wouldn't alcohol, a ubiquitous and legal drug, provide a great benchmark for measuring the overall ER impact of other drugs?

Yes, but it would also undermine the drug czar's claims about the dangers of pot.

Here are the facts: Alcohol, when used alone, is "involved" in far more emergency department visits than every illegal drug combined. According to the Centers for Disease Control, "In the single year 2005, there were more than 1.6 million hospitalizations

and more than 4 million emergency room visits for alcohol-related conditions." A study published this year in the Annals of Emergency Medicine, meanwhile, suggests that as many as 50 percent of emergency room visits could be alcohol-related. And that number is only going up. In New York City, for instance, "nearly 74,000 people wound up in hospitals in 2009 for alcohol-related reasons, compared with just 22,000 in 2003."

While NIDA has acknowledged that "ED [emergency department] visits involving alcohol among the general population is thought to be significantly higher than what is reported in DAWN," there's no need to say "thought to be." It's clear from the data that alcohol alone sends more people to the emergency room than marijuana and every other drug.

Furthermore, more people also seek addiction treatment for alcohol than for pot. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, nearly half of all substance abuse treatment center admissions "involving college or other post secondary school students ages 18 to 24 were primarily related to alcohol disorders." In fact, alcohol leads the pack in addiction treatment admissions across every age group.

There's enough data to put illicit drugs in context. Why does NIDA--"the world's largest source of drug abuse research," according to Kerilikowske--obscure them? Because NIDA's job isn't just documenting the effects of drugs that are illegal, but also providing the "scientific" justification for keeping them that way.

The next accounting trick: hiding the cost of burning ditchweed.

2.) The DEA wastes hundreds of millions eradicating hemp plants that can't be smoked, then omits the costs from its annual reports.

Since its inception, the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program has spent roughly \$200 million eradicating "ditchweed," or feral marijuana plants that contain no THC (the chemical in marijuana that gets you high). Even though feral marijuana can't give you a buzz, for years the DEA used it to hype the specter of domestic pot production and pad out its annual DCE/SP report. How much padding, exactly? Roughly 98 percent of the marijuana the DEA destroys in a given year is worthless as a drug (though not as industrial hemp, outlawed since the 1930s).

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<continued from previous page> For years, marijuana reformers hammered the DEA for wasting money and exaggerating the amount of pot grown domestically (lay people—and journalists—seldom distinguish between ditchweed and the stuff that gets you high). Then the squares

caught on. In 1998, the state auditor in Vermont released a report criticizing the DEA's focus on ditchweed. "It is noteworthy that the federal program specifically funds, and indeed, encourages the eradication of ditchweed," the auditor noted.

In 2006, NORML's Allen St. Pierre condemned the DEA's targeting of ditchweed, which could create jobs if industrial hemp were legal. "The irony, of course, is that industrial hemp is grown legally throughout most of the Western world as a commercial crop for its fiber content. Yet the U.S. government is spending taxpayers' money to target and eradicate this same agricultural commodity."

After getting beat about the head for years, the DEA suddenly stopped reporting ditchweed eradication after 2006. Since then, the total number of reported marijuana plants destroyed by the DEA each year has dropped from a quarter of a billion—again, 99 percent of that ditchweed—to around 10 million.

"The federal government seems to have misinterpreted criticism that the practice was a waste of resources," observed University of Illinois College of Law's Matthew Donigian in a 2011 report. "Critics were not upset with the government's reporting of 'ditchweed,' but rather the practice of seeking out and burning non-smokeable and non-cultivated cannabis plants."

"The current practice of non-reporting provides the American people with little information on where DEA resources are being utilized," Donigian concludes, "and effectively hides the amount of money spent on an unintelligible practice."

The next accounting trick: exaggerating the amount the government spends on prevention and rehab versus law enforcement.

1.) The Obama administration and its supporters claim to be spending more on prevention than enforcement—they aren't.

On May 1, the Center for American Progress, which works closely with the Obama administration, hosted Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske to speak about Obama's 2012 National Drug Control Strategy. In her opening remarks, CAP President Neena Tanden said, "We welcome the...shifts in funding that have seen more money spent in the last three years on drug

education and treatment than on law enforcement."

That shift, Obama supporters claim, is the first of its kind, and a strong indicator that Obama is serious about reforming (though not ending) the war on drugs. It's such an important talking point, in fact, that Kerlikowske, prominent leaders in the rehab community (beneficiaries, all), and mainstream journalists have all repeated it.

But is it true? Not even a little bit! John Walsh of the Washington Office on Latin America reviewed the Obama administration's 2012 strategy and concluded that while the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget allocated \$10 billion for prevention and treatment and \$9.3 billion for domestic enforcement, those two allocations don't tell the whole story.

"The federal government also spends billions of dollars each year on interdiction and overseas supply-reduction efforts," Walsh writes, "and state and local governments spend many billions more on drug law enforcement—especially incarceration—with the aim of constraining availability."

Furthermore, Walsh wrote, "Obama's predecessor in the White House, George W. Bush, could have made the same claim during his second term. From FY2005-FY2008, federal spending on demand reduction exceeded spending on domestic drug enforcement by an average of \$1.2 billion per year, based on figures provided in the budget document accompanying the new strategy."

In fact, when it comes down to it, Obama's drug war looks a lot like Bush's:

When federal spending on interdiction and international drug control programs are also taken into account, it is clear that "supply reduction" efforts continue to receive the bulk of federal drug-control dollars. Again based on the historical budget figures provided in the new strategy, in FY2008, under Bush, 58.8 percent (\$13.236 billion) of the federal drug budget was allocated to supply reduction (domestic enforcement, interdiction, and international programs), compared to 41.2 percent (\$9.264 billion) allocated to demand reduction (treatment and prevention). Obama's FY2013 request is \$3.1 billion larger than Bush's FY2008 budget, but shows an identical breakdown, with 58.8 percent (\$15.062 billion) for supply reduction and 41.2 percent (\$10.538 billion) for demand reduction. Obama's FY2013 strategy includes more than \$5.6 billion for interdiction and overseas supply-control efforts, which even when

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<continued from previous page> adjusting for inflation is 6 percent more than Bush's FY2008 spending on interdiction and overseas efforts.

Keep those figures in mind when Kerlikowske, Obama, or the administration's supporters claim Obama has radically changed drug policy. *About the Author: Mike Riggs is an associate editor at Reason magazine. Follow him on Twitter. Source = <http://reason.com/archives/2012/07/08/3-accounting-tricks-the-government-uses>*

<continued from WHY CAN'T WE POP THE BELTWAY BUBBLE?, page 1 > **More Americans and local politicians than ever before are demanding an end to marijuana prohibition -- but for change to happen, we need federal officials to start listening.**

Moreover, state and local politicians beyond the 'Beltway bubble' for the first time in many decades are responding to this sea change in public opinion, even if their colleagues in Washington are not. From Rhode Island to Texas, from New York City to Chicago, lawmakers are finally acknowledging that being pro-pot reform equals votes. The question is: Why isn't Washington getting the message?

It certainly isn't due to a lack of public polling on the issue. Just the opposite: recent, high profile national polls affirm that voters are now solidly in favor of ending the war on weed. For example, a fall 2011 nationwide Gallup poll reported that for the first time more Americans support legalizing the adult use of cannabis than support maintaining prohibition. How far have we come? Consider this. In 1969, when Gallup pollsters first surveyed American's attitudes on the topic, only 12 percent of voters said that they backed legalizing pot. Even in the late 1970s - at a time during which a dozen state legislatures decriminalized minor marijuana possession offenses (largely replacing criminal penalties with a fine only civil citation) and most others reduced cannabis-related felonies to misdemeanors - public support for marijuana legalization never topped 30 percent. Not anymore. Over the past 10 years, there has been a seismic shift in public opinion, with every single demographic polled by Gallup steadily showing year-to-year increased support for cannabis liberalization.

Polling data published in May by the well-respected firm Rasmussen Reports is even more favorable. Rasmussen reported that 56 percent of Americans support "legalizing marijuana and regulating it like alcohol or cigarettes" while only 34 percent oppose the idea. Every age group polled, including those age 65 and older, favored the plant's legalization

over its continued criminalization.

Separate survey data collected by Canadian pollsters Angus Reid further affirm this trend. According to their most recent survey, published last month, a solid majority of US adults - Democrat and Independent voters in particular - support legalizing cannabis. It is the fourth consecutive survey conducted by Angus Reid to report that over 50 percent of Americans favor legalizing pot.

Nonetheless, most federally elected officials appear to be unaware of - or more likely, remain unwilling to accept - this relatively rapid evolution in public opinion. A case in point: in recent months, the Obama administration has ramped up a nationwide crackdown on medical marijuana providers and dispensaries operating in states that allow for the drug's therapeutic use. In some states, such as Delaware, US Attorneys have stifled the imposition of medicinal cannabis programs that allow for the state-licensed distribution of the plant - activities that are explicitly authorized under state law - by threatening to arrest and prosecute state employees involved in the regulation of med-pot providers.

Yet, according to a May 2012 Mason Dixon poll of likely US voters, virtually no Americans support the administration's clamp down on cannabis. Seventy-four percent of respondents - including three out of four Democrats and 67 percent of self-identified Republicans - believe that the Obama administration should "respect the medical marijuana laws" in those states that have legalized its use, cultivation, and distribution. Only 15 percent of those polled said they support the federal government's ongoing use of "federal resources to arrest and prosecute individuals who are acting in compliance" with the medicinal cannabis laws of their state. Nevertheless, just days prior to the poll's release, members of the United States House of Representatives voted 262 to 163 to defeat a federal budget amendment that sought to prevent the federal government from spending taxpayers' dollars to target state compliant medical marijuana-related activities, despite the reality that most of their constituents opposed their decision to do so.

Can federal officials and their advisors really be this out of touch with the public's weed wishes? They may be. Speaking to Reuters in June, Colorado Democratic Party spokesman Matt Inzeo played down the notion that the administration's anti-pot proclivities might potentially hurt Obama's re-

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<continued from previous page> election bid, particularly in Western states that have embraced certain aspects of marijuana law reform at the ballot box. When asked to comment on the state's impending ballot measure – Amendment 64 – which seeks to remove criminal penalties regarding the private possession and cultivation of cannabis and eventually allow for the plant's regulated sale, Inezo responded skeptically, "If they (A-64's campaign proponents) get 40 percent (of the vote) they should throw themselves a party." (Not to be outdone, at a recent Colorado campaign stop, Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney chastised a CBS News reporter for querying him about his pot politics, angrily stating, "Aren't there issues of significance that you'd like to talk about?") Days later, a statewide Rasmussen Reports showed a remarkable 61 percent of voters endorsed cannabis legalization (versus only 27 percent who opposed idea). Predictably, separate polling data collected by Rasmussen during this same period found that neither Obama nor Romney was nearly as popular as the prohibited plant.

For those of us who work in marijuana policy reform, this disconnect between the public's attitudes and the actions (or inactions) of their elected officials is especially vexing. For some time, a primary component of NORML's stated mission has been to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition. But now that we have arguably done so, another, perhaps tougher, question remains: How do we turn the public's sentiment into effective public policy reform? In short, will cannabis consumers and the marijuana law reform community as a whole ever become a persuasive and powerful player in Washington, DC politics?

While the answer to the above question is, ideally, 'yes,' the reality is that this change will arguably take place slowly. Marijuana law reform does not lend itself well to the standard rules that typically govern inside-the-Beltway politics. The majority of cannabis consumers are not single-issue voters and thus they are not readily identifiable by either major political party as a significant potential voting block. They tend to cast their vote based on a plethora of other ideological and public policy issues – such as health care reform, environmental reform, foreign policy, economic issues, and candidates' support for civil liberties – with pot law reform tending to rank fairly low on their priority list. As a result, many supporters of marijuana law reform, come election time, will ultimately choose a candidate who they disagree with on pot, but concur with on other

issues. Since, for most voters, cannabis is yet to be a 'deciding issue,' it is hardly surprising that most candidates refuse to take a stand on the issue in any manner beyond the maintenance of the status quo.

Further, those people who tend to be most adversely and disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition, primarily those under age 30 and young, urban people of color, tend to wield the least political influence in Washington, DC. Young people typically do not have the ear of federally elected politicians, who tend to dismiss many political issues associated with the 'youth vote' in favor of politicking for seniors' support; they do not attend political galas and fundraisers, and they typically lack the financial means to contribute directly to candidates' election campaigns or their PACS. In short, they are not on members of Congress' radar.

Similarly, these same young people also lack the financial means to fund the limited number of marijuana advocacy organizations, such as NORML and Students for Sensible Drug Policy, that lobby on their behalf. Conversely, those citizens who typically do possess the financial means and the political clout to elevate cannabis law reform to the political mainstream are, statistically, least likely to be adversely impacted by pot prohibition. Therefore, they are far less likely to acknowledge it as a political issue worthy of investing their financial and political capital.

Equally problematic are the existing social stigma and legal repercussion surrounding cannabis. Unlike most conventional voting blocks, many cannabis consumers do not wish to identify themselves publicly to politicians or to the media. Their fear is warranted. Annually, over 800,000 Americans are cited or arrested for violating marijuana laws. Further, in many instances, cannabis consumers can lose professional licenses, parental rights, housing, adoption privileges, and other liberties simply for acknowledging that they use (or, in extreme cases, simply advocate on behalf of) the plant. Given this reality, it is no wonder that millions of Americans keep their pot habits or advocacy safely hidden in the closet. Their inaction, however, allows their elected leaders to continue to falsely presume that cannabis law reform is a 'fringe' issue of little concern to 'ordinary' American voters.

As a result, there exists an echo chamber among politicians (and their strategists) inside-the-Beltway

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<continued from previous page> that believes that advocating for marijuana law reform costs politicians votes. Yet, despite many hailing this mentality as 'conventional wisdom,' there is little to no truth behind it. (By contrast, there is growing evidence that just the opposite is true.) Notably, a handful of high-profile politicians from both political parties – including US Representatives Steve Cohen (D-TN), Barney Frank (D-MA), James Moran (D-VA), Ron Paul (R-TX), Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Jared Polis (D-CO), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), and Peter Stark (D-CA) – have actively lobbied for marijuana law reform while in Congress and have suffered no tangible backlash from voters for their pro-pot stance. Even more to the point, President Barack Obama as a candidate repeatedly spoke out in favor of marijuana law reform, most notably pledging to cease utilizing "Justice Department resources to try and circumvent state laws" regarding medical cannabis (a pledge he has since broken). Yet not even Obama's political opponents, much less American voters, held it against him.

So why has the administration flip-flopped on the issue in the months prior to Obama's re-election? Good question, though the answer may be fairly straightforward.

Inside the Beltway bubble, old habits are hard to break, even among those who ought to know better.

Fortunately, outside the Beltway, this mentality may be changing, as politicians and their political parties are finally beginning to embrace the potential power of the pro-pot vote. In Rhode Island, state lawmakers decided in June by a vote of more than 2 to 1 to approve legislation decriminalizing marijuana possession (replacing criminal penalties with a civil fine) for anyone age 18 or older. Similarly, in May, lawmakers from both major political parties in Connecticut backed legislation authorizing the limited legalization of cannabis in the Nutmeg state.

In New Hampshire, Republican lawmakers led the charge for medical marijuana law reform, voting overwhelmingly in favor of legislation that sought to allow for qualified patients to possess and cultivate med-pot (though the measure was ultimately vetoed by Gov. John Lynch, a Democrat.)

New York Governor and rising Democrat Party superstar Andrew Cuomo recently made headlines across the nation by publicly endorsing a plan to curb New York City's 50,000+ annual marijuana arrests. Chicago Mayor, and former pot prohibitionist during the Bill Clinton administration,

Rahm Emmanuel made similar headlines when he reversed his previous stance and backed a municipal legislative effort seeking to decriminalize marijuana possession offenses. In June, members of the Chicago City Council resoundingly approved Emmanuel's plan by a vote of 43 to 3.

In various other states – including Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, and Washington – Democrats have recently adopted pro-marijuana reform language into their party platforms. In Iowa, Democrat Party delegates in June resolved to support the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes, while in Texas, Democrats endorsed legalizing the plant for anyone, resolving: "Marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol or tobacco. ... There is no evidence that marijuana is a "gateway" drug leading to the use of more lethal drugs. ... Texas Democrats urge the President, the Attorney General and the Congress to support the passage of legislation to ... regulate its (marijuana's) use, production and sale as is done with tobacco and alcohol."

Across America, more and more politicians are awakening to the reality that supporting cannabis law reform isn't just the right thing to do, but that it also makes for good politics. Isn't it high time that their colleagues in Washington also get with the program? *Paul Armentano is the deputy director of NORML (the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws), and is the co-author of the book Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink (2009, Chelsea Green). Source*

[http://www.alternet.org/story/156251/there%27s\\_been\\_a\\_tectonic\\_shift\\_on\\_marijuana\\_across\\_the\\_us%2C\\_except\\_in\\_washington\\_-\\_why\\_can%27t\\_we\\_pop\\_the\\_beltway\\_bubble](http://www.alternet.org/story/156251/there%27s_been_a_tectonic_shift_on_marijuana_across_the_us%2C_except_in_washington_-_why_can%27t_we_pop_the_beltway_bubble)

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SCIENTISTS SAY, page 1 >

several recent clinical trials assessing the safety and efficacy of inhaled or vaporized cannabis. They conclude: "Based on



evidence currently available the Schedule I classification is not tenable; it is not accurate that cannabis has no medical value, or that information on safety is lacking."

Researchers added, "It is true cannabis has some abuse potential, but its profile more closely resembles drugs in Schedule III (where codeine

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<continued from previous page> and dronabinol are listed)." Under federal law, Schedule I controlled substances are defined as possessing "a high potential for abuse, ... no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and there is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision." Heroin and Methaqualone (Quaaludes) are examples of other Schedule I substances. Cocaine and methamphetamine are classified as schedule II controlled substances.

In 2011, the Obama administration - via the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) - formally [denied](#) a nine-year-old administrative [petition](#) filed by NORML and a [coalition](#) of public interest organizations calling on the agency to initiate hearings to reassess the present classification of marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance without any 'accepted medical use in treatment.' In her denial of the petition, DEA administrator Michele Leonhart [alleged](#): "[T]here are no adequate and well-controlled studies proving (marijuana's) efficacy; the drug is not accepted by qualified experts. ... At this time, the known risks of marijuana use have not been shown to be outweighed by specific benefits in well-controlled clinical trials that scientifi Last month, Ms. Leonhart [testified](#) before Congress that she believed that heroin and marijuana posed similar threats to the public's health [because](#), in her opinion, "all illegal drugs are bad."

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Medical Marijuana: Clearing Away the Smoke," is available online at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3358713/>*

<continued from COMMON-SENSE MARIJUANA AND HEMP REGULATION MAKES OREGON BALLOT AS MEASURE 80, page 1 > "Oregon's long had an independent streak and led the nation on policies that benefit the public good. Regulating marijuana and restoring the hemp industry is in that tradition of independent, pragmatic governance."

Measure 80, the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act, would regulate cannabis (marijuana) for adults 21 years of age and older, with commercial sales only through state-licensed stores. Ninety percent of tax revenue, estimated at more than \$140 million annually, would go to the state's battered general fund. Seven percent of tax proceeds would go toward funding

drug treatment programs, and much of the remaining revenue would be directed toward kick-starting and promoting Oregon's hemp food, fiber and bio-fuel industries.

Regulating marijuana is also a more rational approach to decreasing crime and improving youth and public safety.

"When the voters of Oregon pass this common-sense initiative, it will take money right out of the pockets of violent gangs and cartels and put it into the state's tax coffers, where it can be spent on improving schools, roads and public safety," said Neill Franklin, the national executive director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) and a 34-year career law-enforcement officer and veteran of narcotics policing in Baltimore. "Plus, when cops like me are no longer charged with chasing down marijuana users, we will be able to fully focus on stopping and solving serious crimes like murders, rapes and robberies." And, taxing and regulating cannabis and hemp will create thousands of local jobs, from agricultural jobs in Oregon's hardest-hit rural counties to manufacturing, engineering and professional services jobs around the state.

"We support Measure 80 because it'll get middle-class Oregonians back to work, it's as simple as that," said Dan Clay, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 555. "Whether it's hemp biofuel refineries on the Columbia River or pulp and paper mills in central Oregon, hemp makes sense and fits Oregon's renowned sustainability economy."

"Whether you're liberal or conservative, urban or rural, young or old, regulating and taxing marijuana and hemp makes sense for Oregon," Stanford added.

## Fundraising to Begin in Earnest

Once the initiative reaches the ballot, Stanford said his legislation -- which he designed to be upheld in federal court -- could spark a new era of economic fruition in the state. According to Mr. Stanford, up to now the petition drive has been largely financed by profits from clinics he owns that help people qualify for medical marijuana cards in Oregon and several other states. He reports he has spent about \$300,000 so far and expects significant help from national reform interests, hopefully to the tune of a couple of million that will be needed. You see, it is not just for the campaign --- and all the national Drug War, well, your Tax-paid dollars, actually, it will attract, but also things like the

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<continued from previous page> federal challenge (again, at your expense, citizens!) expected to follow it's hopefully successful November vote-in of the Measure.

"We anticipate being held up like Death With Dignity", commented Mr. Stanford on the issue, "so we wrote in the preamble that these are findings by The People based on legal, historical and scientific facts. Also, our specific text dealing with is taken from the International Single Convention treaty and there is a clause in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) – citation 21.U.S.C.903, to be exact – that we believe will make a difference." (visit - <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21cfr/21usc/903.htm> - for more on CSA citation. The **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs** of 1961 is an international [treaty](#) to prohibit production and supply of specific (nominally [narcotic](#)) drugs and of drugs with similar effects except under [licence](#) for specific purposes, such as medical treatment and research. Visit - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single\\_Convention\\_on\\_Narcotic\\_Drugs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single_Convention_on_Narcotic_Drugs) - for more. )

Mr. Stanford -- chief petitioner for OCTA, President of The Hemp & Cannabis Foundation (THCF) and Campaign for the Restoration & Regulation of Hemp (CRRH) -- is a long-time, Oregon-based advocate, activist and entrepreneur who is an Expert court witness on marijuana and medicinal cannabis as well as having expertise in hemp & cannabis in general. THCF Medical Clinics has offices in 9 states and has helped over 100,000 patients obtain their state's permit for medical marijuana. Our physicians help qualified patients get a state permit to legally possess, use and grow medical marijuana. Our clinics help patients learn to cultivate cannabis and teach the about alternatives to smoking, such as vaporization and making cannabis foods and extracts with oil, butter, alcohol and glycerine.

He also produces and hosts Cannabis Common Sense, the show that tells the truth about marijuana and the politics behind its prohibition. Cannabis Common Sense is one of America's most popular cable access TV shows and has generated over 630 episodes over 15 years, since 1996. The show is on cable television in Oregon, Washington, California, Colorado and Michigan, and is available, now, on demand on the THCF and CRRH websites. **Visit - [www.THCF-Foundation.org](http://www.THCF-Foundation.org) - for more on THCF.** At the same time, CRRH - a federally registered political committee, a 501c4 under IRS rules - is working to end adult marijuana prohibition and to restore industrial hemp to a prominent role in the

world's economy. CRRH is working to regulate the sale of cannabis to adults, allow doctors to prescribe cannabis through pharmacies and allow the unregulated production of industrial hemp. CRRH promotes the Cannabis Tax Act initiative petitions to put this on the ballot, for people to vote on and enact. CRRH educates elected officials and the public to start a real debate about hemp and cannabis. **Visit - <http://www.crrh.org/> - for more on CRRH.**

### **And Then There Were Three: Oregon to Vote on Marijuana Legalization in November - by Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Coordinator - July 13, 2012**

The Oregon secretary of state's office completed the legalization trifecta this afternoon when they announced the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act of 2012 (OCTA) officially qualified for the November ballot. Oregon now joins Washington and Colorado on the list of states whose voters will have the opportunity to end cannabis prohibition this fall.

Supporters ended up turning in 88,887 valid signatures, slightly over 1,000 more than required for qualification. The initiative will appear on the Oregon ballot as "Measure 80." According to the campaign, Measure 80 would "regulate cannabis (marijuana) for adults 21 years of age and older, with commercial sales only through state-licensed stores. Ninety percent of tax revenue, estimated at more than \$140 million annually, would go to the state's battered general fund. Seven percent of tax proceeds would go toward funding drug treatment programs, and much of the remaining revenue would be directed toward kickstarting and promoting Oregon's hemp food, fiber and bio-fuel industries."

A June 2012 [survey](#) from Public Policy Polling showed Oregonian's were split on the issue. 43% responded that they believed marijuana should be made legal, 46% believed it should remain illegal, and 11% were undecided. You can read more about Measure 80 at the campaign's [website](#) or through their [Facebook](#) page. NORML will keep you updated as the campaign moves forward and expect more in-depth coverage on the initiative to follow shortly. Source = <http://blog.norml.org/2012/07/13/and-then-there-were-three-oregon-to-vote-on-marijuana-legalization-in-november/>

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<continued from previous page> Here is the ballot title, question and summary that will appear on our state's ballots, for a vote in Oregon on November 6, 2012:

Allows personal marijuana, hemp cultivation/use without license; commission to regulate commercial marijuana cultivation/sale

Result of a "Yes" Vote: "Yes" vote allows commercial marijuana (cannabis) cultivation/sale to adults through state-licensed stores; allows unlicensed adult personal cultivation/use; prohibits restrictions on hemp (defined).

Result of a "No" Vote: "No" vote retains existing civil and criminal laws prohibiting cultivation, possession and delivery of marijuana; retains current statutes that permit regulated medical use of marijuana.

Summary: Currently, marijuana cultivation, possession and delivery are prohibited; regulated medical marijuana use is permitted. Measure replaces state, local marijuana laws except medical marijuana and driving under the influence laws; distinguishes "hemp" from "marijuana"; prohibits regulation of hemp. Creates commission to license marijuana cultivation by qualified persons and to purchase entire crop. Commission sells marijuana at cost to pharmacies, medical research facilities, and to qualified adults for profit through state-licensed stores. Ninety percent of net goes to state general fund, remainder to drug education, treatment, hemp promotion. Bans sales to, possession by minors. Bans public consumption except where signs permit, minors barred. Commission regulates use, sets prices, other duties; Attorney General to defend against federal challenges/prosecutions. Provides penalties. Effective January 1, 2013; other provisions.

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BM 80 will set aside two percent of the profits from the sale of cannabis in adult-only stores for two new state committees that will promote Oregon industrial hemp biodiesel, fiber and food. It will also legalize the sale, possession and personal private cultivation of marijuana. People who want to cultivate and sell marijuana, or process commercial psychoactive cannabis, would be required to obtain a license from the state. Adults could grow their own marijuana and the sale of all

cannabis strains' seeds and starter plants would be legalized with no license, fee nor registration. The profits from the sale of cannabis to adults will add hundreds of millions of dollars into the state general fund, as well as drug treatment and education.

### **Cannabis Tax Act Sparks Nov. Debate; Marijuana Advocate Says Voters Will See Measure On Ballot - By Tyler Richardson, The World (Coos Bay, OR), Posted: Tuesday, July 10, 2012**

According to OCTA chief petitioner D. Paul Stanford hemp production will 'dwarf' the legalization of marijuana. "The taxation of marijuana will account for nearly 5 percent of the state's overall budget and that that number will greatly increase as the hemp industry develops."

Stanford added 90 percent of the proceeds generated by the Tax Act, if passed, will go to the state's general fund, 7 percent will go towards drug rehabilitation programs, 1 percent to drug education programs and 2 percent to the new state commissions for fuel, fiber and food.

Stanford said three separate licenses will be required for the cultivation, production and sale of marijuana and hemp. If the initiative is passed, a seven-member committee called the Oregon Cannabis Commission will be formed to sell the licenses and determine 'rules,' Stanford said.

Along with the economic implications of the Tax Act, Stanford said consumers will see not only a drop in marijuana prices but also a drop in crime.

He estimated the black market price for an ounce of marijuana at \$300-\$500 currently. An ounce under the Tax Act would cost consumers \$50 -\$100.

Stanford said currently the state spends around \$61.5 million in law enforcement costs related to marijuana. He thinks the act would eliminate nearly all of these costs.

'There will be less incentive for people to steal because they can grow it on their own or buy it in stores,' he said referring to marijuana. 'There won't be a reason to buy it on the black market.'

Coos County Sheriff Craig Zanni was quick to contradict Stanford's ideas about crime reduction.

'I don't think we will see a decrease in crime at all,' Zanni said. 'The only effect it will have on us is figuring out how to deal with people driving while impaired.'

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

<continued from OCTA, previous page> Stanford said recent polls have shown as high (no pun intended) as 56 percent of the state would support the Tax Act, and he believes similar measures in Colorado and Washington will help gain recognition and support.

'They aren't going to be saying we are the stoner state,' he said. 'Oregon will be the cutting edge for new economic prosperity.' Source = [http://theworldlink.com/news/local/cannabis-tax-act-sparks-nov-debate/article\\_a57d8c1b-4d03-5558-bc05-da3afa49bb1b.html](http://theworldlink.com/news/local/cannabis-tax-act-sparks-nov-debate/article_a57d8c1b-4d03-5558-bc05-da3afa49bb1b.html)

For more info, contact OCTA Campaign Headquarters by writing - 2712 NE Sandy Blvd Portland, Oregon 97232, stopping by - Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9am-6pm; calling the Campaign Telephone number: 503-473-8790, or visiting -- <http://octa2012.org/>

### Ohio: Governor Signs Law Reducing Penalties For Pot Paraphernalia

**Columbus, OH:** Governor John Kasich, a Republican, signed legislation into law last week that significantly [reduces](#) statewide criminal penalties associated with the possession of marijuana paraphernalia.

Under provisions contained in [Senate Bill 337](#), the [penalty](#) associated with cannabis paraphernalia will be lowered from a fourth-degree misdemeanor (punishable by up to 30 days in jail) to a minor misdemeanor, punishable by a traffic ticket-like citation and a fine.

Ohio [law](#) already defines marijuana possession offenses involving 100 grams (approximately three ounces) or less as minor misdemeanors.

A minor misdemeanor does not create a criminal record in Ohio. The new law takes effect on September 28, 2012.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.-or- visit: <http://norml.org/news/2012/07/12/ohio-governor-signs-law-reducing-penalties-for-pot-paraphernalia>

### Study: Teens' Use Of Alcohol Most Typically Precedes Illicit Drug Consumption

**Lafayette, IN:** Adolescents' use of alcohol, not cannabis, typically [precedes](#) teens' use of other illicit substances, according to [data](#) published in the *Journal of School Health*.

Investigators from the Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health Center in Lafayette and the University of Florida at Gainesville analyzed government survey data regarding high school seniors' use of licit and illicit substances. They reported: "[A]lcohol represented the 'gateway' drug, leading to the use of tobacco, marijuana, and other illicit substances. Moreover, students who used alcohol exhibited a significantly greater likelihood of using both licit and illicit drugs."

Authors concluded, "The findings from this investigation support that alcohol should receive primary attention in school-based substance abuse prevention programming, as the use of other substances could be impacted by delaying or preventing alcohol use." For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, *Alcohol as a Gateway Drug: A Study of US 12th Graders*, appears in the *Journal of School Health*. -or- visit: <http://norml.org/news/2012/07/05/study-teens-use-of-alcohol-most-typically-precedes-illicit-drug-consumption>