



Obama Administration: "We're In The Midst Of A Serious National Conversation On Marijuana"

Washington, DC: Following the [passage](#) on Election Day of citizens' initiatives in [Colorado](#) and [Washington](#) to legalize marijuana use for adults, United States Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske has for the first time [acknowledged](#), "It is clear that we're in the midst of a serious national conversation about marijuana."

Kerlikowske made his public remarks this week on the White House's citizens' petition [website](#) 'We the People' in response to the question: Should the federal government "remove marijuana from the federal Controlled Substance Act and allow the states to decide how they want to regulate it." Nearly 84,000 people had expressed their support for the question - making it among the top vote-getters of any petition on the website.

The Drug Czar [reaffirmed](#) that "the Justice Department is reviewing the legalization initiatives passed in Colorado and Washington" and that President Obama believes "[W]e're going to need to have a conversation about how ... you reconcile a federal law that still says marijuana is a federal offense and state laws that say that it's legal."

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Study: Depenalizing Drug Possession Offenses Associated With Lower Drug Consumption Rates Among Young People

West Lafayette, IN: The elimination of criminal penalties for drug possession offenses is associated with lower overall substance use among young people, according to a [study](#) published online this month in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

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Study: Imposition Of Per Se Limits For Drugs Don't Reduce Traffic Deaths

Denver, CO: The imposition of so-called [per se drugged driving laws](#), which create new traffic safety violations for drivers who operate a vehicle with the presence of trace amounts of certain controlled substances and/or their inert metabolites (byproducts) in their blood or urine, [do not reduce incidences of traffic deaths](#), according to a [discussion paper](#) made available this week by the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Germany.

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Study: Cannabis Retail Outlets Not Associated With Rise In Cannabis Use

Amsterdam, The Netherlands: The availability of [cannabis retail outlets](#) in The Netherlands is not associated with the greater incidences of cannabis use or an increase in the intensity of the public's consumption of marijuana, according to a study published in the *European Journal of Criminology*.

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Michigan: Municipalities Ignoring Voters' Will Regarding Marijuana Liberalization Measures

Detroit, MI: Elected officials in Detroit and other Michigan cities have [failed to implement](#) local citizens' initiatives that seek to amend municipal marijuana laws. On Election Day, voters in four cities - totaling over a million people - [decided](#) in favor of municipal initiatives to legalize or depenalize the adult use of cannabis. Sixty-five percent of Detroit voters approved [Proposal M](#), removing local criminal penalties pertaining to the possession on

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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 **OBAMA ADMINISTRATION: "WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF A SERIOUS NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON MARIJUANA", page 1** > Commenting on Kerlikowske's response, NORML Communications Director Erik Altieri said: "While far from embracing an end to marijuana prohibition, it is telling that America's Drug Czar had the opportunity to spout anti-marijuana rhetoric and declined to do so, while simultaneously stating that our nation is in the midst of a serious national conversation regarding appropriate cannabis policy. We can only hope that when the administration finishes reviewing the laws just approved by resounding margins in Washington and Colorado, they choose to stand with the American people and place themselves on the right side of history. We the people are already there." *For more information, please contact NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre, or NORML Communications Director Erik Altieri, at (202) 483-5500.*



<continued from **STUDY: DEPENALIZING DRUG POSSESSION OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH LOWER DRUG CONSUMPTION RATES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, page 1** > An investigator from Purdue University in Indiana assessed the association between drug laws and drug consumption patterns in a representative survey of 15,191 adolescents aged 15-24 years from various European nations.

The study reports, "[R]emoving criminal penalties [for controlled substances] does not necessitate a higher number of users compared to countries with penalties, and the former actually have comparatively lower usage. In fact, higher possession offenses are associated with greater drug use."



It concludes, "At the very least, lack of criminal penalties is not associated with comparatively higher adolescent substance use and countries should consider removing such penalties to users. Such a strategy provides benefits of harm reduction, while simultaneously not associated with increases in use and additionally producing reduced government expenditure on enforcement." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "National-level drug policy and young people's illicit drug use: A multilevel analysis of the European Union," appears in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence.*

<continued from **STUDY: IMPOSITION OF PER SE LIMITS FOR DRUGS DON'T REDUCE TRAFFIC DEATHS, page 1** > Since 1990, 11 states have passed so-called zero-tolerant *per se* drugged driving laws. These laws make it illegal for one to drive with detectable levels of a controlled substance in his or her system. Five additional states have passed similar laws specifying non-zero limits for controlled substances or their metabolites. [Fourteen](#) (Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin) of these sixteen states impose these strict liability *per se* standards for cannabis. Recently, the White House Office of National Drug Control has recommended zero tolerant *per se* drug standards for all US states.

Using state-level data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) for the period 1990-2010, economists at the University of Colorado, Denver and Montana State University examined the relationship between the imposition of controlled substance *per se* thresholds and overall incidences of traffic fatalities. They found that the relationship is statistically indistinguishable from zero and concluded that there is no evidence that these limits reduced traffic deaths.



Authors concluded: "Despite the fact that these laws have been touted by politicians and academics as an effective strategy for making our roadways safer, we find no evidence that they reduce traffic fatalities. ... [W]e cannot determine why *per se* drugged driving laws do not work, and leave this issue to future researchers. However, our results clearly indicate that, as currently implemented, laws that make it illegal to drive with detectable levels of a controlled substance in the system have little to no effect on traffic fatalities."

A separate [paper](#) published by the same authors in 2011 reported that the passage of statewide medical marijuana laws is associated with decreased incidences of traffic fatalities.

In November, Washington state voters approved [Initiative 502](#), which [legalizes](#) the private use and retail sale of cannabis to adults, but also imposes a 5ng/ml THC/blood *per se* limit for drivers over the age of 21. In Colorado, where voters on Election Day [similarly legalized cannabis](#), Democrat Gov. John Hickenlooper and Republican Senator Steven King are [calling for](#) the passage of nearly identical

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<continued from previous page> *per se* cannabis legislation. NORML has consistently [opposed the imposition of stand-alone *per se* limits for cannabinoids](#), arguin

g that the presence of THC in blood, particularly at lower levels, [is an inconsistent predictor of behavioral impairment](#), particularly in more frequent consumers [who may potentially test positive for trace, residual THC levels in their blood for periods of time exceeding any period of acute impairment](#).

Operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of cannabis is already a criminal offense in all 50 states. However, in order for one to gain a criminal conviction under most state DUI laws, prosecutors must prove that a motorist recently ingested cannabis and that doing so prohibited him or her from driving safely. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Per Se Drugged Driving Laws and Traffic Fatalities" is available online at: <http://ftp.iza.org/dp7048.pdf>.*

<continued from STUDY: CANNABIS RETAIL OUTLETS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH RISE IN CANNABIS USE, page 1 > Researchers at the Bongier Institute of Criminology and the Trimbos Institute assessed the influence of coffee shop availability on the prevalence and intensity of cannabis use, as well as the effectiveness of the nations 'separation of markets' policy - which seeks to separate cannabis from the illicit drug market. Investigators surveyed a sampling of nightlife visitors between the ages of 15 and 35, geographically spread out across the nation, as well as a sub-selection of previous year cannabis users.



Authors reported: "We hypothesized that closer proximity to coffee shops would result in more cannabis consumption. This hypothesis was not confirmed."

They concluded: "Logistic regression analyses showed that coffee shop proximity does not seem to be linked to prevalence of cannabis use or intensity of use. In addition, proximity of coffee shops does not seem to be linked directly to hard drugs use." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabis use and proximity to coffee shops in the Netherlands," appears in the European Journal of Criminology.*

<continued from MICHIGAN: MUNICIPALITIES IGNORING VOTERS' WILL REGARDING MARIJUANA LIBERALIZATION MEASURES, page 1 > private property of up to one ounce of marijuana by adults over age 21.

In Flint, 54 percent of voters approved a citizens' initiative to amend the city code so that the possession on private property of up to one ounce of marijuana or cannabis paraphernalia by those age 19 or older is no longer a criminal offense. Sixty percent of Grand Rapids voters approved Proposal 2 to allow local law enforcement the discretion to ticket first-time marijuana offenders with a civil citation, punishable by a \$25 fine and no criminal record. In Ypsilanti, 74 percent of voters decided in favor of a municipal proposal that makes the local enforcement of marijuana possession offenses the city's lowest law enforcement priority.



Nonetheless, in the two months following these votes, city lawmakers have largely failed to implement any changes in law, according to a [report](#) in the *Detroit Free Press*. Stated Detroit attorney Matt Abel, a member of the [NORML Legal Committee](#), "I think we're seeing the citizens of the largest cities in Michigan trying to send a message to our leaders - it's time to decriminalize marijuana in our state - but I don't know if they're getting the message."

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.

Majority Of Voters In Arizona, Hawaii Support Legalizing Cannabis Consumption For Adults

Phoenix, AZ: Nearly six out of ten Arizona voters say that they [would support](#) a statewide ballot initiative "proposing that marijuana be regulated in a manner similar to alcohol," according to the results of a Public Policy Polling survey of 600 voters.

Fifty-nine percent of respondents said that they favored such a measure according to the [poll](#), which was commissioned by the [National Cannabis Industries Association](#).

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<continued from previous page> Under present [law](#), the possession of cannabis for non-medical purposes in Arizona is classified as a felony offense punishable by up to two years in prison.



Separate statewide polling [data](#) published this week by the ACLU of Hawaii reported that 57 percent of residents favor taxing, regulating, and legalizing cannabis use for adults. More than eight out of ten respondents said that they supported the state's existing medical marijuana [law](#), and 78 percent favored expanding the law to allow for cannabis dispensaries. SOURCE = <http://norml.org/news/2013/01/17/majority-of-voters-in-arizona-hawaii-support-legalizing-cannabis-consumption-for-adults>

Massachusetts' Medical Cannabis Law Takes Effect



Boston, MA: Question 3, '[An Initiative Petition for a Law for the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana](#),' took effect on Tuesday, January 1. Sixty-three percent of state voters approved the measure on Election Day. Massachusetts is the [18th state](#) since 1996 to allow

for the physician-authorized use of cannabis as a therapeutic option for qualified patients. Neighboring states Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont all also allow for cannabis therapy.

The new law eliminates statewide criminal and civil penalties related to the possession and use of up to a 60-day supply of cannabis by qualified patients who possess a state-authorized "registration card." State regulators have 120 days to "issue regulations defining the quantity of marijuana that could reasonably be presumed to be a sixty-day supply for qualifying patients."

To qualify for the nascent program, patients must possess a recommendation from a physician attesting that cannabis assists with the treatment of a "debilitating medical condition." Physicians may authorize cannabis under the law for the treatment of "cancer, glaucoma, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), hepatitis C, amyotrophic lateral

sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and other conditions as determined in writing by a qualifying patient's physician."

The law establishes a state-run patient registry and the creation of up to 35 state-licensed, non-profit "medical marijuana treatment centers." Within the first year after the law's implementation, the state must issue regulations for the creation of such centers. Individual patients are also permitted to privately cultivate limited amounts of cannabis or designate a "personal caregiver" to cultivate for them if they are unable to access a state-authorized dispensary or if they can verify "financial hardship."

Massachusetts' new medical use provisions do not include reciprocity provisions protecting visitors from other medical use states.

Additional information about the law is available online from the Massachusetts Patient Advocacy Alliance at: <http://www.masspatients.org/site/>.

Study: Vaporized, Low-Potency Cannabis Mitigates Neuropathic Pain

Davis, CA: The administration of [vaporized](#), low THC cannabis is associated with reduced pain in subjects with neuropathy, according to clinical trial [data](#) published online by *The Journal of Pain*.



Investigators at the University of California, Davis Medical Center conducted a double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover study evaluating the analgesic efficacy of vaporized cannabis in 39 subjects, the majority of whom were experiencing neuropathic pain despite traditional treatment. Subjects inhaled cannabis of either moderate THC (3.53 percent), low dose THC (1.29 percent), or zero THC (placebo). Subjects continued to take all other concurrent medications as per their normal routine during the 3- to 4-week study period. Spontaneous pain relief, the primary outcome variable, was assessed by asking participants to indicate the intensity of their current pain on a 100-mm visual analog scale (VAS) between 0 (no pain) and 100 (worst possible pain). Researchers reported: "Both the low and medium doses proved to be salutary analgesics for the

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<continued from previous page> heterogeneous collection of neuropathic pain conditions studied. Both active study medications provided statistically significant 30% reductions in pain intensity when compared to placebo."

They concluded: "Both the 1.29% and 3.53% vaporized THC study medications produced equal antinociception at every time point. ... [T]he use of low doses could potentially be prescribed by physicians interested in helping patients use cannabis effectively while minimizing cognitive and psychological side effects. Viewed with this in mind, the present study adds to a growing body of literature supporting the use of cannabis for the treatment of neuropathic pain. It provides additional evidence of the efficacy of vaporized cannabis as well as establishes low-dose cannabis (1.29%) as having a favorable risk-benefit ratio."

[Previous clinical trials](#) have indicated that inhaled cannabis can safely and effectively relieve neuropathy, a hard-to-treat nerve condition often associated with cancer, HIV, spinal cord injury, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and other conditions. Separate trial data further indicates that inhaled "cannabis [augments](#) the analgesic effect of opioids" and therefore "may allow for opioid treatment at lower doses with fewer side effects."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Low-dose vaporized cannabis significantly improves neuropathic pain," appears in *The Journal of Pain*.

Court Rejects Challenge To The Prohibitive Classification Of Cannabis



Washington, DC: A three-judge panel for the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia last week [denied](#) petitioners [request](#) to overturn the Obama

administration's July 2011 [rejection](#) of an administrative [petition](#) that sought to initiate hearings regarding the reclassification of marijuana under federal law.

Petitioners sought a hearing regarding whether existing science contradicts the federal categorization of cannabis as a [Schedule I](#) controlled substance that possesses "a high potential for abuse;" "no currently accepted medical use in treatment;" and "a lack of accepted safety for the

use of the drug ... under medical supervision." The Court [affirmed](#) the position of the US Drug Enforcement Administration that, at this time, insufficient clinical studies exist to warrant a judicial review of cannabis' federally prohibited status. Petitioners are expected to appeal the decision.

For more information, please visit: <http://safeaccessnow.org>. Full text of the decision, *Americans for Safe Access et al. v. Drug Enforcement Administration*, is available online here:

http://americansforsafeaccess.org/downloads/CRC_Appeal.pdf.

Study: Marijuana Smoking Not Associated With Greater Mortality Risk Among Heart Attack Survivors

Boston, MA: The use of cannabis among patients with established coronary disease is not associated with increased mortality risk, according to trial [data](#) published online in the *American Heart Journal*.

Investigators at the Harvard Medical School, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, conducted a prospective study assessing the survival rates of 3,886 heart attack survivors over an 18-year period.

Authors reported that 519 subjects died during this period, including 22 of the 109 reporting marijuana use in the year before their heart attack. However, investigators concluded, "There was no statistically significant association between marijuana use and mortality."

Previous research has [speculated](#) that cannabis consumption may increase subjects' risk of heart attack or stroke because cannabinoids may temporarily increase blood pressure, particularly in more naïve users, and because the chronic use of the substance has been [linked to](#) the increased production of a specific protein associated with cardiovascular risks.

The study's findings contradicted those of a previous report by the same research team, which was based on the results of a smaller cohort.



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<continued from previous page> "In this prospective multicenter cohort study of MI (myocardial infarction) survivors followed prospectively for up to 18 years, there was no conclusive evidence of an association between smoking marijuana and mortality," authors concluded. They caution, however: Larger studies with repeated measures of marijuana use are needed to definitively establish whether there are adverse cardiovascular consequences of smoking marijuana among patients with coronary heart disease. Given the prior evidence, ... it seems prudent to caution patients with coronary heart disease and those at high risk for cardiovascular disease to abstain from smoking marijuana."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Marijuana use and long-term mortality among survivors of acute myocardial infarction," is available from the American Heart Journal.

Study: Consumers Prefer Natural Cannabis Over Synthetic 'Marijuana' Herbal Products

London, United Kingdom: Consumers strongly prefer organic cannabis to retail herbal products that contain synthetic cannabinoid agonists, according to survey [data](#) published online in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.



Investigators at Kings College in London surveyed some 15,000 subjects regarding their use of cannabis and/or herbal synthetic products, marketed under trade names like Spice and K2. Of the respondents reporting past experience with synthetic retail products, 99 percent also reported having consumed organic cannabis.

Authors found: "Synthetic cannabis reportedly had both a shorter duration of action and quicker time to peak onset of effect than natural cannabis. Natural cannabis was preferred to synthetic cannabis by 93 percent of users, with natural cannabis rated as having greater pleasurable effects when high and being more able to function after use. Synthetic cannabis was associated with more negative effects, hangover effects and greater paranoia."

Authors concluded: "Users report a strong preference for natural over synthetic cannabis. The latter has a less desirable effect profile."

In March 2011, US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) [exercised](#) its 'emergency scheduling authority' to criminally prohibit the possession and sale of several of the synthetic cannabinoid agonists contained in retail products such as Spice. Following the enactment of the ban, the scientists responsible for creating the agonists [acknowledged](#), "[M]arijuana is not nearly as dangerous as these compounds."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Synthetic cannabis: A comparison of patterns of use and effect profile with natural cannabis in a large global sample," appears in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

Several States Considering Legislation To Legalize Adult Cannabis Consumption

Washington, DC: Lawmakers in [several states](#) are anticipated to debate legislative measures this year that seek to legalize and regulate the adult use and retail distribution of marijuana.

To date, lawmakers in six states - [Hawaii](#), [Maine](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Rhode Island](#), and [Vermont](#) - have either pre-filed or introduced legislation to legalize marijuana consumption for adults.

On Friday, members of Hawaii's House [Judiciary Committee](#) will [hear testimony](#) regarding [House Bill 699](#), which seeks to tax and regulate the commercial production, sale, and use of cannabis by those persons age 21 or older. House Chairman, Rep. Joseph Souki, is sponsoring the measure. Nearly six out of ten Hawaii voters [believe](#) that cannabis should be "taxed, regulated, and legalized for adults," according to a statewide [poll](#) published earlier this month. Only 39 percent of respondents opposed the idea. You can read NORML's written testimony to the committee [here](#).

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

High Times magazine publishes new book on the history of NORML and its four-decade-long campaign to legalize marijuana

Written by Keith Stroup, a Washington, DC-based public-interest lawyer who founded the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws in 1970, [*It's NORML To Smoke Pot: The 40-year Fight For Marijuana Smokers' Rights*](#), traces the history of the marijuana legalization movement in America through the turbulent 1970s; the anti-marijuana, "Just Say No" era of the 1980s and early 1990s; to the acceptance of the medical use of marijuana beginning with Prop. 215 in CA in 1996; through to the full legalization of marijuana by Colorado and Washington in 2012.

It is an account of the how the anti-Vietnam War movement of the late 1960s, and the influence of consumer advocate Ralph Nader and former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, led Stroup to the decision to found NORML as a consumer lobby to work to end marijuana prohibition and stop the practice of treating marijuana smokers as criminals.

Along the way, Stroup shares his adventures, and occasional misadventures, involving such culture luminaries as High Times Founder Tom Forcade, Gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson; country music icon Willie Nelson, travel writer and public television producer Rick Steves, and Harvard Medical School Professor and marijuana guru Lester Grinspoon, MD.

In the end, as Stroup concludes, "this story is only incidentally about marijuana; it is really about personal freedom."

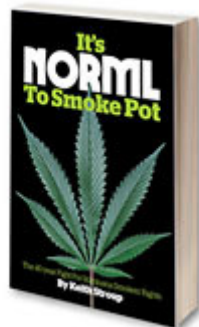
It's NORML To Smoke Pot is available from both the [NORML website](#) and the [High Times website](#) and will shortly be available as an eBook as well. Reviewers looking for a copy for review purposes should contact Stroup at keith@norml.org.

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<continued from SEVERAL STATES CONSIDERING LEGISLATION TO LEGALIZE ADULT CANNABIS CONSUMPTION, previous page> According to a January 2013 New Hampshire poll conducted by the firm Public Policy Polling, 53 percent of respondents favor "changing (state) law to regulate and tax marijuana similarly to alcohol." Only 37 percent of respondents opposed the plan.

In Vermont, a 2012 [survey](#) of respondents in 148 Vermont cities throughout the state reported that one out of two Vermonters support legalization.

On Election Day, 55 percent of voters in Colorado and Washington [approved](#) citizens' ballot initiatives legalizing the adult consumption of marijuana and authorizing the state to license individuals to commercially produce and sell it.

Nationally, nearly six out of ten Americans support legalizing cannabis, according to a just released Public Policy Polling automated [telephone survey](#) of 1,325 voters, commissioned by the [Marijuana Policy Project](#).

"Calling for an end to marijuana prohibition is no longer a political liability; it is a political opportunity," said NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano. "Never in modern history has there been greater public support for ending the nation's nearly century-long experiment with cannabis prohibition and replacing it with a system of legalization and regulation. Politicians who are seeking to amend this failed policy are aligning themselves with the majority. Those who do not are siding with an ever decreasing minority of their constituents."



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. Summaries of these legislative measures and of other marijuana law reform bills are available here: <http://www.capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.