



Gallup: Record Percentage Of Americans Now Support Marijuana Legalization

Princeton, NJ, USA: A record 50 percent of Americans now believe that marijuana ought to be legalized for adult use, according to a nationwide [Gallup poll](#) of 1,005 adults.

The percentage of Americans favoring legalization is [up four percent](#)

from 2010. It is the highest percentage ever recorded by Gallup, which has tracked

public opinion data regarding marijuana policy since 1969.

The 2011 survey results also mark the first time ever that Gallup has reported that more Americans support legalizing cannabis (50 percent) than oppose it (46 percent).

Gallup reported that support for legalizing cannabis was highest among self-described liberals (69 percent) and those between the ages of 18 to 29 (62 percent). Support was weakest among Republicans (35 percent), self-described

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Department Of Justice Announces Stepped Up Enforcement Efforts Targeting California Medical Cannabis Providers

Sacramento, CA, USA: United States Deputy Attorney General James Cole, along with the four US Attorneys from California, publicly [announced their intention](#) Friday to escalate federal efforts targeting the state's medical cannabis dispensaries and providers.

These efforts include the increased use of [civil forfeiture proceedings](#) against dispensary owners and their landlords, officials stated.

The DOJ announcement came just days after the Internal Revenue Service [determined](#) that marijuana dispensaries can no longer claim standard business expenses such as payroll, security or rent on their federally filed tax returns.

The administration's recent actions conflict with the President's [pledge](#) to cease utilizing "Justice Department resources to try and circumvent

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California: State's Largest Doctor's Association Calls For Legalizing And Regulating Cannabis

Sacramento, CA, USA: The California Medical Association (CMA), representing over 35,000 physicians nationwide, [has called for](#) the 'legalization and regulation' of cannabis for adults, according to a white paper adopted by the group on Friday.

The [CMA paper](#), entitled 'Cannabis and the Regulatory Void,' recommends that cannabis be taxed and regulated "in a manner similar to alcohol." The paper also calls for the reclassification of cannabis under federal law "in order to encourage research leading to responsible regulation."

It states: "In order to allow for a robust regulatory scheme to be developed, cannabis must be moved out of its current Schedule I status. ... Rescheduling

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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 GALLUP POLL, page 1 > conservatives (34 percent), and those over the age of 65 (31 percent).

Fifty-five percent of male respondents said they favored legalization versus 46 percent of female respondents. Respondents' support for legalization was greatest in the west and Midwest regions of the country and weakest in the south. Since 2005, support for legalization [has increased in every demographic](#) polled by Gallup.

"When Gallup first asked about legalizing marijuana, in 1969, 12 percent of Americans favored it. ... Support remained in the mid-20s ... from the late 1970s to the mid-1990s, but has crept up since, passing 30 percent in 2000 and 40 percent in 2009 before reaching the 50 percent level in this year's Oct. 6-9 annual Crime survey," the polling firm stated in a [press release](#). "If this current trend on legalizing marijuana continues, pressure may build to bring the nation's laws into compliance with the people's wishes."

The Gallup poll results are based on telephone interviews conducted October 6-9, 2011. It has a 4 percent margin of error.

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.

<continued from DOJ, page 1 > state laws on this issue."

Commenting on the federal government's stepped up enforcement threats, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano [said](#): "If the federal government is only truly concerned about the diversion of medical marijuana or its potential abuse in California then it would be better served to encourage -- rather than to discourage -- local and statewide efforts to regulate this industry



accordingly. The Obama Administration's proposed actions in California will only result in limiting patients' regulated, safe access to medicine. It will also cost California jobs and needed tax revenue."

He added: "Regulating medical marijuana dispensaries and prosecuting those who act in a manner that is inconsistent with California law and voters' sentiment should be a responsibility left to the state, not the federal government. It is time for this Administration to fulfill the assurances it gave to the medical cannabis community and to respect the decisions of voters and lawmakers in states that recognize its therapeutic efficacy."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Deputy Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Additional information is available via NORML's 'Take Action' Center at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=54512501>.

<continued from CMA CALLS FOR LEGALIZATION, page 1 > cannabis will allow for further clinical research to determine the utility and risks of cannabis, which will then shape the national regulatory structure for this substance."

The CMA is the largest physician group in California and the first statewide medical association to adopt an official position in favor of legalizing cannabis.

In 2009, the CMA [adopted a resolution](#) acknowledging that the "criminalization of marijuana [is] a failed public health policy."

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. Full text of the California Medical Association's white paper is available online at: <http://www.cmanet.org/files/pdf/news/cma-cannabis-tac-white-paper-101411.pdf>.

California: Attorney General, Lawmakers Criticize Federal Government's Crackdown On State's Medical Marijuana Providers

"I urge the federal government to stand down in its massive attack on medical marijuana dispensaries," state senator says

Sacramento, CA, USA:

State Attorney General Kamala Harris has called on US Department of Justice officials to limit their ongoing actions against medical cannabis providers in California. In a statement issued by the Attorney General last Thursday, Harris [criticized](#) that "an overly broad federal enforcement campaign will make it more difficult for legitimate patients to access physician-recommended medicine in California."



Earlier this month, United States Deputy Attorney General James Cole, along with the four US Attorneys from California, publicly [announced](#) plans to [escalate federal prosecutorial efforts](#) targeting the state's medical cannabis dispensaries and providers. Since their announcement, US Attorneys have [sent eviction notices](#) to the landlords, and [even the financial institutions](#), of several cannabis providers throughout the state. Federal law enforcement officials also recently [raided](#) Northstone Organics, a northern California cooperative that was licensed by the Mendocino County sheriff's office to cultivate and provide cannabis.

Last week, state Senator Mark Leno and Assemblyman Tom Ammiano [called on](#) federal prosecutors to "cease (their) senseless assault" on medical marijuana operators and [those they do business with](#). "I urge the federal government to stand down in its massive attack on medical marijuana dispensaries," Leno said at a news conference. "California voters intended that patients should have safe and affordable access to medical marijuana." Both

lawmakers have requested meetings, but have yet to meet with Justice Department officials.

Seven members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors have also signed on to a nonbinding [resolution](#) urging the federal government to cease interfering with the enforcement of the state's medical cannabis laws.

On Tuesday of this week, dozens of marijuana law reform activists [gathered](#) in San Francisco outside of a \$7,500-per-plate Presidential fundraiser to protest the Administration's apparent [flip-flop](#) on medical marijuana policy. Speaking at the rally, Assemblyman Ammiano [called](#) the Administration's crackdown efforts "un-Democratic and the worst case of thuggery."

Medical cannabis advocates on Tuesday also [announced plans to draft a statewide ballot initiative](#) for 2012 that would seek to impose increased state-oversight over the production and distribution of medical marijuana. The proposed plan would likely be modeled after legislation enacted in [Colorado](#), where the state has licensed over 1,000 facilities to dispense cannabis to authorized users.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or visit California NORML at: <http://www.canorml.org>. Additional information is available via NORML's 'Take Action' page at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=54512501>.

Think Tank Shelves Marijuana Dispensary Study Following Outcry From Law Enforcement

Santa Monica, CA, USA: The RAND Corporation has [removed](#) a study from its website that [found](#) that a city-mandated closure of medical marijuana dispensaries in 2010 was associated with increased incidences of criminal activity.

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<continued from previous page> RAND's decision to shelve the study appears to have been motivated by criticism levied at the institute by Los Angeles city attorney's office, which had previously argued that medical cannabis facilities were magnets for criminal activity. RAND's study, published in September, refuted that claim, [concluding](#), "[W]e found no evidence that medical marijuana dispensaries in general cause crime to rise."

Previous analyses of crime statistics in [Denver](#), [Los Angeles](#), and [Colorado Springs](#) had separately disputed the notion that the locations of dispensaries are associated with elevated incidences of criminal activity.

RAND's study "has been withdrawn pending further review," [said](#) Warren Robak, a media spokesperson for the think tank. "I don't have an estimate of when the review will be complete and the study will reappear."

He [explained](#), "We took a fresh look at the study based in part upon questions raised by some folks following publication." Robak further added that the agency that was the "most vocal in its criticism of the study" was the L.A. city attorney's office.

RAND had previously argued that their study was "the first systematic analysis of the link between medical marijuana dispensaries and crime."

An archived version of the RAND Corporation study, "Regulating medical marijuana dispensaries: An overview with preliminary evidence of their impact on crime," remains available in PDF format on the [Americans For Safe Access](#) (ASA) website here: http://americansforsafeaccess.org/downloads/RAND_Study.pdf.

Montana: Voters Will Decide In 2012 On Statewide Medical Cannabis Measure

Helena, MT, USA: Montanans next November [will decide](#) whether to reinstate the provisions

of the 2004 voter-approved medical marijuana initiative. The measure's proponents, [Patients for Reform--Not Repeal](#), gathered sufficient signatures from registered voters to place Initiative Referendum 124 ([I-124](#)) on the 2012 statewide ballot, a representative from the Secretary of State's office [affirmed](#) this week.



Earlier this year, state lawmakers approved legislation -- Senate Bill 423 -- amending Montana's nearly seven-year-old medical marijuana [law](#). The act [took effect](#) on July 1.

The [intent](#) of SB 423 was to reduce total number of state-qualified medical cannabis patients from an estimated 30,000 to fewer than 2,000. Among its [provisions](#), the new law requires that advising physicians be reported to the state Board of Examiners if they recommend cannabis to more than 25 patients per year. The measure also imposes stricter qualifying requirements for chronic pain patients and prohibits licensed caregivers from receiving any financial compensation for providing cannabis to qualified persons.

Since the enactment of SB 423, the total number of state authorized medical marijuana patients [has fallen](#) some 15 percent.

Passage of I-124 would repeal SB 423. [Said](#) a spokeswoman for the I-124 campaign: "This new program does not work. ... Montanans agree that patients with serious conditions should have access to medical marijuana and that government has no business interfering in medical decisions between those patients and their doctors."

Senate Bill 423 [will remain in effect](#) until next November's vote.

Voters initially approved Montana's 2004 medical marijuana law by 62 percent.

For more information, please visit <http://www.patientsforreform.org/> or <http://www.montanannorml.org/>.

Dutch Government Announces Plans To Criminalize Potent Marijuana Strains

The Hague, Netherlands: Dutch government officials have [announced their intention](#) to recriminalize strains of cannabis containing levels of THC, the plant's primary psychoactive ingredient, above 15 percent. Officials were not specific as to when the proposed ban would take effect or how strictly the new policy would be enforced. A representative from the Dutch Ministry of Justice said that the new policy will mandate cannabis retailers to self-regulate the potency of the cannabis products they sell, and that state inspectors will be granted the authority to randomly seize marijuana from Dutch coffee-shops for laboratory analysis.

[Critics](#) of the plan state that there exists little data associating increased health risks with higher potency cannabis, and emphasize that the compound is relatively [non-toxic](#) and [incapable of causing death](#) by overdose. In recent months, Dutch Cabinet members have taken steps to clamp down on the cannabis coffee-shop industry, including proposing [a ban](#) on sales to foreign patrons. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

Rhode Island: Governor Pulls Plug On State's Long Awaited Marijuana Dispensing Program

Providence, RI, USA: Governor Lincoln Chafee has announced that he is [disbanding](#) a program initially [approved by lawmakers in 2009](#) that sought to oversee the state-licensed production and distribution of cannabis to authorized patients.

Chafee had temporarily [suspended](#) the program in May after U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha [threatened](#) federal prosecution against those involved with the cultivation or distribution of cannabis. Representatives from the Rhode Island Department of Health had previously announced [the selection of](#) three applicants to operate the state's first-ever, government licensed medical cannabis dispensaries, which

were scheduled to open this past June. Stated Gov. Chafee: "I have decided that the State of Rhode Island cannot proceed with the licensing and regulation of medical marijuana compassion centers under current law. ... I have received communications from both the United States Department of Justice and from the United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island that large scale commercial operations such as Rhode Island's compassion centers will be potential targets of 'vigorous' criminal and civil enforcement efforts by the federal government. I cannot implement a state marijuana cultivation and distribution system which is illegal under federal law and which will become a target of federal law enforcement efforts."

Chafee added: "I am hopeful that the General Assembly will introduce new legislation in the upcoming session that will address the flaws in, and indeed make improvement to, the existing medical marijuana card and caregiver system while not triggering federal enforcement actions."

Rhode Island lawmakers initially [enacted legislation](#) in 2007 allowing for the cultivation and use of cannabis by qualified patients. In 2009, lawmakers voted [102 to 3](#) to [expand](#) the law to allow for a limited number of state-licensed medical cannabis distribution centers.

Similar state-regulated medical marijuana production and distribution facilities are operational in [Colorado](#), [Maine](#), and [New Mexico](#). Over 3,500 Rhode Islanders are authorized under state law to use cannabis. *For more information, please visit <http://ripatients.org/> or contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.*

Experienced Pot Consumers Less Likely To Exhibit Impaired Performance, Study Says

Maastricht, the Netherlands: Experienced cannabis consumers exhibit tolerance to some of the drug's acute impairing effects, according to [clinical trial data](#) to be published in

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<continued from previous page> the journal *Psychopharmacology*. Investigators at Maastricht University in the Netherlands assessed behavioral performance following THC administration in 12 occasional cannabis consumers and 12 experienced cannabis consumers in a double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover trial.

Researchers reported that THC administration "decreased amplitude in occasional but not heavy cannabis users" on certain cognitive tasks, such as a divided attention task. Authors stated that the difference in the experienced users' performance compared to inexperienced consumers was "not completely due to behavioral compensation." They concluded, "The present study confirms that heavy cannabis users develop tolerance to some of the impairing behavioral effects of cannabis."

[Separate studies](#) have previously shown that experienced consumers exhibit limited changes in cognitive performance compared to occasional users following cannabis administration. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Neurophysiological functioning of occasional and heavy cannabis users during THC intoxication," appears online in the journal *Psychopharmacology*.*

Synthetic 'Marijuana' Products Popular Among Those Subject To Drug Tests, Survey Says

Baltimore, MD, USA: The use of herbal products containing synthetic cannabinoid agonists are popular among consumers because they are seldom detectable on standard workplace drug screens, according to [survey data](#) published online in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. Investigators at John Hopkins University and Towson University in Maryland conducted an Internet survey of adults who reported lifetime use of a synthetic cannabinoid retail product such as K2 or Spice.

Researchers reported: "Respondents were primarily male, Caucasian and [possessed at least] 12 years of education. ... Spice products were most frequently obtained from retail vendors and smoked, though other forms of ingestion were endorsed. ... Primary reasons for use were curiosity, positive drug effect, relaxation, and to get high without having a positive drug test." In March, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) [exercised](#)

its 'emergency scheduling authority' to criminally prohibit the possession and sale of several of the synthetic cannabinoids contained in over-the-counter products such as Spice.

NORML takes no official position regarding the use or regulation of these synthetic products. *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. Full text of the study, "A survey study to characterize use of Spice products (synthetic cannabinoids)," appears online in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.*

Cannabinoid 'Completely' Prevents Chemotherapy-Induced Neuropathy, Study Says

Philadelphia, PA, USA: The administration of the non-psychoactive plant cannabinoid cannabidiol (CBD) 'completely prevents' the onset of nerve pain associated with chemotherapy treatment, according to preclinical [data](#) published in the journal *Anesthesia and Analgesia*. Investigators at Temple University assessed the effect of CBD in an animal model of on paclitaxel-induced allodynia (pain resulting from an otherwise innocuous stimulus).

"We found that cannabidiol completely prevented the onset of the neuropathic, or nerve pain caused by the chemo drug Paclitaxel, which is used to treat breast cancer," [said](#) the study's lead investigator.

Researchers concluded, "Our preliminary findings therefore indicate that cannabidiol may ... therefore be effective at preventing dose-limiting paclitaxel-induced peripheral neuropathy in humans. Cannabidiol has been [previously shown](#) to inhibit breast cancer metastasis in preclinical settings.

In 2010, a [series](#) of FDA-approved clinical trials [concluded](#) that inhaled cannabis significantly reduces neuropathy compared to placebo in human subjects. "There is good evidence now that cannabinoids may be either an adjunct or a first-line treatment for ... neuropathy," researchers concluded. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabidiol prevents the development of cold and mechanical allodynia in paclitaxel-treated female C57Bl6 mice," appears in the October edition of journal *Anesthesia and Analgesia*.*



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

Drug Policy Alliance Hosts 2011 International Drug Policy Reform Conference

Los Angeles, CA, USA: Drug policy reform advocates from around the globe will be attending the Drug Policy Alliance's (DPA) [2011 International Drug Policy Reform Conference](#) at the West Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The bi-annual conference, co-hosted by NORML and various other drug law reform organizations, will take place from Wednesday, November 2 through Saturday, November 5, 2011.

Representatives from NORML and the [NORML Women's Alliance](#) (NWA) -- including NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano, NORML Advisory Board Member [Rick Steves](#), [California NORML](#) Coordinator Dale Gieringer, and NWA west coast representative Kyndra Miller -- will be speaking at this year's conference, which will feature over 50 separate panels and round-table discussions.

On Thursday, November 3, conference participants will gather for [mass public protest](#) at the Levitt Pavilion in historic MacArthur Park to call for an end to America's drug criminalization strategies.

Other participants at this year's conference include DPA Executive Director Ethan Nadelmann, California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, former two-term Republican Governor of New Mexico [Gary Johnson](#), and California NAACP director Alice Huffman.

Conference registration and agenda information is available online at:

<http://www.reformconference.org/about-conference>.

* **NOTE!** The Willamette Valley NORML Member meeting happens **every 2nd Sat. of the month** and will be at The Voter Power Office. For more info on meeting visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/Members/meeting.html>



The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting happens (most!) **every 4th Sat. of the month**

(Excepting Holidays - Nov., Dec. - when it takes place 3rd Sat.!)

and will also be at The Voter Power Office at **687 River Av, Eugene, Oregon** * For more info on meeting call: **541.517-0957** -or- visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/meeting.html>

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