

THE CLARION

"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

Ok, let's be blunt and break it down so it's real plain and simple

Want Pot? Get Involved!

The war on Some of the responsible adults who use cannabis is a harmful waste. In order to end this prohibition, we must ALL register, vote and get Everyone we know to do so also.

Use reason, or beg or nag your friends, family and neighbors to drive, bus or carry everybody they know to the voting booth, too. Let's make this a real party occasion and celebrate the young people's first vote.

Voters have unprecedented opportunity to amend marijuana laws and will get to decide on a number of marijuana-law reform initiatives at this year's November 5th mid-term elections. These include a Nevada proposal to regulate marijuana use by those over 21 years of age, an Arizona initiative mandating the state provide free medical cannabis to qualified patients, and a South Dakota plan to legalize hemp cultivation by state farmers.

Assuming victory in these battles, the war goes on – because there are two problems that won't disappear. The first is constitutional. In 1970, Congress passed the Controlled Substances Act, which forbids the possession or sale of marijuana. What then happened were referendums simply proceeding as though the federal act had never been passed. Such referendums authorized medical marijuana. Inevitably, the feds moved in, as in California, and got a ruling to the effect that the federal law outpoints the state law.

What came then was a kind of DMZ, the feds affirming the sovereign authority of their own law, California nodding its head and simply declining to arrest transgressors. An unspoken compromise was reached: The feds agreed (*ha!*) to subsidize a scientific investigation into the palliative properties of marijuana, and while this goes on, the voters move at their own pace in the direction of de facto legalization.

The second problem is moral, the deep conviction by some “Christian” men and women that to accept marijuana is to commit sin. Many of those who take that position also vote for liquor prohibition, and give us here and there a dry county, or would vote for prohibition if it were once again offered as a constitutional amendment. The probability is that enough fundamentalists will temporize in due course, as they run out of allies among the voters, who include the 47 percent who once tried it, mostly in their youth. Then the question is how much <continued on page 6>

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU



VOTE!

DEA Begins Raids on Medical Cannabis Patients in Oregon SEIZES MARIJUANA PLANTS FROM MEDICAL PERMIT HOLDER

The federal government has signaled its willingness to expand its war against medical marijuana patients beyond California with the first known federal seizure of an Oregon state-licensed and legal cannabis garden. Though federal agents have raided dozens of medical marijuana gardens in California since September 11, 2001, this is the first time federal agents have stolen an Oregon patients' licensed marijuana.

The daylight basement in Leroy Stubblefield's Sweet Home area house seems an unlikely battlefield for America's war on drugs. <continued on page 3>

The CLARION,
your basic Cannabis
Law Reform
Information and
Outreach Newsletter,
is an all-volunteer, not-
for-profit venture
committed to ending
cannabis prohibition. It
is intended to inform
and educate the reader
on the medical truth
about cannabis and the
benefits of hemp.

For compliments about the
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Check it out!

The CLARION would not be
possible without the fine
folks at **RoughHouse**
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thanks for their support.



MEDICAL CANNABIS RESOURCE CENTER

MercyCenter@hotmail.com * (503) 363-4588 * pdxnorml.org/orgs/mcrc

Latest from the Mercy Center ...

Regular meetings continue. The Medical Cannabis Resource Center is reaching out to the community with regular, public monthly meetings - the next being Wed., Nov. 6th and Wed., Dec. 4th, both 7pm, at 1695 Fairgrounds Road in Salem, Oregon. They still draw a good crowd of people, so come on by and check it out.

Some of the ongoing projects discussed are helping patients find access to excess medicine, educating people about cannabis's therapeutic benefits, helping to fill out OMMP forms, answer questions and generally communicating with walk-in contacts through the office. It is a daily effort to provide information to the public so they can decide, or help loved ones decide, if cannabis is right for them and the steps they should take from there. Many thanks to the volunteers at the MCRC who make this possible.

Unfortunately, MCRC has to deal with some issues at the same time. Patient Expectations -v- Reality. Integrity - people not telling the whole story or outright fabrications. For those who are sincerely in need of help, education and support towards independence you will get it. For those just working some angle, you merely waste time - mostly yours.

The challenge now is for the MCRC to turn this into organized action. The goal is independence for their Patient Members in the short term and freedom for all by ending cannabis prohibition in the long run.

Other projects & tasks you can help with (if interested in making these kinds of things happen): Doctor Clinics, Marches and Rallies, tables at events to raise awareness. See you next meeting!

Doctor Clinics. In order to best serve those who use cannabis for medical purposes but are not yet in the OMMP, as well as current patients, the MCRC is exploring hosting clinics where certified physicians can perform the necessary examinations and consider qualifying a persons OMMP application. Volunteer staff is training to follow the recent strict Board of Medical Examiners rules concerning the process and resources are being lined up. This project ties in with a planned symposium on working within OMMA for doctors and attorneys. Stay tuned for details!

Salem Liberation Day and the Million Marijuana Marches. On May 3rd, 2003 people in over 150 cities will rise up and march to raise awareness about cannabis. The MCRC plans to have a Salem entry and needs your help. This is our chance to show the people just what kind of "terrorists" we really are. The plan is to make it a general human rights and freedom day and invite all related organizations to join. Help make it happen!

Doctor Clinics

If you suffer from a debilitating medical condition and you think marijuana alleviates your condition, but your doctor won't qualify you, Voter Power might be able to help. They can explain the exact requirements of the law and give you information to educate your physician and gain their approval. Also, if that doesn't work, and if you have records diagnosing a debilitating illness or condition covered by the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act, the Doctor Clinics are a possible option for your health management. Dr. Phillip Leveque is seeing and qualifying potential new patients under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act. Clinics are scheduled: at Voter Power, 333 S.W. Park Ave., Portland. See the Voter Power online calendar (<http://www.voterpower.org>) for the latest Doctor Clinic schedule. They are typically held between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Call (503) 224-3051 for an appointment. The cost is \$175, be prepared to provide copies of your relevant medical records.

Beginning Grow Classes

Voter Power also offers classes on growing for beginners. This will be the dirt on doing it in the dirt. Classes on hydro by the Garden Guy are also available. Only cardholders registered under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act may take part. The classes will be held at Voter Power, 333 S.W. Park Ave., Portland. For more details and to register in advance, so the instructor can prepare properly, please call Voter Power at (503) 224-3051 or 1-800-669-3037. The cost is \$25. See their calendar (<http://www.voterpower.org>) for the latest schedule. For more info from the Garden Guy, visit: <http://www.ornorml.org/garden.html>

<from DEA, page 1> Stubblefield, a 52-year-old quadriplegic, and two of his caregivers, who are also patients, were growing 12 marijuana plants in the basement in a state-licensed operation until Sept. 23, when a federal drug agent seized them in a drug raid. No one was arrested. The Linn County man has announced he is going to sue the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Valley Interagency Narcotics Team for this theft from his legal marijuana garden.

Voters approved the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act in November 1998, and the Oregon Department of Human Services began issuing state licenses for medical marijuana in May 1999. The licenses, which cost each patient \$150 in state license fees alone, allow those with certain debilitating medical conditions to grow, possess and use medical marijuana in private for 1 year. The cards may be renewed for an annual state fee of \$150 per patient and about 4,000 people have a medical card to grow marijuana in the state of Oregon. Voters in California, Arizona, Alaska, Colorado, Maine, Nevada and Washington approved similar ballot initiatives, and the Legislature in Hawaii passed a law allowing the

use of medical marijuana.

The RAID

On Monday, September 23, 2002, at about noon, Scotty Russell, one of Stubblefields caregivers, noticed 4 cars and a truck pulled into their driveway on rural Mountain Home Road. While 8 other men waited in the driveway, two plainclothes officers came to the door and asked for Leroy Stubblefield, the homeowner. Stubblefield, a quadriplegic for 33 years, was in bed at the time and told his caregivers they could let the 2 men in to speak with him.

"I was still in bed about to get up," Stubblefield said. He normally sleeps late. "I heard the guys pull into the driveway."

The officers came into his bedroom, identified themselves as members of the "Valiant Team" and said they had a report that 100 marijuana plants were growing in the home's basement.

The 3 patients identified themselves, showed the police their state medical marijuana identification cards and told them they were abiding by the state law. The two officers asked Stubblefield to see their basement garden. Since the patients were complying with the state law, they thought they were protected by their state licenses.

"I told Scotty, go ahead and show them the plants," Stubblefield said. After Russell took the officers downstairs to the garden, Stubblefield heard raised voices.

Russell had taken the two plainclothes police downstairs, unlocked the two garden rooms and let the law enforcement officers in. After checking out the marijuana plants, local law officers concluded that the operation was in compliance with state law. Russell says that at this point, DEA Special Agent Michael Spasaro told the local detective that he was going to seize all 12 plants under federal law. Russell says the unidentified Lane County detective shook his head no, the garden is legal and in compliance and that he was not going to bother with it. Spasaro then said he was going to enforce federal law and take the plants.

This is where the detective should have intervened to protect the state-licensed patients' civil rights from violation by federal intervention. The patients' state-licensed property was stolen with the complicity and under the supervision of Oregon county detectives. Russell says that he expressed his anger and disbelief that Spasaro was going to steal their medicine. Stubblefield said he could hear that Russell was very angry in the basement. Stubblefield called for Russell, received the shocking news, and asked Russell to calm down and not antagonize the law enforcement agents. Russell went back downstairs and trying to contain his anger.

"Scotty came upstairs totally outraged and said they're going to take our plants," Stubblefield said. After Stubblefield had calmed Russell down, one of the two officers entered the bedroom and identified himself as DEA Special Agent Michael Spasaro and announced he would be seizing the plants.

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<continued from DEA, page 3> "He said we can do one of two things," Stubblefield recalled. "First, you're breaking federal law. It's against federal law ... and federal law overrides state law. One, we could take the plants and leave, or second, we can go and get a search warrant and come back." If they returned with a search warrant, Stubblefield said, his home and lights could have been seized.

Stubblefield said he chose the first option, to give up the plants. "I was totally dumbfounded," Stubblefield said. "I obviously told him take the plants. I was raised a law-abiding citizen. You give the law respect; it's a two-way street ... Scotty pulled all the plants for him and carried them out. We knew we were being violated ... We had a dirty taste in our mouths."

The USUAL SUSPECTS

Stubblefield, a Vietnam veteran, smokes marijuana to curb sleep apnea, pain suffered from an automobile accident and post-traumatic stress disorder. He was paralyzed in an automobile accident the day he returned from a tour of duty in Vietnam with the Coast Guard. He had another major automobile accident in 1997, and smoking marijuana helps reduce other medications he must take. He is more coherent on marijuana than on methadone, for example. He smoked marijuana occasionally from about 1978 to 1986 before using it under Oregon Medical Marijuana Act approved by voters in 1998.

"We the voters elected that to become law," Stubblefield said. On top of that, the federal government is fighting Oregon's assisted suicide law, which was approved twice by voters. "What does that say when the federal government says you can't do that. What's it going to take to get the government to listen to what we're saying?"

Stubblefield's caregivers, Scott Russell, 46, and Clarence VanDehay, 48, were with him all during the assault, and all three of them are licensed as medical marijuana patients by Oregon Health Services' Medical Marijuana Program. The cards are issued to people with medical conditions whom doctors certify can be helped by the use of marijuana. Each of the three could have legally had 7 plants, but, instead, only had 4 each.

Russell said he uses marijuana to help with his carpal tunnel syndrome as it helps keep the spasms down. Stubblefield, Russell and VanDehay have not been charged for breaking federal law. (*yet!*)

"We pay \$150 per year for our protection," Russell said. "That VALIANT guy didn't do his job by telling him, 'no, you can't take the plants'. We're allowed the plants. For a federal agent to come in and take our plants ... I feel he robbed us, raped us."

VALIANTLY MAKING WAR ON A DISABLED, DECORATED VETERAN

Drug enforcement officers from the county's Valley Interagency Narcotics Team, or VALIANT, along with DEA agent Michael Spasaro conducted the search. VALIANT is Linn and Benton counties' narcotics task force, combining law enforcement agencies, district attorneys' offices, the National Guard and Oregon State Police. (*what, no naval forces available?*)

Lt. Will McAnulty, who heads up the Albany-based VALIANT, said the team went to investigate a report that Stubblefield and his two caregivers were growing more plants than they were legally entitled to. McAnulty said the DEA agent who seized the plants just happened to be in the office shortly before detectives drove to Stubblefield's home. While the team was preparing to go to check out the tip, the agent asked if he could go along.

"It's not any effort on our part to circumvent state law," McAnulty said.

Stubblefield said at a press conference at his home Wednesday that he and his caregivers were misled when they gave permission to search their home.

"He never identified himself as a federal agent until he said he was seizing the plants," Stubblefield said Spasaro. "We thought he was part of VALIANT."

While state law allows people with the medical cards to cultivate and possess marijuana, federal law does not.

The DEA; Gleefully Making People Suffer

The DEA agent, who made the seizure under federal law, taunted one of his victims, "You're lucky we don't seize your lights." At another point, the cruel DEA agent continued to express how grateful they should be to him by telling the state-licensed, quadriplegic, former war hero, "You're lucky we don't seize your home."

Russell, a caregiver and patient, asked the DEA agent, Spasaro, if he could keep some "flowers". After Spasaro said no, Russell says he made the DEA agent wait several minutes while he smelled one plant's freshly harvested cannabis flowers, the fruit of his labor.

After Spasaro had taken the single harvested plant and cut down the other 11 live plants, he took them out to the truck and prepared to leave. Stubblefield asked Russell if he had received a receipt for their property, the stolen marijuana plants. Russell said no, then went outside to the drug agents in their vehicles, and waived Spasaro over. Russell told him that he wanted a receipt for the plants.

"I've been in drug enforcement for 24 years and you're the first person to ever ask for a receipt!", Spasaro reportedly laughed back. Despite his lack of experience in this area, the agent was able to manage this difficult, strenuous task. He dug through the trunk of his unmarked federal police car and eventually found a "U.S. Department of Justice- Drug Enforcement Administration 'Receipt for Cash or Other Items' ." On it Spasaro wrote that he seized 12 marijuana plants, signed the form and gave it to Russell.

This is the contact data from the business card left by the DEA agent:

United State Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
Michael P. Spasaro
Special Agent
211 E. 7th Ave. - Suite 420, Eugene, OR 97401
Tel: 541-465-6861 / Fax: 541-465-6796 / Mobil: 541-954-1421

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We urge you to contact Spasaro to express your outrage at his theft and his cruel torture of a quadriplegic patient. Boycott organizations and businesses associated with this action and war on the ill and dying. Also please contact the media and your state and federal elected officials to let them know we have to stop these sadistic, senseless attacks on sick people.

The GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Ken Magee, an assistant special agent in charge of Oregon's DEA operations, said it's a violation of federal law to possess, manufacture or cultivate marijuana. He said it's not a new policy that federal agents will seize marijuana plants grown for personal medicinal uses. The federal government does not recognize the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes and still classifies it as a drug.

"It's federal law," said Ken Magee, assistant special agent in charge of Oregon DEA operations. "To make a long story short, basically, the DEA is charged with enforcing federal law. It's nothing new. It's federal law and it's policy and the DEA is required by federal law (to enforce the law). When congress changes that federal law, then we'll abide by whatever the law is changed to. The whole message to be delivered here: It's federal law."

"We're not looking at this as a matter of policy, it's a matter of federal law," Magee then said. "The U.S. government doesn't recognize marijuana as a medicine. It's a drug. Even our own U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that there's no medicinal value in marijuana." *(No, the Court ruled that medical necessity doesn't overrule federal law. Only Congress & the DEA "rule" that cannabis has no medical value.)*

"It is a federal law created and voted on by the citizens of the United States", Magee said. *(No, the current cannabis laws are based on Congressional acts, NOT popular vote or anything having to do with the will of the people.)* "The merits the DEA work on deal a lot with the practices of the medical community and whether they view it (marijuana for example) as legitimate or not. With that being said, the DEA itself consistently recommends that studies be done on substances that may have medical use." *(No, the truth is the DEA only funds research to prove harmful effects of cannabis and destroys or outlaws any research or group that reports anything it doesn't like.)*

There are alternative medications available", Magee said. "The medical community does allow a form of marijuana for pharmaceutical use. That is Marinol." *(The DEA will allow the medical? Try pharmaceutical! community to use on us an expensive, non-productive artificial version of something they say has no medical value? ... hmmm)*

Further, Magee states, legitimate medical associations, such as the American Medical Association, have not condoned the use of marijuana for medical purposes. *(The AMA has not condoned hunting doctors and patients down like dogs either. Visit Patients Out of Time at <http://www.medicalcannabis.com/GroupList23.pdf> for their list of professional organizations who recommend cannabis as medicine, support research or otherwise decry criminal penalties.)*

Kevin Neely, spokesman for the Oregon attorney general's office, said the seizure raises an unfortunate conflict between state and federal law. Neely said the U.S. Department of Justice has traditionally not taken an interest in these small grow operations but ultimately they do have jurisdiction and are within the scope of the law to bust Oregon medical marijuana patients. Magee rejected the notion that local and federal authorities were at odds over the seizure.

"There's no conflict of opinion whatsoever," Magee said. "Different authorities have investigative authority and legal authority of different laws. Marijuana is illegal under federal law to manufacture, possess and distribute, and we enforce those laws," Magee said. "The DEA has their position and we're sticking to it until I receive further notice."

No search warrant was served, but the residents consented to the search, Magee said, *(under duress and false pretenses!)* adding that the U.S. Attorney's Office will decide whether to press charges against Stubblefield and his caregivers. "We look at each investigation on its own individual merits."

"Any investigation, we do," Magee said. Federal attorneys handle decisions on charges. In this case, it appears the offense did not reach the threshold for charges. *(yet! They get to keep these people dangling and can file charges without notice for years from now.)*

An ACTIVIST Takes ACTION

A Portland nonprofit medical marijuana advocacy organization, The Hemp & Cannabis Foundation (THCF), has given the 3 patients who were robbed replacement plants to rebuild their garden and some outdoor-produced medicine to act as a temporary replacement. A spokesperson said it would probably take another 2+ months before the plants are ready to harvest. In the mean time they also provided each of them with an ounce of cultivated marijuana.

"The next day, they came by and brought us some good smoke to help get by," Russell said. "They also brought seven immature plants with them." Most of the seized plants were about a month from harvest. One was blooming, and one was curing.

THCF also intends to file suit against federal, state and local law enforcement officials for their roles in this conflict between state and federal law. A spokesperson said they will file the suit in federal court to force the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to return 12 marijuana plants to three Lebanon-area men. Paul Stanford is executive director of the nonprofit organization that has taken up Stubblefield's defense.

"It's a clear violation of state and federal law," Stanford said. "They're lying when they say they have a right to do this. (Local authorities) didn't say they had a federal officer with them."

Local and state detectives failed to protect Stubblefield from an unreasonable search and seizure, Stanford contends. Further, the U.S. Constitution said a state's medical practices are not subject to federal oversight. Stanford, a marijuana advocate and a card holder himself, said he believes this is the first time that the federal government has overstepped Oregon law <continued next page>

THE CLARION- YOUR CANNABIS LAW REFORM INFORMATION

and seized a state-licensed marijuana garden, a charge that the federal Drug Enforcement Administration would not confirm.

Stubblefield is also filing a claim on the seized marijuana under his homeowner's insurance. Stanford estimated the value of the plants at \$18,000. Speaking at a news conference at his countryside home outside of Lebanon, Stubblefield said he was incensed by the federal seizure and the lack of protection afforded him despite his status as a legal user of the drug in Oregon.

"I felt we were betrayed, left unprotected by our county," he said of the seizure. "I feel let down. And what do they gain from this?"

"I don't see how they could pick on a disabled, quadriplegic war veteran to single out in Oregon to start with (seizing marijuana plants)," Stanford said. "It just seems to be the height of absurdity.

Stanford doesn't want to see this happen again. His organization will ask the Oregon courts to issue an injunction to prevent state and local law enforcement agencies from working federal agents on all marijuana investigations so that there are no conflicts of laws. In federal court, the group will ask that the plants be returned (or the value) to Stubblefield and that he be compensated for pain and mental anguish. Following the seizure, when Stanford's foundation re-supplied Stubblefield and his caregivers, he all but dared the DEA to make a return trip to Stubblefield's home.

"I'd love to be here and greet them," Stanford said. "I wish they would try to prosecute me."

LEGAL RESPONSE

Ann Witte, a Portland attorney who has represented the hemp foundation in other matters, said she plans a two-pronged legal attack in Stubblefield's defense. Witte wants the federal government to return the confiscated property and pay for damages, and she said she'll target the state to prohibit agents from working with the federal government on all marijuana investigations. Under Oregon's 1998 Medical Marijuana Act, the user "is exempt from any criminal prosecution as long as he abides by the act - and that includes search and seizure," Witte said.

"When the state is going around giving people their word - 'As long as you're complying with state law, we won't bother you' - they shouldn't be taking the federal agents with them once they know that the federal agents aren't going to be bound by that."

Attorney Leland Berger, a member of the legal committee for NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said the courts haven't resolved a host of issues related to medical marijuana, including whether seizures such as this violate the Ninth and 10th amendments to the U.S. Constitution, both protections of states' rights. Intervention in state law is warranted only when there is a "compelling federal interest," Berger said, and in this case, the most likely one - that Stubblefield or the others intended to sell their product - already is forbidden under the state marijuana act.

"It's all up in the air," Berger said. "Everything that's going on will ultimately be resolved by the Supreme Court."

You can watch the THCF video interview and delivery of replacement plants & buds on their website at: http://www.crrh.org/hemptv/misc_interview101802.html Or, check out the latest update of the story at www.thc-foundation.org

- for more information -

"Federal Seizure Of Marijuana Provokes Lawsuit" By MATT COOPER, www.registerguard.com | The Register-Guard, Eugene, Oregon, October 24, 2002

"Federal Drug Agents Seize Man's State-Allowed Medical Marijuana" by MATT SABO. Story URL: http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/xml/story.ssf/html_standard.xml?/base/news/1035460673113620.xml Pub Date: October 24, 2002, Source: Oregonian, The (OR). You can reach Matt Sabo at 541-754-5622 or by e-mail at: matt_sabo@hotmail.com

"Group To File Suit Over Pot Seizure" by George Petroccione Pubdate: Thu, 24 Oct 2002, Source: Albany Democrat-Herald (OR); Details: <http://www.mapinc.org/media/7>

"DEA SEIZES MARIJUANA PLANTS FROM MEDICAL PERMIT HOLDER", Pubdate: Thu, 31 Oct 2002; Source: Website: <http://www.sweethomenews.com> New Era, The (OR), Details: <http://www.mapinc.org/media/2662>

Campaign for the Restoration and Regulation of Hemp (CRRH) mail: CRRH ; P.O. Box 86741 ; Portland, OR 97286 USA email: crrh@crrh.org / phone: (503) 235-4606 fax: (503) 235-0120 / web: <http://www.crrh.org/>

CRRH is working to regulate and tax the sale of cannabis to adults like alcohol, allow doctors to recommend cannabis through pharmacies and restore the unregulated production of industrial hemp.

<continued from WANT POT?, page 1> suffering will go on in the meantime.

The scientific answers to the true risks and benefits of cannabis use are drowned out by the outrageous propaganda emitted by departments within the government. Some facts we do know are that you can not overdose on pot and that the worst case abuse scenarios are more benign than alcohol and cigarettes on their best day. Using pot is even safer than many products on the shelves today, such as aspirin and cough syrup. The people know there are positive effects that should be studied and utilized.

Experience is overwhelming the discussion, and it is teaching that however ill-advised it may be to take the drug, it is less well-advised to continue to arrest ten thousand people every week for a practice or indulgence of such exiguous social consequence.

BUT FIRST, A WORD FROM the DRUG CZAR

The czar, who worked for Bill Bennett under Reagan in the Department of Education and then as Bennett's deputy drug czar in the first Bush Administration, believes he can help Americans by

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fighting the drug war. He believes marijuana to be not only a gateway drug but also incredibly detrimental in its own right--causing driving accidents, domestic violence, health risks and crippling addiction. He thinks the legalization argument is absurd, especially when proposed by libertarian Republicans who are so doctrinaire he finds them to be outside his party. The czar also has a problem with billionaire philanthropists George Soros, Peter Lewis and John Sperling, who - in his opinion - have bankrolled the pro-pot movement.

THE ENEMY

Sperling, 81, is founder of the highly profitable nationwide chain the University of Phoenix. He has spent \$13 million on drug-reform campaigns.

"Mr. Walters is a pathetic drug-war soul who is defending a whole catalog of horrors he's indifferent to," Sperling says from his office in Phoenix, Ariz. "The government's drug-reform policy is driven by a Fundamentalist Christian sense of morality that sees any of these illegal substances used as evil." Sperling says he smoked pot to combat pain associated with the cancer he fought in the 1960s.

Lewis, 68, former CEO of Progressive, an insurance company, doesn't despise the czar quite as much, but he has been battling him even harder. The reasons for Lewis are more straightforward. He has been referred to by colleagues as a "functional pothead." He spends half the year on a \$16.5 million, 255-ft. yacht, where he smokes pot regularly; he even got arrested in New Zealand on drug charges a few years ago. He is one of the main backers of the radical Nevada proposal, having given heaps of money to the Marijuana Policy Project, which is running Question 9 there.

"The absurdity of its illegality has been clear to me for some time. I learned about pot from my kids and realized it was a lot better than Scotch, and I loved the Scotch. Then I went to my doctor, and he said, 'I'm thrilled. You're drinking too much. You're much better off doing pot than drinking.'"

Soros (who has smoked pot but no longer does) declined to be interviewed, and like the rest of the others, he refuses to waste time in a battle of wits with an unarmed man by debating Walters.

Instead they fight federal policy with initiative after initiative, while also defending local pro-pot laws.

DEFINING SOME ISSUES

Cannabis is medicine. Despite the governmental proclamations that medical marijuana is a ruse, there are sick and dying people who really benefit when they use marijuana to numb pain, relieve the eye pressure of glaucoma, calm muscle spasms or get the munchies to help with aids wasting and much more. These facts are denied and dismissed by the DEA as a "smoke screen" even as it allows an inferior and more expensive artificial version. Also, hemp is still denied to American farmers and liberties continue to disappear for the poor and powerless under cannabis prohibition.

A few years ago, the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) --an

Organization founded by billionaire philanthropist Soros, who wants to legalize marijuana and reform drug laws by replacing jail time with rehab--decided it would fund some initiatives along these lines. So the group ran a bunch of polls to find out how America feels about the drug wars, and the reformers came up way short on everything but three policies: people preferred treatment over incarceration in some cases, people hated property forfeiture, and an overwhelming majority felt medical marijuana should be legal.

The STRATEGY

DPA (Soros & Co.) set out to get medical-marijuana legislation passed. The fight has done quite well, especially when, to their surprise, the Federal Government took the bait and started arresting little old ladies and storming peaceful pot-growing cooperatives. In fact, the pro-pot people have done well enough that some of them feel it is time to fight for full legalization. With Britain experimenting with a "seize and warn" policy instead of arresting pot smokers and Canada flirting with doing the same, the blunt-friendly were ready to take on the main event.

In Nevada, the czar's enemy is the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) and it's Question 9 initiative to legalize small amounts in the state. It has a chance partly because it is far better organized than its scattered opposition, making a smart move in hiring Billy Rogers, a Democratic political consultant from Texas, to run the campaign. Rogers sends people door to door daily to target supporters he can call on Election Day and bus to voting booths. This could make the difference in what the polls show is an almost evenly split electorate.

"In college we'd sit around and talk about this--that when we grew up we were going to change these laws. And now we're doing it," he says. Rogers, who says he hasn't smoked pot in 15 years, doesn't have a personal connection to the fight, but it's pretty easy to get him into a James Carville mood. When he talks about Walters' oft repeated claim (an assertion shared by the National Institute on Drug Abuse) that marijuana has much higher levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (thc) than it used to, that, in Walters' words, "it's not your father's marijuana," Rogers goes ballistic.

"It's a plant. What--it's not your father's broccoli? Its genetic structure hasn't changed in 30 years," he says, eating steak for a late-night meal. "These guys will say anything. If I had a billion-dollar budget, I'd say anything to stay in business."

THE GOVERNMENT, And The People Who Use It

It's old news - common knowledge - that the government is keeping pot illegal so it can maintain its giant drug-war bureaucracy, as well as serve many industrial interests. Pots advocates believe--as put forth directly in the pro-medical marijuana commercials of billionaire independent New York gubernatorial candidate Tom Golisano--that politicians are in the pocket of the pharmaceutical companies, who fear marijuana is such good medicine that their own products will suffer. The pro-legalization forces also believe, more convincingly, that the right wing of the Republican Party connects drug use with sin and radicalism and the failure of the family.

"I've known John Walters for about 10 years, and I don't think this is about drugs for him," says Ethan <continued next page>

<from previous page > Nadelmann, head of the Drug Policy Alliance. "John is a reactionary ideologue. It's the broader battle about what we tell kids about life. It's a vehicle for promoting a tougher, meaner approach to life and government." Democratic Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts claims the war on drugs is really a war against the Other.

"Alcohol does more damage in many areas of society than drugs, particularly marijuana, but we treat marijuana as much worse, and that's because it's associated with the counterculture."

Among cops and other law enforcers, there are sharp divisions. Some, like Joseph D. McNamara, a former San Jose police chief and now a Hoover Institution fellow, call for an end to the criminalization of marijuana.

"Most of the police officers I hired during the 15 years I was police chief had tried it," says McNamara. Like many pot legalizers, he believes the system, which he says arrests more people for cannabis than for any other drug, is racist. "Ninety million Americans have tried marijuana. When you look at who's being stopped, who's going to jail - it is overwhelmingly disproportionate--it's Latinos and blacks."

Not surprisingly, the topic is radioactive in the police profession. Andy Anderson, who was head of his state's largest cop organization, the Nevada Conference of Police and Sheriffs, announced that his board members unanimously supported the pro-pot initiative so they could focus on more serious crimes. A few days later, Anderson was forced to resign. The voice for Nevada cops then became Gary Booker, deputy district attorney in charge of the vehicular-crimes unit, until he told members of the press he believed the wild claims of political extremist Lyndon LaRouche that Soros is pro-legalization because he bankrolls drug cartels. When talking to Time at the Elks lodge where he introduced the drug czar, Booker awkwardly tried to explain away his statement:

"The word cartel was used, not drug. A cartel is a group of businessmen who control price, and that's what we've got here. Three or four guys are controlling the thing." He too stepped out of the role of Nevada police spokesman.

PROPAGANDA; The Enemy & Issues As Government Portrays Them

The ads equating terrorists with potheads are already legendary. The drug czar's latest commercial, which was actually focus-grouped with teens and their parents, shows two teens getting stoned in their father's study, talking apathetically about a bunch of stuff. One pulls out a gun from his dad's drawer, the other asks lazily if it's loaded, and the gun-toting teen shrugs and shoots the other kid.

"The suggestion is not to say too many children are being shot in their dens who are marijuana users," Walters said. "It's meant to show that marijuana alters your ability to use judgment."

THE REAL PICTURE; DEA Uses Criminal Justice System For Political Purposes, Activists And Movement Leaders Labeled Major Drug Dealers In Witch Hunt

While the pro-pot forces have pushed their agenda at the polls

and ballot box, opponents have tried to use your government resources ("legal" muscle) to fight back. After a Supreme Court decision last year reiterating that federal drug laws trumped state ones, the Drug Enforcement Administration sent federal agents to California to bust medical-marijuana growers, a move that tended to outrage California voters who had approved this use.

Recent DEA actions are an example of harassing citizens and denying civil rights under the color of authority. In California the "enemy" is any activist or leader who speaks a truth. The "crime lords" being raided just happen to be activists who participated in the political campaigns around medical cannabis. DEA officials continue to deny any special activity based on their status as Patients or Activists, even though all the raids were below federal guidelines (500 plants in Calif.), including one raided that netted a whopping 6 plants.

But, as the Administration pushes harder against the pro-pot forces, pot supporters seem to gain ground. For example, federal agents busted Santa Cruz's Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana in an early-morning raid. The feds dragged the farm's owners, who were legally growing pot under California law, to a federal building in San Jose for breaking federal law and held a paraplegic resident at the farm for hours. "I opened my eyes to see five federal agents pointing assault rifles at my head. 'Get your hands over your head. Get up. Get up.' I took the respirator off my face, and I explained to them that I'm paralyzed," said Suzanne Pheil, 44, who is disabled by the effects of postpolio syndrome.

The bust couldn't have gone better for the pot folks. Her story was broadcast everywhere, since the pro-pot people had basically been waiting for her to be harassed, punching every phone number on their media list minutes after the raid. Pot people, surprisingly, can move pretty fast when they want to. California attorney general Bill Lockyer fired off an angry letter to DEA chief Asa Hutchinson, who wrote back saying that federal law allows the feds to seize pot.

"During the Clinton years they didn't do this," says Lockyer. "It disappointed me that they would be using precious resources to act like a bunch of bullies." San Jose police chief William Lansdowne was so annoyed by the raid that he withdrew his officers from the local DEA task force, ending 15 years of close work. Even Governor Gray Davis, who has been quiet on the marijuana issue, expressed concern over the feds' bust. A week after the raid, Santa Cruz officials gathered at city hall to supervise public distribution of marijuana to members of the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana in front of TV crews, a way of giving Washington the finger.

THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE?

Americans, as polled, are still afraid of having it "legal" but don't really want the war enforced either. A Time/CNN poll last week found that only 34% admitted to wanting pot to be totally legalized (the percentage has almost doubled since 1986). But a vast majority have become mellow about official loopholes: 80% think it's O.K. to dispense pot for medical purposes, and 72% think people caught with it for recreational use should get off with only a fine. Eight states allow medical marijuana, and a handful of states have reduced the sentences for <continued next page>

pot smokers to almost nothing. Some people weary of the debate and are ready to just flip a coin - either pot is not so bad and should be legal, or people should be arrested for smoking it. A battlefield for the showdown is Nevada, where Question 9 would allow adults to possess up to 3 oz. of pot for personal use. In fact, the state government would set up a legal market for buying and selling pot. To almost everyone's surprise, the race is too close to call.

While some polls show that Americans still cling to pot's forbidden status, there is the perception that the end of cannabis prohibition is inevitable. Each year there are more members of the post-boomer generation, who disbelieve government-sponsored tripe, and are able to distinguish between heroin and pot. In 1983, only 31% of Americans surveyed had tried it; the new Time Magazine / CNN poll puts the figure at 47%. And now, parents sneaking joints when their kids are asleep is commonplace.

Also, 40 percent of respondents that they favored the legalization of small amounts of marijuana. That figure is more than double the percentage of Americans who endorsed legalization in 1986. Fifty-one percent of respondents said they opposed the legalization of small quantities of pot, and nine percent were unsure.. Only 19 percent of respondents favored jailing recreational pot smokers.

"Does marijuana help some people who are sick?" is a narrow part of the question. These figures are dramatically different than the percentages reported by annual government surveys, which, for example, maintains that only one-third of Americans have smoked marijuana. Most non-government experts agree that federal surveys generally mis-report illicit drug use, for one reason or another. This should highlight the waste and harm from self-serving studies ordered by the propaganda department of cannabis prohibition and funded by we, the people.

"There is a consensus among the American public that the government's war on marijuana is misguided, ineffective and unnecessarily punitive," said NORML Executive Director Keith Stroup. "The public recognizes that adults who smoke marijuana responsibly are not criminals and they do not want to spend our nation's limited police resources arresting and jailing them."

Stroup said that the shift in U.S. public opinion is indicative of a sea change taking place worldwide regarding marijuana policy. "From Europe to Australia to Canada, governments are recognizing that marijuana prohibition is more damaging to society than marijuana use, and enacting reforms to abolish criminal penalties for the responsible use of cannabis by adults. Here in America, more and more people are coming to the conclusion that marijuana is less harmful than alcohol or tobacco, and should be legalized and regulated similarly."

The movement presses against our northern frontier. In September, a special Canadian Senate Committee report recommended Parliament legalize and regulate the use and sale of marijuana to anyone age 16 and older. Canada has already relaxed its laws on medical marijuana, as also Great Britain and of course Amsterdam.

The midterm elections Nov. 5, 2002 will light up the issue even

more. While control of the House hangs in the balance and the race for the Senate is a dead heat, the political trend for marijuana is clear: support is gaining.

THE ELECTIONS

Some interesting pot initiative battles on the November ballot are: to allow the city of San Francisco to grow and distribute medical marijuana, to replace jail with rehab in Ohio and decriminalize marijuana use in Arizona. On November 5th, Nevada voters will decide on a ballot initiative to eliminate all criminal and civil penalties for the possession of up to three ounces of pot. Polls indicate that Nevadans are evenly divided on the issue.

As often as not, democracy sucks. But on the question of marijuana laws, the good sense of the people is doing yeoman work. Time magazine explores the marijuana question in a cover story which ends by saying that in America, "politics has leaped well ahead of the science, meaning voters will decide long before physicians whether medical marijuana is an oxymoron."

THE PARTIES

See our Voters Guide on the back page. This year and the next and the next - VOTE! - and vote Smart (!) All parties and candidates, from dog-catcher on up, should be considered for their actions - what they have done (or not done) for or against cannabis liberation. The Democrats have been the usual wishy-washy selves on the matter, although rumor has it the Oregon and Washington State parties are going to include medical cannabis on the platform, so call your local rep for details. The Green and Libertarian candidates universally support domestic hemp farming and industry, and all their candidates deserve your serious consideration when the time comes to cast your vote. You may encounter quite a few "fence-sitters" that do not explicitly take a stance. Treat a "maybe" like not-yes - same as a "No".

The Republicans have given us Ashcroft, Hutchinson and Walters and harassment and arrest of legal medical cannabis users from Washington State to California - so vote accordingly. To many Republicans, this looks like bad politics for Bush.

"It seems to me about as far from Compassionate Conservatism as you can get," says former Nixon and Reagan aide Lyn Nofziger. "There are an awful lot of people in their 50s and younger who smoked pot when they were younger and don't look on it as something that destroyed their lives. I think there is a lot more open-mindedness toward pot than there used to be." In Nevada, popular Republican Governor Kenny Guinn refuses to take a stand on Question 9, the pot-legalization amendment to the state constitution, saying he'll go with whatever the people vote for.

Even some Republicans are ready to legalize medical marijuana. Texas Congressman Ron Paul, a doctor and onetime Libertarian Party presidential candidate, has been fighting for medical marijuana.

"From a humanitarian standpoint, people should never be denied this kind of help," says Paul.

INITIATIVES and ISSUES; Voters Have Unprecedented Opportunity To Amend Marijuana Laws This November. The next page starts is a summary of this year's cannabis and related liberty / reform proposals.

ARIZONA

Proposition 203 (Marijuana Decriminalization/Medical Marijuana) If approved, the "The Drug Medicalization, Prevention and Control Act of 2002" would reduce existing pot penalties on the possession of up to two ounces of marijuana and/or two cultivated plants from a felony offense to a non-criminal, civil violation punishable by a \$250 fine. The measure would also amend Arizona's existing medicinal marijuana law to allow state-registered patients or their caregivers to legally possess up to two ounces of medical pot, and requires state officials to implement a medicinal cannabis distribution system to qualified patients.

Fifty-three percent of likely voters say they support the initiative, according to the latest poll, conducted in late September by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona. State voters previously approved drug-law reform initiatives in 1996 and 1998.

Full text of the initiative is available online at:
<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/legtext/45leg/1112002DMPCA.pdf>

NEVADA

Question 9 (Marijuana Regulation/Medical Marijuana) If approved, Question 9 would eliminate criminal and civil penalties for the use or possession of three ounces or less of marijuana by persons 21 years of age or older, and mandate the state to implement a system whereby adults could obtain marijuana through a legally regulated market. The measure would also authorize state officials to provide seriously ill patients qualified to use medical marijuana under state law access to cannabis at low cost. If the vote is affirmative, in 2004 a constitutional ratifying amendment will be on the ballot, which would legalize pot, which is to say, permit 3-ounce packets of it to be sold with impunity. Because Question 9 seeks to amend the Nevada constitution, voters must approve the initiative this November and again in 2004 become it can become law.

Although Nevada's Question 9 is most prominent, 8 states already allow the use of medical marijuana, 22 are oriented in that direction, and several have ballot initiatives which are relatively permissive.

Nevada voters are evenly split on the proposal, according to the latest statewide poll released last week by initiative sponsors Nevadans for Responsible Law Enforcement (NRLE), with 46 percent of respondents supporting it and 46 percent opposing it. State voters previously approved an initiative legalizing the possession and use of medical marijuana in 1998 and 2000. The Nevada legislature reduced marijuana possession penalties from a felony to a fine-only offense in 2001.

Full text of the initiative is available online at:
<http://www.nrle.org/initiative.html>

OHIO

An initiative (**Issue 1**) mandating treatment rather than incarceration for non-violent drug offenders. Gov. Robert Taft and most of the criminal justice establishment have campaigned

vigorously against the proposal while supporters argue their plan would save taxpayers a net \$108 million in reduced prison and jail expenses.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Initiated Measure 1 (Industrial Hemp) If approved, the South Dakota Industrial Hemp Act would allow farmers to possess and cultivate marijuana consisting of no more than one percent THC for fiber, food and other commercial purposes. No recent polling information on Measure 1 is available. In recent years, three states - North Dakota, Montana and West Virginia - have enacted similar laws.

Full text of the initiative is available at:
<http://www.SoDakHEMP.org/petition.htm>

Amendment A (Jury Nullification). If voters approve, South Dakota juries would be able to decide not just a defendant's guilt or innocence, but whether the state law under which the defendant is charged is fair and just. Juries would either affirm or reject the law as it is applied to a particular defendant. The state amendment makes sure of the defendant's right "to argue the merits, validity and applicability of the law, including sentencing laws." In theory, juries nationwide already have the ability to ignore the law in their deliberations. It is a fact that there is a determined effort - including the arrest and subsequent silencing of people - to prevent juries from being told they have that power. This is needed legislation, if just to raise the issue.

Visit: <http://www.commonsensejustice.us/> for more info.

CALIFORNIA, San Francisco

Proposition S (Medical Marijuana) If approved, Proposition S would encourage the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to enact legislation authorizing the cultivation and distribution of medicinal pot by city officials. Informal polling shows that San Francisco voters strongly support the initiative. Eighty percent of San Francisco voters previously approved Proposition P in 1991 making the possession, cultivation and distribution of medical pot the lowest priority for police. Seventy-eight percent of voters backed Proposition 215, the "Medical Use of Marijuana Act" in 1996 - a larger percentage than any other California county.

Full text of the initiative is available online at:
<http://www.smartvoter.org/2002/11/05/ca/sf/meas/S/>

MASSACHUSETTS

Local, non-binding ballot questions regarding the decriminalization of marijuana for personal use, and the legalization of medical cannabis and industrial hemp will appear on the ballot in 47 towns and cities, including 20 of the state's 170 House districts. A summary of these initiatives is available from the Drug Reform Coordination Network (DRCNet) at:

<http://www.drcnet.org/wol/259.html#localissues>

WASHINGTON, D.C.

A Washington DC proposal (**Initiative 62**) mandating alternative sentencing for some drug offenders, requiring courts to treat marijuana use as a health problem, not a crime.

NEW YORK

The **Marijuana Reform Party (MRP)** has candidates for governor and lieutenant governor on this year's electoral ballot. While neither candidate expects to win in this year's election, MRP spokesman and gubernatorial candidate Tom Leighton is hopeful that the MRP will receive the 50,000 votes necessary to obtain official political party status. New York law does not allow for statewide initiatives.

The MRP advocates rescheduling marijuana for medical purposes and eliminating criminal and civil penalties on the personal use of pot, among other drug law reforms. A summary of the MRP's political platform is available at:

<http://www.marijuanareform.org>

WASHINGTON STATE, Seattle

Proponents of a citywide initiative (**Initiative 75**) to make the arrest and prosecution of minor marijuana offenders the city's "lowest law enforcement priority" was certified for the 2003 ballot on October 4th. Because county election officials did not certify the initiative until such a late date, I-75 will not appear on this year's ballot. Full text of the initiative is available online at:

<http://www.sensibleseattle.org>

For more info,

"The New Politics of Pot", BY JOEL STEIN, Time Magazine (Nov. 4, 2002) at:

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/printout/0,8816,384744,00.html>

Contact Keith Stroup or Paul Armentano of NORML at (202) 483-5500 or visit: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=4420.

Additional information on this year's initiatives is available at:

http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=5426.

Get in touch with: Doug McVay (dmcvay@cspd.org); Editor, Drug War Facts - Research Director/Projects Coordinator / Common Sense for Drug Policy (CSDP), 1327 Harvard Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 - 202-332-9101 -- fax 202-518-4028 or visit:

<http://www.cspd.org> -- <http://www.drugwarfacts.org>

--- QUESTIONS to Ask, ISSUES to Raise ---**Higher Education Act of 1998**

The Higher Education Act of 1998 includes a provision that denies or delays federal student aid to persons ever convicted of a drug law offense, including simple possession. According to the Department of Education, under this provision, more than 43,000 students were unable to obtain student loans for the 2001-2002 school year. Several organizations support repealing this provision., make sure your rep does also.

Treatment over Incarceration

The Department of Justice reports that there are now nearly half a million non-violent drug law offenders in federal and state prisons and local jails. Arizona (Proposition 200, 1996) and California (Proposition 36, 2000) have enacted "treatment instead of incarceration initiatives" that provide substance abuse treatment rather than imprisonment to eligible low-level, non-violent offenders charged with simple drug possession. Proposition 200 diverted 2,600 non-violent drug law offenders into treatment in its first year, saving taxpayers \$2.56 million,

and over \$6 million in prison costs in its second year, according to an analysis by the Arizona Supreme Court. Similarly, California's Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that Proposition 36 will divert over 36,000 drug law offenders a year to treatment and save California taxpayers approximately \$1.5 billion (net) over the next five years. Make sure your rep would support legislation that diverts non-violent drug law offenders convicted of possession to substance abuse treatment instead of imprisonment.

Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentencing

Congress enacted federal mandatory minimum drug sentencing laws in the 1980's, which require judges to hand out fixed sentences to drug offenders based solely on type of drug, weight of the substance seized, and number of prior convictions. Judges are not allowed to exercise any discretion regarding the offender's role, motivation, or need for treatment. Although, the original intent of mandatory sentencing laws was to reduce racial inequities in sentencing and target major drug offenders, in fact, they have exacerbated racial and gender disparities in sentencing, contributed to the overcrowding of prisons, and resulted in imprisoning low-level drug offenders for unjust, lengthy sentences. See if your rep would support legislation in favor of restoring the ability of judges to use discretion in sentencing regarding drug convictions.

Medical Marijuana #1 - Cannabis as Medicine

Numerous published studies suggest that marijuana has medical value in treating patients with serious illnesses such as AIDS, glaucoma, cancer, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, and chronic pain. According to a 1999 Gallup poll, 73% of Americans are in favor of "making marijuana legally available for doctors to prescribe in order to reduce pain and suffering." Please educate your rep on these facts and encourage them to support measures that allow seriously ill patients to legally obtain medical marijuana with a doctor's prescription like other medicines.

Medical Marijuana #2 - States Rights concerning Cannabis

(HR 2592) Since 1996, nine states have voted for initiatives or legislation to allow for the use of medicinal marijuana. Find out if your representative supports or opposes the rights of States to allow access to medical marijuana for seriously ill patients, without interference from the federal government.

Civil Asset Forfeiture

Civil asset forfeiture allows law enforcement officials to seize personal property or cash believed to have been related to a drug-related crime or are profits from a drug-related crime. Property can be legally taken away even if the owners are never charged with or convicted of a crime, causing innocent Americans to lose their cars, homes, businesses, and bank accounts based on unsubstantiated claims that crimes took place on their property. Property, not the individual, is charged with an offense, and can be confiscated by police, prosecutors and judges, who frequently use or sell the property to make up for local budget cuts for their own personal gain. Support candidates and measures that will eliminate civil asset forfeiture absent a conviction.

Felony Disenfranchisement

The United States is one of the few countries in the world that strips convicted felons of the right to vote. No other democratic country in the world denies as many people - in absolute or proportional terms - the right to vote because of felony conviction than the U.S. Currently, 1.4 million African-American men, or 13% of black adult males are disenfranchised - many for non-violent drug offenses - reflecting a rate of disenfranchisement that is seven times the national average. Consider supporting legislation eliminating the federal felony disenfranchisement laws of the United States. NOTE: you're o.k. in Oregon, felons may register and vote in all elections there.

THE CLARION

"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

Voters Guide

Educate the media and public, businesses and organizations, especially those involved with the issue. Contact the parties, representatives and candidates. Inform him or her of your opinion and that you are voting and getting everyone you know to do so also. Call, fax or visit their offices, email or even write for best effect. Get their opinion on the issues and broadcast it.

There are a whole bunch of cannabis related voter guides at:

[Http://home.pacbell.net/jtinnin/guides/](http://home.pacbell.net/jtinnin/guides/)

For more information on Libertarian or Green candidates, visit their web sites at:

<http://www.LP.org>

<http://www.GreenParty.org>

Democratic National Committee

<http://www.democrats.org/>

430 S. Capitol St. SE
Washington, DC 20003
202-863-8000

Republican National Committee

<http://www.rnc.org/>

310 First Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
Phone: 202.863.8500
Fax: 202.863.8820

Reformers' Voter Guides 2002 and Drug Policy Alliances' political candidate survey. Please go to

www.drugpolicy.org (click on 'contact your elected officials').

Speak out on urgent issues, read and listen to thought-provoking columnists and radio commentary. Visit

WorkingForChange.com 2002 at:
<http://www.workingforchange.com>

Another good site to check out is at
<http://www.marijuanainfo.org/>

The TOOLSHED

To get in touch with Oregon state representatives, go to the following link and look up the contact info under your own address:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/findset.htm>

For info in general you can visit:

<http://www.politicalresources.net/usa1.htm>

Visit the Drug Policy Alliance Action Network often for updates and additional opportunities to take action. Go to

www.drugpolicy.org/news/10_16_02candidates.cfm
and (click on 'Take Action').

ONLINE VOTE HEMP GUIDE AVAILABLE

Please print and share the results with your friends or tell them to visit the site and check it out. Simply go to

<http://www.VoteHemp.com/voterguide.html> and then select your state to review the positions of your candidates on hemp.

Contact information for all candidates is provided on the Voter Guide, and a sample letter and more details on each member of Congress can be found at the Action Alert center: <http://www.capwiz.com/VoteHemp/>

WISCONSIN NORML ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF CANDIDATES SURVEY

In September, Wisconsin NORML sent out surveys to 224 candidates, including all candidates for Governor, Attorney General, U.S. Congress, and State Assembly and Senate. The surveys ask candidates if they support legislation allowing patients access to marijuana for medical purposes when recommended by their physicians, if they support legislation allowing farmers to cultivate hemp as a fiber, food, and oilseed crop, and if they support removing criminal penalties for personal possession of marijuana by adults for their own responsible use. Full survey results can be viewed online at:

<http://www.winorml.org/elibrary/CS2002.htm>.

Election 2002: What It Means for Drug Policy Reform:
<http://www.drugpolicy.org/statebystate/election2002/>

Election 2002: Governor's Races of Interest:
<http://www.drcnet.org/wol/260.html#racesofinterest>

Election 2002: The Initiatives:
<http://www.drcnet.org/wol/259.html#theinitiatives>

Global Hemp: <http://www.globalhemp.com/>

U.S. Senate, House of Representatives and Governor candidate poll:
http://www.marijuanainfo.org/popup.php?Source_ID=173&Source_Tbl=Info

The following link as another source of info about how folks running for office think. It does take some digging around to get their answers about cannabis or drugs: <http://www.vote-smart.org/index.phtml>