UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



# INFO BRIEF

## Marijuana Legalization in Washington State

#### October 2012



**Washington Initiative I-502**, appearing on the November 2012 general ballot, would license and regulate marijuana production, distribution, and possession for persons over age twenty-one; remove state-law criminal and civil penalties for specified activities; tax marijuana sales; and earmark marijuana-related revenues. The only marijuana that would be legal to sell in the state would be grown by specially-licensed Washington farmers and sold in stand-alone, marijuana-only stores operated by private Washington businesses licensed and regulated by the state. There would

be a 25% sales tax, with 40% of the new revenues going to the state general fund and local budgets, and the remainder dedicated to substance-abuse prevention, research, education and health care. Advertising would be restricted. A new marijuana DUI standard that operates like the alcohol DUI standard would be established.

Similar measures are on the ballots in 2012 in the states of Colorado (<u>Amendment 64: Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act of 2012</u>) and Oregon (<u>Measure 80: Oregon Cannabis Tax 2012</u>). Initiatives to legalize medical marijuana are also on the ballots in seven additional states. Passage in all seven would bring the total number of states with legalized medical marijuana to 24.

This Info Brief presents a variety of resources that can be used to assist voters in their decision-making process regarding marijuana legalization, particularly in Washington State.

Full Text of I-502: http://sos.wa.gov/ assets/elections/initiatives/i502.pdf

**WA State Fiscal Impact of I-502** (WA Office of Financial Management): <a href="http://www.ofm.wa.gov/initiatives/2012/502">http://www.ofm.wa.gov/initiatives/2012/502</a> (Additional fiscal notes and worksheets available at: <a href="http://www.ofm.wa.gov/initiatives/">http://www.ofm.wa.gov/initiatives/</a>)



Yes on I-502 New Approach Washington http://newapproachwa.org



No on I-502 http://www.nooni502.com

#### Additional Information about I-502

Wikipedia page about I-502: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington Initiative 502

**Key features of I-502** (from New Approach Washington): <a href="http://www.newapproachwa.org/sites/">http://www.newapproachwa.org/sites/</a>
<a href="http://www.newapproachwa.org/sites/">newapproachwa.org/files/I-502%20Backgrounder%20-%20Key%20Features%20-%20081012%20-%20PDF%20for%20Website.pdf">http://www.newapproachwa.org/sites/</a>
<a href="https://www.newapproachwa.org/sites/">http://www.newapproachwa.org/sites/</a>
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<a href="https://www.newapproachwa.or

**Physician Perspective: I-502 Betrays Medical Marijuana**, by Richard Bayer, MD, Chief Filing Petitioner for the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act of 1998: <a href="http://slog.thestranger.com/slog/archives/2011/11/29/physician-perspective-i-502-betrays-medical-marijuana">http://slog.thestranger.com/slog/archives/2011/11/29/physician-perspective-i-502-betrays-medical-marijuana</a>

**Smokeless in Seattle.** Dominic Holden, *New York Times*, April 13, 2012. Seattle reporter Dominic Holden of *The Stranger* discusses the opposition to I-502 from the medical marijuana industry: <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/13/opinion/smokeless-in-seattle.html">http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/13/opinion/smokeless-in-seattle.html</a>

**Marijuana: It's Time for a Conversation**: Award-winning video (with informational web site) produced by the Washington state and National ACLU featuring travel writer Rick Steves: <a href="http://www.marijuanaconversation.org/">http://www.marijuanaconversation.org/</a>



**Law Enforcement Against Prohibition** (International organization of police and judges; former Seattle Chief of Police Norm Stamper is on the Advisory Board): <a href="http://www.leap.cc/">http://www.leap.cc/</a>. [See also: Cops and Judges Endorse Washington's Marijuana Legalization Initiative: <a href="http://copssaylegalize.blogspot.com/2012/03/cops-and-judges-endorse-washingtons.html">http://copssaylegalize.blogspot.com/2012/03/cops-and-judges-endorse-washingtons.html</a>]

Marijuana Policy Toolkit: Talking Points, Washington Association for Substance Abuse & Violence Prevention:: <a href="http://wasavp.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/MJ-Policy-Talking-Points.pdf">http://wasavp.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/MJ-Policy-Talking-Points.pdf</a> (includes information on youth access, advertising, health issues, criminal justice issues, etc.)

#### **Local Media Stories on I-502**

**Seattle Times** articles and editorials about I-502: <a href="http://search.nwsource.com/search?from=ST&query=I-502&x=0&y=0">http://search.nwsource.com/search?from=ST&query=I-502&x=0&y=0</a>



Upcoming Marijuana Legalization Debates for I-502:
<a href="http://blogs.seattletimes.com/politicsnorthwest/2012/10/08/upcoming-marijuana-legalization-debates-for-">http://blogs.seattletimes.com/politicsnorthwest/2012/10/08/upcoming-marijuana-legalization-debates-for-</a>
<a href="initiative-502/">initiative-502/</a>

Spokane Spokesman-Review articles and editorials: http://www.spokesman.com/search/?q=I-502

KCTS Vote 2012 Debate Series: I-502: <a href="http://kcts9.org/vote-2012/initiative-502-debate">http://kcts9.org/vote-2012/initiative-502-debate</a>



**KYVE/KCTS (PBS in WA) Insiders Roundtable on I-502**: <a href="http://kcts9.org/insiders-roundtable/i-502-marijuana-law-reform">http://kcts9.org/insiders-roundtable/i-502-marijuana-law-reform</a> (video)

#### Children/Adolescents - Are They At Risk?



What About Kids? Questions Parents Ask About Marijuana Legalization, by Roger A. Roffman, DSW, and Robert W. Wood, MD, both from the University of Washington (New Approach Washington): <a href="http://www.newapproachwa.org/sites/newapproachwa.org/files/What%20about%20kids%208.5%20x%2011.pdf">http://www.newapproachwa.org/sites/newapproachwa.org/files/What%20about%20kids%208.5%20x%2011.pdf</a>

Children's Alliance of Washington endorsement of I-502: <a href="http://www.childrensalliance.org/sites/default/files/VoteYESonInitiative502.pdf">http://www.childrensalliance.org/sites/default/files/VoteYESonInitiative502.pdf</a>

Marijuana Facts for Teens (NIDA, 2011): <a href="http://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/teens">http://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/teens</a> marijuana brochure.pdf

**NIDA For Teens: Marijuana**: <a href="http://teens.drugabuse.gov/facts/facts\_mj2.php">http://teens.drugabuse.gov/facts/facts\_mj2.php</a> (Facts about the long-term health effects of marijuana use on youth)

#### **Criminal Justice Issues**



**240,000 Marijuana Arrests: Costs, Consequences, and Racial Disparities of Possession Arrests in Washington, 1986-2010.** Harry Levin, PhD, Jon B. Gettman, PhD, Loren Siegel, JD. Prepared by the Marijuana Arrest Research Project, October 2012. <a href="http://www.marijuana-arrests.com/docs/240,000-Marijuana-Arrests-In-Washington.pdf">http://www.marijuana-arrests.com/docs/240,000-Marijuana-Arrests-In-Colorado.pdf</a>]

**Factsheet: Driving Under the Influence of THC** (from New Approach Washington): <a href="http://www.newapproachwa.org/sites/newapproachwa.org/files/I-502%20Factsheet%20-%20DUI.pdf">http://www.newapproachwa.org/sites/newapproachwa.org/files/I-502%20Factsheet%20-%20DUI.pdf</a>

Drug Per Se Laws; A Review of Their Use in States. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. July 2010. http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/impaired driving/pdf/811317.pdf

The Science Behind I-502's Per Se Standard [for DUI] (from New Approach Washington): http:// www.newapproachwa.org/sites/newapproachwa.org/files/I-502%20Backgrounder%20-%20Science%20Behind% 20the%20Per%20Se%20-%20092912%202.pdf

#### General Information About Marijuana/Marijuana Policy



Marijuana: Science-based Information for the Public (Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute, Univ. of Washington): http://adai.uw.edu/marijuana/. Factsheets adapted from the National

Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) Science-Based Information (Australia) focus on general topics (addictive potential, potency, synthetic cannabis), health/psychological effects, special populations (adolescents, pregnant

women), DUI, and combining marijuana with other drugs such as alcohol, prescription medications, or tobacco.

Medline Plus (National Library of Medicine, US) information about marijuana, including general facts, news, mainstream/alternative treatment, related issues, health research, and clinical trials: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/ medlineplus/marijuana.html

The DEA Position on Marijuana. U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, January 2011, 63 p. Includes sections on marijuana experiences in foreign countries, dangers to non-users, health issues. http://www.justice.gov/ dea/docs/marijuana position 2011.pdf

Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Marijuana page: http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/marijuana. [See also: Marijuana **Legalization Fact Sheet**: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/">http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/</a> ondcp/Fact Sheets/marijuana legalization fact sheet 3-3-11.pdf]

#### **Recommended Book**



Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs to Know.

JP Caulkins, A Hawken, B Kilmer, MAR Kleiman. Oxford Univ. Press, 2012.

Four policy experts provide nonpartisan answers to questions about the potential costs and benefits of legalization, covering everything from the risks and benefits of using marijuana, to the current laws, to the open scientific questions.

View web extras with this book.

Reforming Marijuana Laws (Drug Policy Alliance): http://www.drugpolicy.org/issues/reforming-marijuana-laws

Ten Reasons to Revisit Marijuana Policy Now (Time Magazine, June 2012): http:// healthland.time.com/2012/06/14/10-reasons-to-revisit-marijuana-policy-now

### Federal Government: Potential Response to State Legalization

Federal Law: Preemption and Dual Sovereignty. New Approach Washington. http:// www.newapproachwa.org/sites/newapproachwa.org/files/I-502%20Backgrounder%20-%20Federal% 20Law%20-%20073012.pdf

States Legalizing Marijuana Will Violate Federal Law, Trigger Constitutional Showdown: DEA, Drug Czars. Matt Ferner. The Huffington Post, October 15, 2012. http:// www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/15/dea-drug-czars-states-leg n 1967363.html

Three States' Voters to Consider Marijuana Legalization Nov. 6: Federal Government Has Been Quiet So Far on Ballot Proposals. Alison Knopf. Addiction Professional, October 8, 2012. http:// www.addictionpro.com/article/three-states-voters-consider-marijuana-legalization-nov-6

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Find more information in the ADAI Library and the ADAI Clearinghouse.