



## Drug Policy on the Ballot Candidates, Referendums and Local Initiatives

2006

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### Election 2006

#### State-wide Referendums

##### Arizona.

[Proposition 301](#) would change the law so that people arrested for possession of meth can be sentenced to jail or prison after their first conviction for drug possession. Currently, meth users can be incarcerated only after their second or third conviction for drug possession, or if they refuse to participate in treatment. Proposition 301 could deny thousands of people the opportunity for cost effective drug treatment, clogging prisons with more non-violent addicts and potentially costing taxpayers millions of dollars.

The voters of Arizona voted previously for the Drug Medicalization, Prevention, and Control Act of 1996. Through programs like Drug Court, that law provides probation and treatment for low-level drug offenders -those convicted of simple possession and personal use. The program saved taxpayers over \$12 million in 2004.

##### Colorado.

The SAFER initiative, which last year legalized one ounce of marijuana for adult possession in Denver, is on the ballot again this time for a state-wide vote. SAFER stands for Safer Alternative to Enjoyable Recreation. The organization promotes marijuana as a safer choice to alcohol, and has spread it's message mostly on college campuses until last year. Initiative I-100 "amended Denver city ordinances to make the private use and possession of one ounce or less of marijuana legal for adults 21 and older. In order to place the initiative on the ballot, SAFER coordinated the collection of more than 12,900 signatures, which is more than 10 percent of Denver's voting population and double the 5 percent required" according to the group's [website](#).

In August, Amendment 44 qualified for the ballot state-wide with over 130,000 valid signatures. According to the group's web site "the initiative will amend state statutes to make the private use and possession of one ounce or less of marijuana legal for adults 21 and older. All home-rule cities and towns (which account for about 90 percent of the state's population) in Colorado will retain the right to enact and/or enforce their own policies and laws pertaining to private adult marijuana use if they wish to continue punishing people for choosing to use something less harmful than alcohol. More importantly, those cities and towns that wish to remove penalties for private adult marijuana use and possession (like Denver) will be able to do so without state interference."

SAFER has been featured by CNN, Fox News, Washington Post, the Chronicle for Higher Education, the Rocky Mountain News, and other publications. [READ MORE](#).

## Nevada.

The [Committee to Regulate and Control Marijuana \(CRCM\)](#) placed Question 7 on the state-wide ballot calling for the regulation and taxation of marijuana for adults aged 21 and older. The change in law would:

1. Eliminate the threat of arrest and jail for adults aged 21 and older who responsibly use and possess up to one ounce of marijuana (which is the equivalent of one-and-a-half packs of cigarettes);
2. Regulate the manufacture, taxation, and sale of marijuana, whereby establishments that are licensed to sell tobacco will also be permitted to sell marijuana, provided that they neither sell alcohol nor are within 500 feet of a school or place of worship. Gas stations, convenience stores, grocery stores, casinos, and dance halls would also be prohibited from selling marijuana.
3. Earmark half of marijuana-related licensing fees and tax revenues to alcohol and drug treatment and education, with the other half going to the state's general fund;
4. Maintain penalties for underage marijuana use, smoking marijuana in public, using or possessing marijuana on school grounds or in prisons, and transporting marijuana across state lines;
5. Increase penalties for providing marijuana to minors, as well as for motorists who kill someone while under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or any other substance; and
6. Take effect on November 28, 2006, if a majority of Nevada voters pass the initiative in November 2006.

In 2004, a similar amendment lost by a slim margin. If this amendment passes it would be to first of its kind in the US.

## South Dakota.

[South Dakotans for Medical Marijuana](#) placed an initiative on the ballot that would remove penalties for persons who use marijuana with the recommendation of their physician. Read the text of the initiative [here](#).

A 2002 Lucas Organization poll found that 64% of South Dakota residents support allowing seriously ill patients to use marijuana if recommended by a doctor.

If passed, South Dakota would become the 12th state to remove the threat of arrest and jail for patients who need to use marijuana for medical purposes. South Dakota's initiative is closely based on the medical marijuana law that Montana voters enacted in 2004.

## Local Ballot Initiatives

In Eureka Springs, **Arkansas**, the [Lowest Law Enforcement Priority-Marijuana Policy Ordinance](#) is on the ballot. Members from NORML University of Arkansas circulated a petition in to make misdemeanor amounts of marijuana (1oz) the city's 'lowest law enforcement priority'. They needed 144 signatures to make the ballot which were verified on Sept 15 by the City Clerk of Eureka Springs. This marks the first marijuana initiative to appear on the ballot in Arkansas state history.

Three cities in **California**, [Santa Cruz](#), [Santa Barbara](#), and [Santa Monica](#), will be voting on initiatives to make marijuana lowest enforcement priority (for more details, see [www.taxandregulate.org](http://www.taxandregulate.org)).

Missoula **Montana** voters will decide on Lowest Law Enforcement Priority Policy Ordinance, Initiative 2, sponsored by [Citizens for Responsible Crime Policy](#). The initiative *recommends* smarter spending on Missoula County law enforcement -- to make adult marijuana offenses the lowest priority and instead focus first and foremost on violent crimes that threaten lives and property -- like rapes, assaults, robberies and burglaries. It also creates "citizen oversight committee" -- to report annually on how much time and taxpayer money was spent on adult marijuana offenses as compared to serious crimes that threaten community safety.

## Drug Reform Candidates on the Ballot

Former **Kansan** Mike Glover <<http://michaelglover.org>> is running for California Assembly District 70. He favors legalization of marijuana for adult use and reforming health care.

In **Connecticut**, Cliff Thornton <http://www.votethornton.com>, head of the reform group Efficacy <<http://www.efficacy-online.org/>> is running as the Green Party nominee for governor.

In **Maryland**, Kevin Zeese <<http://www.kevinzeese.com>>, of NORML <<http://www.norml.org>> and early Drug Policy Foundation (forerunner of the Drug Policy Alliance <<http://www.drugpolicy.org>>) fame and president of Common Sense for Drug Policy <<http://www.csdp.org>> is running for US Senate as a "unity" candidate as the nominee of the Green, Libertarian, and Populist parties.

In **Alabama**, drug reform activist Loretta Nall <<http://www.nallforgovernor.com>> won the Libertarian Party nomination for governor, but having failed to overcome the state's onerous third party ballot qualification requirements, has been reduced to doing a write-in campaign.