Voters Unite on at Least One Topic: Legal Marijuana

Four states pass medical marijuana; three others OK recreational use of pot.

November 10, 2016

Supporters of marijuana are riding high after big wins on November 8, when seven states passed statewide legalization measures. Medical marijuana measures saw victories in Arkansas, Montana, Florida and North Dakota, while recreational use of marijuana, which is already legal in four other states and Washington, DC, was approved in California, Maine, Massachusetts and Nevada.

Arizona failed to legalize recreational use. Nonetheless, as Vox reports, 2016 could be the biggest year for marijuana reform yet.

Medical marijuana can be prescribed for a variety of conditions, including cancer, pain and HIV/AIDS.

While there has been cause to celebrate, there is still uncertainty about how President-elect Donald Trump and his administration will handle the legalization of marijuana. Despite state laws, pot remains illegal in the eyes of the federal government.

“The prospect of Rudy Giuliani or Chris Christie as attorney general does not bode well,” said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, in a Washington Post article. “There are various ways in which a hostile White House could trip things up.”

Nadelmann added: “Donald Trump personally could probably go any which way on this,” as he has often made contradictory remarks about the topic in the past.

Many view California—one of the most populous states in the country—as a sign of what’s to come. As Vox reports: Many advocates hope that California will act as a bellwether that seals the tide of legalization across the country.

According to the Washington Post, Nadelmann said that with California at the forefront, the national and international marijuana prohibition would come to a quick end.

In October, a Gallup poll showed that public support for marijuana legislation was 60 percent, which is the highest level in Gallup’s 47-year trend.

To read more about the future of medical marijuana for HIV/AIDS, click here.

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