

**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

**University of Maryland at College Park**

***Voters in Arizona and California  
Approve Use of Marijuana for Medical Purposes***

Proponents of the medical use of marijuana believe that people with certain illnesses may benefit from the physiological effects of marijuana use. Opponents of the medical use of marijuana argue that such persons can be effectively and legally treated with FDA-approved medications which produce the desired effects (e.g. synthetic THC, anti-nausea medications). Whether or not marijuana use is in fact effective for treating certain disorders, voters in Arizona and California passed propositions allowing the physician recommended use of illegal substances (Arizona) and marijuana (California). Below are summaries of the propositions approved in last Tuesday's election.

<b>Arizona</b>	<b>Proposition 200: Laws on Controlled Substances</b>	<b>Yes: 65%</b>
Requiring persons on drugs committing violent crimes to serve entire sentence; Providing parole/probation and treatment as alternative to incarceration for persons convicted only of personal possession of controlled substance on first two offenses; <b>Allowing doctors to prescribe otherwise illegal substances for certain patients;</b> Creating drug-related fund and commission.		

<b>California</b>	<b>Proposition 215: Medical Use of Marijuana</b>	<b>Yes: 56%</b>
<b>Exempts from criminal laws patients and defined caregivers who possess or cultivate marijuana for medical treatment recommended by a physician;</b> Provides physicians who recommend use shall not be punished.		

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Project Vote Smart (n.d./1996). [Vote Smart Web](http://www.vote-smart.org/) [WWW document]. URL <http://www.vote-smart.org/>

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