

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

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Voters in Four States Approved Medical Marijuana Measures in 1998*

Last November voters in Alaska, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington approved measures that allow doctors to prescribe marijuana for medical purposes. The initiatives passed by these four states are more comprehensive than past medical marijuana laws in that they specify eligible medical conditions and possession limits (see table below). All four states' measures require written doctor's consent (for minors only in Nevada) and parental consent for minors. Colorado and the District of Columbia also had medical marijuana propositions on their ballots, but the results were not valid due to administrative and legislative issues. Full copies of the approved ballots are available at CESAR's web site ([www.cesar.umd.edu](http://www.cesar.umd.edu)).

	Alaska	Nevada	Oregon	Washington
<b>Percent Approved</b>	58%	59% <sup>1</sup>	55%	59%
<b>Eligible Medical Conditions</b>	Cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, seizure and spasticity disorders, severe pain, severe nausea, cachexia, other approved conditions	Cancer, glaucoma, AIDS, seizure and spasticity disorders, severe and persistent nausea or cachexia, other approved conditions	Cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, seizure and spasticity disorders, severe pain, severe nausea, cachexia, other approved conditions	Cancer, glaucoma, HIV, seizure and spasticity disorders, intractable pain, other approved conditions
<b>Possession Limits</b>	1 oz in usable form; 6 plants (no more than 3 flowering)	None specified	1 oz in usable form or (if at a place where marijuana is produced) 3 mature/4 immature plants and 1 oz per mature plant	60-day supply
<b>Establishes Patient Registry<sup>2</sup></b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

<sup>1</sup>This amendment to Nevada's constitution must be approved by voters again in the 2000 election before it can take effect.

<sup>2</sup>A patient registry is a confidential list of persons eligible to use marijuana to treat medical conditions. The measures in Alaska and Oregon specify that registry identification cards be issued to eligible persons.

SOURCES: Alaska 1998 Ballot Measure 8; Nevada 1998 Ballot Question 9; Oregon 1998 Ballot Measure 67; and Washington 1998 Ballot Initiative 692.

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