



Inside Track

States Use Nullification to End War on Marijuana

On November 8, voters in at least four states decided to nullify unconstitutional federal statutes and United Nations drug-control treaties by officially ending marijuana prohibition, a major victory for the U.S. Constitution and the 10th Amendment. Three states — California, Massachusetts, and Nevada — completely legalized marijuana, even for recreational use by adults. Maine’s initiative to do the same passed by a razor-thin margin, prompting opponents to call for a recount, but at press time it appeared the measure would be successful. In Arizona, voters narrowly decided to keep pot prohibition in place.

In Florida, voters overwhelmingly amended the state Constitution to end prohibition of medical marijuana for patients suffering from certain ailments. Recreational pot possession remains illegal. Joining Florida were Arkansas and North Dakota, two reliably conservative states, where voters also decided to nullify federal and UN schemes by ending the criminalization of the controversial plant when used under doctors’ orders. Montana voters decided to further liberalize that state’s medical marijuana laws.

Under the U.S. Constitution, the federal government was delegated a few defined powers by the states. Prohibiting substances was not among those powers, hence the need for a constitutional amendment to ban alcohol. Ratifying UN treaties, whether on drugs or anything else, does not grant new powers to the federal government, as even the Supreme Court has made clear. As such, states have an obligation to interpose on behalf of their citizens by rejecting unconstitutional power grabs. In the past, numerous states have relied on similar strategies, including Wisconsin, which refused to return runaway slaves under the Fugitive Slave Act.

Under the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, state governments and the people explicitly reserved all powers not specifically granted to the feds under the U.S. Constitution. Because drug policy is not constitutionally a federal power, states and the people retained all power in this field. Regardless of one’s own feelings about marijuana, conservatives and constitutionalists concerned about federal lawlessness in other areas — everything from healthcare and environmental policy to gun control and abortion — should take a lesson.

Brits Fined and Prosecuted for Weeds, Weeping, and Whippoorwills

According to an October 31 report from the Manifesto Club, a British civil-liberties organization, U.K. residents are being cited and fined — under the threat of criminal prosecution for failure to comply — for such offenses as not weeding their gardens, crying too loudly in their own homes, posting signs critical of local government policies, or even feeding wild birds.

The Anti-social Behavior, Crime and Policing Act — passed in 2014 at the urging of Theresa May, then home secretary and now prime minister — gave local officials the authority to issue Community Protection Notices (CPNs) to individuals 16 or older whenever officials believe that “the conduct of the individual ... is having a detrimental effect, of a persistent and continuing nature, on the quality of life of those in the locality.”



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An official may issue a CPN on the spot, with only minimal warning to the individual being cited, for any offense he deems worthy, including things occurring within someone's home. The CPN may demand that the cited individual either refrain from a particular activity or take specific actions, or both; and it may impose a fine of up to \$124. In addition, if an individual refuses to comply with a CPN, he may be subjected to criminal prosecution and, if convicted, fined as much as \$3,100.

It's not hard to figure out why local officials love CPNs: They can make up "laws" on the spot — some councils' CPN forms don't specify particular offenses but allow officers to write in whatever they please — and enforce them (and collect fines) without the bother of proving their case in court.

The Manifesto Club, along with other civil-liberties organizations, is calling on the government to greatly curtail the use of CPNs. They also note that individuals can appeal CPNs in court and encourage more to do so. The good news, the group's Josie Appleton told CNSNews.com November 3, is that the CPN statute hasn't become entrenched law yet. "I think it's very early days," she said. "I'm hopeful."

UN "Human Rights" Council Now Officially Controlled by Dictators

More than half of the regimes selected to sit on the United Nations Human Rights Council in an October 28 election have been categorized as unfree. Among the latest selections to serve on the discredited global council are some of the most oppressive and murderous communist and Islamist dictatorships on the planet. That is despite the UN outfit's mandate saying that only member governments that "uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights" are eligible to join. Adding to the controversy, the Obama administration and Western powers remained silent as UN member governments chose some of the most barbaric regimes on Earth to police "human rights" around the world.

The latest list of selections for the UN body, chosen by UN member governments and tyrants, reads like a who's who of totalitarian regimes. Among the communist dictatorships that cruised to victory at the UN council, for example, were the regime enslaving mainland China and the Castro-led Stalinist dictatorship enslaving Cuba. Other communist and socialist regimes on the council are those ruling Bolivia, Vietnam, South Africa, Ecuador, El Salvador, what remains of imploding Venezuela, and many more. Also taking a spot on the Human Rights Council was the Islamist regime in Saudi Arabia, which beheads apostates, bans Christianity, flogs and executes dissidents, and supports radical Islam around the world.

Other governments and dictatorships with troubling records selected in the latest process included those ruling Egypt, Rwanda, Tunisia, Iraq, Brazil, and Guatemala. They will be joining the oppressive regimes ruling Algeria, Burundi, Congo, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Namibia, Morocco, and Qatar, among others.

Americans who value real rights and freedoms need to ditch the UN and its extremist agenda in favor of the U.S. Constitution and the pre-existing rights it enshrines. Legislation to secure an American exit from the UN, the American Sovereignty Restoration Act, is already in Congress. All that is required now is more public pressure. And as the UN becomes increasingly extreme the pressure will almost certainly continue to build.



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Chicago Joins With Other Sanctuary Cities Vowing Defiance of Trump

“I want to assure all of our families that Chicago is and will remain a sanctuary city,” promised Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel on November 13, joining with several other mayors around the country who have said they will defy President-elect Trump’s promise to cut off their federal funds. A sanctuary city is one in which local law-enforcement officials refuse to inform federal immigration officials about their illegal-alien residents, or turn them over for deportation.

Emanuel was the chief of staff for President Obama before leaving that position to run for mayor of the Windy City. He insisted, “Chicago has been a city of immigrants since it was founded. We have always welcomed people of all faiths and backgrounds, and while the administration will change, our values and our commitment to inclusion will not.” One should note that while Chicago has indeed been a city of immigrants since it was founded, those early immigrants were *legal*.

Other sanctuary cities have also announced that they will remain such — municipalities in which illegal aliens can continue to live in violation of federal immigration law. Other cities besides Chicago that have taken this stance include Los Angeles, Seattle, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and dozens of others.

New York City’s extreme left-wing mayor Bill de Blasio has also vowed to protect the city’s illegal aliens from deportation. “We are not going to sacrifice a half million people who live among us,” he declared, “who are part of our community. We are not going to tear families apart.”

Speaking for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Connie Llanos said it was the mayor’s “hope that no president would violate those principles, the very foundation of our nation, by taking punitive action on cities that are simply protecting the well-being of residents.”

What a President Trump will actually do about the defiance of sanctuary cities remains to be seen.



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