

# **Medical and Recreational Marijuana Legalization: Impacts on Counties**

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# We are at the forefront of social change:

The times they  
are  
a-changin'  
- Bob Dylan



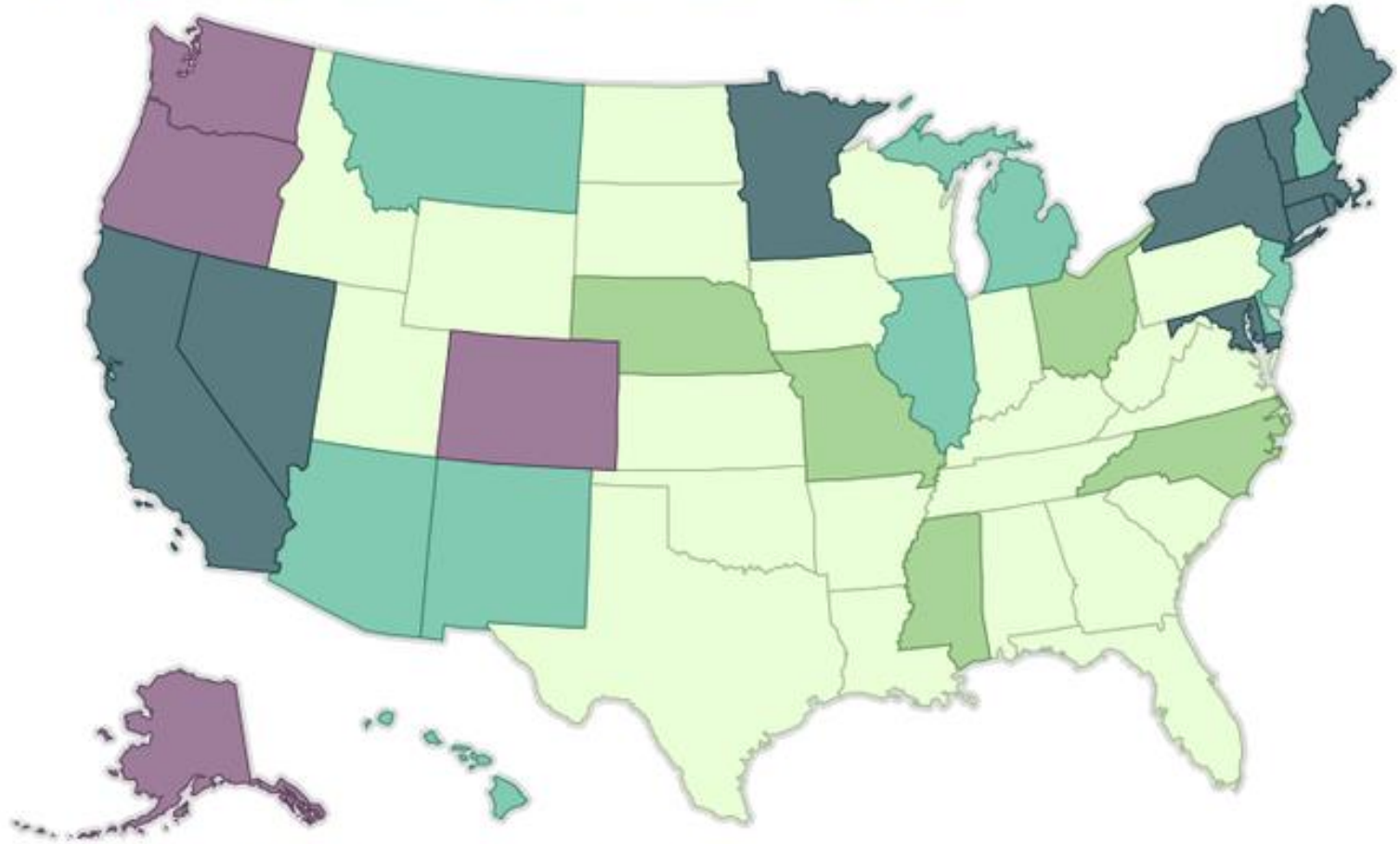
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# Status of marijuana laws in the United States:

Legalized Medical Decriminalized Medical and decriminalized Fully illegal



Source: NORML, Drug Policy Alliance, and the Marijuana Policy Project



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Your constituents will likely be divided



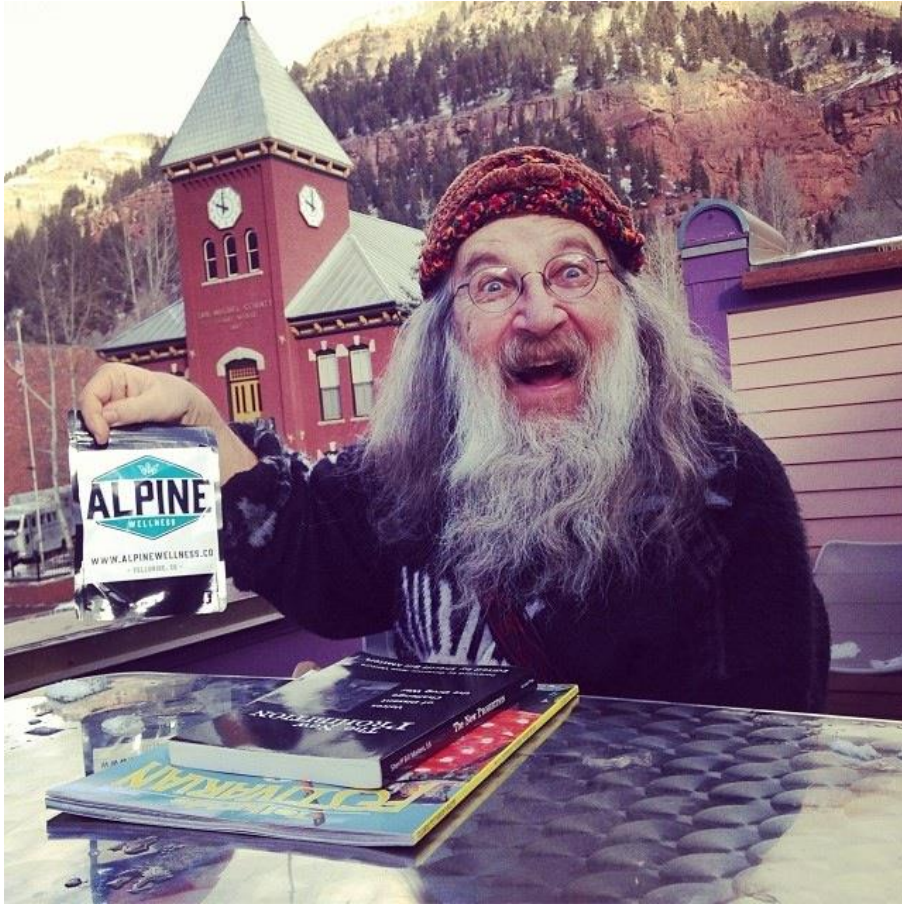
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# How do you come to consensus given diverse views?



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# What you can do to get ahead:

Begin to find consensus in your state

- Do you want to fight it?
- Medical vs. Recreational/Legalization
- Local control/Revenue sharing
- Are there wins? Jail savings, etc.

What will be the pathway to legalization

- Initiative vs. Legislation?



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# What you can do to get ahead:

**If the pathway is  
legislative, then lobby,  
lobby, lobby!**

**And don't forget about  
rule-making!**



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# What is your role as an elected?

## Zoning and planning:

- Do you have the ability or desire to ban? (currently WA and CO can, OR and AK require a vote)
- Where to site?
- Water use restrictions
- Building department inspections and safety concerns
- Perception of control vs. actual control



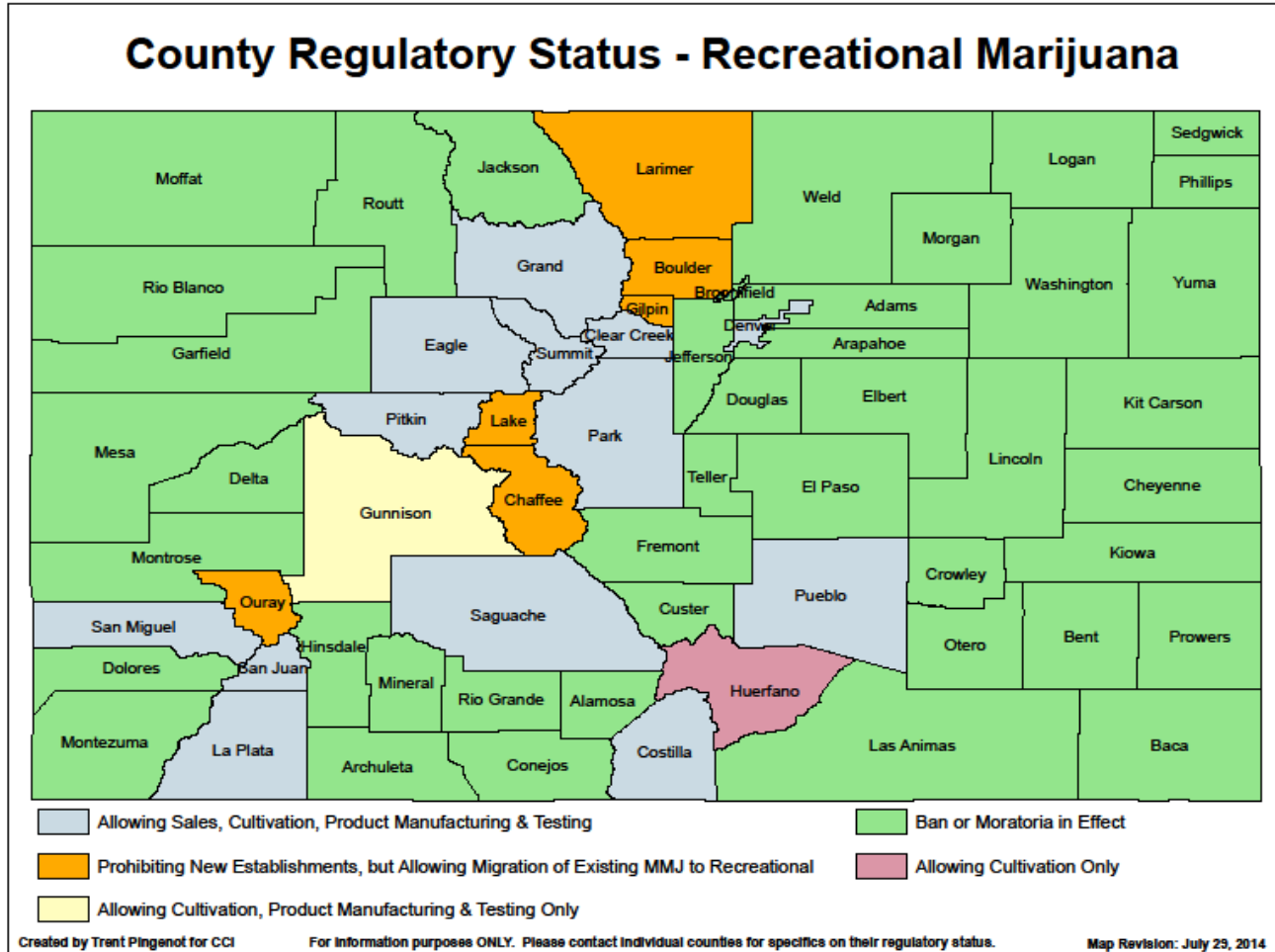
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# Local control: Colorado

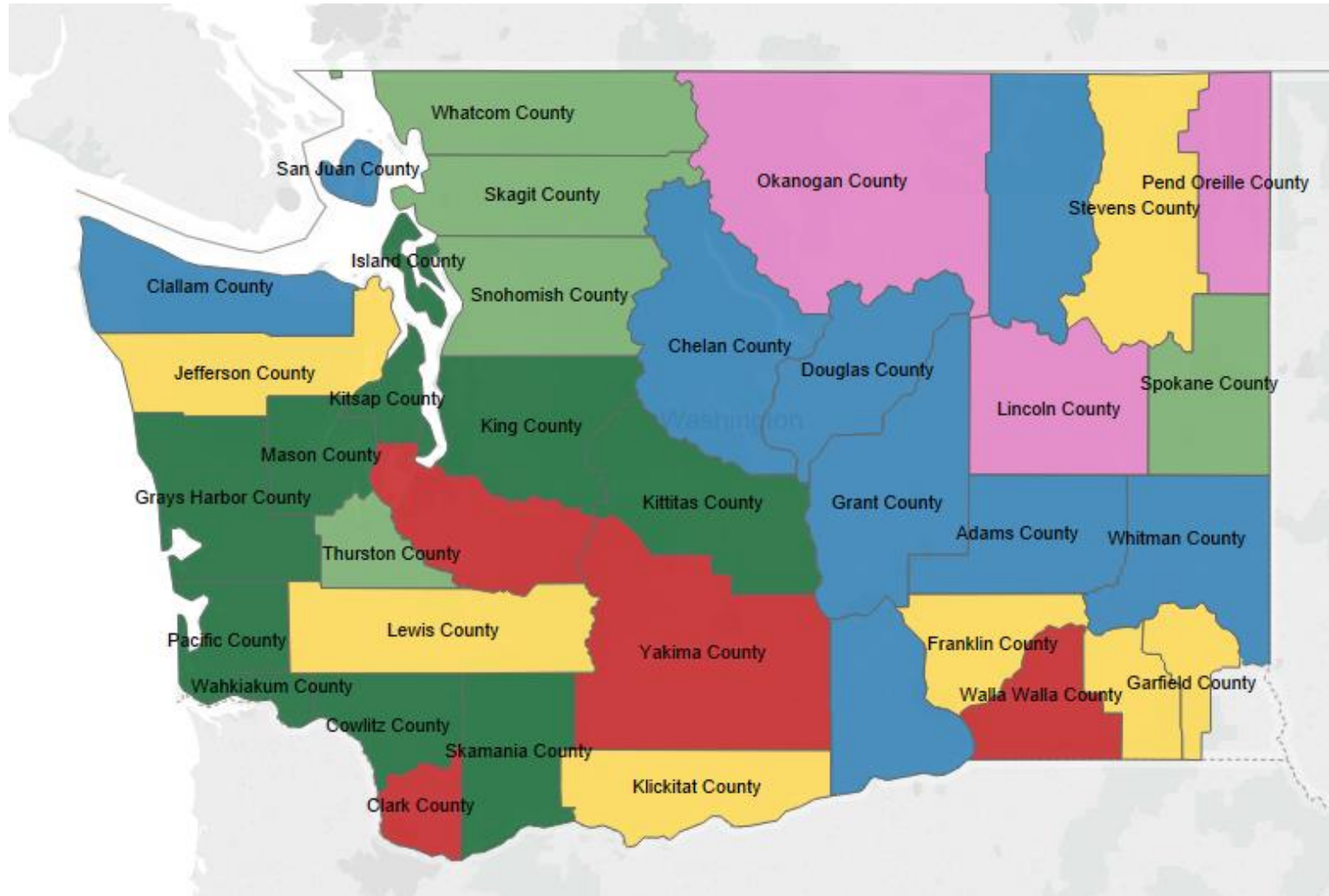


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# Local control: Washington



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# What is your role as an elected? (continued...)

## Public safety

- Juveniles and other criminal enforcement
- regulatory enforcement, etc.

## Public Health

- Kitchen inspections of infused product manufacturers
- Continued concerns over the safety of edibles



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# What is your role as an elected? (continued...)

## As an Employer

- Is your current drug policy sufficient?
- CDLs, Coast Guard, or other federal regulated employees
- testing?



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# Medical vs. “Medical”:

How do you create a system that is resistant to fraud?

- What are the roles/responsibilities of the doctors?
- What does patient access look like?
- Who regulates the “bad” actors? State or local?
- What happens when a well-child visit by social services reveals the presence of marijuana plants in the home?



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# Marijuana can be a significant revenue generator:

- Excise tax and sales tax
- Local options
- B&O tax
- Business licenses and application fees
  - Producer processor
  - Retailer
  - Tester



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# Marijuana can be a significant revenue generator:

## Retail sales in Colorado

- 2014 sales totaled almost \$700 million (\$386 million for medical)
- \$32 million in medical sales and \$42.7 million in recreational sales in March alone – a record.
- Over \$200 million in sales so far this year.



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# Marijuana can be a significant revenue generator:

## Washington marijuana revenue forecast

\$Millions

### May Forecast

	<u>2013-15</u>	<u>2015-17</u>	<u>2017-19</u>
GF-S share of excise tax and license fees	\$8.4	\$67.8	\$127.8
Non-GF	\$44.4	\$306.3	\$566.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$52.8</b>	<b>\$374.1</b>	<b>\$694.7</b>

Source: Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council



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# What about the Federal Government?



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# Current Federal Government Marijuana Directives:

- Preventing distribution of marijuana to minors
- Preventing the involvement of criminal enterprises, gangs and cartels in legal marijuana industry
- Preventing the diversion of legalized marijuana to other states



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# What else have we learned?

- Medical vs. recreational
- Problems vs. process of setting up new markets
- Difficult to monetize impacts to local government
- Take the money
- Local control is a two-edged sword
- Message effectively

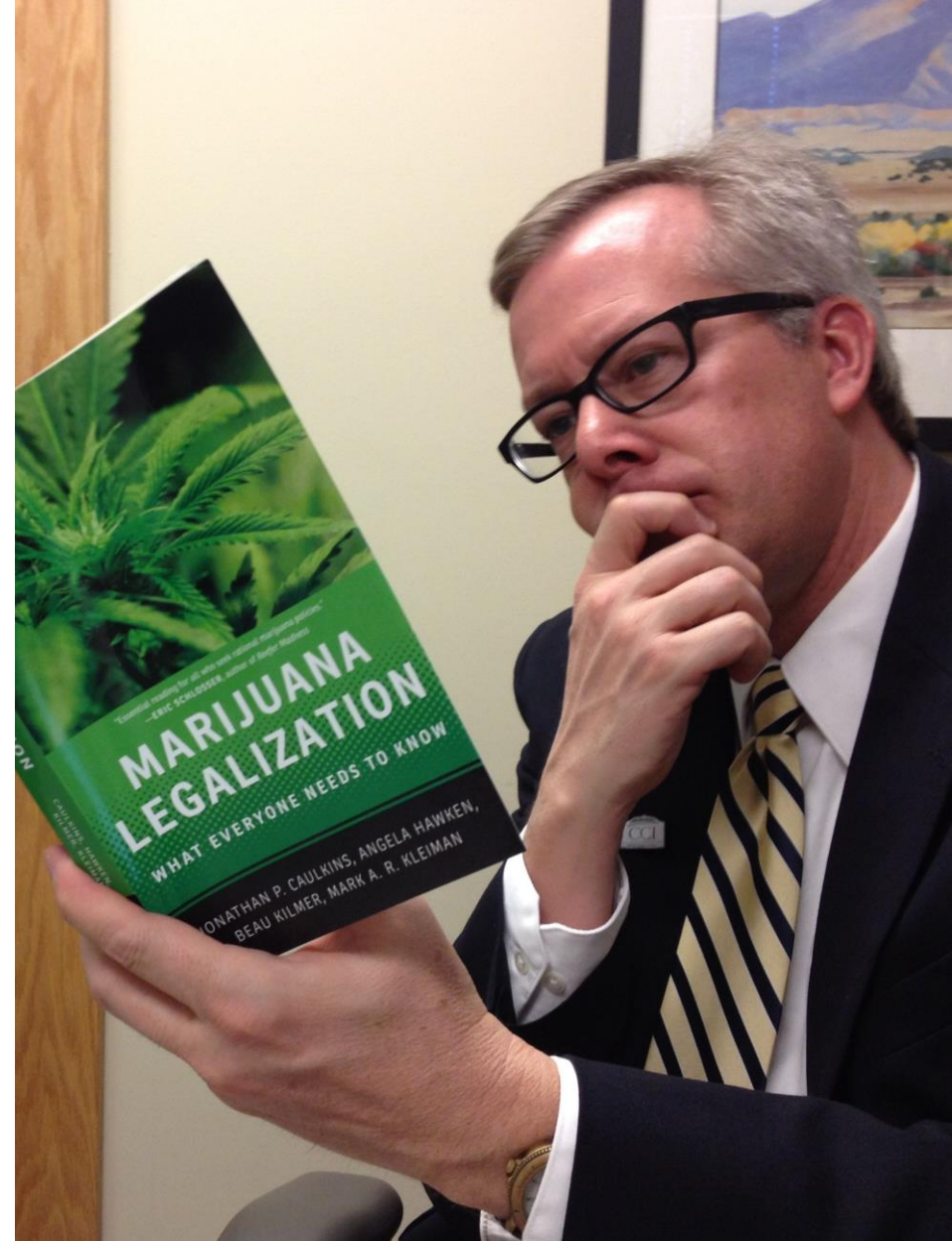


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# QUESTIONS?



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