

To the Missoula Community:

On November 7, 2006, Missoula County voters passed Initiative #2, which recommended that County officials treat adult marijuana crimes as their lowest priority. In several Missoula city precincts the initiative passed with a vote of more than 80%.

On November 7, 2007, the volunteer committee created by the initiative will report back to Missoula voters on the first year results of the initiative's implementation. So far, the committee has learned that 37 citizens had county-level law enforcement encounters that involved marijuana in the first 6 months of 2007, and 21 marijuana cases were referred to the county prosecutor. The county attorney's office reports there are no prosecutions to date for those cases.

In order to have more complete data, the committee is also in the process of collecting information from the city. Without information from the city about its arrests and prosecutions since last November, our oversight process cannot verify whether the total number of marijuana enforcement actions in Missoula County has changed.

Our report will provide additional details about the extent to which county officials have implemented voters' recommendations as expressed in the initiative. Our oversight process is important because it represents some of the best aspects of democracy – an opportunity for the people to monitor the implementation of their will (via initiative), providing an instrument of accountability to encourage elected officials to listen and serve the people that elected them.

Once released, the report will be available on the county website at:
<http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/initiative2> and other media sources.

The oversight committee also has developed a grievance procedure, and invites anyone who believes he or she has been treated unfairly by law enforcement in connection with marijuana to contact us using the grievance form that is available at <http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/initiative2> and various locations in the Missoula Community.

Members of the I-2 Community Oversight Committee

Chair John Masterson, Civil Liberties Advocate
Vice Chair Steve Zellmer, Harm Reduction Advocate
John Kneedler, Medical Marijuana Patient
Donna Hamilton, County Resident
Craig Shannon, Esq., Criminal Defense Attorney
Michael Bailey, Esq., Criminal Defense Attorney
Steve Lohning, Drug Abuse and Prevention Counselor
Angela Goodhope, County Resident
Charles Tiernan, County Resident