



THE VOICE OF THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY

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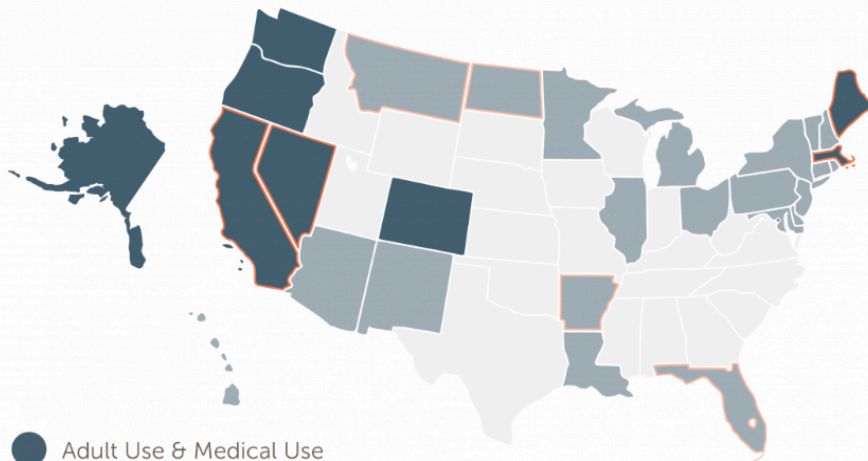
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ELECTION 2016



- ❖ A total of nine states voted on cannabis ballot initiatives in November 2016
 - Arizona, California, Maine, Massachusetts, and Nevada voted on adult-use cannabis
 - Arkansas, Florida, Montana, and North Dakota voted on medical cannabis

CANNABIS LEGALIZATION NOVEMBER 9



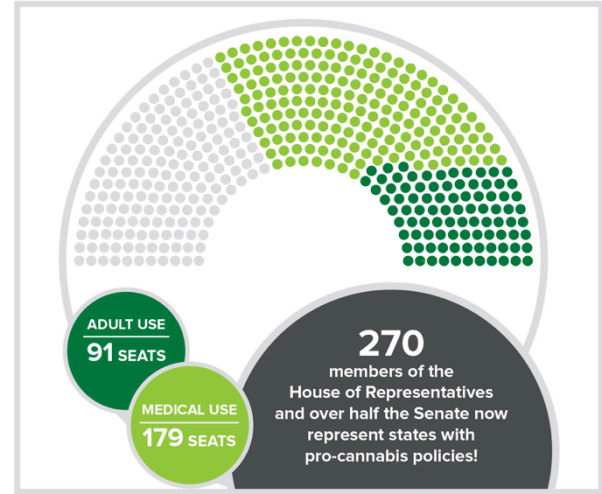
- Adult Use & Medical Use
- Medical Use
- New Legislation

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CONGRESS



- ❖ More than **16 million** voters cast votes in favor of regulated cannabis programs
- ❖ In six of the nine states that had cannabis on the ballot, the initiative garnered **more** votes than Donald Trump
- ❖ More than 20% of Americans now live in a state with **adult-use cannabis**
- ❖ Thanks to the success of cannabis ballot initiatives, there are now **270 House members and 56 Senators** who represent medical or adult-use cannabis districts or states.



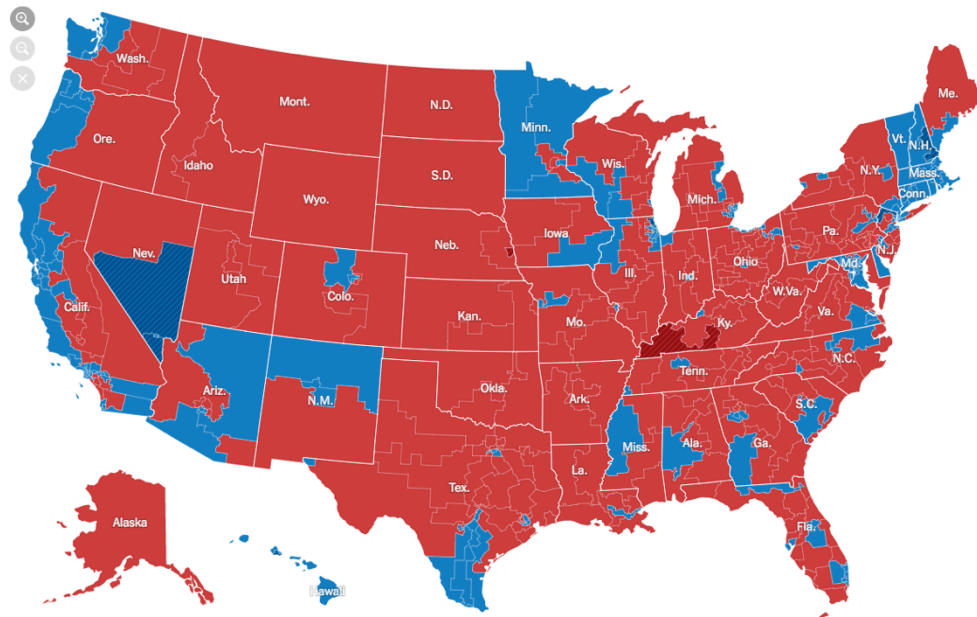
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



194 Democrats

✓ **Republicans 241**

218 to win



Lead Win Flip Dem. Lead Win Flip Rep. Lead Win Flip Other No results

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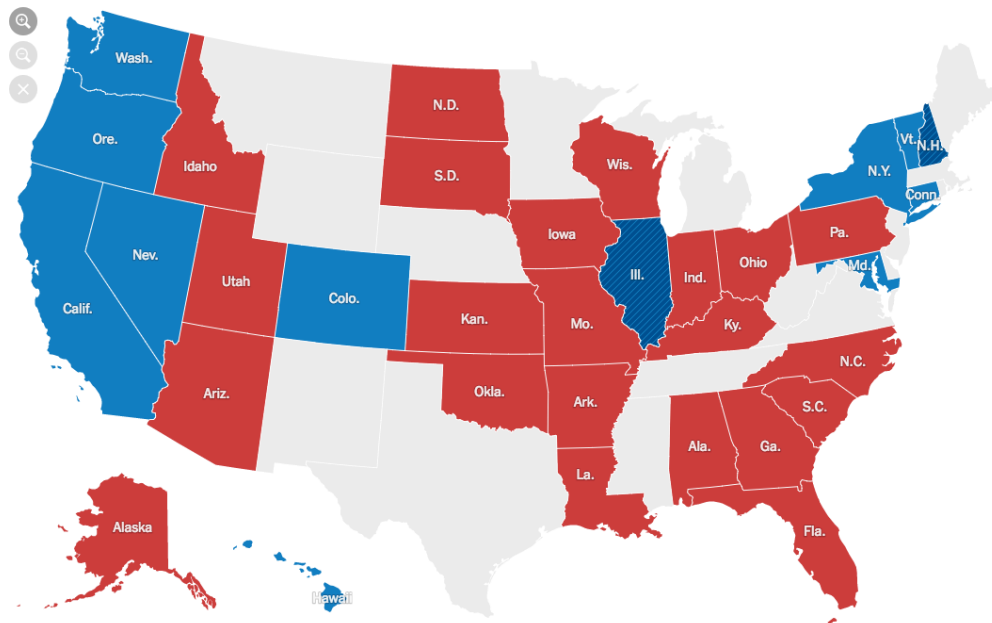
SENATE

48 Democrats

36 Democrats not up for election
Gained 2 seats

52 Republicans

30 Republicans not up for election
Lost 2 seats



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DONALD TRUMP



In his own words:

- ❖ “In terms of marijuana and legalization, I think that should be a state issue, state-by-state... Marijuana is such a big thing. **I think medical should happen** — right? Don’t we agree? I think so. And then I really believe **we should leave it up to the states.**” - *Washington Post*, October 2015
- ❖ “I do want to see what the medical effects are. I have to see what the medical effects are and, by the way -- **medical marijuana, medical? I’m in favor of it a hundred percent.** But what you are talking about, perhaps not.” - Interview with Bill O’Reilly, February 2016
- ❖ “I’d say [regulating marijuana] is bad. Medical marijuana is another thing, but I think it’s bad and I feel strongly about that. [Moderator: “What about the states’ right aspect of it?”] **If they vote for it, they vote for it...** But I think, medical marijuana, 100%.” - CSPAN, June 2015
- ❖ “We’re losing badly the War on Drugs. **You have to legalize drugs to win that war.** You have to take the profit away from these drug czars.” - *Miami Herald*, April 1990

ATTORNEY GENERAL



- ❖ President Trump selected longtime Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) as his pick to lead the Department of Justice as Attorney General.
- ❖ In his confirmation hearing on January 10th, Sen. Sessions was asked about CBD laws, as well as about Congress' role in cannabis policy.
 - When responding to a question from Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, Sessions said he "won't commit to never enforcing federal law", but also recognized that he has limited resources.
 - In reference to the guidelines (the Cole Memo) issued by the Justice Department in 2013 that effectively left marijuana law enforcement up to individual states, Sessions told Sen. Leahy "**some of them are truly valuable in evaluating cases, but, fundamentally, the criticism I think that is legitimate is that [the guidelines] may not have been followed.**" Sessions went on to say he would need to use "good judgment" when deciding how to enforce federal marijuana laws, should he be sworn in as Attorney General, adding "I know it won't be an easy decision, but I will try to do my duty in a fair and just way."
- ❖ Though Senator Sessions has clearly expressed his opinion on cannabis, he has also clearly stated his strong support for state sovereignty, and for states to be allowed to dictate their own policies.

APPROPRIATIONS



- ❖ Every year, Congress must pass appropriations legislation to fund the government for the upcoming fiscal year. This annual funding bill has been one of the only avenues by which pro-cannabis reform language can be inserted into federal law.
- ❖ On December 9th, Congress decided to vote on a continuing resolution to fund the government through April. This means that current spending provisions remain in place, including the amendment that bars the Justice Department from spending federal funds to target patients or providers in states where medical marijuana is legal.
- ❖ NCIA will be advocating strongly for the renewal of the existing medical marijuana protections, and the reintroduction of the expanded protections for all state-legal cannabis programs, in the upcoming Congress. These amendments can help provide a counterweight if Justice Department decisions seem likely to cut against the industry.



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