

# Medical Marijuana Survives Reform

## Fight to add limits goes up in smoke

BY JAKE THOMAS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

An effort to reform Oregon's Medical Marijuana Act breathed its last-breath last week in a committee room in the State Capitol.

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act, which voters overwhelmingly approved 10 years

ago, has drawn considerable attention this Legislative session from patients and law enforcement officials.

Law enforcement insisted the law allows for abuse, while patients fretted about not having access to the drug.

But in the end lawmakers couldn't please everyone, even after several amendments, and abandoned tackling any reforms until the next session, which is likely to be in February.

At a hearing before the com-

mittee, Lt. Mike Dingaman of the Oregon State Police complained that under current law, caregivers who administer the drug can hold up to 24 ounces of the drug and six mature plants per patient.

Dingaman said that these conditions are tailor-made for a caregiver who wants to illegally sell on the side.

"The caregiver's out peddling dope," scoffed Dingaman before the committee.

Law enforcement also wanted to reduce the amount

that could be held by patients, caregivers, and growers and make them all sign a statement stating they had read a manual on medical marijuana and understood it. They also wanted random inspections of grow sites, an idea that was quickly nixed.

Madeline Martinez, the executive director of the Oregon chapter of the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws, worried that too much attention was being given to the concerns of law enforce-

ment at the expense of Oregon's 21,000 patients.

"Anything from law enforcement should be thrown out," said Martinez, a retired peace officer.

In California, patients can pick up medical marijuana at dispensaries. In Oregon, patients have to find caregivers and growers on their own, which Martinez said is a huge impediment to them getting care. The cap on the amount would have exacerbated this problem, she added.

Don Bishoff, a legislative assistant for William Morissette (D-Springfield), said that the committee was reluctant to tinker with a law that was overwhelmingly approved by voters and was lukewarm about concerns advanced by law enforcement.

"It's hard to judge just how much abuse is out there," he said.

The committee was also receptive to patients' concerns which amounted to, "Do no harm."

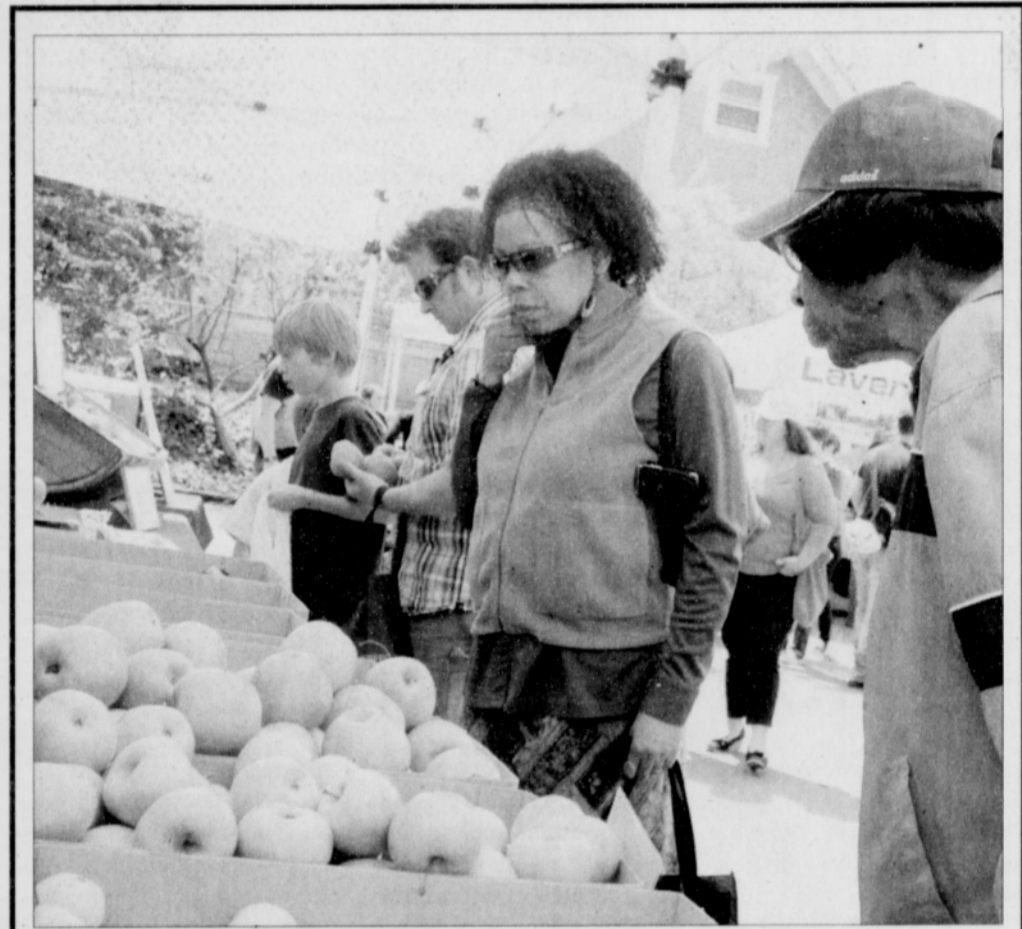


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## King Farmers Market Debuts

Willow McKeever (right) and her granddaughter Kathy Woods are among the first shoppers to the new King Farmers Market which had its inauguration on Sunday. The open air market, featuring home grown foods, will assemble each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Sept. 27 at King School Park, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave.

## Can Adams Survive?

continued from Front

At a glance, it seems like activists organizing a campaign to recall Adams are in a plum position. But in post-Breedlove scandal Portland it's hard to get a handle on just how much support the mayor has lost, and there are indications that he could survive a recall.

Adams was once a political powerhouse who clobbered businessman Sho Dozono with nearly 60 percent of the vote in the mayoral election.

Adams enjoyed support among all demographics, said Jim Moore, a professor of political science at Pacific University. The challenge for recall activists will be peeling away this support. And it's hard to get a handle on how this will happen.

Moore added that one constituency is pivotal because of

its deep pockets: Portland's business community.

But Adams has had lukewarm relations with this constituency, said Moore.

An analysis of Adams' campaign finances support this assertion. Of the over \$307,000 Adams raised for his mayoral bid, individuals contributed more than \$203,000 while businesses ponied up only \$52,637.

Tim Hibbitts, a pollster with the research firm Davis, Hibbitts, & Midghall, Inc., said that Adams' connections with the business community weren't particularly warm, but "On balance they haven't been bad."

At times, Adams' support with the Portland Business Alliance has been tepid. It oddly endorsed both him and Dozono during the election and issued a statement after the scandal broke stating, "We are deeply

disappointed by the mayor's admissions and are concerned about his ability to be effective when our city now faces many significant challenges."

But Adams has kept up face time with the alliance holding monthly check-ins, and the mayor has pledged to meet with over 100 businesses.

"We think he's doing an excellent job," said Julie Leuvre, co-president of Oregon Pacific Investment and Development Company and previous board member of the business alliance, who doesn't regret the \$1,000 her company contributed to Adams' campaign.

In a city with a strong libertarian streak, Adams' sexual exploits might be an afterthought for voters who are more concerned about the mayor's priorities on economic development and the environment.

Shortly after the scandal

emerged Adams brushed off the blaring chorus of voices claiming that he couldn't be effective and vowed to work harder than ever.

Adams championed a 12-lane bridge for the Columbia River Crossing, which drew hundreds of people to Waterfront Park last month to decry it as a costly and environmentally unfriendly boondoggle. The business alliance, however, supported the 12-lane option.

"It's been a huge disappointment from our perspective," said Erich Stachon, the communications director for the environmental group 1,000 Friends of Oregon. Stachon said that Adams has done some things for the environment, and his group is neutral on the recall.

Adams has also taken serious heat for supporting an agreement to bring major league soccer to Portland, which puts the city on the hook for more than \$55 million when it's starting down a major budget shortfall that threatens basic ser-

vices.

Jasun Wurster, the volunteer spokesperson for the recall campaign, is eager to give the boot to a mayor he said is guilty of "political thuggery," but said the campaign will only focus on Adams' lie.

"Though we can't start collecting signatures, the recall is up and running," said Wurster.

Recall activists can't begin collecting the 35,000 signatures needed to trigger the recall election or collect recall campaign contributions until July 1, but the preliminary groundwork is underway, according to Wurster.

Recall promoters have begun recruiting volunteers, conducting outreach, and getting together a multi-media team.

Wurster, who worked on City Commissioner Amanda Fritz's grassroots campaign and hopes to run a similar one with the recall, hopes to raise \$15,000 for the effort. Monday, the group came out with a video on youtube.

But Wurster still has work to do.

No elected official has joined the crusade to oust the mayor. In fact, Adams enjoys relatively good relations with the City Council, with no commissioner calling for his resignation. Wurster couldn't even get the council to hold a confidence vote on Adams.

"He's definitely rebuilding his reputation," said Moore, who argued that Adams' recent initiatives have helped him politically.

He doesn't think the fallout from I-5 bridge crossing project will stick because Adams has deep support from the environmental community, while many of the issues surrounding the soccer deal (i.e. urban renewal) have been debated for years.

"I think Sam's in a safe place right now," said Moore.

But Wurster remains undeterred. "We will win this," he said. "But it will be done ethically, honestly, and civically."

## Letter Carriers Food Drive

### Event to help stamp out hunger

Area residents are encouraged to place nonperishable food donations by their mailbox on the morning of Saturday, May 9, for the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive.

More than 3,000 letter carriers throughout Oregon and Clark County, Wash., will join with letter carriers across America to collect donations of nonperishable food from their postal customers during the 22nd annual event.

Letter carriers will collect nonperishable food donations left by mailboxes and take them to their local post office, where volunteers will pack the food. Trucks will pick up the food and deliver it to regional food banks of the Oregon Food Bank Network. All donated food stays in the community where it was collected.

If you miss your letter carrier's daily visit, drop off your food donations at any



Northeast Portland postal worker Jim Falvey promotes the annual letter carriers food drive where residents can place nonperishable food donations by their mailbox on Saturday, May 9 for pick up to the Oregon Food Bank.

post office by Wednesday, May 13.

"This is always my favorite day of the year to deliver mail," said letter carrier Kevin Card. "We may be tired at the

end of the day, but it feels good to help."

For more information or to make a cash donation, call 503-282-0555 or visit [oregonfoodbank.org](http://oregonfoodbank.org).

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