

KING COUNTY WASHINGTON SHERIFF DEAD WRONG

Washington data reflects the truth

All 36 Oregon Sheriffs stand united in opposing Measure 91. Let's just say they don't appreciate an out-of-state Sheriff chiming in. "I am appalled that Sheriff Urquhart feels the need to speak to Measure 91, a measure that is very different from Washington's Initiative 502," said Marion County Sheriff Jason Myers.

Washington Initiative 502 permits marijuana to only be purchased in stores at a taxed price, whereas Oregon Measure 91 would permit persons 21 and older to be able to grow at home and purchase marijuana in retail stores (some products would be taxed, some would not). Oregon Measure 91 would also allow 1 pound of marijuana edibles, over half a gallon of marijuana liquid, 1 ounce of hashish, 4 marijuana plants, and 8 ounces of dried usable marijuana (versus the 1 ounce of dried usable marijuana allowed in Washington and Colorado).

"You don't see any Oregon Sheriffs going up to Washington to weigh in," said Jefferson County Sheriff Jim Adkins, "he needs to get his nose out of our state and show some respect. The issues we face are different."

Worse yet, Sheriff Urquhart appears in a television ad for Measure 91 and shares both false and misleading information about Washington state. In the ad Urquhart states "month by month tax dollars are going to schools and police (not the drug cartels), wasteful arrests are way down, DUIs are down, drug prevention programs are getting funds, strict regulations are working, here it's really better already, it's your vote not mine but it's working here." Full television ad can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kyOzHyA8Wo>

"Unfortunately, many of the statements made by Sheriff Urquhart in the Measure 91 television ad are false," said Derek Franklin, President of Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention. Franklin reports the following:

- 1) Washington Initiative 502 does not fund sheriffs, police, or state patrol (at all).
- 2) Washington schools are not funded; only 3/10 of 1% of second tier funding from Initiative 502 will go towards a "Building Bridges" program.
- 3) Data adapted from the Washington State Patrol finds that the year after marijuana legalization the percent of total driving cases where the driver tested positive for delta-9 THC (the active ingredient in marijuana) increased by 33.3% (it decreased by 7.9% the year prior).
- 4) Drug prevention and public health programs are currently not getting funds from I-502; public education and awareness campaigns are funded piece-meal by state agencies and those struggle to reach a wide audience (not enough funding for a TV ad).
- 5) According to a declassified 2012 Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NWHIDTA) report, drug cartels are not leaving Washington after legalization, but instead appear to be adapting their business under cover of legalization's lax enforcement environment and competing in the only market segment for which marijuana remains illegal (those under 21 years of age).
- 6) Although marijuana use in public view is prohibited under I-502, it is currently not enforced in Seattle where marijuana use on public streets, at beaches and parks, and even on public transit is being reported in the local media as an increasing nuisance.
- 7) Arrests are, of course, down in WA because marijuana is no longer illegal for adults over 21. However, enforcing other aspects of the new law are taking significant law enforcement resources—a single

marijuana related DUI case can take an officer off the road for 4 hours while securing a subpoena to draw blood and transporting to a medical facility to do so.

8) Some WA school districts have seen a five-fold increase in marijuana-related violations at school.

Sheriff Gene Dana, President of Washington State Sheriffs Association took immediate action to release a statement. "It is imperative that the Oregon State Sheriffs Association know and understand that the position taken by Sheriff Urquhart does not represent the Washington State Sheriffs' Association as a whole," he said.

[View full WSSA release here](#)

"This is absolutely unacceptable and deplorable behavior by Sheriff Urquhart" says Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin. "How dare he use his position as a Sheriff to spoon-feed Oregonians blatantly false information about Washington State right before an Oregon election. This shows a real lack of integrity, and I demand he publicly retract this false information immediately," he said.