Still, proponents of medical marijuana, needle exchange and sentencing reform have learned to be patient. And there’s a chance that the election may

For all the worries about ‘San Francisco values’ coming into the Congress, (drug reform) isn’t one that’s going to come to the forefront,” said Patrick

Politics

Legal Pot’s No Pipe Dream

Eleven states

Springs -- have told local police to make pot busts a low priority.

The war on drugs

But under federal law, medical marijuana is illegal, creating an eternal conflict between Washington D.C. and the states.

But “at the very least, we’ll see some hearings on the issue,” predicted Bill Piper, director of national affairs for the pro-reform

Democrats control Congress, a socialist is in the Senate and the president’s approval ratings are in the tank. So it’s no surprise that advocates of drug

Meanwhile, there’s trouble on the state front: counties in California are

Hearings? Big whoop. Things are looking up in the wake of Election Day, but anyone who expects a major shift in American drug laws is definitely

Will Nevada Take Lid Off Pot?

Piper predicted that the new makeup of Congress means “we’re not going to have to worry about draconian penalties and bills that infringe on civil liberties.”

Murphy, the University of San Francisco drug policy guru, suggested Congress could be trying to tie the Bush administration’s hands by not allowing an increase in funding for the Drug Enforcement Agency.

According to Murph, it’s possible that the DEA won’t get a “blank check,” and Congress will be “less enthusiastic about new gadgets and providing more money for enforcement initiatives.”

Sentence reform

It’s possible that Congress will tackle the “un-tot-sa” disparity that haunts federal law about cocaine possession.

Currently, according to a recent Los Angeles Times commentary, a person caught with a breathless full of 5,000 grams of powder cocaine will get a mandatory five-year sentence – just like a person caught with 50 grams of rock cocaine, about the weight of a candy bar.

The disparity was to be discussed at a hearing of the U.S. Sentencing Commission on Tuesday.

But the fact is that the federal criminal justice system accounts for less than 20 percent of all people imprisoned for violating drug laws, said Jonathan P. Caulkins, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University who studies drug policy.

And he’s skeptical that politicians will make much of a difference in how many people visit the Innsbruck Hotel.

“Most of what drives incarceration is trends in use and trafficking, not so much who is in power in Washington, so I don’t necessarily see a big change because of the election,” said Caulkins.

I THINK WE SHOULD OUTLAW ALCOHOL AND LEGALIZE GODS MEDICINE “POT”! ALCOHOL HAS DESTROYED MORE LIVES THAN ANYTHING OUT THER...