

## Strange Bedfellows — Politics News

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### Obama: Worst president ever on medical pot?

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Andrew Sullivan [raps](#) President Barack Obama pretty hard for his Justice Department's stance on medical marijuana following federal [scrutiny](#) in California of medical pot shops.

*The California raids were particularly retrograde, even though the system there obviously needs a revamp. I wonder how much politics is behind this and how much is simple institutional lobbying. But if Obama wants to truly depress his younger base, he can keep this up. You think they'll be voting for an administration that treats marijuana on the same level as crystal meth?*

Medical marijuana remains a hot topic in Washington state.

Municipalities across the state are grappling with how to deal with the growing number of medical pot shops and related enterprises.

On July 18 the Seattle City Council passed a new [law](#) that establishes a regulatory framework for the growing number of medical marijuana dispensaries in Seattle. The City Council unanimously passed its own ordinance because efforts to address medical marijuana, which is legal in Washington, foundered earlier this year in Olympia. Seattle officials will take up the issue of in-city zoning for the pot shops in the coming weeks.

Gov. Chris Gregoire, citing concerns about possible federal prosecution of state employees, earlier this year vetoed most of a medical marijuana bill that would've set up a state regulatory framework for medical cannabis, however she allowed a section permitting collective marijuana grows with up to 45 plants, serving up to 10 patients.

Evergreen State voters approved legalizing medical marijuana in 1998. Washington is one of [16 states](#) which allows marijuana use for medical purposes, but the federal government does not recognize any medicinal use for cannabis.

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Posted by [Chris Grygiel](#) on October 12, 2011 at 9:25 am | [Permalink](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

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#### Chris Grygiel

Chris Grygiel coordinates political coverage for [seattlepi.com](#). He previously worked at it... [More](#)

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