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the buzz: Cannabis News & Policy Update | November 2026

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Welcome back to *the buzz*, our monthly cannabis news and policy update. Your at-a-glance source for regulatory developments, agency announcements, and trends impacting the cannabis industry.

In this edition of *the buzz* partner Rachel Gillette and Jennifer Benda highlight:

- **Election results point to a different 2027:** Democrats win six state trifectas, potentially opening paths for legalization, tax changes, and regulatory revisions in 2027. MA voters reject adult-use repeal, while ID and MO voters bolster the citizen initiative process.
- **Medical registration hits a snag:** DEA registers 900+ medical marijuana dispensaries in seven states but issues show-cause orders in seven jurisdictions, and operators ask the D.C. Circuit to halt the November 29 supply-chain cutoff, which DOJ opposes.
- **Adult-use rescheduling briefing wraps:** Supplemental briefing on the GAO report is complete, and the DEA chief administrative law judge's recommendation is next, with no deadline for it or the administrator's final decision.
- **Banking push:** Sixteen Democratic governors urge Congress to advance the SAFE Banking Act, citing cash-related security risks, and post-election gains may improve its prospects in 2027.
- **New markets in motion:** IL proposes 45 social equity infuser licenses, RI adult-use retail applications close November 23, OR drafts rules for opening new license slots, MN opens 2027 hemp applications, and TX lawmakers pre-file adult-use bills.
- **State policy roundup:** CA moves to separate medical and adult-use licenses; CO audit flags product safety gaps; GA's rules contemplate mail delivery, drawing opposition from two U.S. senators; MI bill would suspend the wholesale excise tax; NV weighs tax restructuring; and NY drops its labor peace requirement.
- **Hemp countdown:** The synthetic cannabinoid ban took effect November 12, with the 0.4 mg total THC per container limit set for December 11. IL hemp companies challenge state restrictions in court, a MO challenge is dismissed, NJ extends its beverage deadline, and a TX appeal slips to 2027.

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