

7-86 Advisory Question Regarding Citizen Sentiment for Oregon – Idaho Border Relocation

**The following is the complete list of the arguments that
were submitted for inclusion into the
State Voters' Pamphlet.**

**Please note – the first 2 measure arguments were
inadvertently omitted from State Voters' Pamphlet.**

There is a way to get better governance for central and eastern Oregon. The current location of the Oregon/Idaho border was decided 165 years ago and is now outdated because it doesn't match the location of the dividing line between the counties that prefer Idaho's style of governance and counties that prefer Oregon's style of governance. However, state borders can be moved. It happened in 1958, when the Oregon/ Washington border was moved slightly, and it could happen again if we vote yes on this measure to send a message to the state legislatures of Oregon and Idaho that Crook County wants to be included in any plans to make counties a part of Idaho. As part of Idaho, our representatives would be a part of the ruling party. 80% of the Idaho legislature is Republican. That hasn't changed in decades because the people moving into the state are about as conservative as the people who are already there, and are about as conservative as the people of Crook County. The Idaho legislature is controlled by representatives from rural districts, who govern according to the concerns and priorities of rural counties. Idaho laws and budgets are suited to rural economies and industries and Idaho approves projects that are good for the economy and good for the environment. Oregon politicians don't understand how we make a living. Their decisions damage industries like timber, mining, trucking, ranching and farming. They want to remake the Oregon we've known our whole lives. We want to preserve the values and way of life of old Oregon as a part of Idaho. This May, the people of Crook County get the opportunity to send a loud and clear message to their elected leaders about who they trust more to preserve their heritage and protect their communities moving forward. Please join us in voting yes on Greater Idaho, and securing a better future for our county.

Mike McCarter
President of Move Oregon's Border

The right to choose our own government is a foundational principle of the United States. It's why we hold votes for government office, redistrict every ten years, and have an initiative system that allows voters to refer issues directly to the ballot. The goal of all of these systems is to get government that people actually want and that matches their values. Unfortunately for those of us who make Crook County home, these systems have failed to deliver on those goals at the state level. For decades, we in rural Oregon have been getting state government that we don't want and that we didn't vote for. This isn't an issue of apathy or lack of voter turnout, but rather math. The heavily populated Willamette Valley, and especially the Portland Metro area, has the numbers on their side, along with a radically different culture than those of us east of the Cascades. Because of those two factors, east-side Oregonians have little voice in their own state government, even less political power, and get a steady barrage of policies forced on us that we don't want, and don't reflect our community or values.

Our vote this May is a chance for the people of Crook County to have a say in which state governs us. For once, we are being asked what WE want for our communities, not having policies forced on us by people with worldviews different than ours. Rural Oregonians have

been political minorities in our own state for long enough. I urge everyone to send a message to Salem, as well as our elected leaders across eastern Oregon, that we are ready for a change in state governance. Make your voice heard, and please join me in voting yes on Greater Idaho.

Matt McCaw
Powell Butte

Argument in Opposition -- 7-86 Advisory Question Regarding Citizen Sentiment for Oregon - Idaho Border Relocation

I love Oregon... all of it. Here are a few of the many ways that Oregon takes better care of us:

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

- Abortion in Idaho is illegal from fertilization
- Idaho law criminalizes helping someone leave the state for an abortion
- More than 50 Idaho obstetricians have stopped practicing in the state since a near-total abortion ban took effect in August 2022
- As a consequence of Idaho's anti-abortion laws, other maternal-fetal medicine specialists are also leaving creating a women's healthcare desert in Idaho
- **OREGON PROTECTS WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

TAXATION

- Idaho has income, property and **sales tax**
- Idaho's sales tax is over 6% and is applied to food, clothing, motor vehicles and more
- Due to the Idaho sales tax, the tax burden is proportionally higher for those with low income
- **OREGON DOES NOT HAVE A SALES TAX**

MINIMUM WAGE

- Idaho's minimum wage is \$7.25
- Idaho's minimum wage for employees receiving tips is \$3.35
- **OREGON'S MINIMUM WAGE RANGE IS \$13.20 TO \$14.20 FOR ALL EMPLOYEES IN CENTRAL OREGON**

EMPLOYMENT LAW

- While Idaho provides for up to 12 weeks of family leave it does not require that it be paid
- **OREGON'S PAID FAMILY LEAVE FOR UP TO 12 WEEKS WENT INTO EFFECT IN 2023**

VOTING

- Idaho requires voter registration through the county clerk's office or by registering on line
- Unless an absentee ballot is requested, voters in Idaho must vote at polling places
- Oregon provides automatic voter registration when interacting with the DMV as well as through the county clerk's office and online registration
- **OREGON VOTES BY MAIL**

We could also talk about how Oregon also protects LGBTQ+ rights, better access to healthcare, and the environment.

VOTE NO ON 7-86 ADVISORY QUESTION

**Barbara Fontaine
Powell Butte**

Arguments in Opposition to 7-86 Advisory Question Regarding Citizen Sentiment for Oregon-Idaho Border Relocation

Let's talk Cannabis Sales Taxes

- Cannabis sales in the 12 counties in 2023, excluding opt outs, totaled \$148 million, with Malheur County sales alone topping \$100 million.
- Every quarter \$11.25 million in state cannabis tax revenue is distributed as follows:
 - ✓ State School Fund: 40 percent
 - ✓ Oregon Health Authority, for mental health treatment or for alcohol and drug abuse prevention, early intervention, and treatment services: 25percent
 - ✓ State Police: 15 percent
 - ✓ Cities: 10 percent
 - ✓ Counties: 10 percent

Cannabis sales to Idaho residents are subsidizing Oregon cities, counties, schools, law enforcement and infrastructure. Recreational and medicinal use of cannabis is illegal in Idaho, and possession of small amounts can lead to fines and/or incarceration.

Why would Crook County residents shoot themselves in the foot and forego this important addition to the County's revenue stream?

VOTE NO ON 7-86 ADVISORY QUESTION

Joel Komarek
Powell Butte, OR

Arguments in Opposition to 7-86 Advisory Question Regarding Citizen Sentiment for Oregon-Idaho Border Relocation

On May 21, 2024, Crook County voters will be asked the following question: “Should Crook County represent that its citizens support efforts to move the Idaho state border to include Crook County?”

Proponents offer specious arguments that eastern Oregon counties do not feel represented in Salem and that Oregonians “should want to cut their losses because they subsidize eastern Oregon.” A professor of constitutional law at Willamette University in Oregon opines that the move might cost Idahoans between \$18 and \$20 billion. In my view this is utter nonsense, and here are a few reasons why:

- Per Oregon Bluebook (2023), the Real Market Value (RMV) of the lands contained within the boundaries of the 12 counties that have approved similar measures is \$43.3 billion. Crook County RMV alone is \$4.6 billion. Who on the Oregon side of that negotiating table would begin negotiations at \$20 billion which is less than half of the current RMV?
- Are you a current or future Tier 1 PERS retiree living in Crook County? If so, you already do, or will receive an additional benefit (tax remedy) between 1% and 9.89% (ref. Senate Bill 656 or HB 3349). That additional benefit is not available to Oregon PERS retirees living in Idaho.
- Do you enjoy hunting, fishing, and camping on the Oregon coast? Well as an Idaho resident, you will now pay out of state fees for those activities.
- Oregon has no sales tax. In Idaho, you will pay a 6% sales tax on food, gas, vehicles, and medical services.
- Idaho has no state sponsored healthcare plan for low-income residents. 11,000 Crook County residents qualify for the Oregon Health Plan.
- Oregon protects women’s reproductive rights. Idaho criminalizes such care.

VOTE NO ON 7-86 ADVISORY QUESTION

Joel Komarek
Powell Butte, OR

Arguments in Opposition to 7-86 Advisory Question Regarding Citizen Sentiment for Oregon - Idaho Border Relocation

Let's talk Gambling

- 32 Retailers in Crook County have Oregon State Lottery Poker Machines
- The State Lottery pays bar and tavern owners 35% of Video Poker revenue as commission
- Where does this revenue go? It funds Public Education, Job Creation, Economic growth, Natural Resources such as State Parks and Veteran Services
- This revenue directly benefits the citizens of Crook County!
- Idaho does not allow Video Poker Machines in retail establishments

Oregon finds innovative ways to promote economic growth, supports small businesses and strives to protect our natural resources.

Don't take this valuable revenue source from our businesses!

Vote NO on 7-86 ADVISORY QUESTION

Paula Minetti-Maboll

Prineville

Measure 7-86

This is an economic and political win-win for both state governments. Too, taxpayers work hard year after year, yet with effectively no representation in our diligent rural Counties—a majority that goes unnoticed. State Representatives should never have 'selective hearing.' So, let our voices be heard and recognized in Greater Idaho. Please vote in favor to help end the ochlocracy.

Troy L.

Project Manager

Prineville, OR

Vote NO on measure 7-86. We chose to retire in OREGON after visiting the Northwest for over 20 years and our immediate family relocated here immediately after we made the move. There is no advantage for us to be living in Idaho and in fact, we would be concerned about the sales tax, possible decline in medical care, hardship for our daughters and their families

due to uncertainty in their jobs, possible reduction Oregon PERS for some Oregon retirees, and the financial burden assumed by the state of Idaho after payment for Oregon assets. The simple solution for those who wish to live in Idaho is to move there! **IdaNO!**

Rich Mires, Prineville

Instead of getting into endless hypothetical and differing opinion about the perceived merits of individual states, I want to provide the following facts regarding both Oregon and Idaho. In the always important “quality of life” categories including lowest crime rate/public safety, economic growth, and fiscal stability, Idaho has consistently scored in the top 10 best performing states (even scoring top 5 for economic factors). At the same time, Oregon has steadily dropped in these areas scoring in the bottom half of states across the board.

Failed Oregon policy has directly led to these outcomes leading many Eastern Oregonians to wonder, “If we believe in the same values and policies that have led to Idaho’s prosperity, why not welcome the opportunity to be governed by them as well?” The Greater Idaho movement accomplishes this.

Greater Idaho is the perfect example of what modern elected politicians on both sides of the aisle encourage their constituents to engage in; a grassroots, peaceful, and democratic way to enact change leading to their voices being heard and gaining representation reflecting their values and political beliefs.

I will proudly be staying put in Crook County but will be voting “Yes” on Greater Idaho and the opportunity to be represented by it at the state level.

-Matt Wardlow

Powell Butte

Measure 7-86

IdaNO.....The Crook County Human Dignity Advocates is composed of Oregon residents who have family roots that go back generations, some who moved here for their jobs, and retirees who chose Oregon as the place they wish to live out the rest of their lives. Some ties go deep, some are the fulfillment of dreams to live in one of the most beautiful states in our country. If we had wanted to live in Washington, California or even Idaho, we would have chosen those places. We choose to live here and continue to call Oregon our home.

The focus of CCHDA is the marginalized people of our community. We fear that if Crook County were to become part of the state of Idaho, the services for these people will be lessened and in some instances, non-existent. In addition, travel to places where services might be available would be onerous.

We urge a NO vote on Measure 7-86. Rich Mires on behalf of Crook County Human Dignity Advocates

Measure 7-86

MOVING OREGON'S BORDER

WHAT DO WE RISK?

WHAT DO WE GAIN?

I oppose the concept of moving Oregon's boundary and incorporating Crook County into Idaho. Certainly, there are frustrations about how little our legislative impact is in Salem. But moving Oregon's border is likely to make those problems worse — at our expense.

If you think about it for one minute — think how much it's going to cost us. For healthcare, every nurse that's currently practicing in Oregon would need a new license. Same with doctors. Same with dentists. It's not just healthcare — every small business, hair dresser, bartender — they will all need to pay. And what do we get?

Not a lot.

Oregon's wages are higher. There are sales taxes on groceries in Idaho. Oregon's state highways are better.

I do not believe our voice would be heard any louder in Boise than Salem. Driving to Salem is less than 3 hours. Boise is 5 ½ hours.

I would rather work with the devil I know than the devil I don't know. Think of the risks — to your bank account, to our community, to our families.

While the concept of becoming part of Idaho may appear politically expedient, it is not in the best interest of those of us living in Crook County, Oregon.

I encourage a No vote on 7-86.

Steve Uffelman

Retired Pharmacist

Argument in Opposition – 7-86

Advisory Question Regarding Citizen Sentiment for Oregon – Idaho Border Relocation'

14 years ago I bought a house in Crook County Oregon.

I looked west of the Mississippi, from Mexico to Canada. I ruled out coastal California. Mid to south Puget Sound, tornado country. Four Corners was attractive. I'd lived in sage brush country.

I chose Oregon.

The diverse geography – from oceans to deserts with mountains and sagebrush steppes. That diverse geography gives us wide agricultural products. It also provides the economic breadbasket of the Willamette Valley.

Idaho has some lovely geography but not as diverse as Oregon. It lacks a comparable economic base.

I like Oregon's stance on environmental issues as some of the best if not the best in the country.

Idaho's environmental record is horrid. Much of the agriculture relies on irrigation – they don't have the verdant Willamette Valley to balance that. Their natural resource base is heavily extractive. Ineffective environmental policy lets the mining companies pursue minimal mitigation. I've lived in Wyoming. While Wyoming's environmental issues stem from trona, coal and oil, the repercussions are similar to Idaho's.

Idaho's tax system relies in part on sales taxes. Those taxes burden the people with less wealth disproportionately. Oregon's income tax is complex but fair; those with little means pay less.

.I liked Oregon's reproductive freedom laws.

Idaho dictates women's health choices.

I chose to move to Oregon. I did not choose to move to Idaho.

Do not bring Idaho to me.

Audra Oliver
Prineville

**BAD FOR SMALL BUSINESSES. HARMFUL FOR OUR ECONOMY -
VOTE NO ON MEASURE 7-86**

As a small business owner here in Prineville, I know how hard it is to make ends meet every month. That's why I strongly **OPPOSE** Ballot Measure 7-86.

Moving Oregon's border would have serious consequences for our economy and local businesses:

- **Many nurses, farmers, bartenders, and other workers would have to pay to get new Idaho licenses and/or certifications** just to keep their jobs.
- **The minimum wage in Idaho is 45% lower than here in Crook County;** some workers will take a hefty pay cut.
- **Idaho has a 6% sales tax,** hurting our economy and making things more expensive. Business owners would have to account for this sales tax.

I've been providing farm, business, and other insurance to our community for 23 years. I know that every penny counts for small business owners, ranchers, and farmers, and they need certainty to stay afloat — not more risk. Moving Oregon's border would create MORE RISK and MORE UNKNOWNNS for small businesses.

I don't always like what's happening in Salem, but pulling the rug out from underneath our small businesses is not the solution.

Bottom line: This ballot measure is risky, expensive, and will have unintended consequences for all of us.

To protect our small businesses, our workers, and our economy – vote NO on Ballot Measure 7-86.

- Roger Peer
Insurance Agent
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