FAQ

Our main document explains the benefits and practicality of moving the Idaho state border to include rural Oregon and northernmost California. In US history, state borders have been moved many times. You can find our main document at our website www.GreaterIdaho.org. The direct link is: www.greateridaho.org/the_downloads/2019/main/Greater_Idaho_Proposal.pdf Some of the answers in this FAQ are more completely answered there.

Would my county become a part of Idaho?

Oregon: Baker, Coos, Crook, Curry, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler. Plus:
   a) That portion of Wasco County that is east of the Deschutes River, plus the City of Maupin
   b) All of Jefferson County except Deschutes National Forest and Warm Springs Indian Reservation
   c) Terrebonne, Redmond, Alfalfa, southeastern Deschutes County, Three Rivers (east of Deschutes River), and La Pine.

California: Del Norte, Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Modoc, Lassen, and tiny portions of northern Butte and northern Plumas.

Why not include more counties?

Idaho would not be willing to accept a group of counties that, on average, votes differently from Idaho itself. Also, Oregon would want to remain contiguous and reasonably compact. If you are in northwestern Oregon, moving the border brings Idaho closer, so it allows you to experience the benefits of Idaho governance without moving very far from your friends and family.

Why would Idaho or northwestern Oregon accept this?

We explain the answer in detail in our main document at our website www.greateridaho.org. Here’s one reason: Oregon’s state budget would be helped immensely by this change. Idaho’s budget would also be improved after the economy in these counties improve due to de-regulation and lower taxes.

Why don’t you just move to Idaho?

We’ve invested years into relationships with friends, family, employers, churches, shops, and the land. Our counties vote conservative. It makes more sense for conservative counties to be under Idaho governance than Oregon governance. Do you want all of us unhappy conservatives to build new housing in another state? Moving state borders is cheaper. Thousands of Californians made this state blue, but you want the conservatives whose families founded this state to move out?

Why don’t we just take a stand and take our state back? We can persuade people to think like us!

Why haven’t you done that already? We tried that. Only 25% of Oregonians who are registered to vote are registered Republican. Each one only gets one vote no matter how hard they vote, no matter how much they care. It’s unlikely that an election that gets high turnout from the Right would not get high turnout from the Left. We know that from the last 38 years of history. The last Republican governor of Oregon was elected 38 years ago. The Left has far more control over the ways that Oregonians are educated and persuaded than the Right does. They control K-12, universities, Facebook, Google, media, and newspapers.
Plus Californians are moving in faster than you can educate them. Liberals love educating voters too, if you’ve noticed.

**Why don’t we just give each county a state senator so that Republicans can win again?**

The US Supreme Court invalidated such representation by county in *Reynolds v. Sims* (1964) as a violation of the principle of one man - one vote. It said representation by county is racist and therefore unconstitutional, even though the US Constitution establishes representation by state for the US Senate. After 1964, every US state that had such a state constitution revised their state constitution to meet the demands of the US Supreme Court.

**Why don’t you just support the Jefferson State idea?**

Jefferson state movement is a great movement. Having our own state would be great, but we want to focus our efforts on the idea that we believe would be most likely to actually happen. According to the US Constitution, both the Jefferson State idea and the Greater Idaho idea would require approval of Oregon, California, and Congress. Why would the Democrats in a blue state like Oregon approve a plan that adds two more Republicans to the US Senate? The Greater Idaho idea is more likely to be approved because it does not affect the US Senate at all.

**Why would I want to pay Idaho sales tax?**

Averaging everyone in the state, the average Idahoan paid $1862 less in taxes per year than the average Oregonian in 2018. And cost of living is lower in Idaho. Did you know Oregon has hidden sales taxes paid by retailers? Also, in 2019 the Oregon Legislature approved $2400 per year in tax increases for 2020. Oregon tax rates will continue to go up due to a lack of willingness to control spending, as evidenced by the PERS fiasco.

**Minimum wage**

Only a few percent of Oregonian workers earn minimum wage. Everyone else’s wages are set by supply and demand in the labor market. A low minimum wage allows people to get their first job and prove their worth. A high minimum wage closes businesses in rural areas. Yes, Idaho’s minimum wage is much lower.

**What about hemp, CBD, and marijuana?**

Growers in southern Oregon are switching from marijuana to hemp. In 2019, it was 80% hemp. The Idaho House recently passed a bill to legalize hemp and CBD. If rural Oregon and northernmost California joins Idaho, the state legislators from those places could help legalize marijuana. Given the number of states that have legalized cannabis, it’s likely that the federal government will make it legal across the country anyway.

**What about PERS/state employees?**

County and local employees would keep their jobs. Some state employees might move to keep their jobs in Oregon/California, others would become employed by Idaho, and maybe some would have to find new employment, since Idaho spends less on government. Think about the risks of not moving the border: PERS is not necessarily sustainable. Major changes to state borders are accomplished by an interstate compact between two states.
Negotiations between the legislatures of the two states would determine a fair way to treat employees affected by issues of transferring seniority and pension plans.

**Your poor, Trump-voting counties would be even poorer without state money from Salem**

Conservative counties don’t want the big-spending welfare state that Salem forces on them. They will be happy to have state spending like Idaho’s. People who want to live off of welfare are welcome to move to another county. We want an economy that is not held back by Oregon regulations, especially environmental regulations. We’ll still have the federal regulations, and that’s plenty. Idaho knows how to respect rural counties and their livelihoods.

**I heard that Idaho is becoming less conservative!**

Idaho is one of the 4 most conservative states in the country, judging by the last two presidential elections. 80% of their legislature is Republican. Its governance is better than Oregon’s or California’s.

**Liberals are going to move here and make us liberal anyway!**

If rural Oregon became a part of a red state, liberals would be less likely to move here and conservatives would be more likely to move here.

**What if Boise’s liberals eventually outvote rural Idaho?**

Adding these 26 rural conservative counties to Idaho would increase the population of Idaho by 71%, and reduce the influence of Boise voters in the state.

**I’m an Idahoan and I don’t want any more liberals moving here to water down our votes!**

This plan does not move people to your counties. The counties we want to add to Idaho voted more for Trump, on average, than Idaho did.

**How can I help?**

Please send us your email address (send it to secession@runbox.com) and read page 29-35 of our main document for ideas on how to help.

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Save this FAQ to your computer so that you can cut and paste in social media comments.

Here’s a link to our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterIdaho