

## FAQ

Our main document explains the benefits and practicality of moving the Idaho state border to include rural Oregon and northernmost California. You can find our main document at our website [www.greateridaho.org/the\\_downloads/2020/main/Greater\\_Idaho\\_Proposal.pdf](http://www.greateridaho.org/the_downloads/2020/main/Greater_Idaho_Proposal.pdf) Some of the answers in this FAQ are more completely answered there.

### **Is this real? Can this really happen?**

Yes, it's constitutional, and state lines have been moved before. The last time the Oregon state line was moved was 1958, although that was a small adjustment. West Virginia was admitted to the Union in June 1863. The Virginia/West Virginia border was moved in August 1863 to annex Berkeley County to West Virginia, and then again in November 1863 to annex Jefferson County.

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

Idaho is the state with the 8th smallest tax burden, and Oregon ranks 33rd, according to <https://taxfoundation.org/facts-and-figures-2020> . Combining all taxes together, including sales tax, the average Idahoan pays \$1722 less in taxes per year than the average Oregonian. That's averaging together every adult or child, employed, retired or unemployed. And cost of living is 39% higher in Oregon than in Idaho. Did you know Oregon has hidden sales taxes paid by retailers? Oregon tax rates will continue to go up due to a lack of willingness to control spending.

### **Minimum wage**

Only 7 percent of Oregonian workers earn minimum wage. Everyone else's wages are set by supply and demand in the labor market, not by law. 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. But counties can increase their minimum wage if they want to do so.

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

Idaho law allows CBD and hemp that has no detectable THC. CBD and hemp products are available in Idaho stores. Growers in southern Oregon are switching from marijuana to hemp. In 2019, it was 80% hemp. The Idaho Senate recently passed a bill to legalize hemp and CBD that has less than 0.3% THC to match federal law. If rural Oregon and northernmost California joins Idaho, the state representatives from those places might help legalize marijuana in Idaho. <https://legalcbdoidaho.com/did-president-trump-approve-cbd-oil>

### **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, 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 northwestern Oregon accept this?**

Currently, northwest Oregonians subsidize our counties by \$324 per year per wage earner. If you asked them how much they'd be willing to pay to keep our counties in their state they'd probably answer less than \$5. That's why they'll let us join Idaho. We explain the answer in detail in our main document at our website [www.greateridaho.org](http://www.greateridaho.org). The Democratic party would make their supermajority permanent.

### **Did anyone ask Idaho about this?**

Idaho's budget would also be improved by this border change after the economy in these counties improve due to de-regulation and lower taxes. Idaho could invest in developing the port at Coos Bay so that it could tax the use of the port. Currently, these counties have the same average income as Idaho and are even more pro-Trump. When we sent an email to Idaho state legislators, 10 wrote back in favor of the idea, including the Senate Majority Leader and the House Asst Majority Leader. Only a retiring Democrat criticized it. The Governor of Idaho went on Fox News to welcome the idea:

[www.corvallisadvocate.com/2020/idaho-governor-digs-rural-oregon-secession-movement-another-county-joins](http://www.corvallisadvocate.com/2020/idaho-governor-digs-rural-oregon-secession-movement-another-county-joins)

### **Why don't you just move to Idaho?**

We love our communities. It's just the state government we hate. We love Idaho law and low Idaho taxes. 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!**

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.

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

Unfortunately, in *Reynolds v. Sims* (1964) the US Supreme Court ruled against representation by county in favor of the one man, one vote principle. It said representation by county is "racist" and therefore unconstitutional for states, even though the Constitution ignores one-man one-vote for US Senate and

establishes an electoral college for selecting the US president. 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?**

The State of Jefferson 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.

### **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, and all the migration of the last two decades hasn't changed that at all. It has the fewest pages of regulations of any US state. Its governance is better than Oregon's or California's. The change in Boise is just caused by sorting between urban and suburban.

### **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. If we move the border, people would have more red-state counties they could move to instead of just your counties.

### **How can I help?**

Please email us with that question and tell us which county and state you live in (send it to [admin@greateridaho.org](mailto:admin@greateridaho.org) ) and read page 29-35 of our main document for ideas on how to help.

**Table of Contents** for our main document, available at [www.GreaterIdaho.org](http://www.GreaterIdaho.org) :

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Here's a link to our Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterIdaho](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterIdaho)