

F.A.Q.

Will the Oregon Legislature let our counties go?

Oregon's state government is funded primarily by income taxes, so Portland pays much more than its per-capita share of the state. Every medium-income or low-income county that leaves the state helps the state budget. SurveyUSA did a poll of 1068 voters of northwestern Oregon and found that only 3% are willing to pay the cost of having eastern & southern Oregon in their state.

Also, letting these counties go will end the gridlock in the Oregon Legislature caused by denial of quorum by rural legislators.

The polling showed that Oregonians feel it is wrong to hold counties against their will.

Why not make a new state? We don't think the Oregon Legislature would let rural Oregon become a state because that would add Republicans to the US Senate.

Is this legal? State borders have been moved many times in US history. The Oregon / Washington border was relocated slightly in 1958. Months after West Virginia joined the Union, Berkeley County and then Jefferson County were added.

Learn more at greateridaho.org

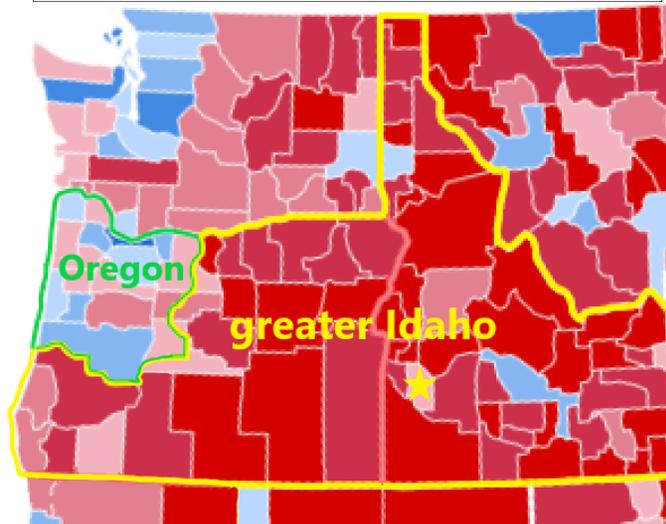
or call Mark Simmons (503)551-3208 fm. OR House Speaker & VP of Citizens for Greater Idaho

Idahoans poll strongly in favor of Greater Idaho

Idahoan voters in favor of moving the Oregon/Idaho border outnumber Idahoan voters who are opposed by 1.4 to 1, according to a scientific poll of 1100 Idahoan voters by Trafalgar Group in October 2021. 51% were in favor, 35% opposed, and 14% undecided.

Among Idahoans who had voted in a recent Republican primary, 2.3 times as many were in favor as opposed: 59% were in favor, 26% opposed, and 15% undecided.

In addition, when asked about adding counties that are "very similar to Idaho in voting patterns, and would help the state financially," Idahoan voters in favor outnumbered voters opposed by two to one, and Republican primary voters in favor outnumbered those opposed almost four to one. Visit greateridaho.org/news for a link to the source.



Join forces with rural counties to make a greater Idaho

Move Oregon's Border for a...



GREATER IDAHO

Better Together

- ✓ Stronger, richer state budget
- ✓ Frees 873,000 people from blue-state law
- ✓ Does not make Idaho more liberal
- ✓ Gives room to grow and a deep-water port
- ✓ Idahoans poll strongly in favor of Greater Idaho

How to move the Oregon / Idaho border

Step 1: Rural Oregonians collect signatures to put a measure on their county ballot, or they convince county commissioners to put a question on that ballot.

Step 2: Counties vote, to prove to state legislators that rural Oregon wants to join Idaho.

8 counties have voted in favor so far, and we expect to get on the ballot in 6 more.

Step 3: Idaho Legislature holds hearings.

Our first hearing was April 12, 2021.

Step 4: Idaho Legislature invites Oregon to consider the issue by passing Rep. Ehardt's "memorial."

Step 5: Oregon Legislature holds hearings.

Step 6: Oregon & Idaho leaders negotiate.

Step 7: State legislatures ratify an interstate compact that sets the terms of the border relocation, such as which assets and liabilities become Idaho's.

Step 8: Optionally, the compact authorizes a plebiscite (vote) for eastern & southern Oregon voters as a whole to consent to, or veto, the compact.

Step 9: Congress approves the interstate compact and amends acts of admission of both states.

How does Greater Idaho benefit Idahoans?

1. HELPS STATE BUDGET: We chose a group of counties that has the same average income as Idaho.

Under Idaho's low taxes and low regulation, those counties' economy will surge so that they become a big benefit to Idaho's budget. Idaho can approve projects at the deep-water port at Coos Bay and tax those projects.

2. Idaho would NO LONGER BE DEPENDENT on Oregon and Washington's heavily taxed deep-water ports. Idaho industries would no longer be hampered by Oregon's incompetent managing of the port at Portland, which makes it harder to get southern Idaho products to market. Even if the federal government decides to eliminate the dams on the lower Snake River, Idaho would have the port at Coos Bay on the Pacific.

3. Idaho would have the sense of purpose and the satisfaction of freeing 873,000 people from immoral blue-state law.

4. DOES NOT MAKE IDAHO MORE LIBERAL! We chose a group of counties that already votes the same percentages Republican/Democrat as Idaho does in national elections. And in a poll, 24% of conservatives and 3% of liberals of northwestern Oregon said they would very likely move to these counties if they became Idaho. Adding rural counties would prevent Boise from ever drowning out the rest of the state's vote.

5. The POWER SOURCE for half a million Idahoans would no longer be at the mercy of Oregon government's environmental decisions. Half a million Idahoans get their electricity from Hells Canyon dam complex on the Oregon/Idaho border. The renewal of the complex's long-term license has been held up since 2005 because of demands from the state of Oregon. Oregon would no longer have a say over water issues in any part of the Snake River watershed.

6. ROOM TO GROW: Currently, people move into Idaho to gain political refuge from blue states. Adding Oregon counties to Idaho will take some pressure off Idaho's housing market by giving them more counties to choose from. It will reduce the growth in traffic and reduce the loss of Idaho farmland to suburban housing by slowing the influx of people to your county.

7. PUSHES OREGON LAW FARTHER AWAY: Oregon decriminalized hard drugs in 2020, which will bring addicts closer to Idahoans and tempt Idahoans to make a quick drive to get drugs. Moving the border is the only way to push Oregon's drug laws farther from the county in Idaho where you live. It would change the Boise-Oregon drive time from 51 minutes to over 5 hours.

8. The state government would gain economies of scale, as the population would increase to almost half the population of the average US state. The tax base would include more industries, so that it would be broader and more stable.