

OUR VIEW

# Questions linger over border proposal

There is a lot to be said for pure determination, and the loosely affiliated group of citizens behind the Greater Idaho movement surely qualify as some of the most dedicated people in the state.

The nonprofit organization seeks to slice off a number of Oregon counties and join the state of Idaho, and ballot measures on the issue have passed in some Eastern Oregon counties in support of the move during the past year.

In 2020, Union County voters passed Measure 31-101, an edict that requires county commissioners to meet three times a year to discuss the county's interests if such an effort to become part of Idaho gains real momentum.

The impetus of the desire to become part of Idaho can clearly trace its roots to a perception that the western part of the state — specifically the Salem, Portland metro areas — are cut off from other portions of Oregon politically and culturally. Decisions, many bemoan, that affect all are made by a select group in Salem with little or no input from the eastern side of the state. Any progress or prosperity that occurs in the Portland metro area never reaches the eastern side of the state, many critics contend, and rural areas are dismissed.

The fact there is more than a kernel of truth in some of these accusations is a troubling reminder that we as a state exist in a new, strange era of both cultural and political differences.

Yet, while the Greater Idaho movement deserves praise for its work in galvanizing political action, in the end there remain far too many questions — and no reliable answers — to the broader concept of Eastern Oregon counties becoming part of the Gem state.

The first hurdles are bureaucratic, and they are daunting. Not only would the Oregon Legislature have to approve such a move but so would the Idaho House and Senate. Then the Congress must give final approval.

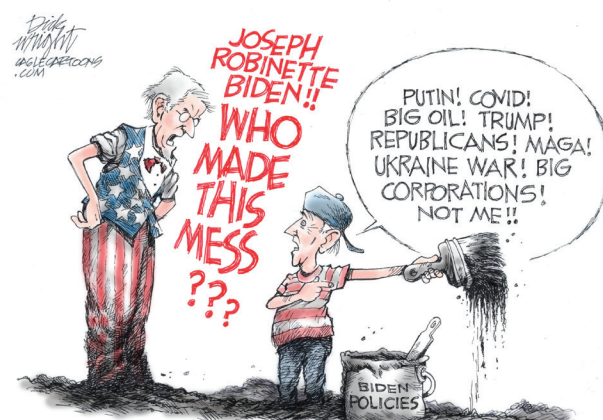
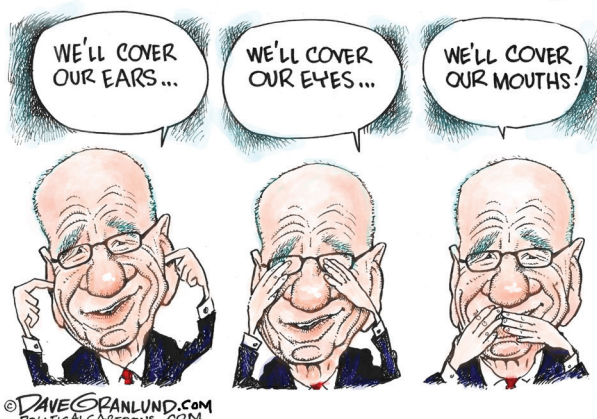
Then there are the practical considerations. One good example is PERS, the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System. What happens to those who are part of that system and live in an Eastern Oregon county when Idaho takes over?

There are other questions — such as tax base and differences in laws regarding marijuana — that do not seem to have answers.

An array of issues needs to be ironed out specifically before the concept can be seen as more than just another example of rural Oregon dissatisfaction with Salem.



Murdoch on how FOX will cover the Jan 6 hearings...



OTHER VIEWS

## My safety depends on your gun-safety trustworthiness

The other day while waiting in line at the grocery store, I noticed the person ahead of me was wearing a shoulder holster. Instead of holding the gun with the barrel pointing down as I'm used to, this holster carried the weapon with the barrel in a horizontal position. This meant the barrel was pointing directly at me. Here's my message to the person with that type of holster.

To the public gun carrier: As a member of the public in our community that you are also a member of, I want to let you know how a choice you have made affected me. I am from a family that owned guns while I grew up so I am comfortable with them. As we all know, the first rule of gun safety is to never point it at another person (unless you're planning to shoot them). The holster you chose points the barrel at everyone around you. I was very uncomfortable while standing behind you. My safety depended on your gun-safety trustworthiness: Was the gun loaded (why would it not be if you're carrying it around?) Was the safety on?

Knowing that you have not followed the first rule of gun safety, how

can I know that you reliably follow the others?

I did not know what to say to you at the time. Now I have had time to consider. Hence, this letter to you. My request to you and to all other persons: Please use holsters that do not carry the weapon in an unsafe-to-those-around-you position. You can't want to be in the position at some point to say, "I thought the safety was on."

Kathy Benson  
Union

## The Second Amendment made sense — in 1787

I don't think the Second Amendment to the Constitution provides me any safety. The way a lot of people interpret the Second Amendment creates fear. Living in fear is not freedom. It does not give freedom to the thousands of men, women and children who were killed in 233 mass murder incidents (four or more people killed) in this country during the past year (as of the writing of this letter).

I can understand that in 1787, when the Constitution, was written, it made sense. There was no Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard or organized policing of any kind. The conscripted soldiers during the Rev-

olutionary War used muskets with homemade ammunition against the British. No one during that time could have imagined that 250 years later so many citizens of the United States would have the sophisticated weapons of war that are available now.

In 2022 the United States has more guns than people, and the guns that are most in demand seem to be those designed specifically to kill people — people in large numbers. Do these armaments make us safe? Do they make us less fearful? Do they make us free?

The children killed in Uvalde, Columbine, Sandy Hook and so many other schools were not made safe or free. The people killed in churches, grocery stores and shopping malls lost their freedom. In fact, because of our worship of the Second Amendment, no American is as free as the citizens of other developed countries that limit access to firearms.

I am someone who reveres the U.S. Constitution, and I accept the Second Amendment as a part of our history. I do not accept the need for so many to be armed to the teeth with military weapons intended to kill fellow humans.

Evelyn Swart  
Joseph

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