

# Grocers trying again to put liquor sales on ballot

By GARY WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau



Oregon Liquor Control Commission

Grocers want voters to approve liquor sales at more places.

counties. The state funnels all liquor going to the stores through a central warehouse in the Portland area.

Oregon liquor stores sold just under \$57 million in distilled spirits to consumers in May, the latest month on record.

Distilleries are allowed limited direct sales of factory-sealed bottled from their premises.

Allowing sales of liquor in markets is favored by 65% of Oregon adults, according to a poll by DHM Research, of Portland, on behalf of the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

Proponents must first gather 1,000 signatures to begin the process leading to the circulation of petitions, said Carla L. Axtman, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Secretary of State's Office.

An initiative that changes state statutes requires 112,020 signatures to get on the ballot for the November 2022 election.

Johnson and McKay are working with the Northwest Grocery Association on the ballot drive. They plan to move ahead with just one of the two initiatives, but haven't decided which as of yet.

If successful, Oregon would follow the example of California and Washington state in allowing liquor sales in markets.

The state has already chipped away at the liquor store monopoly, allowing some Walmarts to sell their chain-branded hard liquor.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission has opposed prior efforts to make hard liquor widely available. The move is also opposed by license holders of state liquor stores.

*The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

## OBITUARIES

### Esther Inga Hubler

Longview, Washington  
Jan. 31, 1948 — June 23, 2021

Esther Inga Hubler passed peacefully at home in Longview, Washington, on June 23, 2021. She was 73 years old.

Esther was born in Portland on Jan. 31, 1948, to Robert William Findon Jr. and Louise Mae Peterson.

Esther was a woman of great faith in God, and spent all her adult years serving the Lord, and being active in her church, until her health prevented her from attending in person. Her heart continued to be with God and her church family.

Next to her love of God, she loved her family more than anything, continually showing that love through the life she lived in service to the Lord.

Esther had a way of letting you know she was thinking of you, praying for you and wishing you well. Despite long-term health struggles, she was the epitome of unconditional love and grace, leaving that legacy to her family and all who knew her.

Esther is survived by her husband, Steven K. Hubler;

her children, Anthony Reeves, Andrea Reeves, Wendi Reeves-Abdallah, Nathan Reeves and Inga Reeves; her stepdaughters, Keri Frates and Traci Hubler; and her siblings, a sister, Sharon DeChenne, and two brothers, Robert Findon and Mark Olsen.



Esther Hubler

Last but certainly not least, her pride and joy, 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 18, 2021, at 3 p.m., at the Westport Christian Center, officiated by Rev. Jason Jones. The address is 91104 Hungry Hollow Loop in Westport. A small reception for her family will be held in the church basement immediately following the service.

If you wish to donate, in lieu of flowers, please do so in Esther's honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which was a cause close to Esther's heart. The link to donate is <https://bit.ly/EHubler>, which has also been posted to Facebook.

# Poll shows Oregonians split on Greater Idaho

By DYLAN JEFFERIES  
The Bulletin

BEND — Imagine Bend being Oregon's eastern most city, a short drive from Redmond, Idaho.

"Greater Idaho," the concept of transferring parts of southern and eastern Oregon to Idaho — making Redmond, Idaho, a reality — is gaining traction in some rural areas.

According to Mike McCarter, the chief petitioner of Move Oregon's Border, a nonprofit advocating for Greater Idaho, the change would give rural Oregon counties a longed-for Republican-led legislature by leaving liberal strongholds like Portland and Eugene — and even Bend and Sisters — behind in Oregon.

In May, voters in Baker, Grant, Lake, Malheur and Sherman counties approved ballot initiatives that require county officials to study joining Idaho. Union and Jefferson counties passed similar initiatives in November.

Despite those initiatives, a slim majority of Oregonians do not think rural Oregon counties should be able to leave Oregon and join Idaho even with voter approval. And two-thirds of Oregonians think it is unlikely that the move will occur.

That's according to recent polling from the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center, which asked respondents if they think Idaho absorbing eastern and southern Oregon would be positive or negative, if they think it is likely to happen and whether or not it should be allowed with voter approval.

The center conducted the statewide survey of 1,400

## OREGON VALUES AND BELIEFS CENTER

The Oregon Values and Beliefs Center is committed to the highest level of public opinion research. To obtain that, the nonprofit is building the largest online research panel of Oregonians in history to ensure that all voices are represented in discussions of public policy in a valid and statistically reliable way.

Selected panelists earn points for their participation, which can be redeemed for cash or donated to a charity. To learn more, visit [oregonvbc.org](http://oregonvbc.org)

Oregon residents, selected to be demographically representative of the state, between June 8 and June 14. The margin of error ranges from 1.6 to 2.6 percentage points per question.

### Survey responses

Survey responses reveal a deep rift between Oregonians on the issue.

According to Clackamas County resident Patti Shanek, the move would promote separatism, discourage political discourse and raise the cost of living for rural residents.

"The main tax base comes from primarily Democrat counties," she said. "If the red counties became part of Idaho, those forming the new Idaho would have an increasingly high cost of living and limited access to state programs."

But according to Deschutes County resident Amanda Wallace, the move would give rural Oregon con-

servatives political power which they lack in Oregon's Legislature.

"Conservatives don't feel like their voices are heard in Oregon, nor do they feel like their vote counts," she said. "Sadly, Portland, Salem and Eugene make all of the decisions."

Some respondents who oppose the move cited concerns that breaking up the state would discourage a diversity of opinions, setting a dangerous precedent for other states.

"This sets a precedent for reshaping other states along color lines and harming the health of our democracy," said Multnomah County resident Margarette Puckette.

Many argued that unsatisfied Oregonians already have the option of moving to Idaho.

"If members of these counties want to become part of Idaho, then let them move there," said Marion County resident Janis Sabatula. "Why mess with state borders that have been there for more than 160 years?"

Supporters and opponents of the move raised concerns that being a part of Idaho would entail higher state taxes and a loss of significant tax dollars from western Oregon and its metropolitan counties, plus a loss of revenue and jobs from Oregon's booming cannabis industry, which remains illegal in Idaho.

Some opponents expressed sympathy for residents of rural counties who feel underrepresented.

"The rural counties feel underrepresented at the state level, and technically they're right," said Clackamas County resident Hendy

Appleton. "But a diversity of views and values is important."

### Polling highlights

Overall, 38% of Oregonians believe eastern and southern Oregon should be able to join Idaho with voter approval, and 34% believe the move would be positive.

Among Oregonians living outside of Portland and the Willamette Valley, 44% support counties being able to join Idaho with voter approval, while only 37% of residents living in the greater Portland area support counties' ability to do so.

Oregonians older than 75 are the most likely to say that eastern and southern Oregon joining Idaho would be negative (55%), and respondents ages 45 to 54 are the most likely to say the move would be positive (40%).

## OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits](http://DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits), by email at [ewilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:ewilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

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## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
<b>68 57</b>	<b>66 56</b>	<b>66 54</b>	<b>72 56</b>	<b>70 55</b>	<b>69 56</b>	<b>69 57</b>
Mostly cloudy	Clouds and sunshine	Partly sunny	Partly sunny; pleasant	Some sunshine	A shower in the area	Partial sunshine



### ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 67/58

Normal high/low ..... 66/52

Record high ..... 84 in 1975

Record low ..... 45 in 2012

**Precipitation**

Sunday ..... 0.00"

Month to date ..... 0.02"

Normal month to date ..... 0.19"

Year to date ..... 37.29"

Normal year to date ..... 36.10"

### UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight's Sky:** Earth is at Aphelion (farthest from the sun) at 15:27 PDT. The sun-Earth distance is 1.02 AU.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today ..... 5:31 a.m.

Sunset tonight ..... 9:09 p.m.

Moonrise today ..... 2:56 a.m.

Moonset today ..... 6:37 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
July 9	July 17	July 23	July 31

### TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
	12:26 p.m.	5.9	6:11 a.m.	0.0
	11:33 p.m.	7.8	5:37 p.m.	3.1
<b>Cape Disappointment</b>	12:19 p.m.	5.6	5:28 a.m.	0.3
	11:12 p.m.	7.8	4:58 p.m.	3.4
<b>Hammond</b>	12:24 p.m.	5.9	5:46 a.m.	0.0
	11:21 p.m.	8.0	5:15 p.m.	3.3
<b>Warrenton</b>	12:21 p.m.	6.3	5:55 a.m.	0.1
	11:28 p.m.	8.2	5:21 p.m.	3.2
<b>Knappa</b>	1:03 p.m.	6.2	7:12 a.m.	0.0
	none	none	6:38 p.m.	2.6
<b>Depoe Bay</b>	11:38 a.m.	5.7	5:00 a.m.	0.1
	10:25 p.m.	7.9	4:23 p.m.	3.6

### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	86/71/t	83/69/t
Boston	92/73/t	93/67/t
Chicago	91/73/t	80/61/t
Dallas	91/75/t	90/75/t
Denver	80/59/t	89/65/s
Honolulu	88/74/pc	87/74/r
Houston	87/75/t	86/75/t
Los Angeles	84/65/pc	83/67/pc
Miami	86/80/r	89/79/t
New York City	93/72/pc	93/74/s
Phoenix	109/87/s	109/89/s
San Francisco	69/58/pc	71/57/pc
Wash., DC	95/76/pc	95/75/pc

**Weather (W):** s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

## AccuWeather | Go to AccuWeather.com

### REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today	Wed.	City	Today	Wed.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	98/58/s	92/51/s	North Bend	65/56/pc	65/54/pc
Brookings	60/52/s	65/54/pc	Roseburg	92/58/s	83/54/s
Ilwaco	66/57/c	65/58/c	Seaside	68/56/pc	67/56/pc
Newberg	89/58/s	82/53/s	Springfield	94/56/s	81/52/s
Newport	63/55/pc	60/52/c	Vancouver	88/61/s	77/55/s