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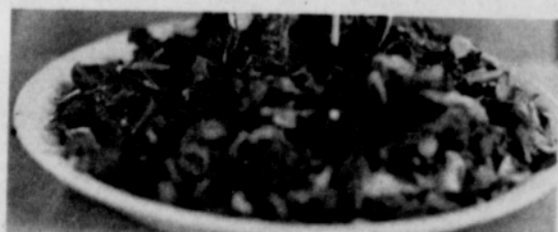
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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Refugee Released Rights activist free pending trial

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A Salvadoran refugee and immigrant rights activist has won a temporary release from federal custody. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials arrested Francisco Aguirre at a Portland court appearance on Thursday. Aguirre, who recently took refuge at a northeast Portland church to avoid deportation, has been in the United States for 19 years and has two American-born children who are citizens. He is the coordinator of a Portland nonprofit that runs a day labor center.

His appearance in court was to face a charge of driving under the



Immigrant activist Francisco Aguirre pleads for his freedom. (KOIN photo)

influence of intoxicants, which triggered the federal detainer to remove him from the country. After pleading not guilty to the local charge, he was taken into custody, but then released as his deportation order was put on hold pending the outcome of his DUI trial which is scheduled for Jan. 13.

Aquiree's history of a previous deportation is what weighs heavily on his current situation - he is fighting to not be sent back to El Salvador from the United States, with the help of the Augustana Lutheran Church. The church gave Aguirre sanctuary beginning with an inter-

faith service in late September.

Aguirre took refuge at the church after immigration officials attempted to arrest him at his home in mid September in Fairview. When the officers failed to provide a warrant, he refused to go with them and fled to the church.

Augustana Lutheran, a 900-member church, is one of a handful of Oregon churches that provide sanctuary to undocumented immigrants and their families.

Aguirre supporters held a protest Thursday outside the U.S. Attorney's Office in downtown Portland.

## Marijuana Charges Dismissed

### D.A. drops cases after legalization vote

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The results of last week's election has already started playing out its ramifications as the Multnomah County District Attorney has decided to dismiss any pending cases dealing with violation-level marijuana possession.

On Monday, D.A. Rod Underhill, the county's chief prosecutor, said he would dismiss 50 pending marijuana cases.

Measure 91, which legalized recreational marijuana use in Oregon, will have a huge effect on the way the Oregon Liquor Control Commission does business as the agency will be responsible for taxation, regulation and licensing marijuana.

The new law goes into effect July 1. But between now and January, the OLCC will be exploring marijuana policy and enforcement questions through extensive public outreach.

In other election results, voters gave financial backing to Portland schools and Portland parks.

A levy that renews a property tax bond that supports Portland Public Schools won by a landslide. The district released a statement saying the levy will allow them to hire an additional 40 to 50 teachers next year.

The parks' replacement bond levy also broke at over 70 percent approval. The money will be used to prevent more parks from closing, maintaining community pools and other services, like mobility accommodations.

Multnomah County saw about a 58 percent turnout in the election. Voters also had their say on food labeling, college funding, and a gubernatorial race.

Jeff Merkley won the local race for U.S. Senator, beating out Republican candidate Monica Wehby by a landslide. Incumbent democrat Suzanne Bonamici kept her seat as U.S. Representative in the 1st District. Gov. John Kitzhaber was re-elected amidst controversy surrounding his fiancé Cylvia Hayes.

This year's closest race was Measure 92, which failed by a narrow margin. The measure would have forced food manufacturers and retailers to label genetically engineered foods as such. The measure

failed by only 1.2 percent.

Measure 91, which allows for the possession, manufacture, and sale of marijuana by and to adults, passed with 56 percent approval.

Measure 90, which would have changed the May Primary nomination process, providing a single ballot in which the top two candidates advanced regardless of political party, failed with 65 percent of voters coming out against it.

Measure 89, which sought to end sex and gender based discrimination, passed.

Measure 88, a ballot measure that would have provided an opportunity for undocumented immigrants to secure drivers licenses in the state of Oregon, failed. Undocumented immigrants are still able to attain driver's licenses in the State of Washington.

Measure 87 passed, allowing state judges to serve in the military or teach at state public universities. Previously, judges were not allowed to do either.

Measure 86, which would have allowed the State of Oregon to borrow money to fund college education for local students, did not pass. Oregon graduates currently each owe an average of \$26,639 in student debt.