Republican Winters builds career on justice reform

By PARIS ACHEN
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Portland Tribune/Jaime Valdez

Jackie Winters was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1998 and the Oregon Senate in 2002. In 2017, she became the first black leader of a legislative caucus.

When state Sen. Jackie Winters hears the word "felon," she often thinks of her late husband, Marc "Ted" Winters.

Her husband, who died in 2008, had a prestigious career in the gubernatorial administrations of Tom McCall and Bob Straub.

But before that, he was one of thousands of inmates in Oregon's state prisons.

His catapult from a prison cell at the Oregon State Penitentiary to the governor's staff is a story of redemption. His path has been an overwhelming influence on the Salem senator's work to reform the criminal justice system and improve inmates' chances of rehabilitation.

"I think we forget about the whole issue of redemption and forgiveness when we are dealing with the criminal justice system," said Winters in an interview at her legislative office in Salem.

Her commitment to justice reform prompted her to give up her role as Senate Republican leader at the end of 2018.

Winters, a Christian, said she believed in redemption before she met her husband.

Before their relationship turned romantic, Ted and Jackie Winters saw each other through their respective jobs. Once at a meeting for Model Cities, where Jackie Winters worked at the time, Ted Winters sat next to her. A pastor, her friend from childhood, saw them together and admonished Winters for allowing a convict to sit next to her, she recounted.

"I lashed out at my minister friend for being unChristian and for not giving another human being a chance — a chance that we as blacks could understand so well," Winters said in her husband's audio book, "Never Kill Lions."

Early in Winters' career, her race and gender created obstacles to getting the kinds of jobs she wanted. Former inmates, she noted, have similar obstacles when they try to secure housing or employment.

In one of his two autobiographies, Ted Winters tells of a meeting with Jackie Winters, whose name was Jackie McClain at the time.

Ted Winters was tasked with building stronger ties between McCall's office and North Portland's black community and visited Jackie McClain at her Model Cities office. When McClain learned that Winters was from the governor's office, she asked him to tell McCall he needed a black woman on his staff.

"And if he can't find one, I'm available," she said, according to Winters' book, "Lifer."

By 1969, she was hired for McCall's State Economic Opportunity Office.

She was elected in 1998 to serve in the House of Representatives, making her the first black Republican to serve in the Oregon Legislative Assembly. In 2002, voters promoted her to the Senate.

In November 2017, Winters became the first black to lead an Oregon legislative caucus. She was elected as Senate Republican leader to succeed Sen. Ted Ferrioli of John Day.

Winters' commitment to justice reform sometimes put her at odds with members of her party, and last month, she decided to move out of leadership.

She maintains that Republicans support justice reform, but she was the only Republican to sponsor one of the most controversial justice reforms of the 2017 Legislature. House Bill 3078 reduced prison sentences for property thieves. The majority of Senate Republicans voted against the bill.

Some Republican senators said they couldn't support the bill because sheriffs and district attorneys in their districts opposed it, and they argued the changes could jeopardize public safety.

Winters said she doesn't accept those arguments. She said it wasn't hard to go against her party because she believes rehabilitation of inmates, versus incarceration for the sake of punishment, benefits society and makes people safer.

The law reduced the number of women serving time for property and drug crimes, in part to spare the need for a second women's prison. The law also advanced the state's goal of diverting more criminals from prison to social services, such as drug and alcohol treatment.

Clackamas County District Attorney John Foote challenged the law in court. He argued that legislators had illegally circumvented voters who mandated the longer sentences in Measure 57 in 2008. The reform legislation had subsequently passed with a simple majority of the House and Senate, but the Oregon Constitution requires a two-thirds majority to overturn a voter-approved measure, Foote argued.

The Oregon Supreme Court heard arguments in the case in September, and Winters was there for the hearing. A decision is pending.

"Legislators don't usually attend arguments on laws they have passed," said Phil Lemman, spokesman at the Oregon Judicial Department.

Lemman said he remembers only one other instance in the past year when a legislator attended Supreme Court arguments.

Winters doesn't think sentencing mandates make sense.

"Sometimes it's counterproductive," she said. "When a person has changed and their behavior has changed, there should be a way — whether it is the court takes another look — of changing that (sentence) so they can become a productive tax-paying citizen."

Winters won a fourth term in the Senate in November. At age 81, this could be her final term. She said she wants to use the next four years to focus on justice reform and expanding programs that prevent incarceration by providing treatment for drug and alcohol abuse and mental illness.

People with mental illness "don't belong in prison," Winters said.

She is part of a Behavioral Health Justice Reinvestment Steering Committee convened by Senate President Peter Courtney to recommend policies this year to keep people with mental illness out of prison.

"Right now, (justice reform) is my greatest passion," she said.

Winters also wanted to return to her seat on the powerful Joint Ways & Means Committee, which determines much of state spending and where she said she can influence spending on justice programs. She said she had been on the committee since she was sworn into the House in 1999.

She is sponsoring several justice reforms in legislation before the 2019 Legislature.

Her priorities are creating a domestic violence commission to streamline services between agencies and justice reform for juvenile offenders.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING — JANUARY 23, 2019

			12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
FOX	(11) KFFX	11	Ocean Myst.	Divorce Court	Steve!		Judge Mathis (N)		The People's Court		Paid Program	Mom	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Modern Family	Modern Family	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	To Hell and Back "Catfish Cabin" (N)		The Masked Singer (N)		First at Ten (N)	:35 Dateline Nadya Suleman		:35 Mike & Molly
	KPTV	3	12 O' News (N)		Wendy Williams		Truth	Truth	People's Court (N)		Judy	Judy (N)	News (N)		News (N)		Feud	Feud	To Hell & Back (N)		Masked Sing (N)		News (N)		News	Page Six
CBS	(19) KEPR	2	Funn-yAsk	Bold & B.	The Talk (N)		Let's Make a Deal		Dr. Phil		Judge Judy (N)	Judge Judy	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Inside Edition	The Big Bang	TheSi-mpsons	Big Brother (N)		SEAL Team "Time to Shine" (N)		Criminal Minds "Chameleon" (N)		News (N)	:35 Colbert
	KOIN	19	Local 6	B & B	The Talk (N)		The 700 Club		Dr. Phil		News (N)		News	News	News	News	Extra	ET	Big Brother (N)		SEAL Team (N)		Criminal Mind (N)		News	Colbert
NBC	(25) KNDU	6	TMZ	Paid Program	Days of Our Lives		The Wendy Williams Show		Daily Mail TV	Daily Mail TV	Ellen DeGeneres Sarah Paulson		News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Family Feud	Wheel (N)	Jeop-ardy! (N)	Chicago Med "The Things We Do" (N)		Chi.Fire "Make This Right" (N)		Chicago P.D. "Outrage" (N)		News (N)	:35 Tonight
	KGW	8	News	Paid	Days of Our Lives		The Dr. Oz Show		E.DeGeneres (N)		KGW News (N)		News	News	KGW News (N)		Cassidy	InsEd.	Chicago Med (N)		Chicago Fire (N)		Chicago P.D. (N)		News	Tonight
ABC	(42) KVEW	4	GMA Day (N)		General Hospital		The Doctors		The Rachael Ray Show		The Dr. Oz Show		News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Extra	Gold-berg (N)	Scho-oled (N)	Modern Fam (N)	SingleP-arent (N)	Match Game (N)		News (N) /:05 Jimmy Kimmel	
	KATU	5	GMA Day (N)		General Hospital		Afternoon Live		Million?	Million?	KATU News (N)		News	News	News (N)		Jeop. (N)	Wheel	Goldberg	Schooled	Modern	Single	Match Game (N)		News	Kimmel
PBS	(31) KTNW		Amanpour & Company		Sara's Meals	Fons & Porter	Esmon-de Tech.	Let's Go Luna!	Nature Cat	Ready Jet Go!	Wild Kratts	Odd Squad "Odds and Ends"		Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		World News	Wealt-hTrack	Nature (N)		Nova "Kilauea: Hawaii on Fire" (N)		Dictator "Benito Mussolini" (N)		Amanpour & Company (N)	
	(59) OPB	13	Joy of Painting	taste-MAKERS	Test Kitchen	Trave-logue	Nature Cat	Ready Jet Go!	Arthur	Arthur	Odd Squad "Odds and Ends"		Wild Kratts	Wild Kratts	Journe-ys Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature (N)		Nova "Kilauea: Hawaii on Fire" (N)		Dictator "Benito Mussolini" (N)		The Nazi Games: Berlin 1936	

			12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
CABLE	A&E	52	P. Wars	P. Wars	Parking Wars		P. Wars	P. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	Storage	Storage	S. Wars	S. Wars	S.Wars	S.Wars
	AMC	60	★★★★ The Rock ('96, Act) Sean Connery.					★★★ xXx ('02, Act) Samuel L. Jackson, Vin Diesel.						★★★★ Colombiana ('11, Act) Zoe Saldana.					★★★★ I Am Legend Will Smith.				★★★★ Super 8 Elle Fanning.			
	ANPL	24	The Vet Life		R. Mountain Vet		Pit Bull Parolees		Pit Bull Parolees		North Woods Law		North Woods Law		North Woods Law		North Woods Law		NW Law "The Turtle & The Bear" (N)				North Woods Law		North Woods Law	
	CMT	43	Home I.	Home I.	Home I.	Home I.	Home I.	Home I.	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	★★ Green Lantern ('11, Act) Ryan Reynolds.				★★ Green Lantern ('11, Act) Ryan Reynolds.						'70s	'70s
	CNBC	72	Closing Bell				Fast Money		Mad Money		Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal		Deal No Deal (N)		Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal		Paid	Paid
	CNN	68	CNN Newsroom		The Lead		The Situation		The Situation		OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Cuomo		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		Cuomo		CNN Tonight	
	DISC	51	Mys. Abandoned		Mys. Abandoned		Homestead		Homestead		Homestead		Homestead		Moonshiners		Moonshiners (N)		Moonshiners (N)		Moonshiners (N)		Homestead (N)		Homestead	
	DISN	26	PJ Masks	PJ Masks	Puppy	Puppy	DuckTal.	BigCity	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie	CoopCmi	CoopCmi	StuckM.	StuckM.	StuckM.	Bunk'd	CoopCmi	Raven's.	Raven's.	Bunk'd	Bizaard.	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's.	Raven's.
	ESPN	33	NBA: The Jump (L)		H.Noon	Highly?	Horn (N)	Interrupt	SportsCenter (N)		NBA Countdwn (L)		NBA Basketball San Antonio vs Philadelphia (L)					NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Utah Jazz (L)					Buzzer /:10 SprtC		SportsCenter (N)	
	ESPN2	34	ITF Tennis Australian Open				NFL Live (N)		Horn (N)	Interrupt	NCAA Basketball Ten./Vander. (L)				SportsCenter (N)		ITF Tennis Australian Open Site: Melbourne Park -- Melbourne, Australia (L)								NBA Basketball	
	FNC	66	Shepard Smith		Your World		The Five		Special Report		The Story		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		Ingraham Angle		Fox News		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		Ingraham Angle	
	FOOD	61	Cooking	Cooking	Pioneer	Pioneer	Guy's Game		Guy's Game		Guy's Game		Game "GGG Jrs."		Guy's Game		Guy's Game		Guy's Game		Guy's Game (N)		Game "Cheesiest"		Guy's Game	
	FREE	32	Step Up Revo...		Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	★★★★ A Bug's Life Dave Foley.				Grown	★★★★ Finding Nemo ('03, Ani) Albert Brooks.					The 700 Club	
	FX	65	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	★★ Daddy's Home Will Ferrell.				Grown Ups 2 Adam Sandler.				Keeping Up With the Joneses				:15 Keeping Up With the Joneses			
	GOLF	88	Web.com Golf				Golf Central (N)		Web.com Golf				Learn	PGA Tour	PGA Golf '18 Farmers Insurance Open				EPGA Golf Dubai Desert Classic Site: Emirates Golf Club -- Dubai, UAE (L)							
	GSN	76	The Chase		Reaction	Am.Says	Am.Says	ComKn.	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Am.Says	Am.Says	Feud	Feud	CashCb	CashCb	Feud	Feud	Am.Says	Reaction	Idiotest	ComKn.
	HALL	87	Home and Family				Love by Chance Brenda Strong.				Autumn in the Vineyard				Summer in the Vineyard				A Royal Winter Merritt Patterson.				Royal Hearts Cindy Busby.			
	HGTV	62	Fixer Upper		Buying & Selling		Buying & Selling		Buying & Selling		Buying & Selling		Buying & Selling		Buying & Selling		Buying & Selling		Property Brothers		Property Bros. (N)		H.Hunt	House	Property Brothers	
	HIST	50	Count.	Count.	Count.	Count.	Counting Cars		Forged "Katar"		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		Vikings "Baldur"		Vikings (N)		Knight Fight (N)		Knight Fight	
	LIFE	29	Celeb Wife Swap		Celeb Wife Swap		Celeb Wife Swap		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		Project Runway		Runway (N)		:05 American (N)		:05 Runway	
	NICK	27	PAW	PAW	PAW	PAW	PAW	PAW	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	H.Danger "A New Hero" (N)		Sponge		Sponge	Sponge	Office	Office	Friends	Friends
	PARMT	42	Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	★★★★ Pretty Woman ('90, Rom) Richard Gere.					
	ROOT	37	Paid	Paid	Dan Patrick (N)		In Depth	FE Racer	NCAA Basketball Tex.Tech/W.Va. (L)				Football NFLPA Collegiate Bowl Site: Rose Bowl						PBA Bowling Doubles Championship				Champions Tennis Classics			
	SYFY	67	Death Race		:05 ★★★ Blade II ('02, Act) Wesley Snipes.					:35 ★★★ Blade: Trinity Wesley Snipes.					:05 ★★★★ Iron Man 3 ('13, Act) Robert Downey Jr..						The Magicians (N)		Deadly Class (N)		★★ Limitless	
	TBS	59	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Fam.Guy	Fam.Guy	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	Frontal	Conan	Frontal
	TCM	56	Cactus Flower		★★ Psych-Out			:45 ★★★ Wild in the Streets				Keep Off	E.Kovacs	:45 ★★ Operation Mad Ball				:45 Ernie Kovacs		★★★★ Wake Me When It's Over				:45 Ernie Kovacs		Movie
	TLC	49	My 600-lb Life		My 600-lb Life		My 600-lb Life "James K's Story"				My 600-lb Life "Cynthia's Story"				My 600-lb Life "Robin's Story"				My 600-lb Life "Justin's Story" (N)				By the Ton (N)		My 600-lb Life	
	TNT	57	Movie	:50 ★★★★ Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace						:50 ★★★★ Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones							:55 ★★ Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith						Drop Mic	Joker's	Pacific Rim	
	UNI	21	Notic.	Vecinos	Como dice dicho		Tenias Que Ser Tu		En Tierras Salva		El gordo y la flaca		Primer impacto		P. Luche	Notic.	Rosa Guadalupe		Jesus		Mi Marido Tiene		Amar a Muerte		Impacto	Noticie.
	USA	58	Law&Order: SVU		Law&Order: SVU		Law&Order: SVU		Law&Order: SVU		SVU "Spellbound"		SVU "Conversion"		Law&Order: SVU		SVU "Sanctuary"		Law&Order: SVU		SVU "Mood"		Suits (N)		Modern	Modern
	WE	118	★★ Last Holiday ('06, Com) Queen Latifah.					★★ Hitch ('05, Com) Eva Mendes, Will Smith.					★★ Last Holiday ('06, Com) Queen Latifah.					★★ Hitch ('05, Com) Eva Mendes, Will Smith.					:05 RealityStars		:05 RealityStars	
	WGN		In Heat of Night		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	★★ Mr. and Mrs. Smith ('05, Act) Brad Pitt.					Pure (N)		★★ Mr. and Mrs. Smith ('05, Act) Brad Pitt.					Married	Mother	Mother
PREMIUM	HBO	518	:15 Z for Zachariah Margot Robbie.				★★★★ Liar Liar Jim Carrey.		★★★★ Sherlock Holmes					:45 ★★★★ Game Night				News	Brexit: The Uncivil War		:40 True Detective		:35 ★★ Half Baked		
	HBO2	520	Making /:15 Geostorm					:15 ★★★★ Inception Joseph Gordon-Levitt.				:45 Dirty Clean		H.Main	:20 ★★★★ The Hangover Ed Helms.				Crashing	True Detective		★★★★ Super Troopers 2		H.Main	Movie
	HBO3	521	Movie	★★★★ In the Valley of Elah				:35 ★★ Couples Retreat				:35 ★★ Sex and the City 2					:05 ★★ Pacific Rim Uprising				The Greatest Showman			:45 ★★ Cop Out Bruce Willis.	
	MAX	549	:55 ★★ Hannibal Julianne Moore.				:10 ★★ The Wolfman Emily Blunt.				:55 ★★ The Newton Boys				★★ The A-Team Liam Neeson.				Insidious: The Last Key			:45 Arizona			:10 ★★ Machete
	SHOW	578	Movie	:45 ★ A Bad Moms Christmas				Office Christmas Party			:15 Baby Driver Kevin Spacey.				:10 ★★★★ Snatch ('01, Com)				:55 ★★★★ Crank			BlackM.	★ A Bad Moms Christmas			:45 SMILF
	STARZ	621	Superfly Trevor Jackson.				:45 ★★ Mission: Impossible II			:50 All the Money in the World					:05 Sexual Revoltion			Proud Mary			Superfly ('18, Act) Trevor Jackson.				★★★ Crooklyn	
	STZENC	644	Twins	:55 The Comedian ('16, Com) Robert De Niro.					:55 Wetlands ('17, Thriller)			:35 ★★ Man on the Moon				:35 ★★★★ The Karate Kid Ralph Macchio.					★★ Moonrise Kingdom			:35 ★★ Twins		

WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT & THURSDAY MORNING

			12 AM	12:30	1 AM	1:30	2 AM	2:30	3 AM	3:30	4 AM	4:30	5 AM	5:30	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
FOX	(11) KFFX	11	:05 Mike & Molly	:35 Two 1/2 Men	:05 CR TV Featuring a selection of products and services.								CR TV		AgDay	The Game	Good Day (N)				Provi-dence	Provi-dence	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Chicago P.D. "Home"	
	KPTV	3	TMZ Live!		Celebr-ity Page	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	King of Queens	Paid Program	Paid Program	This Minute	News (N)	Good Day Oregon at 5 a.m. (N)		Good Day Oregon at 6 a.m. (N)		Good Day Oregon (N)				MORE Good Day Oregon (N)		MORE Good Day Oregon (N)		The Rachael Ray Show	
CBS	(19) KEPR	2	The Late Show	:35 James Corden		:35 D. Fusco	:05 CBS Overnight News					Morning News	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	CBS This Morning (N)				Pickler & Ben		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
	KOIN	19	The Late Show	:35 James Corden		:35 News	:10 CBS Overnight News				News (N)	News (N)	KOIN 6 News at 5 a.m. (N)		KOIN 6 News at 6 a.m. (N)		CBS This Morning (N)				Let's Make a Deal		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
NBC	(25) KNDU	6	Tonight Show	:35 Late Night With Seth Meyers		:35 Last Call	:05 Today Show		Early Today	Early Today	Early Today	News (N)	Wake Up Northwest (N)		Wake Up Northwest (N)		Today Show (N)				Today Show III (N)		Today (N)		Millio-naire?	HotB-ench (N)
	KGW	8	Tonight Show	:35 Late Night With Seth Meyers		:35 Last Call	:05 Steve!		Early Today	Early Today	Early Today	KGW News at	KGW News at Sunrise (N)		KGW News at Sunrise (N)		Today Show (N)				Today Show III (N)		Today (N)		Daily Blast	Daily Blast
ABC	(42) KVEW	4	:05 Nightl.	:35 This Minute	:05 Pat. Court	:35 ABC World News Now Featuring the morning's top stories and breaking news from around the world.						News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Good Morning America (N)				Live Matt LeBlanc, Ilana Glazer (N)		The View		Paid Program	This Minute
	KATU	5	Jimmy Kimmel	:35 Nightl.	:05 Paid Program	:35 Paid Program	:05 ABC World News Now				News (N)	News (N)	KATU News This Morning (N)				Good Morning America (N)				AM Northwest		The View		Live Matt LeBlanc, Ilana Glazer (N)	
PBS	(31) KTNW		News	JourneyJ apan (N)	Nova "Kilauea: Hawaii on Fire"		Dictator's Playb "Benito Mussolini"		Antique "Chicago (Hour Three)"		Amer. Experience "The Big Burn"		Roots "Reporting on the Reporters"		Esmon-de Tech.	W.L.-Yoga	Ready Jet Go!	Wild Kratts	Sesame Street	Splash & Bubbles	Dinosa-ur Train	Cat in the Hat	Daniel Tiger	Super WHY!	Pinka-Peter	Sit and Be Fit
	(59) OPB	13	PBS NewsHour		Roots "Reporting on the Reporters"		Amer. Experience "The Big Burn"		Frontline "Coal's Deadly Dust"		America ReFr "Saving Brinton"		Nightly Business	World News	Sit and Be Fit	Wild Kratts	Nature Cat	Curious George	Let's Go Luna!	Daniel Tiger	Daniel Tiger	Pinka-Peter	Splash & Bubbles	Sesame Street	Dinosa-ur Train	Cat in the Hat