

# Poll: Oregonians split on Greater Idaho

■ Recent survey of 1,400 Oregon residents shows 34% believe moving parts of Oregon to Idaho would be a positive change

By Dylan Jefferies  
The (Bend) Bulletin

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 of 2020.

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 residents, selected to be demographically representative of the state, between June 8 and June 14. The margin of error ranges from 1.6% to



The Greater Idaho concept.

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

— Amanda Wallace, Deschutes County resident

2.6% 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 conservatives political power which they currently 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

would be positive (40%). The survey also used aggregated data to analyze the opinions of Black, Indigenous and other Oregonians of color compared to the opinions of white residents, with this clarification: "BIPOC residents are not a monolith; the grouping represents a wide diversity of races and ethnicities."

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

## Polling highlights

Overall, 38% of Oregonians believe Southern and Eastern 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 Southern and Eastern Oregon counties joining Idaho would be negative (55%), and respondents ages 45 to 54 are the most likely to say the move would be positive (40%).

More than half of Oregonians with six-figure incomes believe the move would be negative, while some 40% of people with lower incomes believe it would be negative.

Compared to urban and suburban residents, rural residents are the most likely to say voters should be able to approve a county's move to Idaho (43%), and that a move to Idaho is likely (32%) and

would be positive (40%).

According to McCarter, chief petitioner of Move Oregon's Border, a key takeaway from the poll is that no clear majority is in favor or opposition to the Greater Idaho concept, because about one-fifth of respondents expressed no opinion.

Another takeaway, McCarter said, is that many respondents expressed unfamiliarity with the idea. He is confident that as rural voters become more informed, they will lean in favor, as was seen during May elections when an average of 62% of voters across five counties voted in favor of Greater Idaho initiatives.

"As citizens of eastern and southern Oregon, we ask that northwestern Oregonians make a decision based on what's best for their part of the state, and leave it to us to make a decision based on what's best for our part of the state," he said in a press release. "The election results from our part of the state indicate that we prefer to join Idaho."

"We are asking northwestern Oregonians to examine the benefits to northwestern Oregon of voluntarily letting this territory go," he said.

## HAINES

Continued from Page A1

"The sunnyside bleachers were as full as we could expect when it's nearly 100 degrees outside," said Kristi Bain, rodeo secretary. "You don't expect that kind of crowd when it's that kind of heat."

The rodeo performances started at 5 p.m. on Saturday and 1:30 on Sunday, each running for about four hours.

In addition to the adult events, kids 13

and younger participated in saddle bronc, steer riding, breakaway roping, barrel racing and wild pony races.

The wild cow milking and wild cow races took place Sunday.

"We would like to thank everybody who sponsored and came out and supported it," Bain said. "Without our sponsors and the support from the crowd in the stands, we couldn't do any of it."

Rodeo results will be posted at [www.hainesstampede.com](http://www.hainesstampede.com).

## LEGISLATURE

Continued from Page A3

If the Legislature doesn't get the job done in time, a complex plan involving the secretary of state, a special judicial panel and the state Supreme Court will take a shot at sorting out the map mess.

- Election 2022 nearing start: Candidates who want to run for major party and non-partisan offices in the May 2022 primary have to wait until at least Sept. 9 to officially declare their candidacy.

The 2022 elections feature an open governor's seat for the first time since 2010. Also on the ballot: A U.S. Senate seat, six congressional seats, an Oregon Supreme Court judgeship, the state Bureau of Labor and Commissioner, plus at least half of state senate seats and all the state house seats. Added into the mix is a slew of local races: city councils, sheriffs, district attorneys, circuit court judges, county commissioners and more. The deadline to file for candidacy is March 10, 2022.

But fundraising race already started: Early electioneering has started in the form of campaign cash. Candidates don't have to wait for the filing deadline to set

up fundraising committees. As of Friday, 42 candidate committees for 2022 were already listed on the Secretary of State website. Incumbents often wait longer to "revise" existing campaign committees to convert to the latest races.

- Staying put: Former House Majority Leader Val Hoyle, who unsuccessfully sought the 2018 Democratic nomination for Secretary of State, has said she is not interested in running for governor in 2022. Hoyle is among a squadron of top Democrats who could vie to replace Gov. Kate Brown, who can't run for office again because of term limits.

Hoyle made a political comeback in 2018, winning the race for Bureau of Labor & Industries Commissioner. She has said that is where she intends to stay, running for a second term next year. Hoyle's move so far backs up her words. She filed an early campaign finance revision with the Secretary of State listing the commissioner's job as the target of fundraising.

- Incumbents all in for Congress: Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, and all five of the state's incumbent U.S. House members have taken first steps toward re-election as well.

# Wyden bill would protect domestic violence survivors

By Maxine Bernstein  
The Oregonian

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has joined with U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., to introduce a bill intended to protect domestic violence survivors from gun violence.

The bill is partly named after Nicolette Elias, a 46-year-old Portland woman fatally shot by her ex-husband Ian Martin Elias in her southwest Portland home in 2014. A court had granted her restraining orders and a temporary stalking order against her former husband.

After he killed her, Ian Elias took the couple's two daughters, then ages 7 and 8, to his home in northeast Portland and fatally shot himself as a police tactical squad surrounded the home.

"Six and a half years ago, our whole world was shattered. My beloved daughter was brutally murdered in a domestic violence situation,"

Madeleine Garcelon, Nicolette's mother said at a news conference Thursday to talk about the bill. "This should have been...It could have been prevented. Nicolette had a stalking order, and a restraining order. I sat in a courtroom as Nicolette told the judge he was dangerous, and that she was afraid."

The Lori Jackson-Nicolette Elias Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act bill, introduced recently, would close a loophole that allows domestic violence abusers to legally obtain weapons while a temporary restraining order has been issued against them.

Blumenthal has previously tried to pass the same change. Opponents have argued it would be unfair to curtail the possession of firearms based on a temporary restraining order that's usually issued by a judge without the target of the order present in court.

The legislation also calls for the creation of a federal grant program to support state and local efforts to keep firearms out of the hands of domestic abusers while they are the

subject of temporary or emergency restraining orders.

The bill also is named for Jackson, of Oxford, Conn., who was shot and killed in 2014 by an abusive, estranged husband after securing a temporary restraining order against him. She died the day before a hearing was set for a permanent protective order.

"Keeping guns out of the hands of domestic violence abusers shouldn't be controversial. It's commonsense," said Wyden, speaking at the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services in Portland with Garcelon, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal and members of the group Moms Demand Action, who are lobbying for gun control measures.

See Survivors / Page A6

**Serving Baker and Surrounding Counties**  
We offer landscape curbing and full service specialty and decorative concrete installation.

**541-519-5268**

**STONE ELITE**  
LANDSCAPING & IRRIGATION

[stone.elitesprinklernland@gmail.com](mailto:stone.elitesprinklernland@gmail.com) CCB#231936 LCB# 9809

**SAIL THE GREEK ISLES**  
**PRICES SLASHED**  
Greece Intensive Voyage  
AZAMARA QUEST | 15 - OCT - 2022

**Call today!**  
Book by Mar 31, 2021 for Promotion

**Find YOUR Why Small Group Travel**  
AKA: (Baker Valley Travel & Alegre Travel)

Per person Cruise only rate from ~~\$2699.00~~ \$1994.00 inside stateroom

541-523-9353 & 541-963-9000

**With summer here, there is lots of traveling. Be safe & have fun!**

**Joe Scott's Premier Auto Body, Inc.**  
2390 Broadway, Baker City  
541-523-5223