

Oregonians for Immigration Reform
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OFIR Newsletter, December 2010

The next meeting for OFIR members and supporters will be held at 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, January 8, 2011, in Salem, at the Best Western Mill Creek Inn, 3125 Ryan Dr. SE, located across the street from Costco, just off of Mission St. See driving directions at end. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

CALL FOR ANNUAL DUES –It's that time of year...your 2011 DUES ARE DUE!

OFIR is hard at work at this critical time when the entire immigration issue is finally leaning in our direction. Your annual dues of \$25 help us to do the work that makes a difference in our ongoing fight against illegal immigration.

If you can afford to give even more, OFIR would really appreciate it and will make great use of your contribution. For those of you who are unable to contribute financially at this time, let us assure you that your **active participation** can be just as valuable! Ask us what YOU can do to make a difference. A dues remittance envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Please feel free to include a note with any thoughts, ideas, input or concerns you have and send it along with your check.

An Historic Election, November 2, 2010

Fundamental changes in direction appear assured by results of the November election. In Congress, the numbers of immigration patriots have greatly increased, and while the Senate remains under Democratic Party control, we have 8 new pro-enforcement Senators replacing 8 amnesty-supporting Senators:

Arkansas. John Boozman (A+ rating with NumbersUSA) replaces Blanche Lincoln (F).

Florida. Marko Rubio (opposed to amnesty) replaces Mel Martinez (D rating).

Illinois. Mark Kirk (B rating) replaces Roland Burris (F- rating).

Kansas. Jerry Moran (A rating) replaces Sam Brownback (D rating).

Missouri. Roy Blunt (A rating) replaces Kit Bond (C- rating).

Pennsylvania. Pat Toomey (B rating) replaces Arlene Specter (D rating).

Utah. Mike Lee (immigration patriot) replaces Bob Bennett (C- rating).

Wisconsin. Ron Johnson (opposed to amnesty) replaces Russ Feingold (F rating).

With the Republicans winning control of the House there will be major changes in chairs of House committees. **Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX)**, (A+ rating by NumbersUSA), will likely become chair of the House Judiciary Committee, which oversees all immigration issues. He has

been a leader in efforts to reduce immigration. Smith helped write the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act. **Rep. Steve King (R-IA)** (A+ rating), is likely to be chair, Judiciary Committee's Immigration Subcommittee. King is one of Congress's strongest defenders of border security and immigration enforcement. He has introduced a number of bills that would protect American workers from competition for jobs by illegal aliens.

Here in Oregon, we can congratulate our A-rated Congressman Greg Walden, who will go back to Congress again, as does B-rated Peter DeFazio. Unfortunately, Oregon is still saddled with four F and D-rated legislators in Congress: Sen. Ron Wyden, Rep. Earl Blumenauer, Rep. David Wu, and Rep. Kurt Schrader, all of whom won re-election. D-rated Sen. Merkley is not up for re-election until 2014.

We in OFIR will have to continue working to educate the public on the importance of immigration law enforcement and to find candidates who are **willing to take up this issue prominently in their campaigns**. Our endorsed candidates did a good job overall, and we appreciate their efforts. Jim Huffman got nearly 40% of the vote for Senator. In Congressional Dist. 1, Rob Cornilles received 42% of the vote, and in Dist. 5, Scott Bruun's total was 46%.

We believe all the OFIR-endorsed candidates might have fared better had they talked more frequently and more fully about the immigration issue, which played very well in most parts of the country. There were numerous big wins in immigration-focused races elsewhere.

Outlook for the Oregon Legislature – Many of OFIR's endorsed candidates won election, and we can anticipate a somewhat friendlier reception to OFIR's issues in the next session of the Oregon House. However, there is a 30-30 split between Democrats and Republicans in the House, and as of this writing, there appears to be a 16-14 split in the Senate, favoring Democrats.

Old friends newly re-elected to the Legislature are Jackie Winters, Bruce Starr, Chuck Thomsen, Wayne Krieger, Dennis Richardson, Sal Esquivel, Bruce Hanna, Andy Olson, Sherrie Sprenger, Vic Gilliam, Brian Clem, Betty Komp, Jim Thompson, Jim Weidner, Kim Thatcher, Matt Wingard, Jeff Barker, Mike Schaufler, Gene Whisnant, and Bill Garrard.

We welcome Julie Parrish, newly elected in House Dist. 37, who filled out an OFIR candidate questionnaire, agreeing to support mandatory use of E-Verify, requirement for proof of citizenship by those registering to vote for the first time, and urging full reimbursement by the federal government for incarceration costs of criminal illegal aliens.

Many of the OFIR-endorsed candidates who didn't win, did succeed in racking up substantial vote totals. These included Mike Forest, Senate Dist. 10, 45%; Bob Horning, Senate Dist. 16, 45%; Mary Kremer, Senate Dist. 19, 45%

Among the close races for the House, all these OFIR-endorsed candidates received over 40%: Dist. 10, Becky Lemler, 42%; Dist. 12, Sean Van Gordon, 43%; Dist. 32, Lew Barnes, 48%; Dist. 35, Gordon Fiddes, 43%; Dist. 50, Andre Wang, 46%.

Congratulations and many thanks to all these great candidates and all the other OFIR-endorsed candidates who were willing to get out there before the public and work for true immigration reform for this country and this state!!

OFIR Plans for Action at the 2011 State Legislature

Opponents of immigration enforcement often claim that immigration is a Federal responsibility and that States cannot make immigration-related laws. On the contrary, States do have the right to enact immigration legislation that is Constitutional and does not conflict with controlling Federal law, and many States have done so. For example, a number of States have laws requiring use of the federal E-Verify program. E-Verify enables employers to check the employment eligibility of new hires. OFIR proposed such a law in the '09-'10 session of the Oregon Legislature and will try again in 2011 to make E-Verify mandatory for Oregon employers. Already over 1,700 Oregon employers are voluntarily using the program, with no major problems reported. Additional needed legislation: proof of citizenship by persons registering to vote for first time, and repeal of ORS 181.850, which hampers cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE.

Obama Administration Reduces Enforcement of Immigration Laws

There has been a surge in dismissals of immigration cases by DHS, being linked to a June 30 memorandum to all ICE employees calling for disregarding illegal aliens who have committed only minor crimes where no one was hurt, and pursuing only those guilty of DWI, sex crimes, and domestic violence. This is a backdoor amnesty showing serious disregard for immigration laws on the books. (<http://www.cis.org/kephart/ICE-mission-melt-4>) In October, DHS trumpeted the number of illegal alien deportations (392,862) in fiscal 2010, while doing nothing to address the estimated 8 million illegal aliens holding jobs when 22 million citizens are unemployed. As Rep. Lamar Smith stated, "While criminal arrests may be on the rise, worksite enforcement has been all but forgotten." The Pew Hispanic Center recently reported that in the past year, foreign-born workers gained 656,000 jobs while native-born workers lost 1.2 million.

Immediate Danger Before the New Congress Assembles

The new 112th Congress will begin in January 2011. The current (111th) Congress is still in power until then. The current leadership has called a "lame-duck" session to begin on Monday, Nov. 15, which could continue into December. Democratic Party leaders are promising a vote on the DREAM Act during this session. The DREAM Act is a major amnesty masquerading as a limited kindness to children brought here illegally by their illegal alien parents. **This amnesty is not just about teenagers and children but about every illegal alien up to age 35 who is willing to claim having been brought illegally to the U.S. before age 16. It is estimated that 2 million illegal aliens would actually qualify and that millions more might get the amnesty through fraud.** The federal government cannot possibly verify, one by one, all the millions of claims that could be made under this bill, thus massive fraud will inevitably result.

Please call and write to Oregon Senators and Representatives and urge them to vote NO on the DREAM Act. For addresses and phone numbers, please refer to the list sent with the October newsletter, contact your local public library, or if you're online, visit: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/>. Both Oregon Senators Wyden and Merkley, and Reps. Wu, Blumenauer, and Schrader will almost certainly vote for the DREAM Act unless we overwhelm them with opposition. Reps. DeFazio and Walden should also be contacted.

OFIR – Past and Present

Oregonians for Immigration Reform was organized in 2000 with the goals of ending illegal immigration and reducing legal immigration levels to environmentally and socially sustainable numbers. The first meeting was held in Sept. 2000. We functioned for several months informally, without officers, although by-laws were adopted at the Feb. 24, 2001 meeting. At the meeting on June 2, 2001, Vern Cook brought up the need for a titular head of OFIR, and members voted to name these officers temporarily: Jim Ludwick, President; Frank Brehm, Vice President; Elizabeth Van Staaveren, Secretary and Treasurer. At the meeting on Nov. 10, 2001, those officers were formally elected. There have been several changes in officers since then, except that Jim Ludwick has served as President throughout. His leadership has made OFIR what it is, and the successes we've had owe much to his ability, vision, and persistence. Membership has grown from about 100 originally to well over 2,000. Immigration, especially illegal immigration, has become a much more visible issue state-wide and nationally. We count the passage of the Oregon driver license bill in 2008 among our successes, also the continuing defeats of bills granting instate tuition to illegal aliens, and the cessation of State cooperation with Mexico in issuance of the matricula consular I.D. cards to illegal aliens.

Mr. Ludwick will step aside as President at the end of 2010. He plans to continue helping OFIR as liaison with the Legislature, as media spokesperson, and perhaps in other ways depending on circumstances. Cynthia Kendoll of Salem is the unanimous choice of the OFIR Board to serve as President succeeding Ludwick. By-laws call for officer elections biennially; the next election will be in November 2011.

All officers and Board members serve as volunteers; there is no paid staff or rented office space. All activities of OFIR depend upon the cooperation and support of members.

Please Remember to Send in Your Annual Dues

OFIR is a 501(c)(4) organization under IRS rules; dues and contributions to OFIR are not tax-deductible. Checks for annual dues (\$25) can be written to OFIR, or to Oregonians for Immigration Reform. An annual financial report for OFIR is filed with the Oregon Department of Justice's Charitable Activities Section, and can be seen online.

OFIR also has a Political Action Committee. Contributions to the OFIR PAC are eligible for the political tax credit on Oregon state (not federal) income tax returns, up to \$50 per year for an individual, and \$100 for a couple filing jointly. Checks for the OFIR PAC should be written to OFIR PAC.

PLEASE COME TO THE OFIR MEETING, Saturday, January 8, 2011, 2 p.m.

Driving directions to Best Western Mill Creek Inn:

From I-5, take exit 253, which is the intersection of I-5 and State roads 22 and Business 99E. Go West on 22 (Mission St.) a short distance to Hawthorne Ave. Turn R on Hawthorne Ave. to the first left, which is Ryan Drive. Turn left on Ryan Drive, by Denny's Restaurant, and proceed to Mill Creek Inn just beyond.

From downtown Salem: Go east on Mission St. (State Rd. 22). Follow 22 just past the Airport and turn left on Hawthorne Ave. Then take the first left (almost an immediate left) into Ryan Drive; you will see the Inn directly ahead.