

Oregonians for Immigration Reform
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Notice: If you have email and are not on the OFIR email list, please send your email address to OFIR.

The next meeting for OFIR members and supporters will be held at 1:00 p.m., on Saturday, November 15th 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.

Election calendar: Ballots for the November General Election will be mailed out Oct.17-21. Voters' pamphlets on state measures will be mailed Oct.8-10; on candidates, Oct. 15-17. The deadline for voting is Nov. 4.

MEASURE 58, ENGLISH IMMERSION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFIR urges a YES vote on Measure # 58.

Measure # 58 would require non-English speaking students who enter into Oregon public schools to be immersed into English. It allows up to two years of specialized intensive English instruction, giving English language learners grade level skills in literacy and school subjects, and the ability to do regular classroom work in English.

Measure # 58 would end the practice of keeping English language learners in ESL, ELL, LEP and/or bilingual education programs beyond the two-year limit.

Many OFIR members worked hard to collect signatures for Measure # 58. Please encourage your friends, neighbors and acquaintances to vote for it.

OREGON BALLOT MEASURE 61 PUNISHES IDENTITY THEFT

OFIR urges a YES vote on Measure # 61. Measure # 61 would require true mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes and identity theft. Currently Oregon ranks third in the nation for ID theft. It is estimated that about 80% of the methamphetamine trade is brought into Oregon by illegal aliens. As the raid at Portland's Fresh Del Monte plant last year demonstrated, illegal aliens often steal American citizens' Social Security numbers.

Oregon has become a magnet for illegal immigration because of our lax sentencing for drug crimes and ID theft. Benton County Deputy District Attorney Chris Stringer was quoted in the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* as saying, "*Oregon laws related to ID theft carry little consequence*

.....you can't get prison time until after your fifth conviction, and then it is only for 13 or 19 months.”

OFIR urges a NO vote on Measure # 57. Measure # 57 is a sneaky attempt by the Oregon Legislature to defeat Measure # 61. The legislature put it on the ballot in order to confuse voters. While proponents claim it is an anti-crime measure, **Measure # 57 does not include the term “mandatory minimum” for drug crimes and ID theft.**

YES on Measure # 61!

NO on Measure # 57!

IMMIGRATION POSITIONS OF CANDIDATES

OFIR has researched the public positions of many candidates on immigration issues, based on their public statements in speeches, on their websites, and in answer to questionnaires.

The only **candidate for President** whose positions on immigration are rated Excellent by Americans for Better Immigration (ABI) is Chuck Baldwin, representing the Constitution Party. See a detailed comparison of the Presidential candidates' views on immigration at:

<http://www.betterimmigration.com/candidates/2006/prez2008.html> **Both Barack Obama and John McCain support amnesties for illegal aliens.** McCain originally said he would first secure the borders, but recently he has put that promise in doubt. Obama has pledged to make amnesty a high priority, to be addressed early in his administration. If none of the above is acceptable to you, you can write in the name of your choice. Some proven immigration reform heroes are Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO), Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-CA), Lou Dobbs.

Oregon Congressional Races – One Oregon Senator, Gordon Smith, and all incumbent Oregon Representatives except Darlene Hooley, are up for re-election in November. Based on their voting records, Americans for Better Immigration (ABI) grades the incumbent candidates thus:

Senator Gordon Smith (R) – C+
 District 1, Rep. David Wu (D) – F
 District 2, Rep. Greg Walden (R) – B+
 District 3, Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D) – F
 District 4, Rep. Peter DeFazio (D) – B

OREGON SENATORIAL RACE

OFIR endorses Senator Gordon Smith for reelection. -- Opposing Senator Smith is **Democrat Jeff Merkley**, currently Speaker of the Oregon House. In 2005, Merkley voted against House Bill 2583, requiring evidence of citizenship for persons registering to vote for first time. In 2007, Democrats controlled both houses of the Legislature and as Speaker of the House,

Merkley was an important part of the leadership team. OFIR and our friends in the Legislature made heroic efforts to advance several good bills addressing illegal immigration, and despite the fact that many OFIR members are Democrats, all of the bills were stymied by the Democratic Party leadership. The 2007 session of the Legislature adjourned without passing implementation of the Real ID Act, or any legislation that might impede illegal immigration. In the special session of February 2008, after Governor Kulongoski had issued an Executive Order calling for proof of legal presence to obtain a driver license, Merkley did vote in favor of S.B. 1080, the driver license bill which passed the Legislature and is now law.

Both Sen. Smith and Speaker Merkley have declined to state their position on reauthorizing E-Verify, the DHS program that enables employers to check electronically and quickly the legal status of workers. This program, in a trial status for nearly 10 years and now available nationwide, will expire in March 2009 unless reauthorized. E-Verify is probably the single most effective way to control illegal immigration, and far less expensive than hiring hundreds more border guards and ICE agents. Unpatriotic businesses and other advocates for illegals oppose reauthorization because they know the program actually works.

The Project Vote Smart organization asked candidates to indicate which of the following principles they support (if any) regarding immigration:

- a) Decrease the number of legal immigrants allowed into the country.
- b) Establish English as the official national language.
- c) Support a temporary worker program.
- d) Support harsher financial punishments for those who knowingly employ illegal immigrants.
- e) Support amnesty for illegal immigrants already working in the United States.
- f) Illegal immigrants should have to return to their countries of origin before being considered for citizenship.
- g) Illegal immigrants should be given a pathway to citizenship.
- h) Support merit-based visas over family-based visas.
- i) Other or expanded principles

Sen. Smith said that he supports establishing English as the official national language, a temporary worker program, harsher financial punishments for those who knowingly employ illegal immigrants, and merit-based visas over family-based visas. Speaker Merkley said only that he supported harsher financial punishments for those who knowingly employ illegal immigrants.

Dave Brownlow is also a candidate for U.S. Senate, representing the Constitution Party. In answers to the Project Vote Smart questionnaire, Brownlow supports decreasing the number of legal immigrants allowed into the country, establishing English as the official national language, a temporary worker program, harsher financial punishments for those who knowingly employ

illegal immigrants, and requiring illegal immigrants to return to their countries of origin before being considered for citizenship.

We recognize and appreciate Sen. Smith’s critical vote against amnesty, on June 26, 2007.

On that day a motion to invoke cloture on S.1639, the deceptively named “Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill,” was defeated, causing a powerful push for amnesty to illegals to collapse. This was the climax of a months-long fight between pro- and anti-amnesty groups. In the end, Gordon Smith was one of 37 Republican and 15 Democratic Senators who voted against cloture, and Senator Wyden was one of 33 Democratic and 12 Republican Senators who voted for cloture.

U.S. House of Representatives

District 1 – Incumbent Rep. David Wu (D) is opposed by four candidates: H. Joe Tabor, Libertarian; Scott Semrau, Constitution Party; Chris Henry, Pacific Green Party; and Joel Haugen, Independent. Haugen began his candidacy as a Republican, but because he publicly supports Obama for President, Haugen no longer officially represents the Republican Party.

Rep. Wu has a dismal record on immigration reform (graded F by ABI). His only opponent known to express concern about illegal immigration is Joel Haugen. Immigration reform voters are greatly in need of an effective spokesperson to run in this District; **at present there is no acceptable choice.** Write-in possibilities include State Sen. Bruce Starr (R-15), who has been an OFIR friend in the State Senate, and Lars Larson or Victoria Taft, radio talk-show hosts.

District 2 – OFIR endorses Rep. Greg Walden for reelection in District 2. Walden (R) has a B+ rating from ABI. OFIR believes that his extensive legislative experience combined with his generally reliable support of OFIR’s goals over the years makes him our best choice for effective progress on immigration issues.

Three other candidates are running in District 2: Richard Hake, Constitution Party; Noah Lemas, Democratic Party; and Tristin Mock, Pacific Green Party. Hake’s positions on immigration are very good, but he is without political or legislative experience. Lemas addresses immigration on his website, but supports “a pathway to citizenship” for illegal aliens, which in plain language means amnesty. Mock has not made public her immigration views.

District 3 – OFIR endorses Delia Lopez for Congress in District 3. Incumbent Earl Blumenauer (D) has consistently voted the wrong way on most immigration bills, over his lengthy career in Congress. He is graded F by ABI. Lopez is designated a True Immigration Reform Candidate by ABI. She attended the OFIR meeting on Aug. 23 and spoke to the group, showing that she is a knowledgeable speaker and could be an able proponent for much-needed immigration controls and limits. A third candidate in this race is Michael Meo, representing the Pacific Green Party. Meo favors “a pathway to citizenship” for illegal aliens, meaning amnesty.

District 4 – OFIR endorses Rep. Peter DeFazio for reelection in District 4. He generally supports less immigration, less population growth, less foreign labor. Having been in Congress since 1987, he has a long record of voting to support U.S. workers and for controls on immigration. Opposing him are candidates Jaynee Germond, Constitution Party; and Mike Beilstein, Pacific Green Party. Germond has very good positions on immigration, but she lacks political and legislative experience. Beilstein wants to decrease the number of legal immigrants allowed into the country, but allow amnesty for illegal immigrants already working in the U.S.

District 5 – OFIR endorses Mike Erickson for Congress in District 5. With the retirement of Darlene Hooley, 6 candidates are running to replace her. Erickson is the Republican nominee, and Kurt Schrader is the Democratic nominee. Other candidates are: Sean Bates, Independent; Steve Milligan, Libertarian; Douglas Patterson, Constitution Party; and Alex Polikoff, Pacific Green Party. Bates and Patterson have good positions on immigration, but Erickson is the strongest candidate on this issue. **Erickson is designated a True Immigration Reform Candidate by Americans for Better Immigration.**

Kurt Schrader (D) of Canby, has served in the Oregon State Legislature for several years. Votes on immigration-related bills in the Oregon Senate show that in 2003, he voted in favor of S.B. 10, “relating to resident status for higher education.” This bill would have granted instate tuition to illegal aliens, but as it failed to pass the House, largely due to strong opposition from OFIR and friends, it did not become law. In 2008, he voted in favor of the driver’s license bill that was approved by the Legislature in Feb. 2008 and has become law. His website doesn’t contain an issue statement on immigration, and he did not submit answers to questionnaires from ABI or Project Vote Smart that would have elicited his positions on immigration issues. In a candidate forum on Sept. 22 newspapers report him as supporting the retention of illegal alien workers, in other words, amnesty.

OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE

OFIR President Jim Ludwick, Board members, and OFIR supporters have been visiting the Capital at each Legislative session since 2000, conferring with legislators on immigration issues. On the basis of this experience, plus OFIR’s candidate questionnaires sent in 2008, voting records, and statements to public media, **OFIR endorses the following candidates:**

Oregon House

Dist. 1	Wayne Krieger, R	Dist. 6	Sal Esquivel, R
Dist. 3	Ron Maurer, R	Dist. 7	Bruce Hanna, R
Dist. 4	Dennis Richardson, R	Dist. 9	Al Pearn, R

Dist. 14	Chris Edwards, D	Dist. 30	David Edwards, D
Dist. 17	Dan Thackaberry, D	Dist. 35	Tony Marino, R
Dist. 22	Tom M. Chereck Jr., R	Dist. 37	Scott Bruun, R
Dist. 23	Jim Thompson, R	Dist. 48	Mike Schaufler, D
Dist. 24	Jim Weidner, R	Dist. 50	John Lim, R
Dist. 25	Kim Thatcher, R	Dist. 51	Linda Flores, R
Dist. 26	Matt Wingard, R	Dist. 53	Gene Whisnant, R
Dist. 28	Jeff Barker, D	Dist. 54	Chuck Burley, R
Dist. 29	Chuck Riley, D	Dist. 56	Bill Garrard, R
Dist. 29	Terry Rilling, I		

Oregon Senate

Dist. 1	Jeff Kruse, R	Dist. 14	Lisa Michaels, R
Dist. 2	Jason A. Atkinson, R	Dist. 17	John Wight, R
Dist. 9	Fred Girod, R	Dist. 28	Doug Whitsett, R
Dist. 12	Brian Boquist, R		

Additional information on candidates from Project Vote Smart questionnaires -- The Vote Smart questionnaire for State legislators included an immigration-related question in each of three subject areas:

Crime Issues, question g) Support state and local law enforcement officials enforcing federal immigration laws.

Education Issues, question j) Support allowing illegal immigrant high school graduates of Oregon to pay in-state tuition at public universities.

Employment Issues, question h) Support financial punishments for those who knowingly employ illegal immigrants.

A total of 18 out of about 200 candidates for the Oregon Legislature provided answers to the Vote Smart questionnaire. Respondents checked only those principles they would support.

Indicating they **would support** state and local law enforcement officials enforcing federal immigration laws are: House candidates Ron Maurer, Sean VanGordon (R-12), Vicki Berger (R-20), Scott Bruun, Gene Whisnant, and Senate candidate Brian Boquist. Those who **would not** support state and local law enforcement officials enforcing federal immigration laws are: House candidates Julie Rubenstein (D-3), Peter Buckley (D-5), Donald Nordin (D-7), Richard Olsen (D-15), Dan Thackaberry (D-17), Tom Chereck (R-22), Bernt Hansen (D-24), Mitch Greenlick (D-33), Judy Stiegler (D-54), John Huffman (R-59), and Senate candidates Eldon Rollins (D-1) and Richard Koopmans (D-2)

Indicating they **would not** support allowing illegal immigrant high school graduates of Oregon to pay in-state tuition at public universities are: House candidates Ron Maurer, Julie Rubenstein,

Sean VanGordon, Dan Thackaberry, Vicki Berger, Tom Chereck, Mitch Greenlick, Scott Bruun, Gene Whisnant, Judy Stiegler, John Huffman, and Senate candidate Brian Boquist. Those who **would support** allowing illegal immigrant high school graduates of Oregon to pay in-state tuition at public universities are: House candidates Peter Buckley, Donald Nordin, Richard Olsen, Bernt Hansen, and Senate candidates Eldon Rollins, Richard Koopmans.

Indicating they **would support** financial punishments for those who knowingly employ illegal immigrants are House candidates Ron Maurer, Peter Buckley, Mitch Greenlick, Scott Bruun, Gene Whisnant, Judy Stiegler, and Senate candidates Eldon Rollins, Richard Koopmans, Brian Boquist. Those who **would not** support financial punishments for those who knowingly employ illegal immigrants are: House candidates Julie Rubenstein, Donald Nordin, Sean VanGordon, Richard Olsen, Dan Thackaberry, Vicki Berger, Tom Chereck, Bernt Hansen, John Huffman.

Dan Thackaberry and Tom Chereck are in OFIR's recommended list because they returned OFIR questionnaires in the May Primary stating that they would support E-Verify, repeal of ORS 181.850, proof of citizenship to vote for first time, and transferring foreign national criminals to prisons in their home countries. These were the 4 issues in the OFIR questionnaire.

News from FAIR -- Congress Refuses to Bail out E-Verify

Congress wrapped up the 110th Session last week (Oct. 3) without guaranteeing the future of the critical E-Verify program. E-Verify is an electronic tool that allows employers to verify that they are hiring legal workers by matching identification documents against databases managed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Over 75,000 employers use the E-Verify program, and DHS estimates that nearly 1,000 new employers register for the voluntary program each week. The program, which is required by multiple states and for federal contractors, was set to expire in November, but will now expire March 6, 2009.

The House overwhelmingly passed legislation in July to reauthorize E-Verify for five years. (H.R.6633) The Senate had multiple opportunities to pass the same bill, but Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) held the program hostage for months with his attempts to attach hundreds of thousands of additional visas to any reauthorization efforts. Ultimately, the Senate bowed to his pressure and that of special interests, voting to extend the program for only six months. Congress' inability to agree on an extension of the program for longer than six months left this important program vulnerable to being used as a bargaining chip in attempts to pass amnesty for illegal aliens by a new administration and new Congress.

OFIR members and friends: Please urge OR Representatives and Senators to re-authorize E-Verify for a full 10 years with no crippling amendments and no added visas! Call them toll-free at 1-866-220-0044 or 1-800-828-0498. When Congressional candidates campaign, tell them you want E-Verify to be permanent and mandatory.

REMEMBER THE OFIR MEETING, Saturday, November 15th, 1 p.m. in Salem, at the Best Western Mill Creek Inn, 3125 Ryan Dr. SE.

We welcome people of good will who are concerned about the impact of immigration on America. Anyone who is disruptive will be asked to leave. The meeting is open to OFIR members, supporters and invited guests. Attendees sign in at door, show photo ID and pay fee of \$1.00 each. Information on sign-in sheet is confidential and not shared with anyone.

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 Hawthorn 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.