



# Immigrant Rights and 2017 Anti-Immigrant Ballot Measure Workshop

Content	Format	Time Allotted
1. Introduction		5 minutes
2. Timeline	Tour in pairs, discussion	20 minutes
3. Connecting the Dots: IP 22, IP 5 and White Nationalism	Group brainstorm, presentation	20 minutes
4. Action Steps		15 minutes

## Materials

- Timeline (cut into pieces) or “Oregon Immigrant and Refugee Rights Timeline” Handout
- Tape
- Pledge forms

## 1. Introduction

Do a round of participant intros: name, organization or role in org, pronouns.

**SAY:** (NAME OF ORG) is also a part of One Oregon. One Oregon is a coalition of more than 30 groups working together is a statewide coalition that defends against anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim policies and ballot measures and works to ensure that all Oregonians, regardless of country of birth, are treated with dignity and respect.

Our goals today:

- Participants walk away with sense of Oregon immigrant rights struggles and victories
- Clear understanding of the dangers of IP 22 and IP 5
- Understand how the White supremacist / neo-Nazi movement and other far right groups are trying to influence Oregon
- Know the ways to take action

## 2. Timeline

**Trainer Note:** This section can be done as an interactive timeline printed and taped to the wall or by printing enough copies of the timeline handout for everyone to read through it. It has more impact when done as the interactive element, but if you are constrained for time, the handout is best.

**SAY:** We’re going to get into pairs and read the pieces of paper hung up around the room. This is a timeline of some of the moments in Oregon history, focused specifically on immigrant and refugee communities. Take some time to walk through the timeline with a partner. Also, please note that you’ll see language in the timeline that pulls from the existing laws and policies that were on the books. We’ve used that language word for word to remind all of us of the historical context and how communities of color were viewed.

Give people 12 to 15 minutes to tour the timeline.

Debrief and discussion questions:

- Having gone through the timeline, what strikes you?
- What is missing from the timeline related to Oregon’s immigrant and refugee communities?

Make sure the discussion includes:

- Immigrant communities have been part of Oregon's history since the beginning
- Federal and state policies have made it okay to treat immigrant communities in Oregon as less than full Oregonians. These policies continue into the present with policies like prohibiting driver's licenses to undocumented people, or federal policies that ban legal permanent residents from receiving any kind of TANF support for 5 years.
- Oregon has a long history of white supremacy and neo-Nazi organizing.
- Immigrant communities in Oregon — and their allies — have successfully fought back, changed culture, and changed policy in Oregon to treat all Oregonians fairly.

### 3. IP 22, IP 5 and White Supremacy

**SAY:** IP 22 and IP 5 are two ballot measures that have been approved for signature gathering in Oregon and could appear on the November 2018 ballot.

- IP 5 would require all Oregonians to re-register to vote by providing state officials with a birth certificate, passport or proof of citizenship by 2020.
- IP 22 would allow the Trump Administration to demand that local and state law enforcement target Oregonians based solely on the color of their skin. IP 22 would take Oregon back to a time when racial profiling was rampant — before lawmakers stepped in 1987 to protect Oregonians from this unlawful targeting, passing a state law limiting the use of local and state law enforcement resources for federal immigration activities. IP 22 would do away with this important, 30 year old protection against targeting people of color in our state.
  - For 30 years, Oregonians have been protected from this kind of unlawful targeting thanks to a 1987 state law limiting the role of our local and state police in federal immigration enforcement.

**ASK:** Why do you think these two measures are being circulated in Oregon now?

Make sure the following points get said in discussion:

- Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) in Oregon added over 272,000 people to the rolls. A study found that 116,000 of those registered were unlikely to register without AVR, and 40,000 of these disengaged voters participated in the November 2016 election cycle.<sup>1</sup>
  - 40% of AVR registrants were 30 or younger.
  - More likely to live in racially diverse areas, the average AVR registrant's community was more Latinx and less white than traditional voters.
- Trump has hysterically claimed massive voter fraud to explain how he lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton.
- These ballot measures are straight from the Trump playbook to divide America.
- Anti-immigrant activists feel emboldened by their win on Measure 88, which repealed driver cards for immigrants in November 2014.
- Make no mistake — this is part of the White supremacist/neo-Nazi movement.

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1. [Who Votes with Automatic Voter Registration?](#) By Rob Griffin, et al. Center for American Progress, June 2017.

## OFIR at the Center

**Trainer Note:** Start this section by pointing to OFIR in the center of the map. The training draws out connections in groups (OFIR leaders, legislators connected to OFIR, money connected to OFIR, etc). You should add connections to the issues that your organization cares about, IE places where anti-union, anti-tax, and other anti groups agenda is connected by the same groups or leaders.

**SAY:** Both IP 22 and IP 5 are being promoted by Oregonians for Immigration Reform. Who is Oregonians for Immigration Reform and who are their friends? Let's talk through some of the players. (Have the flipchart visible at this point. See the graphic at end of document and draw it on the flipchart).

- Oregonians for Immigration Reform (OFIR) is an extremist anti-immigrant group that has orchestrated attacks on immigrants using the Oregon legislature and at the ballot box, and uses anti-immigrant fear mongering to achieve its goals.
- Oregonians for Immigration Reform uses ugly, racist arguments to foster fear of immigrants and advocate for an Oregon that excludes so many in our community: people of color, newcomers, those who speak other languages, and more.
- OFIR has donated \$7,500 to repeal the Oregon Sanctuary Law ballot measure.

### Who is OFIR and who do they stand with?

- OFIR cofounder Elizabeth Van Staavern has given nearly \$50,000 to ALIPAC, a North Carolina racist and anti-immigrant group. ALIPAC leaders say that violence might be necessary to “save white America.”<sup>2</sup>
- OFIR's current president is Cynthia Kendoll.
  - Kendoll shared has said of immigrants, “I don't think they're interested in becoming U.S. citizens. It's just an organized assault on our culture.”<sup>3</sup>
- Current OFIR secretary Lyniel Vandermolen is also a member of the Patriot Action Network, a national Tea Party faction known for Islamophobia and militia mongering. She is also listed as a leader in Grassroots for Liberty, a voter suppression organization that is part of True Vote.
  - Vandermolen believes that there is a cultural difference between the European immigrants of the past and the illegal immigrants of today, because “Europeans worked hard to be American, to learn English.” Today, she said, the motivation to assimilate is missing. “Latinos, they're the biggest group, but also the Muslims. These cultures,” she said, “are interested in assimilating us.”<sup>4</sup>
- OFIR's former Vice President Richard LaMountain has contributed to several White supremacist publications like the anti-Semitic American Free Press and the anti-Black VDARE.com<sup>5</sup>
- OFIR's website was hosted for years by the hardcore White supremacist group New Nation News.<sup>6</sup>
  - OFIR's website was built by Fred Elbel, the principle force behind Sierrans for U.S. Population Stabilization and head of Colorado Alliance for Immigration Reform.<sup>7</sup>
- OFIR activists intimidated those at an immigration protest at the Mexican Consulate in Eugene.

### Connections to Militias

OFIR has partnered with border vigilante groups like Minutemen Civilian Defense Corps (MCDC) and Minutemen Project.

- MCDC and OFIR targeted day labor hire sites, showing up with some armed MCDC members.<sup>8</sup>
- Ted Campbell (one-time Vice President of OFIR) has worked with Oregon Minutemen.

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2. [Dissecting the Nativist Victory in Oregon](#). By Devin Burghart. Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, November 2014.  
3. [Driving Her Loco](#). By Aaron Mesh. Willamette Week. September 30, 2014.  
4. [Dissecting the Nativist Victory in Oregon](#). By Devin Burghart. Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, November 2014.  
5. [Who is OFIR?](#) By Lindsay Schubiner. Center for New Community.  
6. [Dissecting the Nativist Victory in Oregon](#). By Devin Burghart. Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, November 2014.  
7. [Dissecting the Nativist Victory in Oregon](#). By Devin Burghart. Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, November 2014.  
8. [OFIR Newsletter, October 2019](#). Oregonians for Immigration Reform.

## Ties to OR Legislative leadership

OFIR is tied to extremist Oregon legislators that push racist policies:

- Sen. Kim Thatcher (R-13, Keizer) is a co-founder of State Legislators for Legal Immigration, a nationwide coalition of nativist state-level lawmakers with extensive connections to the organized anti-immigrant movement.
  - Thatcher is a strong ally of OFIR and added her name to a brief challenging President Obama's executive actions granting deportation relief.<sup>9</sup>
  - Thatcher was one of 26 state lawmakers who signed onto an amicus brief challenging DACA/DAPA in 2015.
- Rep. Greg Barreto (R-58, Cove) served as the MC of the OFIR rally featuring Sheriff Joe Arpaio and hosted him in his home for dinner.
- Rep. Mike Nearman (R-23, Independence) served as an at-large board member for OFIR and remains on the board today.
  - Rep. Nearman is also a chief petitioner on IP 5.
- Rep. Sal Esquivel (R-6, Medford) traveled to El Paso with OFIR to attend FAIR's "Border Summit" with sheriffs and other anti-immigrant activists.<sup>10</sup>
  - Featured speaker at a national policy summit sponsored by FAIR and Numbers USA in 2010.<sup>11</sup>
- Barreto, Esquivel and Nearman were the legislators who introduced the repeal of the 30-year-old sanctuary law in Oregon.

## Ties to racist national leaders:

- OFIR hosted an event featuring Sheriff Joe Arpaio, the former Sherriff of Maricopa County, Arizona.<sup>12</sup>
- Donald Trump's Oregon campaign manager, Jacob Daniel, addressed OFIR leaders at an August 2016 meeting.<sup>13</sup>
- Kris Kobach is the Secretary of State for Kansas and also the chair of Trump's voter fraud commission.
  - Kobach has deep ties to anti-immigrant groups. He represented FAIR when it filed a challenge to a Kansas law that offered in-state tuition to undocumented students.<sup>14</sup>
  - Kobach created a post 9/11 a program that required all visiting citizens from 25 mostly Arab countries to be fingerprinted and monitored. Also known as racial profiling.<sup>15</sup>
  - Kobach helped to train Sheriff Arpaio's officers on immigration enforcement.<sup>16</sup>

## The Money Connections

- US Inc., a White supremacist group that advocates curtailing immigration, donated \$3,000 to OFIR this year in support of the ballot measure. US Inc. gave more than \$43,600 to OFIR between 2013 to 2015.<sup>17</sup>
- US Inc was founded by John Tanton, one of the racist architects of the modern anti-immigrant movement.
  - Tanton has said things like: "I've come to the point of view that for European-American society and culture to persist requires a European-American majority, and a clear one at that."<sup>18</sup>
  - Tanton has written about genetic differences between the races (which don't exist, since race is a social and political creation), as well as entertaining the use of eugenics to breed people of higher intelligence.

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9. Who is OFIR? By Lindsay Schubiner. Center for New Community.

10. Who is OFIR? By Lindsay Schubiner. Center for New Community.

11. Who is OFIR? By Lindsay Schubiner. Center for New Community.

12. Who is OFIR? By Lindsay Schubiner. Center for New Community.

13. [Trump's Oregon Campaign Manager Set to Address Nativist Extremist Group This Weekend](#). By Stephen Piggott. Hatewatch, Southern Poverty Law Center, August 8, 2016.

14. [The Man Behind Trump's Voter-Fraud Obsession](#). By Ari Berman. The New York Times Magazine. June 13, 2017

15. [Kris Kobach, Nativist Son](#). By Suzy Khimm. Mother Jones Magazine. March/April 2012.

16. [Kris Kobach, Nativist Son](#). By Suzy Khimm. Mother Jones Magazine. March/April 2012.

17. Who is OFIR? By Lindsay Schubiner. Center for New Community.

18. [Dissecting the Nativist Victory in Oregon](#). By Devin Burghart. Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, November 2014.

- Tanton founded the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), the flagship national anti-immigrant organization. FAIR is considered a hate group because of its roots in White supremacy and eugenics.<sup>19</sup>
  - Tanton founded the Center for Immigration Studies, an organization that uses fake research to promote an anti-immigrant agenda.
  - Tanton also founded ProEnglish, a group dedicated to making English the official language of the government.
- Loren Parks: Loren Parks is an out of state donor who provided more than 70% of the money for the 2014 Ballot Measure 88 driver's license campaign that repealed the OR Driver's Card.
    - Between 1992–2009, Parks contributed over \$13 million to various political campaigns, more than any other individual.<sup>20</sup>
    - He got started with 1990's Ballot Measure 5, which added an amendment to Oregon's constitution capping property taxes in the state.
    - He was instrumental in funding Oregon Taxpayers United, which is Bill Sizemore's anti-tax group
    - He's funded Kevin Mannix's failed campaigns for office. He put money into Measure 11, which created mandatory minimums in Oregon
    - Parks gave \$30K to Rep. Greg Barreto's campaign in 2014.<sup>21</sup>

**ASK:** What does this map say to you?

Facilitate discussion. Make sure the following points get made or reiterated at the end.

- OFIR is an organization with deep ties to explicitly racist and White supremacist movement organizations.
- Many of the groups connected to OFIR are part of a violent and extreme fringe of White supremacist leaders and groups.
- Oregon is being used as a testing ground to see what can happen in Blue states when we put issues of immigration to the ballot.
- OFIR is willing to partner with fringe militia movements that use weapons and the threat of weaponry to intimidate our communities.
- OFIR's agenda is being moved by the single biggest donor to conservative politics in Oregon — Loren Parks — who opposes reform to the criminal justice system, is anti-union, and anti-tax.

Everyone in a blue box is elected. Looking at this, we can see that both nationally and in Oregon, we have elected leaders who are promoting racist and xenophobic policies and they've been elected by voters.

## 4. Action Steps

**SAY:** To defeat this measure, One Oregon needs your help.

One Oregon is asking folks to:

1. Sign the pledge to vote No on IP 22. (pass out pledge cards and collect filled out ones)
2. Set a goal for your organization to collect pledges to vote No on IP 22. How many pledges can your organization collect?
3. Identify spokespeople. We need spokespeople from the business, faith, rural, law enforcement, and immigrant communities. Contact [Joel@causaoregon.org](mailto:Joel@causaoregon.org) for suggestions.
4. Set up these presentations in your community! We need to educate as many people as possible about these ballot measures. Contact [joel@causaoregon.org](mailto:joel@causaoregon.org) to arrange presentations in your area.

19. Who is OFIR? By Lindsay Schubiner. Center for New Community.

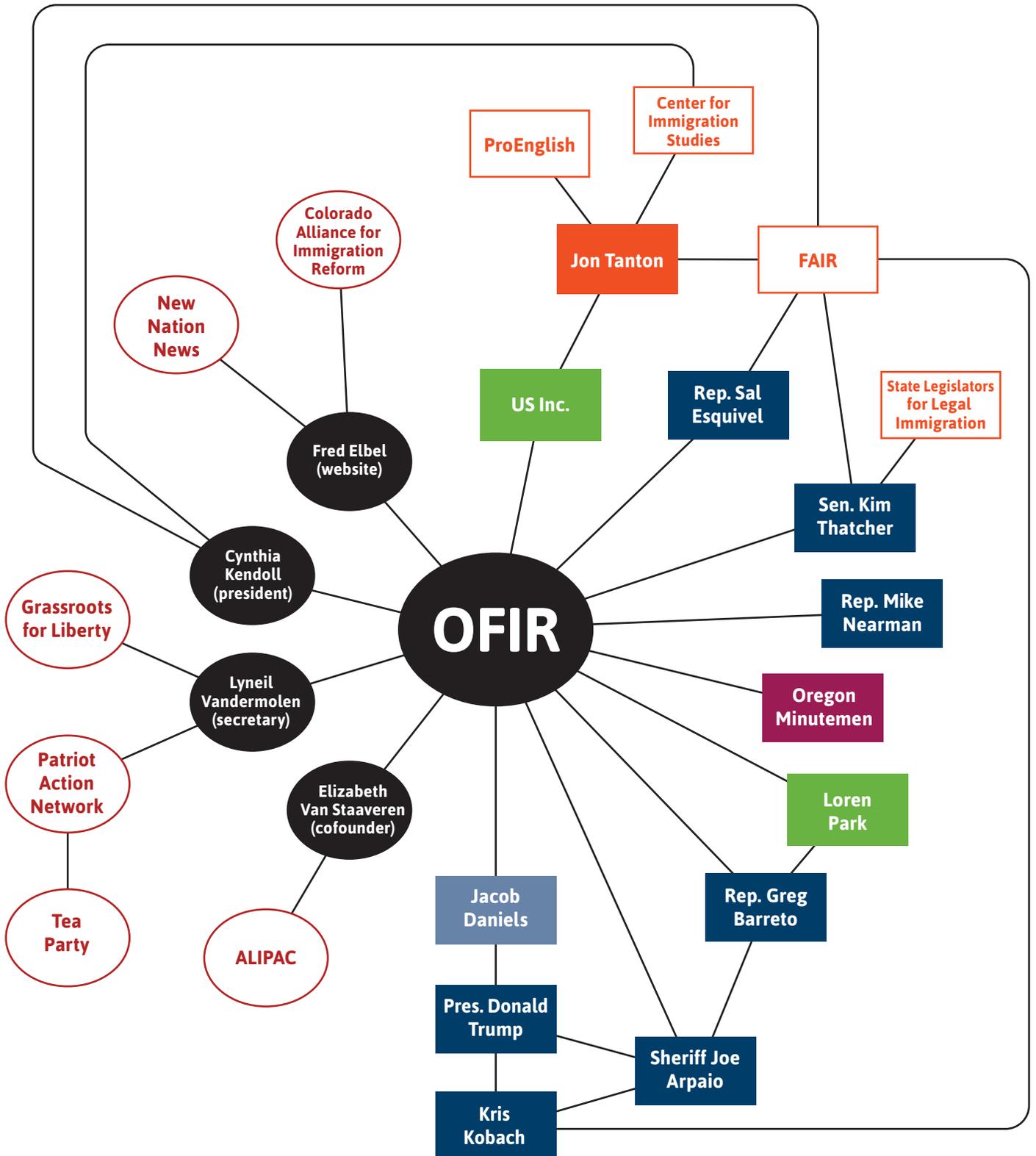
20. [The Man Behind Mannix](#). By Carlton Smith. Willamette Week. April 18, 2006.

21. [Loren Parks resurfaces in Oregon politics with a \\$30,000 donation to GOP House candidate](#). By Yuxing Zheng. OregonLive. May 8, 2014.



HANDOUT

# Who is Oregonians for Immigration Reform?





## HANDOUT

# A Select Immigrant and Refugee History of Oregon

*This is a select timeline of Oregon history, focused specifically on immigrant and refugee communities. Please note that you'll see language in the timeline that pulls from the existing laws and policies that were on the books. We've used that language word for word to remind all of us of the historical context and how communities of color were viewed.*

**1848 Exclusion Law.** Oregon's provisional government passes its first Exclusion Law. The law declares it unlawful for any "negro or mulatto" to reside in the Oregon Territory.

**1850 Oregon Trail.** Congress passes the Oregon Land Donation Act. Land is granted to every "white settler or occupant of the public lands, American half-breed Indians included, above the age of 18 years, being a citizen of the United States, or having made a declaration according to law of his intention to become a citizen." The law explicitly excludes Blacks and Hawaiians. By the time the Donation Land Act expires in 1885, approximately 30,000 White immigrants have entered the Oregon Territory, claiming more than 2.5 million acres of land. In the decade between 1850 and 1860, Oregon's population grows by more than 500%.<sup>1</sup>

**1862 Color Tax.** Oregon adopts a law requiring all Black people, Chinese, Hawaiians and "mulattos" residing in Oregon pay an annual tax of \$5. If they can't pay, the state can force them into service maintaining roads for 50 cents a day.<sup>2</sup>

**1868 14th and 15th Amendments.** Post U.S. Civil War, Congress passes the 14th Amendment (citizenship and equal protection under the law) and the 15th Amendment (gives Black men the right to vote). Oregon is one of six states to refuse to ratify the 15th Amendment, only ratifying it in 1959 and the 14th Amendment in 1973.

**1884 Oregon Railroads.** The Oregon statewide railroad system is completed, connecting all regions of the state. Of the Central Pacific railroad's 13,500 employees, 12,000 were Chinese immigrants. Chinese immigrant workers receive \$26 to \$35 a month for a 12-hour day and 6-day work-week, and have to provide their own food and tents. White workers receive about \$35 a month and are furnished with food and shelter.

**1888 Deep Creek Massacre.** As many as thirty-four Chinese gold miners are ambushed and murdered by a gang of horse thieves and schoolboys from Wallowa County in Hells Canyon. One of the murderers confesses and turns state's evidence against the others. But at the trial in Enterprise, three men are acquitted of murder. Only in 2012 is a marker installed at the site.<sup>3</sup>

**Early 1900s Latino workers in Oregon.** Just before World War I, the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company, Union Pacific Railroad, and Oregon Short Line recruit Mexicans to work as laborers. In addition, Southern Pacific Railroad has extensive lines in western Oregon, hiring Mexican laborers to work in maintenance section gangs. The 1920 Oregon Census places the number of "foreign born" Mexicans at 569.<sup>4</sup>

**1920s Klan on the rise.** By the mid 1920s, Klan membership is estimated at nearly 35,000,<sup>5</sup> the largest per capita membership of any state.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, numerous KKK sympathizers are not official members, but supportive of Klan positions. The KKK is so prevalent that politicians cater to and court their votes. From 1922 to 1926, Governor Walter M. Pierce is overtly supported by the Klan and he promotes the Klan's agenda in Oregon. Portland's Mayor George Luis Blake is photographed with members of the KKK, who are wearing hoods.<sup>7</sup>

**1923 Alien Land Law.** The Oregon state legislature, dominated by members of the Klan, passes a number of restrictive laws. The Alien Land Law bars Japanese immigrants from owning or leasing land. The Oregon Business Restriction Law allows cities to refuse business licenses to Japanese immigrants.<sup>8</sup>

**1923 U.S. v. Bhagat Singh Thind.** Indian immigrant and WWI veteran Bhagat Singh Thind is denied U.S. citizenship. The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously rules that Thind cannot become a naturalized citizen because he doesn't qualify under the "common man's" (aka White people's) definition of "White." Thind had worked in an Oregon lumber mill during summer vacations and applied for his citizenship in Oregon in 1920.<sup>9</sup>

**1927 Black Suffrage in OR Constitution.** The Oregon State Constitution is finally amended to remove a clause denying Black people the right to vote and eliminating restrictions that discriminate against Black and Chinese voters.<sup>10</sup>

**1942 Executive Order 9066.** After the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066, authorizing the building of "relocation camps" for Japanese Americans living along the Pacific Coast. More than 4,000 Japanese Americans from Portland are sent to internment camps, two-thirds being American citizens. The Portland Expo Center (at the time, the Pacific International Livestock Expo) is used as a staging facility for metro area internees.

**1945 Hostility to return of Japanese internees.** Oregon House passes Joint Memorial 9 urging President Roosevelt to "prevent the return of said Japanese aliens and said citizens of Japanese extraction to the west coast states for the duration of the present war with Japan." In Hood River, almost every store displays a "No Japs Allowed" placard in their window. Former Oregon governor Walter Pierce, speaking for many, says, "We should never be satisfied until every last Jap has been run out of [the] United States and our Constitution changed so they can never get back." By the time the war ends, Japanese internees hold title to only 25% of the land they had held prior to internment.<sup>11</sup>

**1943–1947 Bracero Program in Oregon.** Under a wartime agreement between Mexico and the United States, Oregon imports over 15,000 laborers from Mexico between 1942 and 1947 using the Mexican Farm Labor Program (MFLP) or Bracero program (referring to brazos, arms or helping hands).<sup>12</sup>

**1950 Operation Wetback in Oregon.** During the 1950s, Operation Wetback is a federal military operation that rounds up a million undocumented Mexicans for deportation. In Oregon, "the city of Woodburn and other places where Mexican workers live were punctuated by the presence of sweeps through local farms and roads that picked up undocumented workers."<sup>13</sup>

**1965 Immigration Act.** The Immigration Act of 1965 abolished the quota system based on national origin. The Act eliminated the use of national-origin quotas, under which the overwhelming majority of immigrant visas were set aside for people coming from northern and western Europe.

**1973 Colegio Cesar Chavez founded.** Colegio Cesar Chavez, the only independent, accredited, degree-granting institution for Latinos in the country, is established in Mt. Angel.

**1977 Willamette Valley Immigration Project (WVIP) founded.** Founded to protect and represent undocumented workers in response to an increase in Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS) raids in Oregon. WVIP provides legal advice and representation to undocumented immigrants.

**1985 PCUN forms.** WVIP agrees to format of a labor union, founding Piñeros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste. Following the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986, PCUN helps nearly 1,300 immigrants apply for residency. More than 23,736 Mexicans and Guatemalans receive permanent residency under the IRCA.<sup>14</sup>

**1987 Oregon Sanctuary state law passed.** Rep. Rocky Barilla sponsors a bill to sever the relationship between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. The bill states that “no law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon or of any political subdivision of the state shall use agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws.” The bill passes the Senate 29 to 1 and passes the House 58 to 1. Gov. Neil Goldshmidt signs it into law.<sup>15</sup>

**1988 Murder of Mulugeta Seraw.** A 28-year-old Ethiopian student and father Mulugeta Seraw is fatally beaten in Portland by three racist skinheads. In 1990, Mulugeta Seraw’s father and son successfully file a civil law suit against the killers and affiliated organization, White Aryan Resistance (WAR). They win a civil case against White Aryan Resistance’s operator Tom Metzger for a total of \$12.5 million. The Metzgers declare bankruptcy, and WAR goes out of business.<sup>16</sup>

**1995 CAUSA formed.** CAUSA, Oregon Immigrant Rights Coalition is formed.

**1996 Federal anti-immigration bills signed into law.** President Clinton signs the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) after the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. AEDPA greatly expands the grounds for detaining and deporting immigrants, including long-term legal residents, authorizing for the first time fast-track deportation procedures, which are now frequently used in the U.S. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration and Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) allows the government to detain and deport immigrants, including legal, permanent U.S. residents, for a range of relatively minor, nonviolent criminal convictions.<sup>17</sup>

**2007 Del Monte Raid.** U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel conduct a raid at Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc. in Portland. More than 168 detained workers are sent to a processing facility for possible deportation. Staffing at the plant is the responsibility of American Staffing Resources Inc., whose offices are also raided.

**2008 English only in schools ballot measure defeated.** Oregonians defeat Measure 58 that would have banned all programs that support bilingual education for English language learners. The measure would have limited the time that students receive bilingual education to two years, regardless of the student’s, parent’s or teacher’s choice.

**2008 Proof of ID required for driver’s license.** Oregon legislature passes a law requiring proof of legal status to get an Oregon driver’s license.

**2013 Safe Roads Act.** Oregon Legislature passes SB 833 Safe Roads Act, creating a driver card. Oregonians for Immigration Reform receive \$100,000 in out-of-state money to help collect signatures to refer the new law to the November 2014 ballot.

**2014 Measure 88 passes.** Oregon voters pass Measure 88, revoking the Oregon driver card. YES! on 88 side is able to register 9,000 voters, recruit 3,000 volunteers, and identify 140 new leaders.

**2016 Larnell Bruce dies.** Bruce, a Black teenager, is killed by White supremacist prison gang leader Russell Courtier in Gresham, Oregon.

**2017 Racist Attack on MAX train.** Known White supremacist Jeremy Joseph Christian verbally assaults two young women on the MAX train, shouting anti-Muslim threats and insults. Christian attacks three bystanders who try to intervene, killing Rick Best and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche, as well as gravely injuring Micah David-Cole Fletcher.

**2017 Expansive Healthcare laws passed.** Oregon legislature passes Cover All Kids and Reproductive Health Equity Act. Both bills support undocumented immigrant communities in accessing healthcare services, ensuring our families are healthy and able to thrive.

## Endnotes

1. [Oregon Donation Land Act](#). By William Robbins. Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.
2. [Oregon Racial Laws and Events, 1844–1859](#). Oregon Department of Education, Accessed August 25, 2017.
3. [Chinese Massacre at Deep Creek](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.
4. [Latinos in Oregon](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.
5. [Oregon Was Once Ku-Ku for the Klan](#). By Dana Alston. Willamette Week, August 17, 2017.
6. [Portland Isn't Portlandia. It's a Capitol of White Supremacy](#). By Keegan Stephan. The Washington Post. June 1, 2017.
7. [Oregon Was Once Ku-Ku for the Klan](#). By Dana Alston. Willamette Week, August 17, 2017.
8. [Oregon and the Roaring Twenties](#). Oregon Secretary of State, Accessed August 25, 2017.
9. [Roots in the Land: Bhagat Singh Thind](#). Oregon Public Broadcasting, Accessed August 25, 2017.
10. [Oregon Racial Laws and Events, 1844–1859](#). Oregon Department of Education, Accessed August 25, 2017.
11. [Japanese American Wartime Incarceration in Oregon](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.
12. [Latinos in Oregon](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.
13. [Latinos in Oregon](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.
14. [Latinos in Oregon](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.
15. [30 Years Later, Oregon's "Sanctuary State" Law Serves as a Model for Others](#). By Conrad Wilson. Oregon Public Radio, May 1, 2017.
16. [Legacy of a hate crime: Mulugeta Seraw's death a decade ago avenged](#). By Bryan Denson. The Oregonian, November 3, 1998.
17. [Bill Clinton's Shameful Legacy on Immigration](#). By Ben Norton. Salon, April 27, 2016.



## TIMELINE

# A Select Immigrant and Refugee History of Oregon

*This is a select timeline of Oregon history, focused specifically on immigrant and refugee communities. Please note that you'll see language in the timeline that pulls from the existing laws and policies that were on the books. We've used that language word for word to remind all of us of the historical context and how communities of color were viewed.*

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## 1850 Oregon Trail.

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1. [Oregon Donation Land Act](#). By William Robbins. Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.

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## 1862 Color Tax.

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2. [Oregon Racial Laws and Events, 1844–1859](#). Oregon Department of Education, Accessed August 25, 2017.

## **1868** 14th and 15th Amendments.

Post U.S. Civil War, Congress passes the 14th Amendment (citizenship and equal protection under the law) and the 15th Amendment (gives Black men the right to vote). Oregon is one of six states to refuse to ratify the 15th Amendment, only ratifying it in 1959 and the 14th Amendment in 1973.

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## **1884** Oregon Railroads.

The Oregon statewide railroad system is completed, connecting all regions of the state. Of the Central Pacific railroad's 13,500 employees, 12,000 were Chinese immigrants. Chinese immigrant workers receive \$26 to \$35 a month for a 12-hour day and 6-day work-week, and have to provide their own food and tents. White workers receive about \$35 a month and are furnished with food and shelter.

## **1888** Deep Creek Massacre.

As many as thirty-four Chinese gold miners are ambushed and murdered by a gang of horse thieves and schoolboys from Wallowa County in Hells Canyon. One of the murderers confesses and turns state's evidence against the others. But at the trial in Enterprise, three men are acquitted of murder. Only in 2012 is a marker installed at the site.<sup>3</sup>

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3. [Chinese Massacre at Deep Creek](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.

## **Early 1900s** Latino workers in Oregon.

Just before World War I, the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company, Union Pacific Railroad, and Oregon Short Line recruit Mexicans to work as laborers. In addition, Southern Pacific Railroad has extensive lines in western Oregon, hiring Mexican laborers to work in maintenance section gangs. The 1920 Oregon Census places the number of "foreign born" Mexicans at 569.<sup>4</sup>

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4. [Latinos in Oregon](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.

## 1920s Klan on the rise.

By the mid 1920s, Klan membership is estimated at nearly 35,000,<sup>5</sup> the largest per capita membership of any state.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, numerous KKK sympathizers are not official members, but supportive of Klan positions. The KKK is so prevalent that politicians cater to and court their votes. From 1922 to 1926, Governor Walter M. Pierce is overtly supported by the Klan and he promotes the Klan's agenda in Oregon. Portland's Mayor George Luis Blake is photographed with members of the KKK, who are wearing hoods.<sup>7</sup>

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5. [Oregon Was Once Ku-Ku for the Klan](#). By Dana Alston. Willamette Week, August 17, 2017.

6. [Portland Isn't Portlandia. It's a Capitol of White Supremacy](#). By Keegan Stephan. The Washington Post. June 1, 2017.

7. [Oregon Was Once Ku-Ku for the Klan](#). By Dana Alston. Willamette Week, August 17, 2017.

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## 1923 Alien Land Law.

The Oregon state legislature, dominated by members of the Klan, passes a number of restrictive laws. The Alien Land Law bars Japanese immigrants from owning or leasing land. The Oregon Business Restriction Law allows cities to refuse business licenses to Japanese immigrants.<sup>8</sup>

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8. [Oregon and the Roaring Twenties](#). Oregon Secretary of State, Accessed August 25, 2017.

## **1923** *U.S. v. Bhagat Singh Thind.*

Indian immigrant and WWI veteran Bhagat Singh Thind is denied U.S. citizenship. The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously rules that Thind cannot become a naturalized citizen because he doesn't qualify under the "common man's" (aka White people's) definition of "White." Thind had worked in an Oregon lumber mill during summer vacations and applied for his citizenship in Oregon in 1920.<sup>9</sup>

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9. [Roots in the Land: Bhagat Singh Thind](#). Oregon Public Broadcasting, Accessed August 25, 2017.

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## **1927** *Black Suffrage in OR Constitution.*

The Oregon State Constitution is finally amended to remove a clause denying Black people the right to vote and eliminating restrictions that discriminate against Black and Chinese voters.<sup>10</sup>

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10. [Oregon Racial Laws and Events, 1844–1859](#). Oregon Department of Education, Accessed August 25, 2017.

## **1942** Executive Order 9066.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066, authorizing the building of “relocation camps” for Japanese Americans living along the Pacific Coast. More than 4,000 Japanese Americans from Portland are sent to internment camps, two-thirds being American citizens. The Portland Expo Center (at the time, the Pacific International Livestock Expo) is used as a staging facility for metro area internees.

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## **1945** Hostility to return of Japanese internees.

Oregon House passes Joint Memorial 9 urging President Roosevelt to “prevent the return of said Japanese aliens and said citizens of Japanese extraction to the west coast states for the duration of the present war with Japan.” In Hood River, almost every store displays a “No Japs Allowed” placard in their window. Former Oregon governor Walter Pierce, speaking for many, says, “We should never be satisfied until every last Jap has been run out of [the] United States and our Constitution changed so they can never get back.” By the time the war ends, Japanese internees hold title to only 25% of the land they had held prior to internment.<sup>11</sup>

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11. [Japanese American Wartime Incarceration in Oregon](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.

## **1943–1947** Bracero Program in Oregon.

Under a wartime agreement between Mexico and the United States, Oregon imports over 15,000 laborers from Mexico between 1942 and 1947 using the Mexican Farm Labor Program (MFLP) or Bracero program (referring to brazos, arms or helping hands).<sup>12</sup>

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12. [Latinos in Oregon](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.

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## **1950** Operation Wetback in Oregon.

During the 1950s, Operation Wetback is a federal military operation that rounds up a million undocumented Mexicans for deportation. In Oregon, “the city of Woodburn and other places where Mexican workers live were punctuated by the presence of sweeps through local farms and roads that picked up undocumented workers.”<sup>13</sup>

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13. [Latinos in Oregon](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.

## **1965** Immigration Act.

The Immigration Act of 1965 abolished the quota system based on national origin. The Act eliminated the use of national-origin quotas, under which the overwhelming majority of immigrant visas were set aside for people coming from northern and western Europe.

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## **1973** Colegio Cesar Chavez founded.

Colegio Cesar Chavez, the only independent, accredited, degree-granting institution for Latinos in the country, is established in Mt. Angel.

## **1977** Willamette Valley Immigration Project (WVIP) founded.

Founded to protect and represent undocumented workers in response to an increase in Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS) raids in Oregon. WVIP provides legal advice and representation to undocumented immigrants.

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## **1985** PCUN forms.

WVIP agrees to format of a labor union, founding Piñeros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste. Following the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986, PCUN helps nearly 1,300 immigrants apply for residency. More than 23,736 Mexicans and Guatemalans receive permanent residency under the IRCA.<sup>14</sup>

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14. [Latinos in Oregon](#). Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society.

## **1987** Oregon Sanctuary state law passed.

Rep. Rocky Barilla sponsors a bill to sever the relationship between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. The bill states that “no law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon or of any political subdivision of the state shall use agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws.” The bill passes the Senate 29 to 1 and passes the House 58 to 1. Gov. Neil Goldshmidt signs it into law.<sup>15</sup>

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15. [30 Years Later, Oregon’s “Sanctuary State” Law Serves as a Model for Others.](#) By Conrad Wilson. Oregon Public Radio, May 1, 2017.

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## **1988** Murder of Mulugeta Seraw.

A 28-year-old Ethiopian student and father Mulugeta Seraw is fatally beaten in Portland by three racist skinheads. In 1990, Mulugeta Seraw’s father and son successfully file a civil law suit against the killers and affiliated organization, White Aryan Resistance (WAR). They win a civil case against White Aryan Resistance’s operator Tom Metzger for a total of \$12.5 million. The Metzgers declare bankruptcy, and WAR goes out of business.<sup>16</sup>

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16. [Legacy of a hate crime: Mulugeta Seraw’s death a decade ago avenged.](#) By Bryan Denson. The Oregonian, November 3, 1998.

## **1995** CAUSA formed.

CAUSA, Oregon Immigrant Rights Coalition is formed.

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## **1996** Federal anti-immigration bills signed into law.

President Clinton signs the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) after the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. AEDPA greatly expands the grounds for detaining and deporting immigrants, including long-term legal residents, authorizing for the first time fast-track deportation procedures, which are now frequently used in the U.S. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration and Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) allows the government to detain and deport immigrants, including legal, permanent U.S. residents, for a range of relatively minor, nonviolent criminal convictions.<sup>17</sup>

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17. [Bill Clinton's Shameful Legacy on Immigration](#). By Ben Norton. Salon, April 27, 2016.

## **2007** Del Monte Raid.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel conduct a raid at Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc. in Portland. More than 168 detained workers are sent to a processing facility for possible deportation. Staffing at the plant is the responsibility of American Staffing Resources Inc., whose offices are also raided.

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## **2008** English only in schools ballot measure defeated.

Oregonians defeat Measure 58 that would have banned all programs that support bilingual education for English language learners. The measure would have limited the time that students receive bilingual education to two years, regardless of the student's, parent's or teacher's choice.

## **2008** Proof of ID required for driver's license.

Oregon legislature passes a law requiring proof of legal status to get an Oregon driver's license.

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## **2013** Safe Roads Act.

Oregon Legislature passes SB 833 Safe Roads Act, creating a driver card. Oregonians for Immigration Reform receive \$100,000 in out-of-state money to help collect signatures to refer the new law to the November 2014 ballot.

## **2014** Measure 88 passes.

Oregon voters pass Measure 88, revoking the Oregon driver card. YES! on 88 side is able to register 9,000 voters, recruit 3,000 volunteers, and identify 140 new leaders.

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## **2016** Larnell Bruce dies.

Bruce, a Black teenager, is killed by White supremacist prison gang leader Russell Courtier in Gresham, Oregon.

## **2017** Racist Attack on MAX train.

Known White supremacist Jeremy Joseph Christian verbally assaults two young women on the MAX train, shouting anti-Muslim threats and insults. Christian attacks three bystanders who try to intervene, killing Rick Best and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche, as well as gravely injuring Micah David-Cole Fletcher.

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## **2017** Expansive Healthcare laws passed.

Oregon legislature passes Cover All Kids and Reproductive Health Equity Act. Both bills support undocumented immigrant communities in accessing healthcare services, ensuring our families are healthy and able to thrive.