

OREGONIANS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO THE DEATH PENALTY

Oregon Death Penalty Facts

- Oregon is one of thirty three states that still have a death penalty.
- Since 2007, five states have abolished their death penalties.
- There are currently thirty six men and one woman on Oregon's death row.
- The only executions in the modern era, since 1976, took place in 1996 and 1997 when two inmates gave up their appeals. Those two executions were the only ones in 50 years.
- Oregon spends millions of dollars every year to maintain a death penalty.
- Life Without the Possibility of Parole is an alternative penalty for aggravated murder in Oregon.
- A life sentence with the possibility of release after thirty years is another alternative sentence in Oregon.
- Oregon has twelve "aggravating conditions" which qualify a convicted murderer to receive a death sentence – more than most states.
- Oregon has a series of ten appeals to a death penalty sentence which takes at least twenty years to complete. This process is sometimes considered another type of life sentence.
- The death penalty is opposed by many Oregon religious faith communities.
- The death penalty, according to a national survey of police chiefs, top criminologists, and FBI statistics, is not an effective deterrent.
- Many murder victim family members oppose the death penalty, not wishing to support more violence when another death does not bring their loved one back nor honor their memory in any way.
- The death penalty, as it is administered in the United States, makes mistakes. To date, since 1976, there have been 142 people exonerated after long periods on death row, for crimes they did not commit.
- The United States is virtually alone among the industrialized countries of the world in still having the death penalty.