

PRESS RELEASE

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THE PEOPLE OF CROOK COUNTY TELL WHAT THEY THINK

The Human Dignity Advocates of Crook County have surveyed people in their community, by door knocking, phoning and at festive gatherings throughout the summer. Members of HDA and willing volunteers have had conversations with a total of 403 residents.

The survey consisted of five non-partisan questions addressing issues on the Iraq war, immigration, prisons and protections established in the Bill of Rights. The surveys were taken so that our federal elected officials, Senator Smith, Senator Wyden and Rep. Walden and our state elected officials, Governor Kulongoski, Senator Whitsett, and Representative Gilman, would know how people feel about these very important issues.

The survey conversations affirmed that the people of Crook County want to see the Bill of Rights and the Constitution upheld and that they are not supportive of recent efforts to weaken it in the name of the so called "war on terror." A large majority (64%), 259 people, believes that our government's violation of the Bill of Rights in regard to detention without due process and torture is not justified. Another larger majority (71%), 286 people, believes that the war in Iraq is not making American citizens safer.

On the question of immigration, survey results indicated that community members want to see practical and fair solutions, not punitive measures that do nothing to address the root causes of immigration. When asked if all Oregon drivers should be tested, licensed and insured regardless of their immigration status, 259 responded yes and 126 responded no. In addition, a greater majority (67%), 271 people, believes that local police budgets should not be used to uphold the Federal Immigration Law.

Lastly, an overwhelming majority (78%), 315 people, believes that mandatory sentences for non-violent crimes are wrong and only serve to increase our overloaded prison system. It should be noted that this issue (along with 9 other measures) will be on the ballot this November for voters to consider.

Human Dignity Advocates will be hosting a **Ballot Measure Forum in the Broughton Room of the Crook County Library on Thursday, October 9th at 7:00 p.m.** The forum will present this year's ten ballot measures and allow for discussion of the pros and cons. Everyone is invited to attend and refreshments will be served.

The mission of the Human Dignity Advocates is "to promote equal rights to all people and work within our community for social, economic and environmental justice."

For more information, feel free to email hda4justice@yahoo.com or call 548-5131 or 350-5133.