

November 2, 2020

MEDIA ADVISORY: VOTER INTIMIDATION AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Contact: media@rop.org

Media Briefing TODAY at 2PM Pacific / 5PM Eastern: Reports of Voter Intimidation Increasing in Oregon

Groups call for state oversight after voters report armed individuals patrolling a ballot drop box in rural Lane County

WHAT: Staff from organizations promoting fair elections will discuss their letter to Oregon officials citing voter intimidation and calling for increased oversight of Oregon's elections system on Monday, after multiple voters reported intimidation by armed individuals at a ballot drop box in rural Lane County, Oregon.

In a letter to Oregon's Attorney General and Secretary of State, six groups that are part of the [Election Protection Coalition](#) (the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Rural Organizing Project, ACLU of Oregon, Oregon Food Bank, Western States Center and Oregon Justice Resource Center) are asking state officials to protect ballot dropoff sites, remind Oregonians that voter intimidation is against the law and ensure that all applicable laws protecting people's right to vote are enforced.

WHO:

- [Arusha Gordon from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law](#), which runs an election protection hotline and received multiple complaints from voters in Oregon related to the incident in Lane County;
- [Jessica Campbell from the Rural Organizing Project](#), which has documented multiple incidences of voter intimidation across Oregon and runs the Defend Democracy hotline;
- [Andrea Valderrama from the ACLU of Oregon](#), which helps to protect voter rights and ensure fair elections.

WHEN: Monday, November 2 at 2 PM Pacific / 5 PM Eastern

WHERE: Online via Zoom Webinar. Please register using this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iEb8q1qoQn-BALUZU4rv3w

BACKGROUND: Under Oregon and U.S. law, voter intimidation includes a variety of activities, and it does not have to occur within a certain distance of a polling place to be illegal. Here are some examples of conduct that could be illegal voter intimidation:

- Following voters or standing behind voters, taking notes
- Loudly discussing voter fraud laws in a voter's presence
- Suggesting possible future violence, prosecution, or legal action based on a voter's presence
- Loitering watchfully near voters while visibly carrying a firearm

- Violent behavior inside or outside a ballot dropoff location
- Blocking a ballot dropoff location
- Confronting voters while wearing military-style or official-looking uniforms
- Law enforcement officers, even off duty, loitering by voters
- Aggressively approaching a voter's vehicle or writing down the voter's license plate number
- Harassing voters, or aggressively questioning them about their qualifications to vote

Oregonians should document and report—safely—any incidences of voter intimidation at ballot dropoff locations. Reporting intimidation can be done through the Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE or the Defend Democracy Hotline at (541) 714-3257, by email at democracy@rop.org or online at www.rop.org/democracy



LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS
U N D E R L A W

ACLU
Oregon



WESTERN STATES CENTER