



# Eastern Oregon Border Board

Strengthening Our Region's Economic Future

# Background on House Bill 2012

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- Far eastern Oregon consistently has higher rates of unemployment and lower household incomes when compared to the rest of Oregon.
- Neighboring Idaho's very different political landscape and policies create unique challenges for our region.
- Just across the border in Idaho is one of the fastest growing regions in the country, but far Eastern Oregon's growth is stagnant and losing businesses and residents to Idaho.
- HB 2012 created the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region, Board, and Fund to address these issues.

# Border Region – At a Glance



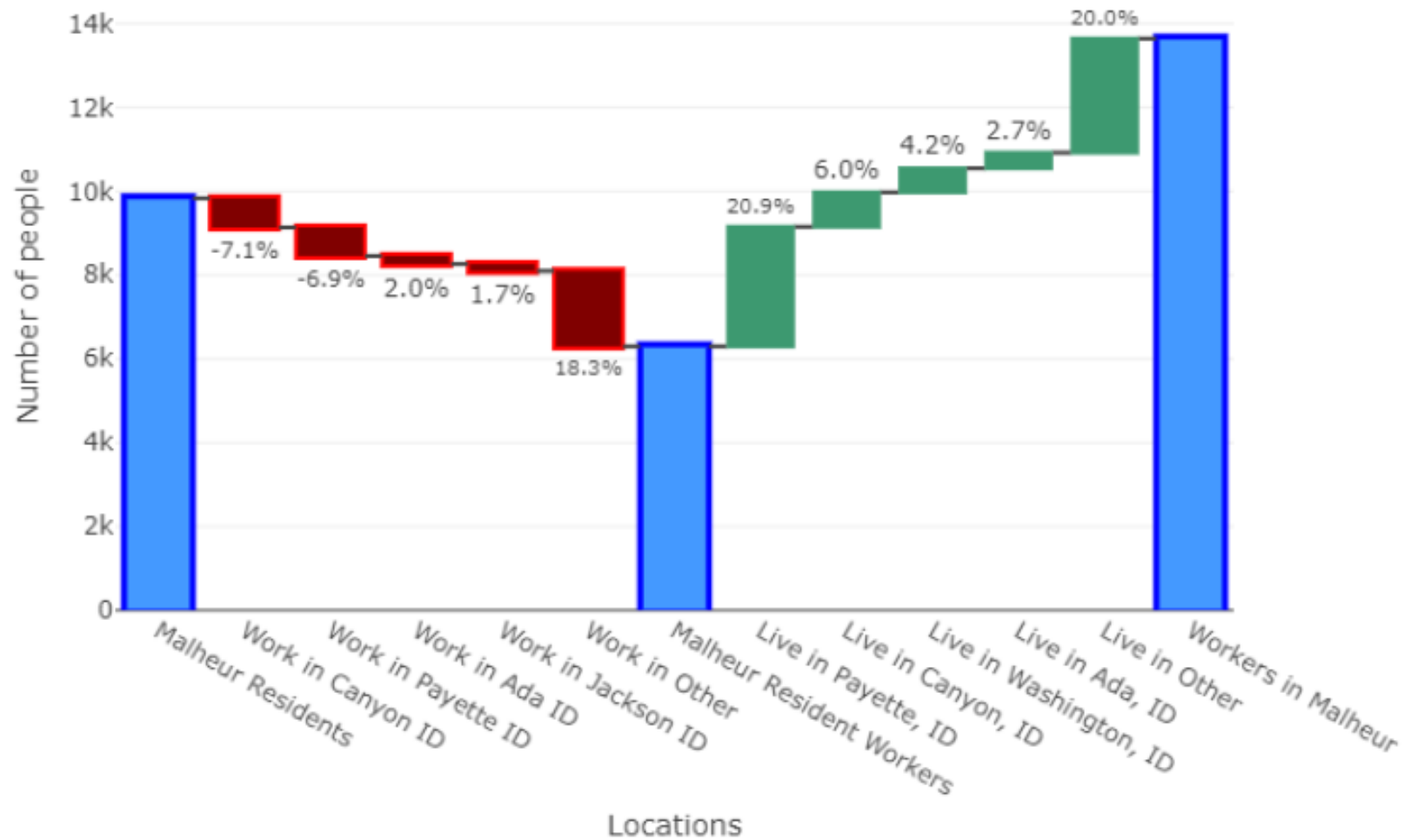
# Eastern Oregon Border Region

## - State of the Region -

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- The property tax base, population, and residential development in the Border Region are stagnant while neighboring Idaho booms.
- The Border Region 'imports' a disproportionate majority of its workers.
- Snake River Correctional Institution, Oregon's largest prison, is located in the Border Region and was the largest state general funded public works project in state history.
- About 75% of SRCI's employees live in Idaho.
- This dynamic is not unique to SRCI and the result is economically and socially disastrous.

# Worker Flow: Malheur County



# HB 2026

## - Highlights -

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- Gives residents of the Border Region a boost in applying for public employment.
- Applicable only in the Border Region.
- Does not supplant qualification and merit-based hiring.
- Modeled after the existing veteran preference in Oregon.
- Compliant with applicable law.

# HB 2026

## - Risk of Inaction -

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- The Eastern Oregon Border Region along the Idaho border has strong potential.
- The different laws, regulations, and perceptions of Oregon and Idaho have resulted in stagnancy in the Border Region while our Idaho neighbors thrive.
- A public employee resident hiring preference will help raise up the Border Region and its residents, as well as attract new residents.

**CALL TO ACTION: HB 2026 is a critical part of the Border Board's work to improve the Border Region - we respectfully request your support of the bill.**



## Border Board Vision

Drawing on the rich heritage and natural resources of the region, the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board is committed to enhancing economic vitality and opportunity in the Border Region, securing a vibrant future for our community and all who live here.