



KATE BROWN
Governor

COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

WHEREAS, it is immoral for a state to put people to death, as a punishment for crime; and

WHEREAS, across the nation and throughout history, innocent people have been executed for crimes they did not commit; and

WHEREAS, state-sponsored executions are irreversible and do not allow for the correction of error; and

WHEREAS, the death penalty disproportionately impacts people of color, people with mental illness, and people who cannot afford expensive legal representation; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's criminal justice system has utilized and applied the death penalty arbitrarily and inconsistently for decades; and

WHEREAS, administering the death penalty is also an enormously wasteful use of taxpayer dollars and does not make our state safer; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the death penalty is dysfunctional and cannot be, and never has been, administered fairly or equitably in the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, two of my predecessors issued broad grants of clemency across Oregon's death row—Governor Robert D. Holmes commuted every death sentence imposed during his time in office from 1957-1959, and Governor Mark O. Hatfield commuted Oregon's death row after voters abolished the death penalty in 1964; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Governor John A. Kitzhaber imposed a moratorium on death sentence executions in Oregon and, in 2015, I continued that moratorium; and

WHEREAS, consistent with a nationwide decline in support for capital punishment and a growing movement to abolish or restrict the death penalty, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed, and I signed into law, Senate Bill 1013 (2019), which drastically reduced the circumstances in which a death sentence can be imposed; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections, acting under my direction, dismantled death row housing, moving those adults in custody into the general population; and



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WHEREAS, despite the declining support for the death penalty in Oregon, each individual listed in Exhibit A (collectively the “Commutees” and each a “Commutee”), attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, has been sentenced to death in Oregon;

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under Article V, Section 14, of the Oregon Constitution, I, Kate Brown, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby commute the death sentence of each Commutee, in the respective case referenced in Exhibit A, to life in prison without the possibility of parole, effective as of the 14th day of December, 2022. This Commutation Order is limited to reducing each Commutee’s death sentence to life in prison without the possibility of parole, and shall not in any way affect the underlying criminal conviction. Nothing in this Commutation Order is intended to preclude a Commutee from seeking other or further relief from the courts that they may be entitled to. Although in many cases commutations are granted in recognition of extraordinary reform on the part of the individual, that is not the basis for my actions here. Instead, the sole basis for commuting the death sentences of each Commutee to life in prison without the possibility of parole is that the death penalty is dysfunctional and immoral, in all circumstances. My action today removes the possibility that any of these Commutees will be put to death by the State and brings all of us a significant step closer to finality in each of these cases.

Done before me at Salem, Oregon this 13th day of December, 2022.



Kate Brown

KATE BROWN
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

S. Fagan

SHEMIA FAGAN
SECRETARY OF STATE

EXHIBIT A

Name	County	Case Number	Effective Judgment Date
Jesse Caleb Compton	Lane	109705859A	11/5/98
Clinton Wendell Cunningham	Douglas	91CR2626FE	10/27/92
Randy Lee Guzek	Deschutes	87CR0373TM	7/9/10
Gary Dwayne Haugen	Marion	04C46224	5/3/07
Michael James Hayward	Lane	109408860	3/1/96
Robert Paul Langley Jr.	Marion	88C21624	6/6/14
Christian Michael Longo	Lincoln	016441	4/18/03
Ernest Noland Lotches	Multnomah	920834431	7/22/93
Michael Martin McDonnell	Douglas	J850004	2/28/02
Marco Antonio Montez	Multnomah	870834702	9/29/92
Horacio Alberto Reyes-Camarena	Douglas	95CR2419FE	1/21/97
Ricardo Pineda Serrano	Washington	C063227CR	4/5/10
Matthew Dwight Thompson	Multnomah	941137406	4/22/96
Bruce Aldon Turnidge	Marion	08C53913	1/24/11
Joshua Abraham Turnidge	Marion	08C51758	1/24/11
Mike Spencer Washington Jr.	Clackamas	CR0701950	5/17/10
Tara Ellyssia Zyst (fka Karl Terry)	Clackamas	CR9401337 (941337)	11/22/95