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Testimony of the Oregon Association of County Clerks
before the
House Redistricting Committee

Dear Co-Chairs Boshart Davis and Salinas, and Representatives Bonham, Campos, Drazan, and Pham,

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) would like to offer some core principles as you begin the process of redistricting in Oregon. For OACC, redistricting is not political - it is our job. We encourage your prompt action in developing a redistricting plan for the best interests of all Oregonians, which should result in new voting districts that:

(1) Are contiguous;

(2) Are of equal population;

(3) Use existing political boundaries, such as school districts;

(4) Follow geographic boundaries or features, such as roads, and not cut through properties
      as has been done in the past (see next page);

(5) Avoid dividing cities and other communities of common interest;

(6) Are not drawn to favor political interests, such as incumbents or political parties;

(7) Are not drawn to dilute the voting strength of any minority group; and

(8) Are not drawn in a manner that any individual's votes can be determined.

Current timelines for the redistricting process put multiple constraints on County Clerks to have new district boundaries done in time for the primary election in May of 2022. If redistricting is contested, we may not receive final voting district boundaries until February of 2022. That would leave County Clerks with precious little time to update boundary lines and allow candidates to file in their appropriate districts before the March 8, 2022, deadline.

As always, OACC members stand ready to assist your House Redistricting Committee in its work. For example, if OACC is permitted to do a final review of proposed district maps, we might be able to make minor suggestions to help further accomplish the eight goals described above.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Here is an example of House District lines cutting through properties

Antelope Rd

1385 ft

Avenue A

Avenue A