

Oregonians expect lawmakers to draw political maps that are fair and compact, that keep communities of common interest like school districts and neighborhoods together, provide historically marginalized communities with the representation they deserve, and follow the requirements set forth in Oregon law.

I have seen the proposed redistricting and the democrat proposal does NOT make sense. I see too many links to Portland with other counties. Why can't Tillamook, Clatsop, Columbia and Lincoln Counties be linked as one as we have similar jobs and values. Portland can be a congressional district by itself with its values.

Oregonians recognize that lawmakers drawing their own political boundaries represents a direct conflict of interest. According to nonpartisan organizations like "RepresentUs", Oregon is at a HIGH RISK for political gerrymandering. Oregonians understand this and expect our lawmakers to set aside their own personal and political biases in favor of a transparent process and maps that lead to fair representation for all Oregonians.

Under our current maps, 30% of the members of the Oregon House represent at least some portion of the City of Portland while the City of Portland represents only 15% of the total population of the state of Oregon. Portland should not have an outsized voice in our political process.

Some districts, such as House District 11, seem clearly drawn to disenfranchise rural voters by including a few urban, university precincts that drown out the voices of the rest of the community. Even the current representative for the district recently criticized how the district was drawn, pointing out that it divides multiple communities and that it quote: "does not serve the best interests of my constituents." He went on to say that "we can do better." If you look at a map of the district, I think you would agree.

So far, several of the new maps that have been proposed fail to correct the fundamental problems with the maps Oregonians have been forced to live with for the last 10 years.

Several of the maps would lead to further overrepresentation by Portland-area voters at the expense of rural Oregon. For example, one map would put the Portland-area voters in control of selecting 4/6 members of our congressional delegation. An Oregonian analysis further showed that 5/6 of these seats - or approximately 86% - would likely be controlled by one party.

Maps that under populate the metro districts and push urban area voters into rural districts while overpopulating these same rural districts limits representation for rural voters and is a clear sign of gerrymandering.

Disturbingly, several of the legislative maps dilute the voices of rural Oregonians even more than the current maps. Instead of fixing HD 11, for example, map drawers chose to group urban neighborhoods in Eugene, including the University of Oregon, with some of the most rural areas in the entire state.

All I am asking for is that ALL Oregonians be represented and NOT just the Portland area.

Mike Hanratty, Tillamook, Oregon