

Dear Redistricting Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to opine on the redistricting maps that were presented at your joint meeting on September 3 at 8 AM. I have been a resident of Washington County for 30 years. Our children attended Beaverton schools, we follow Washington County affairs closely and our daily activities are almost exclusively within the county. We rarely travel over the west hills into Portland and have little understanding of city residents' activities and concerns. Similarly, although we visit the coast occasionally, we have little appreciation for the issues facing those residents.

I would like to voice my excitement and concerns about the proposed redistricting maps as a Washington County resident. However, I also have concerns about mapping of other areas in the State.

I understand that among your guidelines for drawing these maps that each district, as nearly as practicable, shall:

- ✓ Be contiguous;
- ✓ Be of equal population;
- ✓ Utilize existing geographic or political boundaries;
- ✓ Not divide communities of common interest; and
- ✓ Be connected by transportation links.

Observations about House Maps A, B, C

It appears that House Map B most closely follows the guidelines listed above. It does the best job of keeping the district lines within Washington County. House Maps A and C, on the other hand, combine areas of Washington County with other counties and cross the West Hills (a geographical boundary) into the more densely populated city. These differences among these maps can be seen in Districts 36 and 37. I believe concerns of those on the west side are quite different from those of residents in the city.

Observations about Senate Maps A, B, C

As with the House Maps, Senate Map B keeps much of the Washington County areas together within districts. In contrast Senate Map A and C link Washington County areas with Multnomah County. This difference can be found when comparing Map B Districts 14 and 17 with the same Districts on Map A and C.

Observations about Congressional Maps A and B

Map B keeps Washington County fairly in tact. Map B also keeps eastern Oregon and Multnomah areas in tact. Finally, the coast is combined with Yamhill, Polk, Benton and Lane. Although there are differences among these counties, in my opinion, they also have many shared issues.

In contrast, Map A divides Washington County and combines it with the coast and Yamhill and Polk Counties. This divides similar communities and pairs them with communities with different issues. It also crosses the geographic boundary of the Coastal Range. Also Map A combines Multnomah with part of Clackamas for District 5 and links Multnomah with Hood River, Sherman, Jefferson and Wasco Counties in District 3. This last pairing is perhaps the most illogical of all A maps pairings.

I am very concerned about the illogical grouping of communities in the maps other than the B maps. Some of the districts in the A and C maps combine communities with dissimilar interests. These combinations are highly suspect of political gerrymandering. This is a time when we can redistrict logically and bring like communities together so they are fairly represented. The B maps give us an opportunity to do that.

Thank you in advance for considering my opinions regarding redistricting.

Best regards,

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