

I am a republican who unfortunately for the time being resides downtown portland, so I don't see my interests being represented even in the best case. And I can't claim to be up to speed on all the issues involved in redistricting, so my comment today is of a very general nature.

Politics today has devolved to character assassination, false witnessing, manipulation of group psychology, antagonism, and underhanded partisan schemes aimed at gaining an advantage over the other side – schemes such as gerrymandering. True, this has been politics for a very long time, but I think it is the scale of these things which has in recent years grown out of proportion, in large part probably thanks to social media.

I doubt I could convince anyone to rise above such things when they believe it might give them an advantage, so rather than appeal to your morals I'll ask you to consider the fact that covid has just catalyzed what is potentially the undoing of two hundred years of industrialization which has been packing us into cities like sardines*. In the decade to come who can say for certain how population trends will shift? It could be radical. All I know as a person in his early thirties is that I am extremely excited about the prospect of mobilization and finally being able to escape the city. So take a step back and ask yourself how confident you are that, in the long run of things, your scheming will actually work as you envision.

*And the mobilization of work and higher education is a thing we absolutely should be facilitating.

- Wayne Wignes