

Co-Chairs Taylor, and Salinas, Vice-Chairs, Knopp, and Boshart-Davis, and members of the redistricting committees,

For the record my name is Tula Sabes, my pronouns are they/them/elle and I live in Multnomah County where I'm represented by congressional district 3, state senate district 18, and state house district 35. I'm also a PCC student and live in student housing.

Thank you for all the work that this committee has done to propose thoughtful maps that are fair and representative of our communities. I know it can't be easy to balance.

I'm here specifically to voice my support for the House and Senate maps "C". From what I can gather, the creation of Senate District 14 diversifies the demographics of the district by adding more people of color. It also keeps whole many of the places where I frequently visit including the waterfront and Pioneer square. Also when I didn't have a car, it was immensely convenient to be able to have access to the many grocery stores in the area. Many students also shop in the surrounding area because of how busy we are with our class schedules. I've also had the opportunity of working as a dog-sitter and had a lot of clients living near Powell's Books on Burnside, and on breaks would go to Powell's Books. I spend a lot of my money also supporting many local businesses located in downtown Portland.

And as I said before, I live in student housing along with many PCC and PSU students. The housing is also very diverse. For example, my neighbors are exchange students from Jamaica and Thailand. There are also many exchange students from India who live near me and work on the west side. I currently take a shuttle to PCC which has been very convenient. I utilize the stop on SW 10th Ave. Map C takes into account how students and young professionals live their lives.

Map "B" on the other hand to me looks very intentionally drawn and doesn't feel like it pairs communities of interest together. In Map "B", downtown is a part of district 42 which is on the other side of the river. I don't think it makes sense to break up downtown from the rest of west Portland in comparison to Map C which keeps it together. It's clear that Map B is less contiguous and fluid and doesn't take into account how much the folks on the west side of the river tend to stay there. I have transportation and also walk and visit these areas frequently: SW Taylor, SW Clay, SW Morrison, SW Salmon, SW Columbia, SW Washington, SW Jefferson. Many other students visit these streets to shop or to eat.

I would also like to voice my support for the congressional Map "A". 15th and Prescott is a logical place for the line between Congressional District 1 and Congressional District 3. By placing the line here, we are not splitting the historically black neighborhoods and it keeps all of North Portland together in a single district.

Once again, thanks so much for your service and your work on this important issue. These maps are a great start. Please keep in mind what I have shared about my community when finalizing maps. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Tula Sabes