

September 8, 2021



House & Senate Redistricting Committee
Oregon.Redistricting@Oregonlegislature.gov

Re: Tigard Redistricting Comments about Congressional District 1

Dear Honorable Members of the House & Senate Redistricting Committee,

The City of Tigard appreciates the efforts of the House & Senate Redistricting Committee. As a community, we have invested a significant amount of time and effort positioning ourselves for a successful and sustainable future.

The City of Tigard is deeply concerned about current proposals before the Committee that, if approved, will fracture our community's shared economic, social, and bipartisan interests. In the last decade, we have worked diligently with our residents and leaders to define and create goals around transportation, water resources, housing and economic development that lays the groundwork for a desirable and prosperous future in our community.

More recently, our collective anti-racism and DEI efforts are focused on ensuring Tigard is a welcoming, compassionate, and equitable community. Even our youth are involved in our community; with the vast majority of Tigard children attending Tigard-Tualatin public schools and actively contributing to planning and community goals.

There are several major projects underway (Tigard Triangle Urban Renewal, the Southwest Corridor Transit, transfer of orphan roads, infrastructure creation in River Terrace and more) that will need an advocate in Salem and Washington, DC who prioritizes our community's unique interests on these complex issues.

Tigard's population today is nearly 55,000. On our own, we're large enough to be our own district. **Dividing Tigard into three, four or five districts is unacceptable.** Doing so would unfairly dilute the representation and collective voice of the Tigard community. If necessary, a Tigard district could be supplemented by logical adjacent communities like Metzger, Bull Mountain, King City, or Durham. All these areas are within Washington County and all share our interests around transportation, commerce, housing, and fostering healthy economic and employment growth and livability.

The treatment of Tigard in the House's current map (Map C) violates both federal and state requirements for redistricting. It ignores Tigard as a community of interest by dividing us into five different house districts and disregarding our common interests, political and geographic boundaries, including Tigard's municipal boundaries, the Tigard-Tualatin School District boundaries, and the Tualatin River.

It ignores the transportation links that connect the Tigard community, indiscriminately splitting unique neighborhoods into two or three different districts and placing neighborhoods in direct competition

with one another for project planning and funding. Where we now have unified interests and effective relationships with Washington County leaders, dividing the city into separate districts would force Tigard and neighboring areas to take a back seat to the interests of Clackamas or Multnomah County's priorities and advocacy for competitive transportation project funding from regional and state sources.

Clearly ignoring redistricting requirements, Map C carves up our city in ways that are uninformed and illogical. It puts two of our most important community gathering sites, Cook Park and Tigard High School, in a district whose population center is in West Linn and puts us in the untenable position of competing with Clackamas County's interests and goals.

Redistricting any portion of Tigard to representation outside Washington County will create difficulties for plans and projects currently underway. First and foremost, it puts Tigard in direct conflict with the needs and interests of another County's priorities for transportation funding, Metro affordable housing dollars, Nature in Neighborhoods and Safe Routes to School funding, Homeless Services funding and MSTIP funding. It would effectively reduce our ability to compete for valuable assistance to meet the needs and desires of Tigard residents.

Map C also puts a Tigard Elementary School in a district that is primarily Lake Oswego. It puts Southridge High School in the Beaverton School District into the same district as Metzger, which is very confusing to us.

This scenario means neighborhoods will send their kids to school, shop for groceries, go to church, and attend community gatherings in one district, but be directed to another district for help because their home was gerrymandered.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues that will deeply affect our city. We appreciate the Committee's work to ensure all of Tigard remains in one district.

Sincerely,



Jason B. Snider, Mayor
City of Tigard

with City Council President Heidi Lueb
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