

I am a resident of Congressional District 2. Several of the public-submitted congressional district maps are better than the committee proposals. Some propose a new Oregon Coast district, and others propose a new Columbia River district. I believe the idea of a Columbia River district has the most merit. In the current congressional district map, all the coastal counties are located not too far from the largest urban centers within their districts. In contrast, all the counties along Oregon's northern border east of Multnomah are tremendously distant from the largest urban center within their district, which is Medford. These counties are much closer to Portland, and they are connected to Portland by means of Interstate 80. Logic suggests they are more appropriately placed in the same district as Portland. Furthermore, these counties do not all share the same historic reliance on the timber industry as southwest Oregon or other eastern Oregon counties. They do not have much in common with southwest Oregon. Their economies rely on the Port of Portland to a great degree.

Your GIS experts are better qualified than I to judge which of the public-submitted maps are the most technically perfect, but the concept of a Columbia River district is well represented by the Zach Mulholland map. With minor adjustments, this map could be the one to go with. It handles the rest of the state intelligently as well.

Regarding the maps for state legislature, Plan B makes the most sense for my part of the state. The other plans divide too many communities.

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