

Per the Elections Division of the Oregon Secretary of State report of Voter Registration by County for September 2020, there are just under 3 million voters registered in our state. Of those, approximately 1 million are Democrats, 750,000 are Republicans. There are in excess of 1.1 million voters (38% of the total, which is more than either Democrat or Republican) who are NOT affiliated with either of the two major parties. Yet all but one of the members of our House and Senate are affiliated as Democrat or Republican. What is being done to provide representation for the other parties, both in the redistricting process and the legislature? Why was the selection of the Redistricting Team restricted to those serving in the House or Senate? Why not choose additional members from the general populace of people NOT affiliated with either major party?

Apparently over many years (per the map of current political districts) there has been a lot of gerrymandering, and there is always much discussion regarding that process. When was the last time redistricting was done starting with a clean slate? Why are those on the Redistricting Team starting with the existing districts and trying to manipulate those districts to their own (or their party's) benefit, rather than starting with a map of Oregon without the boundaries?

It is my understanding that those preparing the plans for redistricting are provided with demographics showing (among other things) party affiliations, race and ethnicity. Why is this information necessary if the decisions should be made based on population and "common interests"?

Why not use a map without boundaries and, using the information of population and common interests (specifically eliminating the identification of race, ethnicity, and existing party affiliation), create realistic districts that provide representation for all Oregon citizens?

If you would like, I am also willing to discuss what I see as flaws in the "winner take all" system of elections. 😊

Thank you for considering my message.

Jeffrey M. Weller, CPA, MST

P.O. Box 974

Roseburg, OR 97470-0206

916-230-6701