

For a fair and honest redistricting process the overall goal needs to be actually putting communities of common interest in common districts. There is a known philosophical and political difference between people in urban areas and people who live in the more rural parts of the state. It's common knowledge that city dwellers are far more likely to be registered Democrats or left leaning in their opinions. Any district which is predominantly rural but has been designed in such a way as to include parts of Portland, Salem or Eugene in their district has had their opportunity for representation diluted at the least, and more likely eliminated completely. What Bill Bradberry so cunningly described as the "Spoke and Wheel" method is actually gerrymandering.

The first three districts in Oregon should be the Willamette Valley cities of Portland, Salem and Eugene, with each city being the center of their district. The remaining three districts should be a Coastal district, a Southern Oregon district and an Eastern Oregon district. Any time that a proposed boundary runs way off course and goes into a city you know that gerrymandering is the goal.

It's my hope that Oregon can get back to being a place where we follow the law and aim for fairness and honesty.

Alan Murphy