

Redistricting: A Bridging Plan

The concern:

How do we redraw Oregon's congressional districts to be equitable in population and demographics and at the same time help varying communities feel included in political decisions, processes and federal legislation that impact all Oregonians?

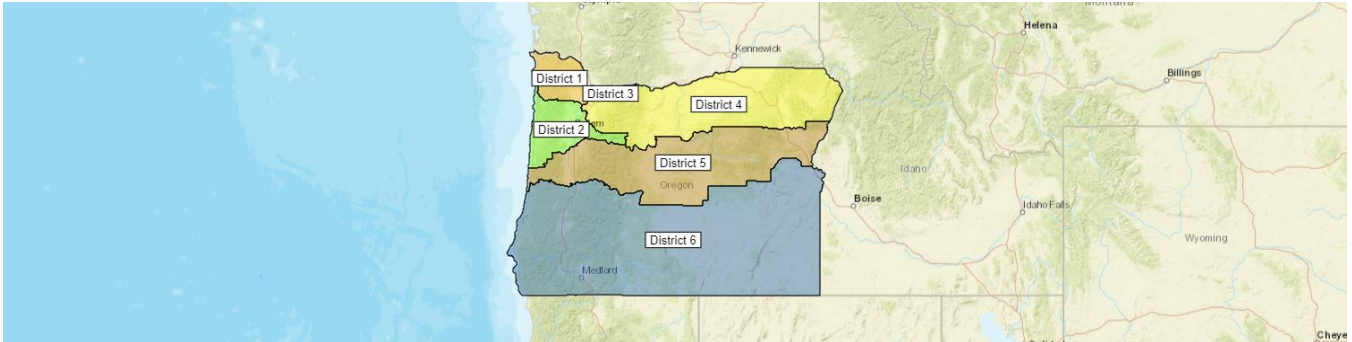
Observations:

1. One of the major political issues of today is bridging the divide between the:
 - Have and have nots (financial divides)
 - Urban and rural sectors
 - Political extremes of conservative and liberal communities
 - Privileged and suppressed (racial & cultural divides)
2. Oregon, geographically is divided North to South into coastal, valley, mountain & high desert. This four-part geography has been highly used to redistrict in the past and exacerbates the political, social and cultural divisions by isolating communities from one another politically.
3. The two primary political parties Republican and Democratic are able to keep congressional and legislative seats by defining districts that are filled with one party affiliation over the other; example: urban primarily D, rural primarily R, valley primarily D, high desert primarily R.
4. The commonalities across the Oregon population are lost when districts are divided based on geography. Here are a few of the commonalities:
 - a. Coordinated Federal/State climate crises mitigation plans & execution (fire, flood, etc)
 - b. Coordinated Federal/State managed pandemic plans & execution
 - c. Highspeed internet access for all
 - d. Safe and potable water for all
 - e. Preservation of fauna and flora
 - f. Maintenance of national parks, forests & lands
 - g. EV charging stations (for Oregonians and tourists)
 - h. Affordable Housing, higher education and child care
 - i. Expanded USPO stations and return of postal banking
 - j. Expanded radio repeaters into rural communities.
5. Lastly, our representatives are to represent all the people in their district to secure federal support, funding, and pass laws that not only impact all Oregonian's but also, the other States. It is therefore, critical to assure we have bipartisanship, inclusivity, and willingness to compromise in congress by defining DIVERSE districts.

Proposal for Oregon Congressional redistricting:

Bridging Plan 02 (filed on the mapping website that one must login to see in the shared files on <https://oregon-redistricting.esriemcs.com/>) offers a redistricting map for Oregon Congressional seats from western shores to our eastern state border, rather than north to south, where ever feasible. Minor adjustments using very local geography allows perfecting the population counts in each of the 6 districts to be equitability.

All the redistricting rules and integrity checks (listed below) are satisfied.



Redistricting Rules:

- (1) Each district, as nearly as practicable, shall:
 - (a) Be contiguous;
 - (b) Be of equal population;
 - (c) Utilize existing geographic or political boundaries;
 - (d) Not divide communities of common interest; and
 - (e) Be connected by transportation links.
- (2) No district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent legislator or other person.
- (3) No district shall be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group.
- (4) Two state House of Representative districts shall be wholly included within a single state senatorial district.

Integrity Checks: Dual assignment, population summary, district count, maximum deviation, null assignment and connectivity.