

9/12/2021

Chairs Salinas, Boshart Davis, and Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committees,

We write to you as leaders that live in or represent the Tigard community to offer testimony on the newly proposed legislative maps. We do not all share the same political views, but we are strongly aligned on this point: **Tigard is a community of common interest, with common economic, social, and political interests. We strongly urge the committee to keep Tigard intact as a legislative district. We are adamantly opposed to any map that carves Tigard into three, four, or five legislative districts.**

We believe the Tigard community has a right to its own representation in the state legislature because of Tigard's closeness as a community, including: 1) strong local economic and educational connections between the city, school district, chamber of commerce, and nonprofits, 2) a common transportation system that connects the community, and 3) a strong culture of community, including regular events in central gathering places (Tigard Balloon Festival, farmers markets, fun runs, and more), a thriving arts and entertainment scene, and broad public support for educational and municipal bonds and levies. We do not want our collective voice diluted or erased by arbitrary legislative boundaries. With a population of over 55,000, we are close to being the size of a single district; however, a Tigard-centered district could be supplemented by smaller neighboring communities with similar interests, including Metzger, Bull Mountain, King City, Durham, or Multnomah County neighborhoods that border Tigard.

We are particularly concerned about Map C's proposal for Tigard, where our city would be divided into five different districts. This is unacceptable. We believe this proposal violates the requirements of ORS 188.010, by 1) ignoring Tigard as a community of common interest and weakening our collective voice, 2) ignoring existing political and geographic boundaries, including the Tualatin River, Tigard's municipal boundaries, and the Tigard-Tualatin School District boundaries, and 3) ignoring the transportation links that connect the Tigard community, arbitrarily splitting unique neighborhoods into two or three different districts despite relying on the same transportation routes.

Map C puts two of Tigard's most important community gathering sites, Cook Park and Tigard High School, in a district whose population center is West Linn by jumping over the Tualatin River. It uses Kable Street and Sattler Street as dividing lines, which is nonsensical to the community members who live there. It puts a Tigard elementary school in a district that is primarily Lake Oswego, and it puts Southridge High School (of the Beaverton School District) into the same district as the Metzger community, which includes many economically disadvantaged families. The scenario in Map C means families will send their kids to school, shop for groceries, go to church, and attend community gatherings in one legislative district, but somehow be represented by another district because of illogical boundary lines.

We know that redrawing the maps is a very challenging job and we thank you for the time and effort you have put into this process. Thank you for considering our testimony. If you have any questions or request additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Jason Snider  
Mayor of Tigard

Marvin Lynn  
Tigard-Tualatin School Board Vice Chair

Margaret Doherty  
Former Representative, HD-35

Tristan Irvin  
Tigard-Tualatin School Board Member

Kathryn Harrington  
Washington County Commission Chair

David Jaimes  
Tigard-Tualatin School Board Member

Ben Bowman  
Chair, Tigard-Tualatin School Board

Henry Taylor-Goalby  
Student Representative, TTSD Board

Roy Rogers  
Washington County Commissioner

Mahathi Sridhar  
Student Representative, TTSD Board

Debi Mollahan  
Tigard Chamber of Commerce CEO

Kathy Stallkamp  
Tigard-Tualatin Aquatic District President

Michelle Cheney  
Tigard Chamber of Commerce Board Chair

Tim Esau  
Tigard-Tualatin Aquatic District VP

Heidi Lueb  
Tigard Council President

John Cook  
Former Tigard Mayor

Liz Newton  
Tigard City Councilor

Craig Dirksen  
Former Tigard Mayor and Metro Councilor

John Goodhouse  
Tigard City Councilor

Maureen Wolf  
Former Tigard-Tualatin School Board Chair

Aishiki Nag  
Tigard Youth City Councilor

CC:

Secretary of State Shemia Fagan  
Speaker Tina Kotek  
President Peter Coutney