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Horst Meister  
316 SE C Street  
Madras, Oregon

I support gerrymandering Oregon districts to limit Republicans to winning as few seats as possible for the following reasons:

1. The Oregon Republican Party has nothing positive to offer.

When a problem exists, Republicans don't offer a solution. Republicans have no solutions; they offer culture war distractions and apocalyptic rhetoric instead. When the Liberal faction proposes a solution, Republicans oppose it with all their might regardless of the solution's merit. Instead of offering practical alternate solutions that incorporate genuine conservative principles, Oregon Republicans go all in on "owning the libs"; a concerted effort to do or say whatever is most likely to outrage progressives. Hypocrisy, incoherence, opportunism, repression and irrationality are the GOP's standard operating mode; malicious libels and slanders are the GOP's standard tactics. Oregon Republicans specialize in bloody-minded obstruction of progress by any means, fair or foul; mostly foul.

2. The Oregon Republican Party is adamantly opposed to good science. Science is based on facts and evidence: science proves GOP policies are based on falsehoods, so there you are.

Republicans have been lying about global warming for decades. The science is settled, it's solid, and the science has been settled for 40 years. There is no doubt earth's climate is steadily warming and that combustion of fossil fuels strongly contributes to excessive warming. The droughts, wild fires, powerful storms, flooding and dangerously hot weather the United States are experiencing were all predicted by scientists 40 years ago.

The Liberal faction proposed a law to mitigate and limit the harmful effects of global warming on Oregonians; Republican legislators fled to Idaho to deny a quorum to the legislature. No one represented their constituents while Republican legislators partied in Idaho. Without a quorum, Democratic legislators could not handle the public's business. In private enterprise, people who abandon their jobs, lose their jobs. The Oregon Republicans who abandoned their legislative jobs in mid-session should have been fired for cause.

3. Oregon Republicans are a serious public health hazard.

The United States has been afflicted with a serious epidemic since March 2020. The Republican Party has been working to sabotage efforts to control Covid-19 ever since.

Oregon Republicans claim vaccine mandates are unconstitutional. That is false. States have constitutional authority to mandate vaccinations, which the Supreme Court has upheld first in 1905 (*Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U.S. 11 (1905)) and again in 1922.

Both the Department of Justice and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have ruled that businesses may lawfully require employees to get a COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of coming to the workplace. Businesses have a legal and ethical duty to keep the workplace safe.

Oregon Republicans claim requiring people to wear face masks violates their personal liberty. That's a personal opinion. The law disagrees; requiring face masks is a reasonable and practical public health measure that promotes the general welfare because face masks limit the risk of Covid-19 infections and can prevent the spread of infections when properly worn. People who refuse to comply are increasing the risk of Covid-19 in themselves and others. There is no such thing as a right to endanger others.

In *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, Associate Justice John M. Harlan wrote that "real liberty for all could not exist under the operation of a principle which recognizes the right of each individual person to use his own, whether in respect of his person or his property, regardless of the injury that may be done to others."

Mandating public health measures is a constitutional application of a state's police powers. States have police powers via two legal avenues. The first is inherent powers: states are entitled to exercise those powers they had been exercising before the Constitution was ratified, provided that the Constitution does not reserve the power to the Federal government. The Constitution does not reserve police powers to the Federal government. The legal second avenue is the 10th Amendment, which states that powers not reserved to the federal government are reserved to the states, or to the people. Police powers are not reserved to the federal government, therefore the states also have police powers.

Some Oregon Republicans claim that requiring face masks is tyranny. Public health measures, such as requiring face masks, are a legitimate and constitutional exercise of the state's police powers. The police power has its origin and purpose in promoting the general welfare of the state or, as it is also expressed, public health, public morals, and public safety. The courts have consistently declined to set fixed limitations on state's exercise of this power in advance. A state's police powers authorize a state to enforce public health standards and regulations.

Oregon Republicans' efforts to carve out exemptions to and encourage disobedience of public health rules endanger the health and lives of Oregonians. Their malicious efforts are prolonging the epidemic. An epidemic of any contagious disease ends when the disease vector cannot infect any more victims. Covid-19 spreads via aerosols and respiratory droplets. Victims become infected by breathing. Persons who refuse to take reasonable health precautions, such as wearing face masks when the risk of infection is high, social distancing to decrease the risk of infections, or refusing vaccinations, are offering themselves up as potential victims to the disease. Some will become infected, others won't, but all are spreading the disease by willingly offering their bodies as disease incubators, and all such persons are a danger to others. Persons who refuse to take reasonable health precautions also prolong the epidemic by providing more vulnerable bodies for the virus to infect. Opposition to reasonable, constitutional and lawful public health measures during an epidemic of a contagious disease seems irrational, to put it politely.

It is worth noting that citizens do not get to choose which laws they will obey based on their personal opinions. It is also worth noting that, when elected Republicans claim that their constituents distrust government, it is because Republicans maliciously libel and slander government, deliberately spread falsehoods to discredit government officials and because government becomes evil when people elect Republicans.

Packing and cracking districts to ensure that as few Republicans as possible win elections would promote the safety, health and welfare of all Oregonians, so let's do it.