

This work is a collaborative effort conducted by the following organization including.

- Start Raising Young African Lives
- Oregon Coalition of African Community Leader (ORCACL)
- United Congolese Community Organization of Oregon (UCCO)

GET INVOLVED IN REDISTRICTING WAYS TO ENGAGE CONTINUE

Clarify your goals

- What issue to you and your neighbor/ community-based organization care about?
 1. Language Barrier

Our community is made of refugees and immigrants mostly fleeing war in their countries of origin. Arriving here in USA, communication is in English making hard for us to integrate easily into systems: Health, Education, judiciary, even social because translation is in Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese, or Arabic; No Swahili, French, and other languages. This limitation should not exist.
 2. Schooling (need for coming up with an Inclusive curriculum)
 - No placement test for refugee and immigrants
 - High school graduate can't move on.
 - Identifying where refugee and immigrant are coming from. Some are adapting better than other. (ex. Those who came from English speaking country adapt better than those coming from French countries)
 - Special school (need for Gap Filling by Intensive class)
 3. Credentialing/ Employment

People coming outside the USA have an educational background that can be beneficial to arise local and national economy, but they are just put down with no consideration or a way set up in order for them to return to their professional work experience.
 4. Lack of representation (culture-based representation, culture affaire, culturally specific representation).

Solution: Creating an African Affairs Office at capitol Hill Salem

- Every African country will have a sub representation in the office.
- Designated leaders can come to the community to work with local community on a particular issue.

- Present issues that are going parallel with the system. Push ourselves forward for more education. Identify potential leaders who are interested in advocacy/community engagement to be able to seat on those committees to learn, get trained for future roles. We need to be recognized/represented at a federal level in order to address specific immigrant and refugee problems.

5. Mental Health

- Lack of culturally specific mental health program and resource
- Meaning and understanding of mental health issues are different than western; need for appropriate way to educate our people

6. Healthcare system

- Lack of culturally specific health providers who really care about patient's health problems.

- Which level(s) of redistricting (state, city, or school board, etc) will you participate?
 - Participating in meeting as community leaders when invited and being informed about existing committee in which we may have our candidates becoming part of, and this will be at all levels including state, city, counties, and schools.
- What are your goals, e.g., keeping our community together; uniting our communities; recommending a large map with coalition partners?
 - Our goal is to bring our people together in one mapping district in order to be under one representative.
- Will I have school-age children in the next 10 years and how will districts impact me?
 - Making the district becoming larger will have a positive impact.
- If a natural disaster hits, such as more wildfires, or a pandemic, does my representative understand the needs and concerns of my communities? If not, outline them and testify.
 - They show interest in a superficial general way for the issue regarding the community without digging deeper in different communities/ethnicity forming the bigger community they represent.

Redistricting Map Proposition

District 1 (NW)

- Clatsop
- Columbia
- Tillamook
- Lincoln

District 2 (N)

- Wasco
- Gilliam
- Morrow
- Umatilla
- Wallowa
- Union
- Wheeler
- Jefferson
- Crook
- Sherman

District 3 (Middle North District)

- Multnomah
- Washington
- Clackamas
- Marion
- Hood River

District 4 (SW)

- Douglas
- Coos
- Curry
- Josephine
- Jackson
- Deschutes

District 5 (Middle South District)

- Polk
- Yamhill
- Benton
- Lane
- Lincoln