



The Rainier and Clatskanie Chambers of Commerce are grateful for the opportunity to submit comments on behalf of our members in regards to the proposed legislative redistricting maps.

Our Chambers represent the business communities in north Columbia County, which sits in Congressional District 1, Senate District 16, and House District 31. Columbia County is located in rural northwest Oregon along the Columbia River, with a local economy and population that relies upon having proper representation that understand the common interests and unique challenges our businesses and citizens face.

ORS 188.010 requires that the apportionment of the state into congressional and legislative districts meet the following criteria:

- Be contiguous
- Be of equal population
- Utilize existing geographic or political boundaries
- Not divide communities of common interest
- Be connected by transportation links
- That no district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent legislator or other person

In evaluating the proposed maps, both Chambers have determined that parts of above criteria have not been met in most of the proposed maps. We have deep concerns in how these maps were developed, and urge the legislature to edit them so that they meet the proper criteria.

Oregon House and Senate Districts Maps A

Map A removes Clatskanie from the same House District as other Columbia County communities. We strongly advocate for Columbia County to be kept whole in the same House District.

Oregon House and Senate Districts Maps B

Map B roughly maintains the status quo and does not violate the above criteria.

Oregon House and Senate Districts Maps C

Map C divides our county, our school districts, and several of our special district boundaries, in violation of utilizing existing boundaries and not dividing communities of common interest. In addition, the boundaries seem to be drawn to gerrymander the districts in a way that directly violates the statutory requirements above.

Congressional District Map A

Map A inserts urban areas into four separate districts that include large chunks of rural communities, which violates the above criteria and effectively disenfranchises rural communities in these four districts. Not only is this extremely unfair, it blatantly violates the statute.

Congressional District Map B

Map B meets the above criteria and places communities of common interest together, while considering current political boundaries for our cities, school districts, and special districts.

Based on the above analysis, it is clear to our Chambers that Congressional District Map B is the right choice for our communities and the state of Oregon overall. We completely support the adoption of Congressional District Map B.

The Legislative maps, however, are a different story and are in need of further work before they are approved. Legislative Map B maintains the status quo, which generally fits the requirements of our communities. However, Legislative Map A also appears to be feasible with some minor edits to allow Clatskanie to remain in the same House District as the rest of Columbia County.

Thank you for your time and consideration in keeping all of Columbia County represented as a whole in the final redistricting plan.

Respectfully,
Rainier and Clatskanie Chamber of Commerce Boards