

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor, and Salinas, Vice-Chairs, Knopp, and Boshart-Davis, and members of the redistricting committees,

For the record my name is Diana Velador, my pronouns are she/her/hers. I live in East Multnomah County, within the Gresham area near the Rockwood Neighborhood, in Congressional District 3 and am involved with East County Rising.

First off, thank you for the hard work of this committee. I know there are a lot of complexities to drawing new district lines.

Looking at the plans for the different state legislative districts, House Plans A and C do a better job at keeping the parts of Rockwood, Gresham, and overall East Multnomah County together and will help to ensure my family and community have access to the resources we need.

At the age of 7, I created a strong connection to the East County community when my family moved into the Wood Village area. While living in this neighborhood, I attended Reynolds High School where I felt a strong sense of community amongst the large Latinx population and where I met my long term friends. More recently, my family moved into Gresham near Rockwood where I was surrounded by even more diverse communities and where I felt even more at home. In all of these nearby communities, everything I need and love is just around the corner.

I work in downtown Gresham at a local Mexican restaurant where my bosses and coworkers are like a mini family and who have helped me maintain a secure job throughout the pandemic. The Rockwood Medical Clinic I attend is now even closer than ever and I don't have to take transportation to get there. Having access to healthcare close to me has been very helpful during the pandemic by having covid tests available daily, providing the community with resources if needed, and adapting to these times by offering online appointments. In addition, La Tapatia Supermercado is conveniently located near our house where it is at a walkable distance. La Tapatia is a place my parents love to shop at as they feel the most comfortable there since everyone there speaks their first language and provides a variety of culturally specific foods. Covid-19 impacted my community physically and emotionally. Davis Park, a park right in my neighborhood, has been a key location for my community and I, as I was able to go once in a while and relax outside by myself and focus on my mental health. El Programa Hispano Catolico has also been huge to my family since we moved to East Multnomah County. They have helped us find free or affordable programs to help us with taxes since it is a complicated process for my parents who speak mostly Spanish and for us who are just learning all of the systems. They have also helped my brother, his girlfriend, and my nephew with finding an affordable apartment and have helped them with 9 months of rent to get them started with their new life.

Overall, House Plans A and C will keep my communities, including Rockwood neighborhood, Gresham, and the other East County cities, together and continue to let it feel like home for the next 10 years.

Once again, thanks so much for your service and your work on this important issue. These maps are a great start. Please keep in mind what I have shared about my community when finalizing maps.

Diana Velador