

9/13/21

Good evening Redistricting Committee,

For the record my name is Kavi Chokshi, my pronouns are he/him/his, and I live in NE Bend in **Deschutes County, currently Congressional District 2, Senate District 27, House District 54.**

Thank you for your hard work. Through this process I have learned how complex map drawing can be, so I appreciate those of you who have worked hard to try and be as fair as possible.

I believe that drawing maps as a practice should be as non-partisan as possible and would be better suited to be done by an Independent and Advisory Citizen Redistricting Commission. Stating that, I urge you to consider a few points.

I have lived in many different parts of Bend, currently in the NE near Mountain View High School. Since the population of Bend has grown considerably in the last 10 years, I hope parts of Bend aren't left out of being represented together. Based on the current options, it seems that Bend is at the point where two districts are required to properly and fairly represent Bend.

I think House and Senate District maps A and C best meet these criteria, with my personal preference being for map C in terms of how it divides the city. House Plan C keeps Central Oregon Community College and OSU-Cascades together in the same district, giving Bend students a voice and their House representative able to properly represent them.

I think Congressional District Map A meets some of those requirements, though I hope it can include Redmond, Redmond Airport, and other similar parts of Deschutes County. I believe Redmond Airport is the primary airport used by most Bend residents. I also share the concern of many upon hearing that the Tribes and Tribal Nations were not consulted closely enough in the process and hope that can be rectified.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and support the points that Jamie McLeod-Skinner made in regards to not drawing the maps in a way that further exacerbates the urban-rural divide and instead allows us opportunities to elect leaders that can bring us together and find common ground. We are more similar than we are different.

Once again, thanks so much for your work on this important issue. Please keep in mind what I have shared about Bend when finalizing maps.

Good evening and good luck,
Kavi Chokshi