

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the current redistricting process. I hope the Committee seriously considers all testimony given.

I am currently a registered Democrat, however generally consider myself "not affiliated" with any political party. I am excited about the potential surrounding this important review, however was disappointed to see the versions that have so far been presented for consideration.

The drawing of district maps is required to be done in a way that does not favor one political party over any other, and yet no version presented appears to abide by this standard. Instead, we see direct attempts to do the opposite. 2020 was a fantastic year in which to utilize updated information for redistricting. Not only was there the Census data provided, there were both national, and state-level elections completed. These events provide exactly the information needed for responsible redistricting.

Due to our population increase according to the census data, Oregon has been granted an additional U.S. Representative. Our population has obviously grown. At the same time, Oregon's current US Representatives currently sit at 4 Democrats and 1 Republican. The State legislature has at least a three-fifths majority in both chambers. That means our current representation at the federal level is 80% Democrat and 20% Republican, and at the state level at or just over 60% - 40%. The current mapping clearly attempts to INCREASE those margins, as high as 83% Democratic at the federal level. Based on your responsibility to redrawn these districts fairly, without any advantage to one party or another, that must mean our most recent election and census data support a political shift in Oregon, further towards the Democratic Party.

Is this what has actually happened, is that borne out by the data? Did Oregon vote for President Biden with an 83-17% margin? Did any of our statewide election results indicate a political shift that supports the mapping suggested? Do any two urban population centers, in two non-neighboring counties with miles of agricultural areas between them, belong in the same state district? How much political, social or cultural identity do they share with each other, and the rural areas between them?

To both major, Oregon political parties represented on this committee, please use the actual data available for the current state of your Oregon constituency. Please DO YOUR JOB of fairly representing us, the citizens of this state. Draw districts that actually represent the people, not your own, party interests. The data does not support that currently proposed redistricting, no matter how many attempts are made to "justify" the results. As our Governor is so fond of saying, FOLLOW the DATA, it's readily available!

Thank you for considering my comments this evening.

Sincerely,

Jason Saldivar
Salem, Oregon