

House co-chairs Salinas and Boshart Davis, Senate Chair Taylor, and Vice-chair Knopp

For the record, my name is Karina Guzman Ortiz and I live in Salem House District 19 and Senate District 10. I have lived in this area since I was about 4 years old. I am a school board director for the Salem-Keizer School district, a district with over 40% of Latinx identifying student body. My parents purchased their first home in the NE Salem area in 1996 and have been rooted there since. I have chosen to stay in this community because this is the home I know. It is here that I grew up, went to school, and where my children now are growing and cultivating a sense of community and self-identity.

I remember as a young child driving with my parents to N. Lancaster Road to purchase prepaid phone cards to make international calls to my grandparents. On that same trip, we would pick up traditional candy and treats that reminded me of our yearly trips to my grandparent's home in Mexico. The shop has since been demolished, but there is, fortunately, a growing number of stores like it. Today, my family and I have a wide selection of culturally specific foods and services at several family-owned stores and businesses along the northern section of Lancaster Rd.

The Salem area is home to a vibrant community and it deserves to stay this way. Yet the variety of culturally specific goods and services are limited in my area, I have to drive outside of my district for most of these. The community I currently live in has seen a growth in businesses that are responding to the specific cultural needs of the population that is now moving into the area. With the proposed maps, my communities ability to thrive is in jeopardy. House Plan B divides a lot of communities of interest and places them in various house districts.

For example, Plan B proposal for HD20 pulls the Middle Grove and East Lancaster area into a massive rural district, extending near Molalla and past Silver Falls City while also splitting the Four corners area into two HD's. I can say for a fact, that the Salem area community has different needs than those of the outermost rural areas and vice-versa. This proposal also pulls Brush College and NW Salem into a massive rural district.

The communities that live in Middle Grove, Oak Park, Four Corners, and Hayesville should be in the same district. House Plan B maps cuts these communities apart and don't follow natural transportation boundaries like Lancaster and Cordon Road. In fact, these areas which have a high concentration of folks who share the same socioeconomic status, are split into 3 different districts.

This proposal clearly does not reflect the local community. It divides up Salem to have no majority BIPOC district in a region that has a large and vibrant Latinx Community. It

clearly dilutes BIPOC voices in the one area in the state where a majority-minority district is possible and justifiable. This is a clear example of racial gerrymandering.

I understand that this is a very difficult task but want to thank you for your service and your work on this important issue. I hope both committees are able to revisit the maps based on the evident communities that reside in the Salem area.

Thank you,
Karina Guzman Ortiz