

9-10-21

Good Afternoon Co-Chairs Taylor, and Salinas, Vice-Chairs, Knopp, and Boshart-Davis; and members of the redistricting committees.

My name is Josefina Riggs (she, her) and I live in Deschutes County presently in House District 53. I have lived in Redmond for 16 years with my family. I also serve on the Oregon Commission for Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) in Salem and I am employed as a Personal Support Worker for children with special needs in my community. I love my work and love my community.

In 2018, I ran for City Council in Redmond. This experience helped me to connect with all the residents in town and the growing Latinx and Asian populations. I knocked on doors and met community members at events and forums. I did not win – but as you know - our community is growing very fast and we are becoming a much more diverse area.

Redmond is very connected to Bend and Madras and we go there for business, work, shopping, entertainment, sport and enjoy outdoor activities. The Community College also connects Bend to Redmond as well with the Oregon State University Cascade Campus. Redmond, Madras and Bend share the Hwy 97, which links us all.

We were saddened when the St. Charles Health System closed down the family birthing center in Redmond on July 13, 2019. The only option for pregnant families is the St. Charles main facility in Bend and the St Charles facility in Madras.

It is important during redistricting to keep people in Redmond together as they draw new political lines. I see that Plan C of the House and Senate has Redmond connected to Madras in Senate District 28. I feel that will be OK. We have to stick together to create a better community.

Thank you.

Josefina Riggs

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