

9/13/2021

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

Good Afternoon, my name is Jody Folkedahl Eppolito, my pronouns are she/her and I live in East Multnomah County, in Portland east of 205.

I have lived in Portland for about 15 years but I have lived in Oregon almost my whole life; growing up in Douglas County and going to school in Jackson county.

First off, thank you for the hard work of this committee, especially those of you who have worked to produce thoughtful, nuanced, and fair maps. I know there are a lot of challenges to drawing new district lines and I can't imagine the many considerations that go into determining how to give voice and representation to all the different communities across our state.

I am a teacher in East Portland, in the Parkrose neighborhood and in the past 15 years have seen the huge transformation of the neighborhoods that I live and work in.

We have seen huge amounts of people moving to Portland in the past ten years and this has resulted in much of the BIPOC community of Portland being pushed out to what the kids call "the numbers." Parkrose and David Douglas school districts are the most diverse in the state and many different immigrant populations call the neighborhoods east of 82nd home. I take my daughter to the park down the street and there are always at least 3 (and often more) languages being spoken by the children and families on the small playground. The way lines are drawn in Plan A or C better reflects the unique and diverse nature of the communities I live and work in.

I feel that the borders between Clackamas and Multnomah county should be respected. Anyone who has driven down 111th Ave from Happy Valley to Foster Road can tell you how different the communities are.

There are so many cultures that have distinct shopping centers, culturally specific stores, and community resources in East Portland. Driving along 82nd, 122nd, or 162nd you can visually see representation of our Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Horn African, and Slavic communities.

Having 182nd serve as a district boundary makes sense. I think of 182nd as being a dividing line and it would keep the Powell Butte area in with the Eastern part of Portland. That line respects the diversity of cultures and people living between 82nd Ave and the Rockwood neighborhood. It is important to give the people in these neighborhoods a voice in politics because it is one that is unique in Oregon.

Once again, thanks so much for your service and your work on this important issue. Thank you for your work to best represent Oregonians. I hope that my perspective can be helpful when considering these maps. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

Jody Folkedahl Eppolito