

Good evening. Co-Chairs Taylor, and Salinas, Vice-Chairs, Knopp (Ka-nope), and Boshart-Davis; and members of the redistricting committees. My name is Oliver Mintz-Lowe - he/him pronouns - and I live in Lane County, in Senate District 7 and House district 14. I'm in West Eugene and have lived there for over 2 ½ years.

Firstly, thank you for all the hard work the committee has put into this big task so far. I know that there are a lot of complexities and nuances in drawing new district lines - I've played around with District Builder because that's the sort of thing I do for fun these days during a pandemic! So I appreciate thoughtfully considering everything and giving me the opportunity to speak.

I would like to mainly talk about what I like about these maps, and I do generally think that these maps are well thought out in the way that they try to keep similar communities together along with the roads people use in their day to day lives. I'm pleased to see that the committee appears to have taken all of this into consideration.

I would like to suggest a few ways that the maps should reflect the reality and needs of the community:

In terms of my district, I think it's important to keep West Eugene and the surrounding areas together as people tend to work, shop and socialize within these communities. It's also important that our districts within the county factor in major roads and transportation links.

I like the way plan C is built around I5 and the 58, because it reflects how I, and many people, move around our communities every day. The way maps A and C follow the 99 all the way up to Junction City makes perfect sense, because this is a heavily trafficked route that many people use to commute between their homes and work. For example as a state worker I know a number of people who work for OHA, at the State Hospital in Junction City, who make this commute daily.

And I think that while all three maps do a good job of keeping most of Springfield and Thurston together, which is definitely a positive step. However I do feel that Plan B doesn't work quite as well in keeping all of Springfield together following city boundaries. Plan C manages to achieve this.

In terms of the congressional plan, I prefer Plan A as it keeps the western parts of Lane County, including the coastal communities connected to the Eugene/Springfield areas. People regularly travel between these two communities for recreation and shopping and keeping them together works better in my view.

Once again, thanks so much for working on this and trying to reach a satisfactory resolution at the legislative level. These maps are a great start and I hope you'll keep the comments about my and others communities in mind when you finalize them. I'm happy to answer any questions.