

State redistricting testimony sept 13 (1-4)9 (530-830)

No matter our race, faith, or zip code, we all deserve **meaningful representation**

- Communities of **common interest** should have **equal opportunity to elect their candidates of choice**
- Scholls community in the Tigard area has common interests and unique needs and **we do not want those needs and interests to be diluted**
- Communities want to be able to **elect folks who represent their community** and the issues they face
- We have many different ethnicities and races represented in Washington county, and they all deserve to have a fair hearing and meaningful votes.
- This is about everyone feeling like their **voice is heard and their vote really matters**
- New District lines must reflect all of Oregon, and be based in a public process that includes the voices of those who have historically been excluded. We need to focus on representation, the principle of one person one vote, upholding the voting rights act and other legal requirements, and ensuring that Oregon's new congressional and legislative district lines reflect the diversity of communities of interest in our state.
- Oregon's districts should be truly representative of our state's diversity: from indigenous populations, to rural Oregonians, to Latinx and Black communities. Every Oregonian should feel that their voice is heard and their vote matters.
- Republicans across the country and in Oregon have shown they will gerrymander and do anything they can to increase their power in spite of their waning popularity and values that increasingly veer toward extremism. This attitude in itself is undemocratic.
- We've seen the data and Washington county's population has grown and changed in significant ways. We need to draw new lines that reflect those changes. Please be non-partisan as you draw these lines.

Thank you,

Patty Falkenstein Caregiver and 35 year resident of Tigard