

Hello,

I am a resident of House District 33 represented by Maxine Dexter. I live in the Forest Park neighborhood at the foot of the west hills, and have a concern about being redistricted into the suburbs to the south and west of us which have a very different set of goals and interests. We live in an area of rural properties which flow up to Skyline, and share commonalities with all of the west hills, such as having a close relationship with Forest Park itself, protecting the rural nature of this area which includes wildlife habitat and creeks, some farm land, some forested areas, and a lack of infrastructure and urban services because we fall into unincorporated Multnomah County. The preservation of this area's rural nature is important to its residents and we feel that over the past 10 years we have been represented well. The new mapping associates our area with suburban sprawl and development friendly Washington County which has not placed a high value on saving old growth trees, protecting watersheds, or wildlife in pursuing its growth ambitions. Just as the housing density stops at the Washington County and Multnomah County line in our neighborhood, so does the type of resident change, and the priorities of those residents differs. I feel that redistricting to include us with Bethany and Beaverton will put pressure on our rural reserve, which took 10 years to get ratified into state law, and which was strongly advocated for in our area. Please draw the line at the county line and keep us aligned with the rest of the west hills and Northwest Portland.

On another note, I feel it is critical within Oregon as a whole, that communities of color are not broken up across district lines so that the representation for these growing populations are a fair distribution of voting power, representation, and voice. These communities need to have a say in how the lines are drawn, to insure their community centers, churches, local stores and concentrations of residents are grouped together such that they have an elected leader who represents them. They are the fastest growing populations and already are underrepresented and underserved in our legislature.

Thank you,
Susan Andrews
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