

9/14/2022

Chairs Salinas, Boshart Davis, and Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committees,

I write to you as an eager and deeply concerned citizen of Tigard, Oregon, and hope to offer testimony about the newly proposed legislative maps. Tigard is a vibrant, and diverse community with a shared common interest in economic, social, and political interests. I am very strongly opposed to any and all maps that carve Tigard into three, four, or five legislative districts.

Tigard already has a population of nearly 55,000 which is close enough for their own district in representation. We are tied together by our City Council, and their strong connection to government and outreach to the community. We host events like the Balloon Festivals, local park events, and events for children at the Tigard Public Library. We deserve to be represented by people that know and understand Tigards community.

Map C's proposal for Tigard, where our city would be divided into five different districts. This is unacceptable. I believe this proposal violates the requirements of ORS 188.010, by 1) ignoring Tigard as a community of common interest and weakening our collective voice, 2) ignoring existing political and geographic boundaries, including the Tualatin River, Tigard's municipal boundaries, and the Tigard-Tualatin School District boundaries, and 3) ignoring the transportation links that connect the Tigard community, arbitrarily splitting unique neighborhoods into two or three different districts despite relying on the same transportation routes.

Another concern I have regarding these new district lines is the toll it may have on our communities elections. In "One Person, No Vote; How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy" by Carol Anderson, she mentions how under gerrymandering and misrepresentation there were more barriers when it came to voting. There was a 5 hour wait in Maricopa County in Arizona, due to gerrymandered lines and disadvantages when it came to interconnectedness within district lines. There was also a line that stretched a quarter of a mile, with four hundred thousand people in Cincinnati Ohio, due to these same district lines. These lines are not only enforcing partisan gerrymandering but it is impacting minority communities with covert effects of racial gerrymandering as well. These maps would take a strain on our local democracy and it's important to acknowledge the long term harm caused by biased maps.

I understand that redrawing maps is challenging and I thank you for your time and effort put into this process. Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aishiki Nag