

03/08/2021

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

For the record my name is Eleazar Gamez , my pronouns are He/Him/El and I am a resident of Hillsboro. As you may know Hillsboro is part of Washington County and I am here as a constituent of Representative McLain and Senator Riley. I consider Hillsboro to be home as It has been over the last 12 years since my family and I moved here from California. As time has passed, I am honored and proud to be a Hillsboro resident. I am a graduate of Liberty High school. The same school where my older sister graduated from and where my younger brother will be graduating from as well. Over the years I have seen my city grow and expand with new businesses, new faces, and new problems. With the growth and expansion there has been insufficient representation from Hillsboro's marginalized community members across the Hillsboro City council, school board members, and school administrators.

As a resident of Washington county, I believe that there should be an effort done across the county to have clear and proper representation reflecting Washington county's Minority marginalized community members. I have lived in a low income neighborhood for the past five years. The community around me is majority Latinx, the businesses around my neighbourhood are majority Latinx owned as well. When I see the young Latinx kids play around the apartment complex I live it, it gives me hope. I see them, I see the future. As a first generation DACAmented college student who has the privilege of attending Portland State University with scholarships, I hope that the same kids I see playing around will too attend a postsecondary institution and strive in life. If there were to be any redistricting done it would be a disservice to many communities as there has been growth in minority ethnic communities which the 2020 census would show.

That's why I care about redistricting. We understand three key things: 1) impacted communities need to be centered in the process and outcome. 2) Oregon voters have implemented backstops for this exact kind of situation. 3) Feeling represented in your CD (the thing on the record that helps support specific lines/maps)

Redistricting offers the chance to see how the past decade of population growth should translate into greater representation in Hillsboro. We believe redistricting is one way we can address the lack of racial marginalized voices in Hillsboro, as well as at the local, school board level, and any other elected positions.

We look forward to working with this committee, the Oregon legislature and our communities to ensure that redistricting engages ALL communities and that it responds to our growing needs. The Legislature's process for engaging Oregon communities in redistricting is going to be critical.

Thank you very much for your time and work on this issue

Eleazar Gamez