

Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding the 2021 redistricting process in Oregon. While the basic purpose of redistricting is to ensure that districts are of roughly equal population following the decennial U.S. Census, meeting the criteria of ORS 188.010 can be subjective and lead to unfair representation in the state. As registered voters in an existing District that is not growing as fast as other areas of the state, we have concerns about future changes and maintaining the right to be included in a "community of common interest". In 2013 a comprehensive statewide survey was taken to determine the shared values and beliefs in Oregon. While the general conclusion was reached that Oregonians are not as divided as commonly perceived, experience living and working in various areas of the state would only support that conclusion in concept with quite different priorities in how to achieve goals. In deeper review of the survey, the specific geographic results were not readily provided and only extreme outliers of opinion were stated by geographic region. In those cases, the viewpoint outside the "norm" was typically within areas outside of larger metropolitan areas. Clearly this indicates that Oregon has differing viewpoints most easily defined by population density. In fairness, it should be noted that the study does reveal that there is a greater percentage of the population in larger metro areas with values that align more with rural Oregon than would be assumed by looking at political representation and policy priorities alone.

Overall, while the process of re-districting is well defined, the conclusion should result in districts with competitive elections that are fair to both parties. While Oregonians may share many common values, there are differences in opinions on specific policy and the principle of common interest within geographic areas should be protected. Re-districting is always going to have controversy, but this year is highlighted with extreme partisanship and incomplete census data that add additional challenge. Thank you for your work on the matter and appreciate the opportunity to comment,

Respectfully,

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