

To: Chair Kathleen Taylor, Senate Committee on Redistricting
To: Chair Andrea Salinas, House Special Committee on
Redistricting
Re: Comments on the Oregon State 2021 redistricting process

Redistricting plans should be developed independent of the Legislature. Other states have had great success with such systems. We need to find ways to bring the citizens of Oregon together to address the issues of our times. Partisan political boundaries do not help that cause.

For the 2021 Oregon redistricting process in the seven months before the Census Bureau redistricting data is expected to be received, I urge the Legislature to at least create an independent citizens' advisory commission, as more than a dozen other states have already done.

I support the League of Women Voters Oregon's recommendation to the Legislative Assembly to use this year's general session to propose for the 2022 ballot a Constitutional amendment creating a citizens' redistricting commission comparable to that proposed by People Not Politicians in 2020 (IP 57). More than 64,000 signatures demonstrate the popularity of IP 57 among Oregon voters.

Please help to bring some possibility for greater compromise and statespersonship back to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Russ Karow

Congressional District 4