

3/16/2021

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

For the record my name is Mackenzie Roberts, my pronouns are she/her/hers and I live in District 17 in Washington County. I am a lifelong Oregonian, however Beaverton only recently became my home in July 2020. After getting my Master's degree in Chicago, the first thing I've noticed about Beaverton is the stark segregation of wealth, and the lack of community based resources and walkability associated with suburban living. To me, there is a disconnect of what joins this community together, and the separation of resources impacts my area deeply.

- Throughout this process I believe these three key things should be at the forefront of consideration: 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) The ability to feel represented in your district
- I am extremely lucky to be able to have found a stable job in a pandemic, however I know for a fact members in this community, people I know and people I don't, are struggling here. I also know that the people in the shiny houses on the hill a few blocks away from me aren't living in anywhere close to the same reality I'm experiencing. Beyond this, I understand the people struggling far worse than me did not have access to the same education and resources I did, directly due to how issues such as redistricting have impacted wealth and support in their community.
- Oregon had great resources like the PSU Population Research Center to start looking considering important data, like the American Community Survey, school districts, and housing developments data. This can give us a chance to start the process before the census data is available and then re-engage the community with maps made using census data.
- Oregon has a history of discrimination against BIPOC folks. We know that BIPOC communities have voted as blocks, ensuring this continues is the utmost importance.

I look forward to working with this committee, the Oregon legislature and our communities to ensure that redistricting engages low income 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, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Mackenzie Roberts