



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

Board of Commissioners

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10 South Oakdale, Room 214
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March 16, 2021

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair
State of Oregon
Senate Committee On Redistricting
900 Court Street NE, S-423
Salem OR 97301

Representative Andrea Salinas, Chair
State of Oregon
House Special Committee On Redistricting
900 Court Street NE, H-282
Salem OR 97301

RE: 2020 Decennial Redistricting

Dear Chair Taylor, Chair Salinas, and Members of the Committees on Redistricting:

We, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, believe that decennial redistricting is one of the most important functions currently entrusted to the legislature. We believe that the following must be considered as the legislature performs the 2020 decennial redistricting:

- Communities of common interests are required to be considered in determining districts. Constituents in rural communities care about similar things, such as natural resource management, land use, crop production, water, livestock production, natural disaster planning, government regulation, taxation, and transportation. Draw the districts to ensure that all voices have an opportunity to be represented.
- The law prohibits districts from being drawn to favor a political party; however, the current districts appear to reflect the opposite. Currently, 80 percent of the United States Congressional Districts in Oregon, 60 percent of Oregon State Senatorial Districts, and 61 percent of Oregon State House of Representative Districts are represented by candidates registered with the Democratic Party. In comparison, during the last statewide gubernatorial election in 2018, Kate Brown, the Democratic Party candidate, only received 50.05 percent of the vote and, as of January 2021, only 35.5 percent of registered voters in Oregon are registered with the Democratic Party. Draw the districts to ensure that all parties are treated equal and stop, what appears to be, the obvious favoritism afforded to one party in the current districts.

Chair Taylor
Chair Salinas
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- The legislature should consider creating a nonpartisan redistricting committee to ensure that the districts comply with the requirements of the Oregon Constitution and Oregon law.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Rick Dyer

Rick Dyer, Chair

/s/ Dave Dotterer

Dave Dotterer, Commissioner

/s/ Colleen Roberts

Colleen Roberts, Commissioner

:jb/ah

By Email Only (oregon.redistricting@oregonlegislature.gov)