

March 16, 2021

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 independently of the Legislature. A long-standing goal for both the LWVOR and LWVUS is using independent Citizens' Redistricting Commissions in this process. Responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.

For the 2021 Oregon redistricting process during the seven months before the Census Bureau redistricting data is expected to be received, **I urge the Legislature to at 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 on the 2022 ballot a Constitutional amendment creating a citizens' redistricting commission** comparable to that proposed by People Not Politicians (PNP) in 2020 (IP 57). More than 64,000 signatures demonstrates the popularity of IP 57 among Oregon voters.

Warmly,

R.K. Smith, District 4