

For the record my name is Kenneth Hayes, my pronouns are he/him and I live in Yamhill county OR. I have lived in Yamhill county for five years and in Oregon for over twenty years. Yamhill county is a special place that has a unique rural farming ethos different from Washington county. As I live in south Gaston very close to the northern border of Washington/Yamhill counties, I'm concerned about the county lines being redrawn farther south by redistricting. If any lines are redrawn in this area, they should be redrawn farther north into Gaston/Cherry Valley, which has far more in common with Yamhill than Washington county. My neighbors and friends out here appreciate this rural community and our land use laws that protect our water supply by not allowing new rural development that stresses our resources and infrastructure. The farms and farming equipment on the roads stop in South Forest Grove. That is a community with a common interest, farming and working lands.

Oregon has great resources like the PSU Population Research Center to start looking considering important 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. It should be noted that not having any examples of maps makes this process more difficult, giving something concrete to look at would help the community engage in this process.

Thank you very much for your time and work on this issue.

Sincerely,

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