

3/18/2021

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

For the record my name is Maria Hinojos Pressey, my pronouns are she/her/hers and I live in Marion County, District 5. I've lived here for nearly 4 four years, and I'm very proud that this is where I'll be raising my daughter. There's a vibrant latinx community, and this district is growing. It's important to me to live in an area where my family can communicate, a place that speaks my original language, and have folks have the same lived experiences as us.

The community that I live in is predominantly Latinx, and we can all go to Fruteria la Cabana on Portland Rd for our produce, and some amazing food at the food carts there as well. I know that once my daughter is old enough to attend the Salem/Keizer school district, she'll be able to attend with all the friendly faces we've come to know every day. I believe this community should stay together, so we can make sure we're uplifting our Latinx community, and ensure they have access to the necessary resources they deserve.

And this is why we care about redistricting. I believe that this committee should center the most impacted communities in this process. I care about my community and want to feel represented in all levels of governance. It's impacted communities need to be centered in the process and outcome.

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. Oregon has great additional resources like the PSU Population Research Center, the American Community Survey, school districts, and housing developments 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.

I look forward to working with this committee, the Oregon legislature and our communities to ensure that redistricting engages our BIPOC community 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.

Maria Hinojos Pressey