

4/8/2021

Testimony to Senate Committee on Redistricting

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

For the record my name is Walt Mintkeski, and I live in SE Portland in HD41. I have lived in my current home since 1975.

I urge you to move forward with the redistricting process now without waiting for the 2020 Census data, the delivery of which has been delayed by the Covid pandemic and efforts by the Trump Administration to exclude undocumented persons. Delay of the process until the Census data is available risks throwing our orderly election process into chaos: Candidates may not be able to file in the districts where they live, and may not have time to organize and run effective campaigns. In addition, voters may be confused about for which candidates they can vote.

There is more than adequate and accurate population data for the Legislature to use in the redistricting process. Oregon has access to credible data from sources such as the PSU Population Research Center, the American Community Survey, and school districts, which can be used to draw preliminary maps. After the census data is available, the committee can make any necessary adjustments to these maps based on community input received between now and then.

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

Walt Mintkeski
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