

My husband and I are retired community college instructors who have lived in the Gilbert area of outer Portland between SE Powell and Foster for 42 years. Ours has always been a diverse neighborhood, but infill has greatly increased the population and ethnic diversity here.

On the district map, there is an odd hump north of the rural areas of Clackamas County that includes our urban area in SR District 51. Our state representative lives in Happy Valley, which differs from the Gilbert area in many ways:

- Abundant new, upscale construction vs. older, modest homes and low-income apartments
- New malls with grocery stores and restaurants vs. a food desert
- New city buildings, schools, and parks vs. aging public facilities and a historic dearth of services

In addition, our current state senate district, number 26, includes a large rural area to the east that extends north to Hood River.

- Our state senator is a cherry farmer who lives in Hood River
- His opponent in the last election lived in Hood River
- They have little in common with our neighborhood in
 - Population density
 - Ethnic diversity
 - Urban issues
 - County residence

FYI, researchers have developed formulas that “generate thousands of potential legislative district maps, each of which conforms to state and federal laws governing how districts must be drawn” for the ACLU. (*ACLU Magazine*, Winter 2021, p.12)

We are hopeful that redistricting will result in a community of common interest in which our elected officials can actually know and represent us.

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