

Re: House Special Committee On Redistricting & Senate Committee On Redistricting

1. The central requirement in redistricting is ensuring that ALL Oregon citizens and residents are represented fully and equally.
2. For a representative democracy to succeed, it is critical that all Oregonians, regardless of party affiliation, race-ethnicity, age, religion, or other demographics—know that their voice is represented in true equity throughout Oregon government.
3. Critical to the democratic process of deliberation and decision-making is the opportunity for MINORITIES to present their needs and opinions for consideration, to have a meaningful seat at the table.
4. The challenge in redistricting is balance—that simultaneously appreciates majority determination while truly serving all.
5. Too much priority is often placed on winning. Comprehensive inclusion and care for minority concerns is key to acceptance of majority decisions by minorities and their continued cooperation and support of government.
6. Redistricting boundaries are at best a very course and flawed attempt to achieve representation. They are a two-dimensional map that cannot account for simultaneous multidimensional variables and their interaction.
7. The five redistricting criteria identified in ORS 188.010 and census demographics are only approximations, intended to help achieve items 1-5 above. It is the spirit of those principles, not the mere letter of legal redistricting criteria, that should guide how Oregon determines its CD, HD, SD, and precinct boundaries.
8. The delayed release of detailed 2020 census data is a wreck. The Oregon legislature, Secretary of State, and courts must do everything in their power to modify and adjust for how that fiasco undermines the intent of constitution and law to rebalance representation for the next decade.
9. While the opportunity for residents to testify in hearings today, including the guidance provided by [How to Testify Effectively](#), it is patently unreasonable to expect such testimony, particularly without resident access to and study of up-to-date detailed census data, to be considered as sufficiently informed as the basis for determining redistricting boundaries.
10. Without access to that census data, much of today's testimony is qualitatively reduced, to anecdotal impressions and less quantitatively documentable conclusions. We are testifying more with fingers held up to sense the weather than with the benefits of a compass or GPS.
11. Additional hearings inviting input from Oregon residents, that allow for their timely study of updated census data and response to drafted boundary proposals—are necessary.
12. It is folly for the legislature or Secretary of State to rush the redistricting process without fully comprehensive and thorough a) study of 2020 census data and b) deliberation to determine optimal boundaries to achieve the principles outlined in items 1-5 above.
13. Whether impending elections should continue with current boundaries or a temporary intermediate system—until final redistricting can be determined by reliable data and process—must also be thoughtfully considered.

Respectfully submitted,

April 10, 2021

Gary Lietke, member Election Integrity study group, Democratic Party of Multnomah County

The Election Integrity study group advocates fiercely to guard and advance election integrity policy and practice that ensures fair and equal voices of all citizens, and represents all residents, including the underrepresented and marginalized.