

To whom it may concern:

REGARDING REDISTRICTING -

Distinguished members of this Redistricting Committee Hearings:

My name is Ivonne Rivero and I am a homecare worker. I have lived in the Portland area for over 20 years. I moved to this area in order to be close to my family. The ecology, natural beauty and low density of the region were most attractive. Most of my work experience has been with the Latinx communities of the region.

I'm grateful for this space and that the legislature is leading this process and is going to such great lengths to take public comment. The public's input is important to drawing fair lines. Our communities are growing, and civic engagement and participation is important, we need to be fairly represented along those lines.

Our landscape and community is changing. In my area, we are seeing developments, but we are also seeing a lot of people who are dispossessed, and I am not speaking of the many immigrant communities who have found a home in East Portland. The economic shift that now considers real estate as the "new economy" is driving a lot of Portlanders -of all ages- out of their homes, pre-COVID.

I see increasingly denser populations, more traffic. New Americans, of all languages and origins, families where both mom and dad work two or more jobs in order to be able to pay for their rents and expenses. Many women in the middle and lower-middle class had to let go of employment to be able to manage during this ongoing pandemic. I am seeing mothers taking care of 4 children, sometimes even taking care of other families' children, children belonging to several school districts, not just PPS, but Centennial and others, to be safe. I have heard that this pandemic is causing two or more families to share one roof.

This process is important to me because I know that you legislators have the opportunity to shape what sort of representation communities like mine, as well as other communities of workers and middle class families, culturally and language specific communities will have in the legislature and in congress for the next decade. We are aware that representation impacts everything from what laws are passed to which infrastructure projects get funded to help our communities thrive, to how much funding our cities and counties and districts receive from the state and from congress.

I'm supportive of the legislature's role in redistricting. I believe that our open, accountable, deliberate process has allowed for fair district boundaries decade after decade. The legislature, followed by the courts and Secretary of State, should lead redistricting and not an independent commission that is rushed and thrown together to appease political pressure. .

I would encourage you to keep listening to us, the public as much as possible. That includes making sure that working people, lower and middle-class families, Black, Indigenous and other

people of color, and more have a greater chance to participate in meaningful ways in this process. That will require true education and time spent engaging communities.

I would also Encourage the legislature to start NOW, not wait for census data. There is reliable and reputable data, including from PSU's population center, which is an official census partner, that the committee should begin considering right away so that we can hit the ground running when Census data arrives this fall.

Thanks so much for the opportunity and for your time.

Sincerely,

Ivonne Rivero
SE PORTLAND

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