

Saturday, April 10, 2021

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

For the record my name is Dyvisha Gordon and my pronouns are she/her/hers. I live in Multnomah County and Congressional District 3.

I have lived in North Portland for almost my entire life. I was raised in the St. Johns Neighborhood by my great-grandparents, Wilbert and Ella. Even though I have lived throughout many regions in Oregon, North Portland is *home*. I unearned my love of learning at John Jacob Astor Elementary school. I celebrated the coming of my firstborn child at Columbia Park—my kid and I still enjoy visiting that park, and all the amazing parks throughout North and Northeast Portland, especially when live concerts or family-focused events were happening. This area means so much to me and my family and I would be remiss if I did not take the time to offer some words to ensure the process of redrawing lines centers the voices of the BIPOC community, especially the Black community.

The ever changing racial demographic of my area is evident and has been well-documented over the past few decades. Yet, the community still continues to show up and show out at the Pan-African Festival, Juneteenth celebrations in the North and in the numbers, and the Good in the Hood events. Our community continues to support each other, share resources, and organize for change wherever we are, despite a long withstanding history of exclusion laws and practices within the state. This is why it is vital that you consider race and other factors when redrawing lines in this region. I encourage legislators to be transparent about the process, make information accessible, engage with the public to ensure we are all well-informed about this complicated process, and, most importantly, that when the lines are redrawn, political representation reflects *all community* members.

I look forward to working with this committee, to ensure that redistricting engages the Black community and that it responds to our growing needs.

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

Dyvisha Gordon