

CD-5 testimony for 4/10

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

My name is Jackie Leung. I am a Salem City Councilor and the Executive Director & Public Health Advocate with the Micronesian Islander Community. I have been a resident of Salem for 10 years. I reside in HD19 and SD10. Today, I am here to speak with you about redistricting and why it is important to people within your/our community.

As some of you are aware, Oregon has a long history of white supremacy. It is no secret. Yet, many Oregonians continue to be unaware of the unjust history in this state. Oregon's growing population demonstrates our communities resilience and ability to continue to grow. Over the past 30 years, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (or BIPOC for short) have continued to grow and call Oregon home. Since 2010, now in Oregon, 1 in 4 people now identify as BIPOC. When the 2020 census is released, we will continue to witness a growing trend.

For example, my community participates in Asian and Pacific Islander activities throughout the state. Every year, the State Capitol Foundation hosts an annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month event and Cherry Blossom Celebration. Willamette University also hosts annual cultural celebrations including the Sakura Matsuri and Lu'au. These are examples of events that celebrate the AAPI community that my family and people from my community attend/participate in.

Yet, our political representation in elected office does not mirror what Oregon communities look like. Some Oregon cities with significant populations of color have no representatives of color on school boards, or city councils or county commissions. In Salem, I was the only person of color on council until recently. Now there are two people of color on the council. However, we are only the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> who have been on council to our knowledge who are BIPOC. This is unacceptable. The lack of representation is seen from the local elected offices to the state, where now only 13 leaders of color serve at the state level.

As we move forward with the process of redistricting, this is where your vote matters most. This was an extremely fast timeline and only provided opportunity for testimony at two virtual opportunities. This prevents people who have limited technological access, people who are English language learners, our homeless population, farm workers, and others from providing feedback. These individuals often identify as BIPOC. It is vital that we have as many representatives from our community participate in the process.

I look forward to working with this committee, the Oregon legislature and our communities to ensure that redistricting engages the Micronesian and Pacific Islander community and that it responds to our growing needs. The Legislature's process for engaging Oregon communities in redistricting is going to be critical.

Thank you very much for your time and work on this issue. Your support in ensuring the voices of all Oregonians are heard is much appreciated.