

House Bill 3537

Sponsored by Representative EVANS

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act states that two-thirds of House and Senate districts are to have +/- 5% parity in major party sign-ups for 2031 and later years, where sound. The Act is referred to voters to say yes or no at the Nov. 2026 election. (Flesch Readability Score: 62.6).

Provides that, when reapportioning state House of Representatives and state Senate districts, elector registration from one major party shall be within five percentage points of the elector registration from the other major party, when practicable, so as to achieve five percent parity in at least 40 state House of Representatives districts and 20 state Senate districts. Provides that the major party parity factor shall be given greater weight than other listed factors to the extent permitted under the United States Constitution and federal law.

Refers the Act to voters for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to redistricting; amending ORS 188.010; and providing that this Act shall be referred to the
3 people for their approval or rejection.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 188.010 is amended to read:

6 188.010. The Legislative Assembly or the Secretary of State, whichever is applicable, shall con-
7 sider the following criteria when apportioning the state into congressional and legislative districts:

8 (1) Each district, as nearly as practicable, shall:

9 (a) Be contiguous;

10 (b) Be of equal population;

11 (c) Utilize existing geographic or political boundaries;

12 (d) Not divide communities of common interest; and

13 (e) Be connected by transportation links.

14 (2) No district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent legis-
15 lator or other person.

16 (3) No district shall be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language
17 or ethnic minority group.

18 (4) Two state House of Representatives districts shall be wholly included within a single state
19 senatorial district.

20 **(5) Each state House of Representatives district and each state Senate district shall, as**
21 **nearly as practicable, contain elector registration from one major party that is within five**
22 **percentage points of the elector registration from the other major party, so as to achieve**
23 **parity within five percentage points in at least 40 state House of Representatives districts**
24 **and 20 state Senate districts. To the extent permitted under the United States Constitution**
25 **and federal law, this subsection shall be given greater weight than the factors described in**
26 **subsection (1) of this section.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **SECTION 2.** This 2025 Act shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection
2 at the next regular general election held throughout this state.
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