

## **I voted NO on SB 881 the Congressional Redistricting Plan because:**

This map proposes indefensible lines which are drawn in a way to give Democrats overrepresentation in Oregon's Congressional delegation. While the statewide electorate has never given Democrats 86% of the vote in contested elections, this map will likely give them 86% of Oregon's congressional delegation. The Willamette Week and the Oregonian (not conservative outlets) have noted how this plan disproportionately favors Democrats. The Willamette Week noted that the only way for Democrats to have 5 seats from Oregon in Congress would be through gerrymandering.

### **By every metric, this map is obviously designed to benefit the party in power**

According to the non-partisan redistricting analysis tool, DRA 2020 this map earns the rankings of:

- “Bad” for competitiveness (This means districts have been drawn in a way that advantages one party over another)
  - Oregonians deserve competitive districts that accurately represent the electorate
- “Very Bad” (a 0 on a scale of 100, in fact) for proportionality (or political fairness)
  - We heard in public testimony an overwhelming opposition to gerrymandering. This map doesn't even attempt to listen to that testimony.
- “Very Bad” for splitting
  - This map **splits 7 counties 9 times**. Plan B only split 4 counties. Plan B shows that respecting the oldest political boundaries by keeping counties together to the greatest extent possible is possible. This map in front of us decided to split them up in a way that advantages the majority party.
    - Republicans advocated for boundaries that respected the oldest, most recognized political boundaries in Oregon: counties.
  - To achieve an equal population, one would expect a congressional plan to split at least 5 precincts. These are the smallest community of interest there can be on these maps. But this plan chooses to **split 107 precincts** which unnecessarily split up neighborhoods.

### **Spreads out Portland's Influence, Diluting Rural Oregon's Voice**

- The Portland Metro area is divided into three congressional districts. Why?
  - Is it because Intel and Nike World Headquarters have so much in common with Tillamook's cattle ranches and Astoria's fisheries?
  - Is it because the Oregon Convention Center and Antelope or Madras are similar in their economic interests?
  - Is it because the well-being of the Warm Springs Tribe depends on the light rail system in Portland?
  - It's obvious why these districts were drawn the way they were, and it has nothing to do with the legal criteria.
- 15% of Oregon's total population lives within the City of Portland. Under the proposed Congressional Map, 33% of Oregon's congressional delegation will represent portions of the City of Portland.

### **Created Nonsensical, Artificial Boundaries**

- ORS 188.010 requires us as legislators to use, to the greatest extent possible, utilize existing geographical and political boundaries.
  - CD 6's eastern boundary makes the least sense of them all:
    - Follows I-5, cuts a golf course in half in Woodburn, starts following HWY 99E/Portland Road, cuts through the City of Salem in two places, then starts following the Willamette River until it starts west along the southern Polk county line
  - CD 5's northeast boundary—Good luck finding a legal, logical, of justifiable reason for this one:
    - Splits up the city of Portland, splits 5 school districts in Multnomah and Clackamas County on its way over the Cascades
    - Follows 9 different roads and one creek on its way out of the City of Portland; follows 14 different roads, two creeks, one Bureau of Land Management Unit, and randomly cuts through the wilderness to get through Clackamas County.
  - CD 4 uses no discernable political or geographical boundary to cut Douglas County in half
    - Cuts the Cow Creek Tribe into two districts

#### **Shores up Democratic Districts to Protect Democratic Incumbents**

- According to the non-partisan redistricting analysis tool, DRA 2020, current CD 4's composite election results from 2012 to 2018 was 49% Democratic – 46.6% Republican.
  - This proposed CD 4 is now a 10-point Democrat advantage.
- CD 5 currently is a 3% Democrat advantage. Now it is an 8.9% Democrat advantage.

Sincerely,

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