

State of Oregon: House and Senate Redistricting Committees

Ensuring Your Testimony is Effective

A great way to make your voice heard during the redistricting process is by providing oral testimony. To make sure your testimony is effective, plan to keep **your statement under three minutes** (you can also submit longer written testimony). In addition, **be sure to focus on the following factors** that the Legislature must consider when drawing district lines:

- What are the **existing geographic or political boundaries** where you live that are important and shouldn't be divided?
- What are the “**communities of interest**” where you live and are you a member of any of these communities?
- What are the key **transportation links** where you live?
- What are ways to ensure that new districts are **contiguous** and of **equal population**?

Structuring Your Testimony:

Below is an example of how you might structure your testimony. You don't have to follow this example exactly but remember to **state your name at the start** and **keep your testimony under three minutes**.

Introduce Yourself:

- State your name for the record.
- Describe yourself and any organizations with which you are working.

Describe Your Community:

- What are the significant landmarks: rivers, highways, parks, shopping areas, historic sites, etc.
- What are the gathering places: shopping districts, schools, community centers, religious places, and social service agencies?
- Do the current district boundaries divide your community or keep it together?

Describes What Makes Your Community Unique:

- Why is it important that your community be recognized and kept together?
- If available, use data on income, education, housing, etc. to compare your neighborhood to ones nearby.
- Has your community come together to advocate for common interests or important services? What have those been?

Brief Closing

- If you have time, quickly restate the parts of your testimony you feel are most important.