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Redistricting Chairs Laud Oregon Supreme Court Decision

SALEM – Today, the Oregon Supreme Court granted the Oregon Legislature’s Petition of Mandamus, giving the Legislature an extended deadline to complete state legislative redistricting. The new deadline of September 27, 2021 will allow the Legislature to wait for the release of the 2020 Census enumeration data so that it can serve as the centerpiece of the 2021 redistricting process.

Following the [request for action from the bipartisan group of chairs and vice-chairs](#) of the legislative Redistricting committees, Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem) and Speaker of the House Tina Kotek (D-Portland) filed the petition with the Oregon Supreme Court on March 10.

“The principle of ‘one person, one vote’ is fundamental to our democracy and the entire undertaking of redistricting,” said Senator Kathleen Taylor (D-Portland), chair of the Senate Committee on Redistricting. “Now that the Supreme Court has granted an extension to the deadline, the Legislature can protect that principle by using the accurate and detailed population counts and demographic information from the 2020 Census data as the foundation for our redistricting.”

The U.S. Census Bureau has advised Oregon leaders that it will deliver redistricting data from the 2020 Census in mid-to-late August 2021. The Oregon Supreme Court provided a new deadline of September 27, 2021 for the Legislature to enact new state legislative districts and adjusted the timeline for legal review of the redistricting process. In the event that the Legislature does not enact new legislative districts by September 27, the Secretary of State must enact new legislative districts by October 18, 2021.

“Working with precise information is critical to ensuring Oregon’s BIPOC communities and other communities of interest are accurately represented and respected as the Legislature draws new legislative districts,” said Representative Andrea Salinas (D-Lake Oswego), chair of the House Special Committee on Redistricting and member of the BIPOC Caucus. “The legislative redistricting committees have received incredible public input from across the state during our hearings over the last month. This feedback will be critical as we await the release of Census data.”

Both Redistricting committee chairs expressed gratitude to the presiding officers for filing the petition and the Oregon Supreme Court for their thoughtful review. The chairs will continue to ensure widespread awareness and broad public participation as they continue the redistricting process in the months ahead.

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