

10.19.21 Redistricting subcommittee notes

Present: Christine Lewis, Shirley Craddick, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Anne Buzzini, Connor Ayers, Ramona Perrault, Tom Kloster, Ina Zucker, Victor Sin, Clint Chiavarini.

Councilor Gonzalez asked if community members would or could be included on the subcommittee.

Anne explained that the subcommittee is just made up of Councilors, but meetings with community based organizations would happen. She added that the committee is meant to be a working group that discusses the proposed criteria and reviews potential redistricting scenarios.

Councilor Craddick expressed a desire to keep specific communities in a single district to make it easier to reach out and engage with them.

Tom commented that Multnomah County gained a lot of population, and that growth in the region has been uneven. He noted that a lot of the new population is likely to be more diverse, and this could be an opportunity to give them a voice.

Councilor Lewis brought up the fact that keeping specific transit corridors together is listed in the criteria, but they will also likely be used as boundaries. She asked if there are any corridors with communities around them that would be good to keep together.

Anne noted that major roads often create dividing lines and that the Multnomah County Elections office requested that districts align with existing boundaries, and to not create very small districts.

Councilor Craddick spoke to the communities living in the Jade District and on both sides of 82nd avenue. She noted that having a dividing line along there could result in multiple councilors focusing on the area, which could be good.

Anne noted that the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon had requested that 82nd Avenue be kept whole, and suggestion instead using I-205.

Councilor Gonzalez asked if population estimates had been revised since they were first made, and what the target population is for the districts. He asked what changes might be made to improve the districts if they are all already within 5% of the target population.

Clint suggested that staff ask councilors if they have any issues with the existing maps and start there. He noted that Districts 1 and 4 are more than 5% outside of the target population. A potential redistricting scenario could focus on "minimal change". Another could focus on East Portland. He also suggested learning more about communities that are near boundaries or already split by them.

Councilor Gonzalez commented that the area east of highway 217 is more similar to Southwest Portland and feels less connected to Washington County.

Councilor Craddick expressed support for using I-205 as a border and keeping District 1 mostly within Multnomah County.

Councilor Lewis expressed support for using I-205 and I-84 as dividing corridors. She noted that the area in Southwest Portland around Multnomah Village lacks community centers and recently suffered from state redistricting. She argued that it shouldn't be any more broken apart, as its already divided between 3 Metro districts.

Councilor Gonzalez suggested expanding District 2 and making District 3 more focused on Washington County. He noted that Councilor Rosenthal in District 3 has fewer connections to Clackamas County.

Tom spoke to the transit districts in the area, noting that SMART is a part of Wilsonville and some of Clackamas County. He suggested keeping SMART in one district so that a single councilor can focus on it.

Councilor Craddick commented that Damascus and Boring had left TriMet, which created a large whole in that transit district, making it more difficult to consider transit district boundaries when drawing Metro districts.

Councilor Gonzalez commented that South Hillsboro is developing more and that it would be good to have Hillsboro as part of one district. One possibility is having District 4 be more focused around Farmington Rd, which would help cover Aloha. He expressed support for giving Aloha and unincorporated Washington County have more of a voice.

Clint noted that the Regional Transportation Plan equity map could help understand where communities live. He noted that the crash map is also closely aligned with the equity overlay.

Tom brought up the ongoing displacement in the region and suggested looking at vulnerable communities where gentrification could occur.

Councilor Lewis noted that the criteria are not prioritized and are there to guide the subcommittee in certain situations. She also noted that she is looking at more unusual scenarios, even if they are unlikely.

Tom reminded everyone that where councilors live should be taken into consideration, and that Metro is working to appoint someone to District 6.