

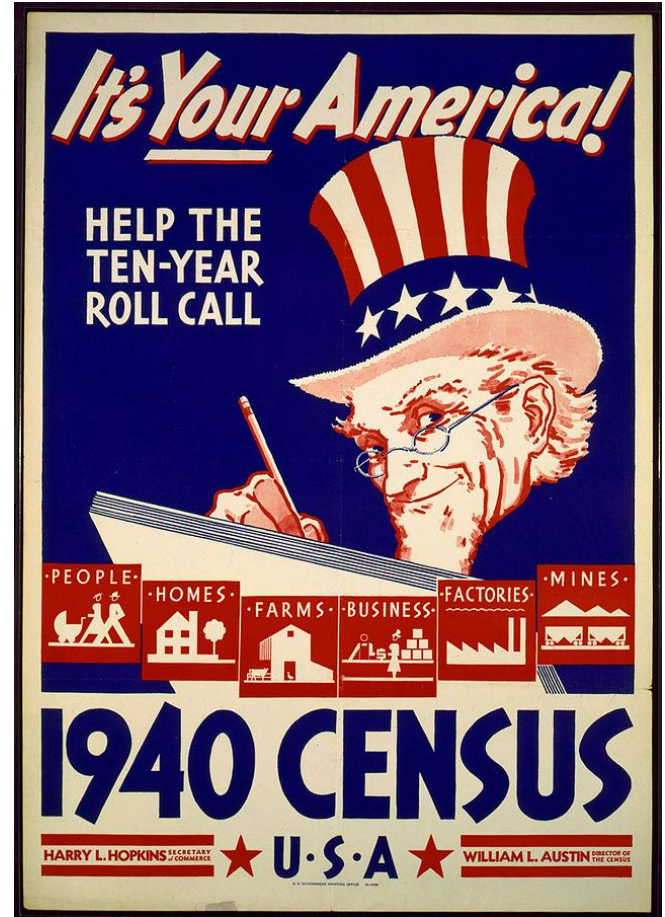
# Redistricting In Oregon

## A fair process benefits everyone

“Voters should be choosing their representatives, not representatives choosing their voters.”

# The Importance of the U.S. Census

- Required by the U.S. Constitution every ten years.
- Collects population data
- Used to distribute federal funds, grants, and support states, counties, and communities
- Over \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs are based on population data



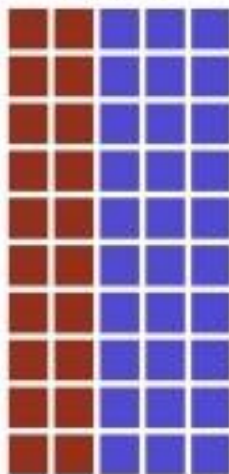
# What is Redistricting?

- States may then redraw the lines of both congressional and state legislative districts to reflect the most recent census.
- Redistricting changes districts to properly reflect the changes in numbers and interests of constituents.
- The goal is for each state to specialize their districts so that every vote counts equally and voters' opinions are represented.
- However, when legislators have control of where the lines get drawn, the risk of gerrymandering drastically increases.

# Gerrymandering, explained

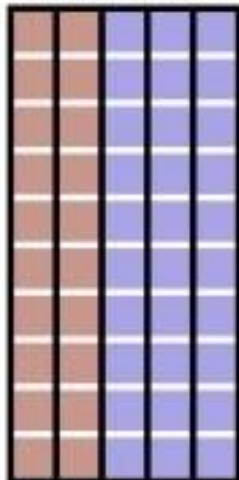
Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts

50  
people



**60% blue,  
40% red**

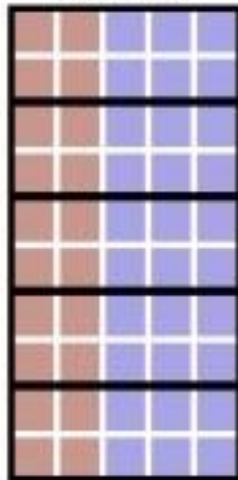
1. Perfect  
representation



**3 blue districts,  
2 red districts**

**BLUE WINS**

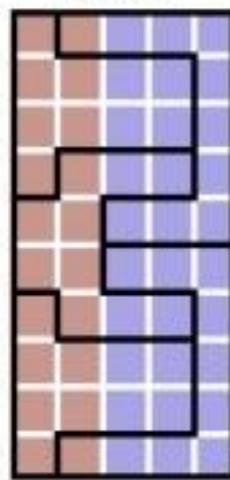
2. Compact,  
but unfair



**5 blue districts,  
0 red districts**

**BLUE WINS**

3. Neither compact  
nor fair



**2 blue districts,  
3 red districts**

**RED WINS**

# Three common types of Gerrymandering

**Partisan:** Where parties who are in control of the redrawing of districts do so in a way that solidifies or even increases the number of seats of their party in the legislature.

**Bipartisan:** Where typically where both parties are represented in the decision making process and negotiate or trade in order for each party to have a certain number of safe districts to protect their respective interests.

**Racial:** Refers to a process in which district lines are drawn to prevent racial minorities from electing their preferred candidates.

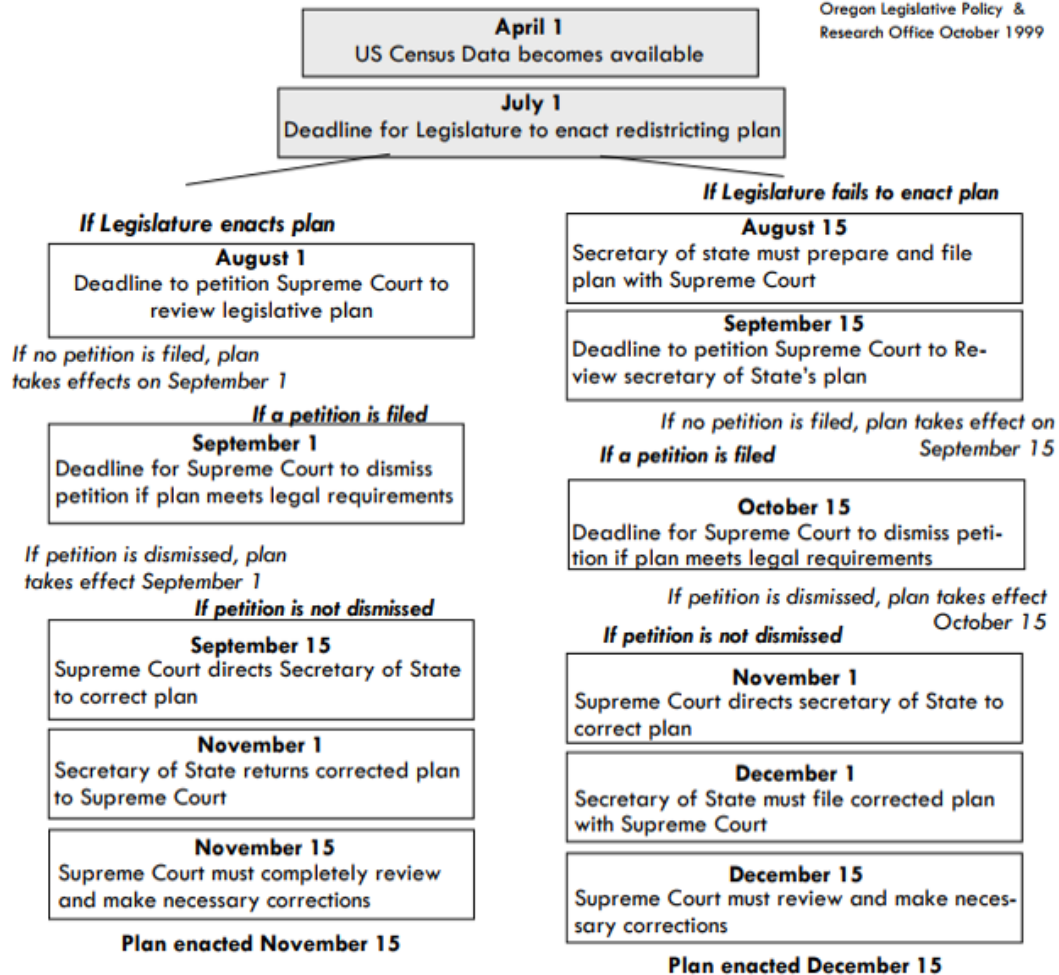
# The Current Oregon Redistricting System

Oregon uses the **Legislative Redistricting Model** to draw district lines, which uses a very similar process to how bills are passed through the legislature.



## How We Redistrict in Oregon: Deadlines given in the Oregon Constitution

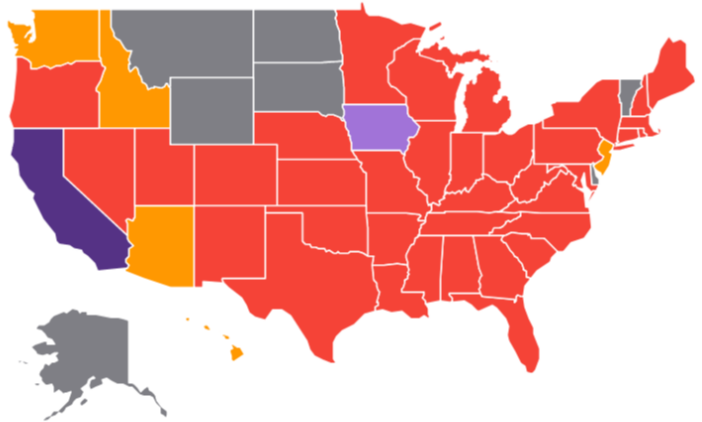
Oregon Legislative Policy &  
Research Office October 1999



# How do other states run their redistricting process?

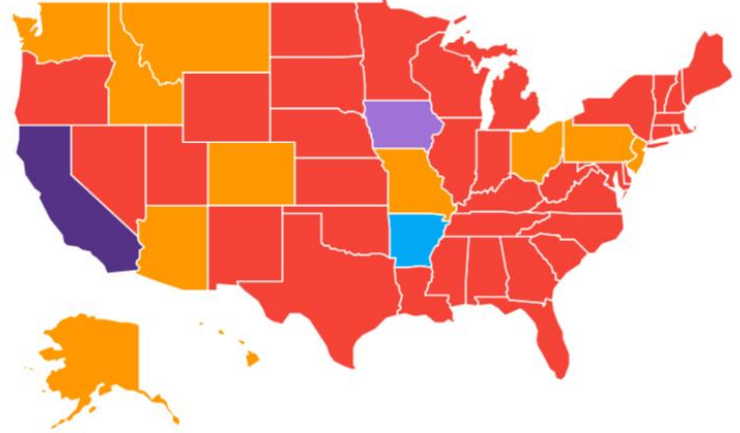
- Most use the **Legislative Model**

Congressional Redistricting Breakdown:



● State legislature ● Bipartisan commission ● Citizens' commission  
● Panel of civil servants ● N/A

State Legislature Redistricting Breakdown:



● State legislature ● Bipartisan commission ● Executive commission  
● Citizens' commission ● Panel of civil servants



# The Commission Model

There are many different forms depending on the state, but their creators share the common goal of reducing the potential for partisan, bipartisan, incumbent-protection, or other types of gerrymandering.

- 5 states use an **advisory commission**
- 7 states use an **independent commission** as a backup
- 2 states use an **independent commission**
- 2 states use a **politician commission**
- 9 States use a **political appointee commission**

# What Criteria are used for Redistricting in Oregon?

## Federally Required Criteria

- Each district must be of equal population size
- The Voting Rights Act requires majority-minority districts if applicable
- Districts must be contiguous (all parts must be connected).
- Congressional districts must be single-membered

# What Criteria are used for Redistricting in Oregon?

1. Each district, as nearly as practicable, shall:
  - a. Be contiguous;
  - b. Be of equal population;
  - c. Utilize existing geographic or political boundaries;
  - d. Not divide communities of common interest; and
  - e. Be connected by transportation links.
2. No district shall be drawn for the purpose of:
  - a. Favoring any political party or incumbent legislator
  - b. Diluting voting strength
3. Nesting

# Oregon Redistricting History

Prior to the Oregon Legislature's success in 2011, 1981 was the last time the Legislature successfully passed a redistricting plan, but following a lawsuit the lines were later modified by the Secretary of State. Before 2011, the last time the Oregon Legislature passed a redistricting plan that became the final adopted plan was 1911.



# Overall problems with current system

- Unrealistic, short timeline
- Splitting of legislative and congressional redistricting duties
- The review process
- Politicization of process
- There is an inherent conflict of interest

# Goals of Reform?

- Change who draws the lines
- Change where lines get drawn
- Increase transparency and public participation
- Close loopholes and clarify requirements



# What is the Proposed Reform?

## A Multipartisan Independent Commission

Amend the Constitution of the State of Oregon by repealing the legislative model for an Independent Commission Model to be enacted by the 2021 redistricting session.

This reform is based on the California model and focuses on creating a commission of normal bipartisan citizens who do not have an inherent conflict of interest in drawing district lines.

# The Applicant Review Panel

**Will be created by:** The Secretary of State, who shall randomly draw names from a pool of all retired judges to sit on the applicant review panel in order to screen applicants for the commission until three are drawn with these requirements:

- 1 who has been registered for at least two years with the largest political party in this state
- 1 who has been registered for at least two years with the 2nd largest political party in this state
- 1 who has not been registered within the last two years with either of the two parties above



# How would Commission Applicants be Screened?

Conflicts of interest from the applicant pool will be removed if they are or were related to an immediate family member who was in the last 5 years:

- Appointed or elected to, or ran as a candidate for, a federal or statewide office.
- An officer, employee or paid consultant of a political party or of a campaign committee
- An elected or appointed member of a political party central committee.
- A registered federal, state or local lobbyist.
- A paid employee of the Legislature, Congress, or executive branch
- A contributor of \$2,000 or more in money, loans or in-kind contributions

# The Selection of Commissioners

The applicant review panel will narrow down the applicants into three pools:

- A. 20 applicants who are registered with the largest political party
- B. 20 applicants who are registered with the second largest political party
- C. 20 applicant who are not registered with either of the two largest political parties

In public the Secretary of State will then randomly draw 7 names to serve as commissioners as follows:

- A. 2 from the largest political party
- B. 2 from the second largest political party
- C. And 3 who are not registered with either parties

# The Selection of Last Commissioners

Then the first 7 commissioners that were selected will review the remaining applicants for balance and skills, and by a majority, vote for the 4 remaining commissioners as follows:

- 1 from the largest political party
- 1 from the second largest political party
- And 2 who are not registered with either of the two largest parties

The commission will then select a Chair and Vice Chair and start the process of gathering public input and redrawing district lines.

# The Final Commission

**The final 11-member commission will then have:**

- 3 members of the largest political party in OR
- 3 members of the next largest political party in OR
- 5 members who are not members of the two largest political parties in OR

# How would the Independent Commission operate?

- Comply with state law governing public records and meetings
- Actions require a vote of 7 or more and 7 commissions constitutes quorum.
- Hold at least 10 hearings before proposing a final map
- At least 1 hearing must be held in each congressional district before approval
- Members will not communicate with or receive communications outside of public hearings about redistricting matters.

# Commission's Required Criteria

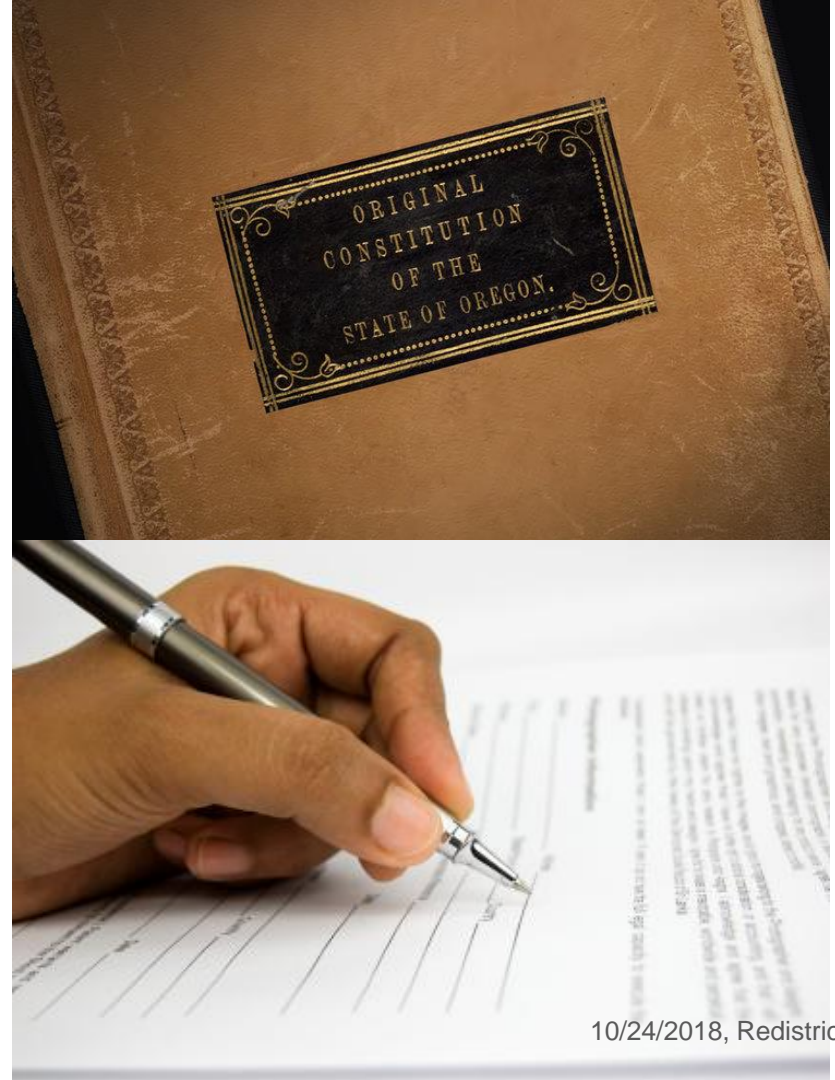
- Comply with the U.S Constitution and Voting Rights Act
- Be Geographically contiguous
- Achieve population equality per member elected as nearly as is practicable

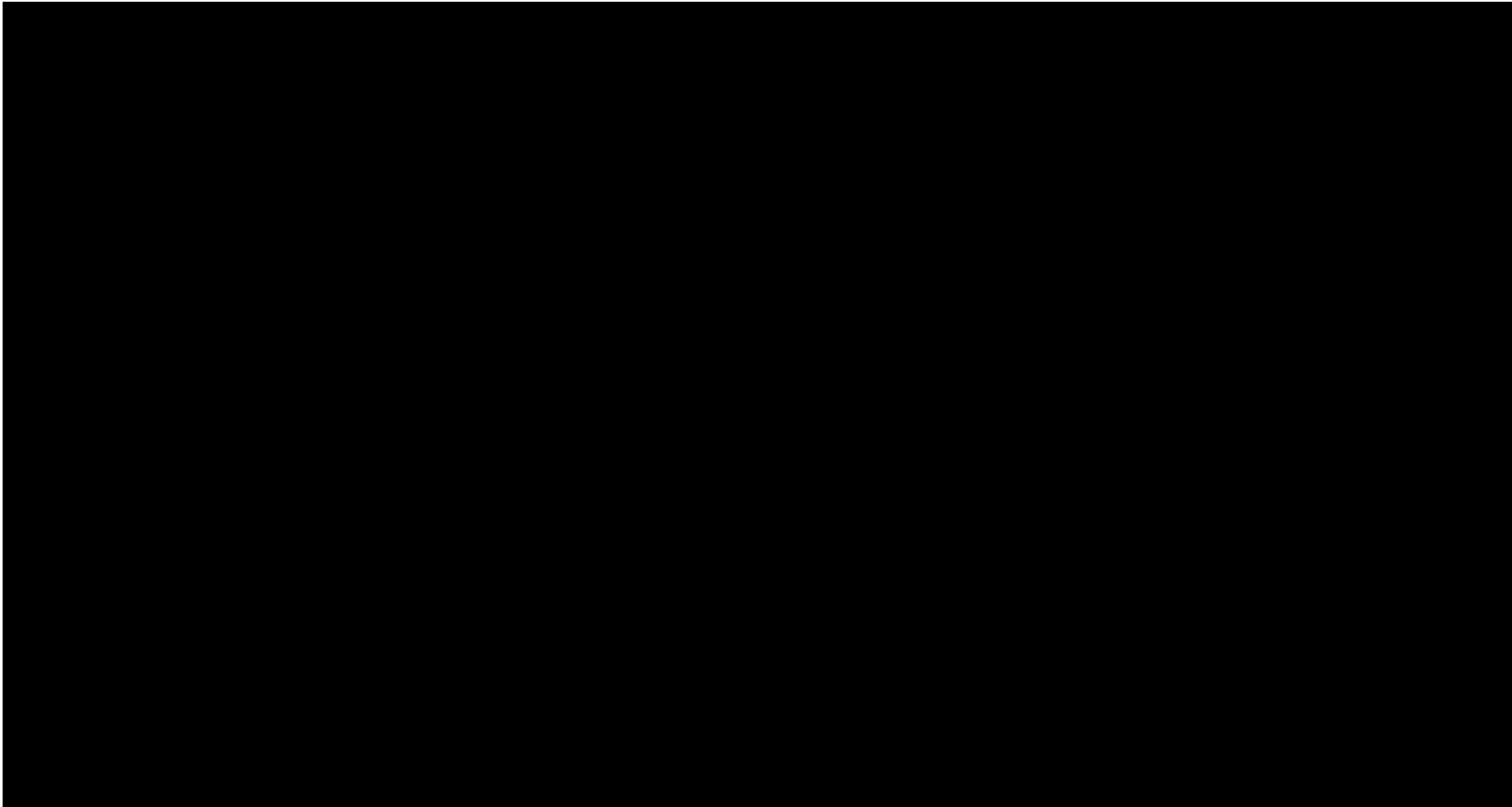
## **To the extent practicable, redistricting maps shall:**

- Achieves both partisan fairness and competitiveness;
- Preserve geographic integrity
- Establish district boundaries that follow permanent and easily recognizable geographic features;

# How Can Oregon Enact Redistricting Reform?

In order to change the redistricting process there will have to be an Oregon constitutional amendment. The process for a constitutional amendment either goes through the legislature as a referral or as an initiative.







# What Is Next?

Participate in the Census in 2020!

If you are interested in joining the movement please contact:

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Visit our website at: [www.redistrictingmatters.org](http://www.redistrictingmatters.org)

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