

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES, REDISTRICTING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 10, 2001  
2:30 PM

EUGENE  
Tapes 68 - 69

## HOUSE MEMBERS

**PRESENT:**  
Rep. Carl Wilson, Chair  
Rep. Richard Devlin  
Rep. Bill Garrard  
Rep. Steve March  
Rep. Joanne Verger  
Rep. Cheryl Walker

**VISTING MEMBERS:**  
Rep. Phil Barnhart  
Rep. Cedric Hayden  
Rep. Vicki Walker

**STAFF PRESENT:**  
Marjorie Taylor, Committee Administrator  
Jennifer Goodman, Committee Assistant

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:** REDISTRICTING

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These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

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TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
<b>TAPE 68, A</b>		
001	Chair Wilson	Opens the public hearing on redistricting at 2:33 p.m. Reviews the redistricting meeting schedule. Committee introductions.
032	Chair Wilson	Reviews the number of legislative members under the new district lines. States that Memorial Day Weekend is the goal for having the redistricting plan on the Governor's desk.
051	Don Carlton	Lives in House District 4 and Senate District 2. Submits <b>(EXHIBIT A)</b> . Explains that his neighbors live in a different district than he. Describes his community as containing forests and watersheds. Suggests that district lines follow the watershed line. Points out that they should look at the drainage. Explains that Lane County has done the same thing.
105	Nancy Nichols	Neighbor of Don Carlton. Submits and testifies from <b>(EXHIBIT B)</b> . Her neighbor lives "across the street" however, they are split into two house and senate districts. Believes that no rural communities should be cut in half. Explains that the roads define the areas. Refers to <b>(EXHIBIT B)</b> . Suggests that lines be cut through the forest at the ridge line.
137	Tom Wiper	Resides in House District 4. Believes that the continuity of the business community of interest should be maintained in downtown Eugene. Concerned with Downtown, Oak Way, Franklin Blvd., and Valley River. States that the river divides part of the district. Explains that the new bridge makes it possible to maintain a community of interest. Believes that there should be one representative for this area.

173	Jim Torrey	Mayor of Eugene. Submits <b>(EXHIBIT C)</b> . Explains that Eugene is divided into 8 city council wards. Explains that many people describe Eugene in the following sections: Sheldon High School area, North Eugene, Willamette High School, Churchill, and South Eugene. Explains that there are 21 elected/appointed officials in Eugene. Adds that 17 live South of the Willamette and East of Chambers Street. States that in ten years the representation of the entire city has been obliterated. Suggests using the river as a natural boundary. Explains that southerners are concerned with a hospital being close by. Points out that there are natural boundaries that can be used as district lines. Suggests taking politics out of the mix. Explains that he will be sending in some maps.
300	Rep. Devlin	Explains that the legislature has to follow one person one vote criteria.
302	Torrey	Explains that they have opportunities to group common areas of interest when redistricting the lines.
324	Rep. Devlin	Explains that they have not picked a specific criteria but they have discussed a criteria that would create districts within 1 percent of the population of one another. Adds that for Congressional Districts they have to get the accuracy within a handful of people.
318	Floyd Prozanski	Former Representative. Discusses land fills and the study that went into citing an area in Texas. Explains that communities of interest and natural and artificial boundaries are not exclusive determinates. Believes the economic core is very important when considering boundaries. Explains that the river is a central focal point for business. Believes we should retain District 41 which includes downtown, the hospital, Oak Way, Country Club Road, and Chad Road. Adds that the economic core should stay in one place. Explains that South Eugene is the education area that creates a distinct area. Urges the members to look at the mix between urban and rural communities of interest. Asks the members to look at the current lines and take these into consideration when drawing the new ones.
035	Bob Avery	Lane County resident. Agrees that the river is a natural dividing line. Wants to keep communities of interest together. Believes the Whitaker neighborhood should be made whole again. Believes that District 40 should be moved to the south to include S. River Road. Believes that the University should be one district. Suggests that rural District 40 should be combined with other southern districts. Suggests extending House Districts 39 and 41 into Linn and Benton Counties. Adds that House Districts 42 and 40 could be paired including downtown and urban areas. Suggests that House Districts 43 and 44 are rural areas that go together naturally.
105	Pete Sorenson	County Commissioner. Describes his background and interest in redistricting. Lane County has a problem because the Northwest corner is unincorporated. Explains that House District 4 comes into Lane county and since HD 47 has to add some population, the line should come up to the Lane County boundary. States that there are difficulties with House Districts 40, 43, and 41. Suggests moving House District 40 to the west. Adds moving House District 43 should go into South Eugene.

		Believes that Downtown and Central Eugene need to keep together communities of interest. Asks that they make only minor boundary changes and keep House District 41 intact. Believes that House District 40 should be urban district. Explains that they should add rural parts of House District 40 to House District 44 and 43. States that South Eugene does not have anything in common with rural communities. States that the 5 lane county commissioners should each sit in one District. States that he likes the time line of May so they can use the information as they move forward. Explains that the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Congressional District needs to lose 17,000 while the 4 <sup>th</sup> needs to gain 50,000. Suggest that Congressional District 4 drop down and absorb the 17,000 away from Congressional District 2. Explains that District 4 goes to the Polk line and up to the Santiam River, asks that the canyon be considered to be a community of interest. Adds that the 4 <sup>th</sup> . District should absorb the rest of the numbers from down the freeway (Roseburg and Grants Pass). Explains that the Whitaker area is a problem with three different House Districts including 39, 40, 41. Believes this historic community should not be split.
306	Representative Cedric Hayden	HD 43. Testifies on redistricting. Believes that we should maintain rural districts. States that transportation links HD 43 and HD 44. Suggests not crossing the crest of the Cascades. Believes that the coastal communities have common interests. Describes and shows maps of the districts in 1991(HD 38). Explains that it is a very large district but it worked well.
447	Kappy Eaton	League of Women Voters – Lane County. Submits <b>(EXHIBIT D)</b> . Explains that the Lane County population has increased unevenly. Explains that they should not break a part neighborhoods or communities of interest. Asks that they consider transportation, equal population, geographic and political boundaries, contiguous lines, and equal population. Supports only a small percentage of deviation. States that she will be monitoring the process.
033	Pete Kilger	Resident of Veneta. Believes in maintaining House Districts 43 and 44 as rural. Explains that these districts will have pressure form the south. Suggests that House District 40 should have its rural parts absorbed by House District 44. Believes that House District 43 will have to move north with other communities of interest. Explains that Junction City and Harrisburg have a common bond.
076	Jim Rice	Lives in House District 40. States that the river is not a dividing force. Asks to look at large businesses in House District 41. Explains that the bridge is easy to cross and that the Downtown area has common interests. Explains that House District 40 includes 2 college areas that should be together. Adds that Springfield and Eugene are distinctly different.
127	Jed McGuire	University of Oregon Student, House District 41. Explains that he does not want the district, that includes the two universities, to be split. Believes that the river unites and creates a community of interest.
150	Chair Wilson	Adjourns the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Jennifer Goodman,  
Committee Assistant

Marjorie Taylor,  
Committee Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A – Redistricting, oversized maps, Don Carlton**

**B – Redistricting, written testimony, Nancy Nichols, 3 pp.**

**C – Redistricting, written testimony and maps, James Torrey, 10 pp.**

**D – Redistricting, written testimony, Kappy Eaton, 1 p.**