

Public Hearing Forum on Redistricting of County Commission

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

5:45 -7:00 p.m.

**Multnomah County Board Room
501 SE Hawthorne, Portland, OR 97214**

The Multnomah County Auditor's Office is holding a public hearing on County Commission Redistricting.

What is redistricting, why do we do it, and how often?

Redistricting is the process of redrawing established commissioner district boundaries to account for changes in population following the U.S. Census, which occurs every ten years. As a result of population changes, the lines are redrawn so that districts are of roughly equal population, as required by the Multnomah County Home Rule Charter.

Multnomah County's Home Rule Charter requires the Auditor's Office to prepare a plan to modify the district boundaries after each decennial (ten year) census if the population of any Commissioner District exceeds 103% of any other Commissioner District. The plan must be presented to the Board by August 1, 2011.

Between 2000 and 2010, Multnomah County's population grew 11.3%, from 660,486 to 735, 334. Because of that change, the ideal district size for the four County districts also increased from 165,122 to a new target population of 183,834.

While every Commissioner District gained population over the last ten years, District 4, the East County District, grew the most and its population exceeds each of the other Districts by more than 103%. Additional information regarding specific population increases is available at the website: <http://web.multco.us/auditor/redistricting>

Why is a public hearing important?

The purpose of this hearing is to give the public an opportunity to view maps of the current and proposed districts and comment on characteristics within the districts that they believe should be considered during the redistricting process. The redistricting information can also be accessed on the Auditor's Office website at <http://web.multco.us/auditor/redistricting>.

Members of the community who will not be attending the public hearing are encouraged to send comments or questions to the Multnomah County Auditor's Office at mult.auditor@multco.us.

Other than drawing the Commission boundaries, what types of information can I get from the redistricting maps?

District maps will also include population numbers and demographic information such as race and ethnicity. We will provide a map of at least one option for redistricting new districts with the population and demographic information.

What other information is important to know about redistricting?

The Multnomah County Charter specifies that the Auditor's redistricting plan must retain the geographic characteristics of the existing districts as nearly as possible and no district can be greater than 102% of any other. Within that framework, the Auditor's Office will consider other common redistricting guidelines, such as those found in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 188.010). This includes using existing geographic or political boundaries where possible, considering communities of common interest, and not diluting the voting strength of any language or minority group. Public forum information is available at:

<http://web.multco.us/news/public-forum-may-3-redistricting-multnomah-county-commissioner-districts>

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