



Oregon's Kitchen Table – Clatsop County District Boundaries

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August of 2021, newly released 2020 US Census data showed that the number of people living in each of Clatsop County's five commissioner districts has shifted so that the populations of the boundaries are no longer equally balanced. The Clatsop County Charter outlines a timeframe of 120 days from release of the census data for the County to present to the Board adjustments to the boundaries so that the "total population is allocated nearly equally between the five districts; each of contiguous territory and as compact as possible." The County partnered with several programs from Portland State University's College of Urban and Public Affairs in order to provide independent analysis and recommendations to ensure – and to assure the public – that boundaries are not redrawn to benefit incumbent commissioners or other political factors. The County also wanted to make sure that members of the public would have opportunities to provide input into redistricting process.

One of the PSU programs, Oregon's Kitchen Table, worked with the County to conduct a public engagement process to hear from residents of Clatsop County about what was most important to them when considering changes to the county's district boundaries.

The executive summary provides an overview of the engagement process as well as high level findings. The attached report contains three sections:

- A description of the project’s outreach goals and design;
- Commonly held values and beliefs as well as disagreements;
- A brief conclusion; and
- Appendices, including annotated survey results and a summary of the public forums.

ABOUT OREGON’S KITCHEN TABLE

Oregon’s Kitchen Table is a program of the National Policy Consensus Center in the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University, and was created by a group of non-partisan, non-profit community organizations dedicated to helping Oregonians have a voice in public decision-making. Oregon’s Kitchen Table creates public consultations to allow Oregonians to weigh in on policy questions posed by elected officials and public managers. Oregon’s Kitchen Table has been used at the state, local and regional levels to gather feedback from a wide variety of Oregonians using both an online survey tool to solicit input from thousands of participants and in-person community gatherings of various sizes and formats. The online survey tool is not intended to be a scientific study; rather it is one way to allow the public to share ideas, beliefs, and values with decision-makers.

Using culturally specific and targeted outreach, Oregon's Kitchen Table has a particular focus on hearing from Oregonians who have been left out of traditional engagement processes. We work with organizers, translators, and interpreters so materials and online and in-person consultations are available for Oregonians who speak a wide variety of languages and learn in a variety of ways. We recognize that people bring all different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding issues and policies.

We use approaches to ensure those who may not have as in-depth knowledge can still respond and share what they believe and have experienced.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of this Oregon’s Kitchen Table project was to hear from people throughout Clatsop County about what matters most to them related to county district boundaries. In order to reach a number of different communities in different parts of the county, we designed a multi-faceted approach that also took into account existing

COVID restrictions. We held five public forums via Zoom during different days and times of day. We also offered an online survey in both English and Spanish. We conducted outreach to Spanish speaking and Latinx / Hispanic community members at two different vaccination clinics held by Consejo Hispano, a community-based organization focused on serving Spanish speaking and Latinx / Hispanic community members in Clatsop County.

The results of this engagement provide a sense of the values and beliefs held by those who participated at this particular time. Many people in Clatsop County at the time of this effort were focused on COVID-19 prevention, vaccination efforts, and related economic challenges. These ongoing demands are front and foremost for people and naturally require a considerable amount of time, energy and resources, leaving little capacity for other activities.

FINDINGS

The following commonly held perspectives emerged across various discussions, communities, geographic regions, and the responses through the online survey:

- Many participants have some knowledge of Clatsop County and their commissioners, but there is still some confusion about where the current district boundaries are.
- While slightly more people think that the current boundaries keep their community together rather than divide them, there were also many people who said they did not know whether the boundaries divided or keep their community together.
- It is important to people that districts are not drawn in a way that favors a political party or an incumbent candidate.
- Having equal numbers of people in each district is also important to people.
- People viewed either their city or their neighborhood as the primary communities to which they belonged, with their school district also serving as an important community.
- Participants thought it was important that cities or neighborhoods stay together as much as possible.

FUTURE ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

Given the time constraints that are required by the charter, the County may want to consider a more in-depth review of county district boundaries before the next US Census is conducted in 2030. A mid-decennial review of district boundaries could potentially provide the County with more time to involve residents in sharing both their values and beliefs and also allow time for the public to respond to specific boundary adjustment proposals.

SECTION 1: PROJECT GOALS AND DESIGN

ENGAGEMENT GOALS

The purpose of this project was to hear from people throughout the five different districts of Clatsop County about what mattered most to them regarding their county commissioner boundaries. We also wanted to create opportunities that made it easy for Spanish speaking community members to participate.

DESIGN/OUTREACH

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were limited in the types of engagement activities we were able to carry out, particularly because the charter sets out a short timeframe in which to make boundary changes. In order to reach people throughout the county, Oregon's Kitchen Table developed a multi-faceted set of engagement activities. OKT conducted five public forums in English via Zoom, hosted an online survey in both English and Spanish, and provided a set of survey questions in Spanish on paper to people at two COVID vaccination clinics.

Outreach for the public forums and the online survey was primarily conducted by Clatsop County through multiple channels, including through multiple email lists, county partners, the county website, an alert message, and social media. Outreach also included an email to Oregon's Kitchen Table email list and social media posts. Participants in the public forums were also invited to share the online survey with their networks.

Because this engagement is intended for the general public, it assumes that respondents bring different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding county government. It was our goal to ensure that those who may not have as in-depth knowledge can still respond and share what they believe and have experienced.

Across all three forms of engagement, people were given some background information about the need for Clatsop County to make adjustments to its district boundaries. People were also asked a question about how much they knew about the County and the commissioner districts. They were also asked a series of questions to get a sense of their priorities for criteria used in making decisions about district boundaries as well as some trade-off questions. People were given opportunities to share any other thoughts with county commissioners they might have. All participants were asked where they lived in Clatsop County. The online survey provided more detailed questions about demographics than either the paper survey or public forums did.

The public forums were designed as opportunities for the County to hear from residents about their priorities for their county commissioner boundaries. They were also designed for participants to hear from and learn from each other to gain a better understanding of what might matter to their fellow county residents. In this format, facilitators were able to ask people to explain their thinking or reasoning in more detail. Participants also had the chance to ask each other questions and to build off of one another's ideas. A summary of the discussions from these forums is attached as Appendix A.

Oregon's Kitchen Table was able to attend vaccination clinics held during the month-long engagement process in order to connect with Spanish speaking and Latinx / Hispanic community members. The clinics were organized by Consejo Hispano, a community-based organization that specifically serves Spanish speaking and Latinx / Hispanic community members in Clatsop County. An OKT team member fluent in Spanish attended the first clinic and then worked with a community health worker who organized a high school and college student volunteers to help people respond to

survey questions on paper at a second clinic. These were returned to OKT and incorporated with the other forms of input.

In our experience online surveys are efficient and cost-effective methods for reaching educated, primarily English speaking, and white people with digital literacy and accessibility. Particularly during COVID, we wanted to ensure that should people choose we had a method for quick, online participation. The online survey also included additional questions on Clatsop County communications and additional demographic questions. We focused on a shorter set of questions for both the paper surveys and public forums to make sure people were able to respond to key questions within the time constraints of an event or meeting.

PARTICIPATION

About 300 people participated in the different forms of engagement activities. A total of 253 people responded to the OKT online survey available in English and Spanish. 40 people participated via survey questions on paper at two vaccination clinic events. While the majority of people who responded by paper surveys at the clinics responded in Spanish, a few people selected to respond to paper surveys in English. Approximately 25 Clatsop County residents participated in 5 public forums held between October 12 and October 18. These activities were conducted between October 12th and November 5th, 2021.

Across both the online surveys and paper surveys, 27% of participants answered that they lived in Astoria, 17% in Seaside, 13% in Gearhart, 12% in Warrenton, and 7% in Cannon Beach or “Other.” 58% of people have lived in Clatsop County for over ten years.

SECTION 2: COMMON THEMES and DISTINCTIONS

AWARENESS OF COUNTY DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

While people were somewhat aware of the County and the County Commissioners in general, there was still confusion or uncertainty about the districts themselves as well as

where existing boundaries are. We heard the following areas of confusion or uncertainty:

- While most people in the public forums said they knew which district they were in, there were a few who were not sure. Others noted that the maps provided in the online survey or from the county's website didn't give them enough of a sense of where the lines were exactly.
- Uncertainty was also evident in the number of people who shared that they were not sure if the current boundaries kept their community together or not. 35% of people who responded to the online survey said "I don't know or I'm not sure" when asked if they thought the current boundaries divided their community or kept it together. The percentage was higher - 42% - for people who responded by paper survey.
- We also heard a desire to better understand what the county was required to take into consideration (and to what degree) versus how much other criteria could play a role in determining boundaries.
- There was also differing degrees of understanding about the impacts of county district boundaries. One person said, "I don't understand the long term implications of redistricting."

CURRENT BOUNDARIES

While some people were unsure whether or not the current boundaries divided their community, more people thought they kept their communities together. 35% of people in the survey said "They keep my community together." 28% said "They divide my community." There were no significant differences between people responding to the online survey, the paper survey, or in the public forums.

When asked in the online survey and public forums why people held the belief they did, answers varied. These included:

- Many people shared that they selected "Divide my community" because Warrenton, Astoria, or Seaside were split among multiple districts.
- Other people shared that they selected "Keep my community together" because they felt like their community encompassed more than their city or neighborhood.

- Some people said they thought their own community was kept together by the current boundaries but that they didn't think that was the case for all the districts.
- Some people shared that they thought their community was divided because they didn't see their communities needs as being the same as other communities within their district.

These are a selection of some of the comments we heard through online and paper surveys. The full set of comments are provided in a separate file to the County. Comments submitted through surveys are not altered or edited by Oregon's Kitchen Table. These are presented as written by participants. For comments submitted in Spanish, we have provided a rough translation.

Comments submitted through surveys on why people think the current boundaries keep their community together:

The regions on the map also seem to correspond to my idea of regional identity and the identity of those I know. My district seems to make sense.

They keep MY community together. But it also groups my RURAL area with the majority of city limits. The majority of my rural area has opposing views of the inside city limits people in our proposed district. I understand to try and keep populations equal in each district, but not at the cost of drowning out rural voices.

I feel that the current district boundaries are working pretty well, although changes will need to be made as our population grows, they should be drawn in a way that represents everyone as fairly and equally as possible.

We spend much of our our time in/around Astoria and make use of its services. It's important we have a connection to it as a community

Porque es importante mantenes mi comunidad unida (Because it is important to keep my community together)

Comments submitted through surveys on why people think the current boundaries divide their community:

The coastal areas should be in the same district whenever possible since issues pertaining to the ocean coast are often not related to or do not impact communities just a couple miles inland. The river communities also need to work together as they to have specific issues others dont.

I live on Hwy 202, which is chopped up by districts 3 and 4

I feel like some parts of districts are not getting the same amount of attention that other parts of districts get like I live in Seaside the south county and we do not get a say as much about decisons in our district as say Astoria and the north part of the district get.

District 5 is so large it covers several culturally distinct communities. District 1 is small and just covers the area around Warrenton, which is similar.

Seaside, Warrenton, and Astoria are all split with different districts. This might be nice, however, to have the cities split so you have two voices for the same town.

La comunidad hispana se aparta mucho por la diferencia de idioma (The Hispanic community is far apart due to the language difference)

Comments submitted through surveys on why people weren't sure or didn't know whether the current boundaries divide or keep their community together:

I don't have enough information, I've only lived here a couple of years and haven't engaged too much with the county commissioners nor do I have a full grasp of the local political landscape

All of my city is in one district, but it also includes part of another city, and a large area of sparsely populated rural area where the interests and concerns are very different to the coastal area.

I don't know the boundaries, I know the commissioner.

En realidad creo que mi comunidad o la mayeria viven en pueblos diferentes al lugar en el que yo vivo y muy poca de mi comunidad vive done yo vivo. (In reality, I believe that my community or the majority of people live in different towns from the place where I live and very little of my community lives where I live.)

Astoria has three different districts, but I don't know if that's divisive or unifying.

We also posed a trade-off or forced choice question regarding splitting up cities or neighborhoods. OKT aims to replicate the positions that policymakers feel they are in when they have to make choices and tradeoffs. Forced tradeoff choice responses give policymakers a sense of which direction the public leans regarding a particular value or belief. Participants were asked to choose between two different statements to indicate which tradeoff they were most willing to accept. Regarding splitting up cities or neighborhoods, most people (69% in the online survey and 63% in the paper surveys in Spanish) selected “I want to make sure that communities like cities or neighborhoods stay together in one single district. I want this even if that means some districts are mostly in the country and others are mostly in cities.”

There was a slight preference in the online survey for keeping any boundary changes minimal, with 55% of people saying it was somewhat important or very important to limit changes as much as possible.

PREFERENCES FOR CRITERIA

Across all forms of engagements, people were asked to prioritize or rank different criteria that might be used in determining boundaries, including both criteria explicitly stated in the county’s charter as well as additional common criteria that other bodies, such as the Oregon State Legislature, considers. They were also asked to identify what “communities of interest” they might most identify with. Some common responses emerged, including:

- Many people shared that they wanted to make sure boundary lines were not drawn to favor political parties or incumbents.
- People generally wanted to ensure that population sizes were balanced across districts
- Through both the online and paper surveys, people also shared that it was important not to dilute the voting strength of people with similar languages and ethnicities.
- The communities of interest that people most identified with were neighborhoods, cities, and schools.

- People who responded to the paper surveys also selected “People with the same culture or language as me” as one of the top four communities of interest they identified with.
- People who responded to the online survey also selected “People who live in the same kind of housing as I do, for instance, in a city or in the country” as one of the top four communities of interest they identified with.

NATURAL AREAS and TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

Participants were also asked to choose between two statements about keeping natural areas such as the coastal range intact versus keeping built barriers like transportation routes intact. In both the surveys and the public forums, people leaned towards preferring to see natural barriers like mountains serve as boundaries versus built barriers like roads or highways. This was a less clear preference for people who responded via the paper surveys were less, with nearly half choosing natural areas and nearly half choosing transportation routes.

In the public forums, some people explained that for communities like Seaside, using the highway as a boundary line might further divide the community, since the highway runs through it. Someone from Astoria said that they felt more of a sense of commonality or connectedness with neighbors across the road as opposed to neighbors who lived up a steep slope. They described more frequent interactions with those across roads versus across slopes. In addition, a number of people also shared that they wanted to make sure that natural areas like forests weren't concentrated in one or two districts. They felt it was important that people in cities also were connected through districts to those areas.

FUTURE AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

Participants were also asked how important it was to make sure that areas where there will likely be future development not all fall into the same district. People were evenly divided about how important that was in responses to the online survey, with 47% saying either very important or somewhat important and 47% saying either somewhat not important or not important at all. 8% said they didn't know.

Discussions in the public forums also did not reveal strong leaning in either direction, with people sharing that even if they thought it was somewhat important, they didn't think it should be a priority. There were some discussions about the lack of certainty around how much or how fast those areas would grow. Some people did share that they anticipated certain areas were more likely to grow during current trends and geographic location. A couple of people said that they thought there could be future tensions around those areas and wanted to see care taken in considering whether more parts of the county had more power than others.

COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS

The online survey also provided some insight into how people get information about Clatsop County as well as how often they wanted to hear from the County. Most people said they wanted to hear either once a week (42%) or once a month (45%) from the County. One person clarified, "tan seguido como haya cambios tal vez una vez a la semana y hay actualizaciones y si no hay nada nuevo pues una vez por mes (as often as there are changes maybe once a week and there are updates and if there is nothing new then once a month)." Others shared a similar feeling about "when something changes."

In terms of where people find out information about the County, the County's website (23%) as well as newspaper, radio or tv (23%) were the two main sources. Otherwise, other people (friends, neighbors, family or colleagues) and Facebook were the next two biggest sources.

Additional comments submitted through surveys

The commissioner for a district needs to know the entire district he/she represents, not just the portion in which he/she resides.

People choose to live in the rural areas for a reason. People choose to live in the city for a reason. These reasons are often very different between the rural and the city folk. They have different goals. City should not be mixed in rural.

Not an easy task, to make districts fairly divided by population and to maintain what most agree are specific and unique areas of the county.

Additional comments submitted through surveys:

A first principle to me would be keep the districts as similar as possible. I think the public benefits when elected officials have to work across differences. So, I prefer districts each containing a percentage of more urban and more rural residents. I don't see a productive outcome from crafting "urban" districts and "rural" districts.

Es muy difícil averiguar qué ciudades o poblaciones están incluidas en cada distrito. Por favor creen un mapa o una lista de fácil referencia. Gracias! (It is very difficult to find out which cities or towns are included in each district. Please create a map or list for easy reference. Thanks!)

Just make it as fair and even as possible. I want candidates that are not extreme and speak to all sides.

I think it would be the most beneficial to existing communities to keep, as much as possible, areas of use (heavy industry, tourism, agriculture, housing sprawl, urban centers), contained in discreet boundaries. In my experience, the most community resentment is a result of visually jarring changes, or economic advantages to some communities over other traditional ventures. For example: housing developments in traditionally rural areas, allowances to heavy industry in traditionally agricultural areas, etc...

I think the districts should represent the five distinct groups - 1) Astoria, 2) Warrenton/Seaside, 3) Gearhart, Cannon Beach, and Arch Cape (rich people), 4) southern rural (Seaside on Route 26), and 5) central/eastern rural (Knappa/Svenson & Jewel/Mist). Jewel/Mist could go with either group 4 or 5.

I'd like to see the current district borders maintained as closely as possible. Using the numbers provided on the district map, if the eastern borders of Districts #1 and #2 are adjusted in order to give District #3 an additional 1182 people, the eastern border of District #3 can then be adjusted to give District #4 575 people and District #5 737 people.

Not an easy task, to make districts fairly divided by population and to maintain what most agree are specific and unique areas of the county.

SECTION 3: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

We heard from a number of people that they were glad to see the County’s approach to reviewing district boundaries. Several people said they hoped this process would lead to a more balanced outcome for the people of Clatsop County. We also heard some anticipation from some community members that additional growth in the coming years could mean the County might need to again adjust its district boundaries. This was especially true when people were asked to think about areas where more population growth was likely to occur. The County may want to consider a more in-depth review of county boundaries before the next US Census is conducted in 2030.

As Clatsop County moves forward with making adjustments to its boundaries now there will likely be a desire for community members to continue to stay engaged, particularly when the County reviews specific map proposals. There will be interest in seeing what changes and maps the County will propose. We recommend that the County consider how to share what they heard from people here and to share what decisions were ultimately made. This will be another key component in letting the public know that boundaries are not redrawn to benefit incumbent commissioners or other political factors.

SECTION 4: CONCLUSION

Given both the time constraints as well as COVID restrictions, this engagement process provides the County with a sense of what people most value and prioritize. We encourage the County to return to community members to share how their input was used in making the changes to the boundaries that the County ultimately decides on. It will be important to highlight which values and priorities the County used in making those decisions so people understand how their input was used.



**Clatsop County District Boundaries
Summary from Public Forums
October 12 – October 18th (held via Zoom)**

Clatsop County held five public forums in October 2021 as part of its public engagement effort to hear from residents what mattered most to them about their county commissioner districts. A facilitation team from Oregon’s Kitchen Table designed the public forums to meet multiple goals:

1. Provide background information on the county’s districts, population information from the US 2020 Census, and the process for adjusting the district boundaries;
2. Create opportunities for county residents to share their own priorities about how county boundaries and what matters to them about how their communities are represented; and
3. Let county residents understand each other’s thinking about their preferences and choices.

Outreach and Participation

Outreach was conducted primarily by Clatsop County and through its channels, including postings on the County’s website and Facebook page as well as through County alerts. The County also conducted outreach through a variety of other channels, including with community partners and other public agencies and elected officials. Oregon’s Kitchen Table shared an announcement through its email list and Facebook page.

Approximately 25 Clatsop County residents participated in 5 public forums held between October 12 and October 18. The forums were held at a variety of times on different days to provide options for people’s schedules. The Public Forums – were held via Zoom due to COVID-19 and restrictions on public gatherings.

Based on responses shared during the public forums, participants tended to know which district they resided in, with a couple of people selecting “I don’t know” which district they resided in. Overall, there were multiple participants from each of the five districts across the forums. There was at least one participant from districts 1 and 2 in every forum. Two forums did not include anyone from district 3, two did not include anyone from district 4, and two did not include anyone from district 5. One forum included participants from each district.



Appendix A. Clatsop County District Boundaries – OKT Summary from Public Forums

Welcome

As residents joined the Zoom meeting room, the OKT facilitation team invited people to share in chat: “What’s one thing you love about living in Clatsop County?” as people joined.

Background Information on County Boundaries

The County Clerk gave a brief overview of the purpose of the public forums and a video from Portland State University’s Population Research Center provided more details about the existing district boundaries as well as where the US 2020 Census showed population changes.

The OKT facilitation team utilized both the Zoom Chat and Polling functions to help county residents see what each other’s preferences were. OKT’s facilitator posed a series of questions through the Polling function to gauge what people prioritized when thinking about what communities they belonged to, whether people felt like current boundaries divided their community or kept it together, and what criteria they felt was most important to apply to making boundary changes. The polls were meant to be able to show participants what others in the room may be thinking and to see where there may be commonalities or differences. After seeing what people’s responses were, the facilitator also asked people to explain why they chose what they did to begin discussion.

The following summaries highlight the discussion points for each question as well as what preferences were across the forums.

Discussion Question 1: *What do you most identify with when you think about belonging to a community?*

For most people across all the forums, people who live in the same neighborhood and people who live in the same city were most important when thinking about belonging to a community. A third community some people felt was important, though fewer than neighborhoods or cities, was school district. One person said, “it seems less than ideal to divide whole cities. As a voter I prefer a sense of full representation in a community that shares the same resources and real estate itself.”

Some people noted that shared geography was most important, because the geographic conditions impact community needs like road or sidewalk conditions. One person said, “I think of community as a shared geographic area—people with shared concerns about their geographic space.

Appendix A. Clatsop County District Boundaries – OKT Summary from Public Forums

It's less about culture or language. In Astoria, everyone wants good jobs and school systems but folks have differences in how to get there.”

Some people talked about the situations where they felt like they most came into contact or depended on fellow community members. A couple of people who said they didn't have school age children said they also felt this was a key component of belonging to a community, because they saw the schools as a center for activity in their community. Another person said, “I suppose there's a consideration for shared resources. I selected "neighborhood" most predominantly. A population of folks that might be utilizing the same city water, library, represented city council members, etc.”

Other people raised thinking about “connectedness” in relation to what resources they and others in their community depend upon in times of crisis, such as during a pandemic or if there was an earthquake. One person shared, “My sense of community is who will be around me when the big one hits, and what resources we will be able to pool together for aid.”

Discussion Question 2: *How much do you feel like current boundaries keep your community together?*

In every public forum, participants were divided on whether or not they felt like the current boundaries kept their community together. Some people stated that they weren't sure while there was often an even split among people who felt like the current boundaries kept their community together and people who felt like the current boundaries divided their community.

Some people attributed uncertainty to confusion about where the boundaries were exactly in different districts. Some participants felt that boundaries are visually erratic (running along curving roads) and that makes it hard to know what district one is in.

Other people pointed to cities that were split across districts, such as Astoria, that then seemed divided. On the other hand, one participant said they felt like areas like Astoria with big populations likely would have to be divided up to help keep populations balanced across districts.

Discussion Question 3: *The County uses criteria in its charter (compact / contiguous / equal pop) and other common criteria When thinking about where county commissioner districts should be, what criteria are most important to you?*

Overall, people shared different preferences for how they would prioritize the criteria in the charter as well as other common criteria. There was some confusion and then discussion about what

Appendix A. Clatsop County District Boundaries – OKT Summary from Public Forums

the county had to use as criteria and to what extent versus what other factors they could consider. For some people, stressing the criteria in the county charter was essential, but other people wanted to focus on additional common criteria since they assumed the required criteria was already taken into consideration.

There was some discussion about how much to concentrate on using roads and other transportation routes when making the boundaries. Overall, people felt like it didn't make sense to use major highways such as 101 or 26 as boundary lines and that doing so could further divide communities like Seaside. Some people thought geographic or natural boundaries, such as hillsides, made more sense in terms of thinking of where to put boundaries. One person shared that they felt connected to neighbors who lived across the street but much less so to neighbors who lived behind them up a hillside since they rarely saw them.

There were also some discussions about how important it was to group people with the same beliefs or backgrounds together versus make sure to create districts with more diversity. One person said, "Too much like-minded clustering can create extremism in our society. It's good to have people of different values and different thoughts in the same district because they need to learn to live together." In a couple of forums, participants shared that it was important to them that boundaries did not divide people with the same language or cultures. One person pointed to changing demographics in the county, particularly with increases in the Latinx / Hispanic population. Another person wondered if requiring boundaries be contiguous might actually work to diminish the voices of some community groups. Other people wanted to see any "squiggly lines" adjusted so the boundaries were more cohesive.

Some people shared that it was important to them to make sure that natural areas were also represented across districts so that all county commissioners would be thinking about those areas and not just one or two. One person said of the natural areas, such as the forests, "if you put it all in one basket, you have to hope that those carrying that basket have to care about what is in the basket."

In responding to this particular question, people in different forums noted how challenging it was to take into consideration these different factors and think about weighing them against each other. One person said, "This is like trying to fit together a puzzle."

Discussion Question 4: *There are some areas of the county that are undeveloped right now but will likely continue to develop as the population continues to grow. How important is it to you to make sure that these areas aren't all concentrated in one district?*

Overall, while people thought that it was somewhat or a little important to make sure that areas likely to develop aren't all concentrated one district, people didn't think it should be a priority in deciding on changes to boundaries this year. A couple of people noted that they thought District 2 should move more into Lewis and Clark due to the growth in Warrenton. Other people thought this was a factor that should be considered during future boundary adjustments since that growth will take time. Some people also voiced concerns that while growth was mainly occurring on the north side of the county, they didn't want to see one part of the county outweigh other parts of the county.

Closing

A number of people in different forums notes how important the process was and voiced that they were glad to see some of the approaches the county was taking in this effort. The OKT facilitator shared information about other ways people could share in more detail what they thought about the county's boundaries, including through an online survey on Oregon's Kitchen Table and other scheduled public forums. The County Clerk closed by describing the next steps in the County's decision-making process about district boundaries. Oregon's Kitchen Table would be compiling summaries of the public forum discussions along with results from the survey and outreach and engagement activities with Spanish speaking community members. This summary report would be provided to the County along with analysis and recommendations from PSU's Population Research Center and Center for Public Service. The County will then use all of that information to make decisions about boundary changes.

INTRODUCTION

Every ten years, the United States (US) Census tells us the number of people living in Clatsop County. The 2020 census shows that the number of people living in each of Clatsop County's districts has changed. That means the boundaries for the five county districts will need to change.

Clatsop County is working with Oregon's Kitchen Table to make sure people in the County can share what you think about changes to the district boundaries. Oregon's Kitchen Table is part of Portland State University (PSU). The Center for Public Service at PSU is also helping Clatsop County think about changes to the boundaries.

We need to hear from you about what matters to you about how these new boundaries should be drawn. Would you please fill out this survey to share your thoughts about that?

You are part of Clatsop County and we value your input. Your answers to this survey will help guide the changes to the boundaries of county commissioners' districts.

Please fill out this short survey if you live in Clatsop County. You can fill this out until November 5, 2021.

BACKGROUND

What are county commissioner boundaries?

Five commissioners govern Clatsop County. Each one comes from each of the five districts. Voters elect them. They establish policies and set the vision of the county.

Every 10 years the districts might have to change boundaries based on the US Census population counts. This is so that each district has about the same number of people in it.

Why might the district boundaries change?

They might be changed because of population changes in the county from the Census. The number of people in the county can increase or decrease. Each district needs to have about the same number of people in it. With the information from the Census, our districts no longer have about the same number of people in them.

Where and how the lines are drawn affects many things. This includes who is likely to be elected and how your community has a voice in county government.

How can I help?

Please share your thoughts about how these districts should change by filling out this survey! Your answers to this survey will help guide the changes to the boundaries of our county commissioners' districts.

Please ask your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues in Clatsop County to take this survey, too.

Will my answers on this survey be private?

Yes. All answers will be private, or confidential. They will not be tied to your name or contact information, if you choose to share those.

You can read about Oregon’s Kitchen Table’s privacy policy at <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/privacy-policy>. If you have any questions, please email Oregon’s Kitchen Table at info@oregonskitchentable.org or call 503-725-5248.

How will the County use the results of this survey?

Our county will get a report based on the survey answers. Also, Oregon’s Kitchen Table will share with us what they hear from public forums that will be held in October. All of this will help the commissioners decide how they want to change any boundaries later this year.

The report will also be posted on Oregon’s Kitchen Table’s website at <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/results>.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Note: Some total percentages may not be exactly 100% due to rounding. Responses to the paper survey distributed at two vaccination clinics hosted by Consejo Hispano were incorporated into the applicable questions in the online survey. The paper survey asked some but not all of the questions in the online survey.

1. Before today, how much did you know about Clatsop County commissioners and their districts?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=277
I knew a lot	12%
I knew some	42%
I knew only a bit	31%
I didn’t know at all	14%
I’m not sure	1%

2. Where do you get your information about Clatsop County? Please select all that apply.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=707
Newspaper, radio, or TV	23%
Facebook	12%
Instagram	2%
Other social media platforms	5%
From county commissioners	6%



From county staff	9%
From the county website	23%
From friends, neighbors, family or colleagues	19%
Other...	2%

3. How often would you like to hear from Clatsop County on important issues, news, or policy decisions? Please select one.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=256
Once a day	3%
Once a week	42%
Once a month	45%
Once every three months	7%
Once a year	1%
Other	3%

4. As you think about where county commissioner districts should be, what is most important to you that the county consider? Please rate which of these is most important to you. Start with 1 being the one that is most important to you out of all of these. Number all the way down to 9, with 9 being the one that is least important to you. Only use each number one time.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9
N=	269	268	267	265	266	260	263	261	261
People in a district live as close to each other as possible.	10%	6%	7%	8%	10%	10%	13%	12%	20%
All parts of the district touch each other.	6%	10%	12%	10%	15%	10%	13%	13%	10%
There are about the same number of people in each district.	15%	14%	15%	15%	14%	11%	7%	6%	3%
Use other boundaries that exist like city, legislative district, or utility district.	3%	6%	11%	12%	17%	17%	18%	11%	6%
Districts keep people with shared, common interests together.	8%	8%	10%	11%	7%	9%	12%	15%	20%
Districts are not drawn in a way that help a political	42%	19%	12%	9%	5%	5%	2%	2%	4%

party or candidates who are in office.									
District boundaries do not weaken the voting strength of any language or ethnic group.	10%	28%	13%	11%	10%	8%	9%	5%	6%
Use transportation routes like roads or highways for boundaries.	1%	4%	5%	10%	11%	15%	14%	22%	20%
Do not put all the areas that are likely to grow in the future into one district.	4%	5%	16%	14%	12%	15%	11%	13%	11%

5. Do you feel like the current district boundaries divide your community or keep it together?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=289
They divide my community	28%
They keep my community together	35%
I don't know or I'm not sure.	35%
I prefer not to answer	3%

6. Please tell us why you chose the answer just above that you did:

Responses available from Oregon's Kitchen Table upon request

7. How important is it to you that we limit changes to the current boundaries as much as possible?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=255
Very important	14%
Somewhat important	41%
Somewhat not important	19%
Not important at all	18%
Don't know	11%

8. What do you most identify with when you think about belonging to a community? Please choose the three that are most important to you.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=743
People who live in the same neighborhood as me	26%
People who live in the same city as me	26%
People in the same school district as me	17%

People with an income level like mine	3%
People who live in the same kind of housing as I do, for instance, in a city or in the country	10%
People with the same culture or language as me	7%
People who have jobs and bosses like me	2%
People who have views like mine, for instance politics	8%

9. As you think about what you'd like county districts to look like, please choose which of these statements you most agree with. You might not agree fully with either. Or you might agree with both. But please pick the one you agree with the most.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=281
a. I want each district to include both people who live in cities and in the country. I want this even if that means some cities or neighborhoods are split up into different county commissioner districts.	31%
b. I want to make sure that communities like cities or neighborhoods stay together in one single district. I want this even if that means some districts are mostly in the country and others are mostly in cities.	69%

10. As you think about what you would like county districts to look like, please choose which of these statements you most agree with. You might not agree fully with either. Or you might agree with both. But please pick the one you agree with the most.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=278
a. I want to keep natural areas like the coastal range mountains intact and in as few districts as possible. I want this even if that means other areas like cities, neighborhoods, or roads are divided into different districts.	68%
b. I want to make sure that boundaries do not divide important roads or highways like Highway 26 or Highway 101. I want this even if that means that other areas like the coastal range mountains, cities or neighborhoods are divided into different districts.	32%

11. There are parts of the county that are likely to grow over the next ten years. These include Lewis and Clark or Clatsop Plains. How important is it to you that these parts not all fall inside one district?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=255
Very important	16%
Somewhat important	29%

Somewhat not important	27%
Not important at all	20%
Don't know	8%

12. Is there anything else you want to share with Clatsop County leaders about the commissioners' districts?

Responses available from Oregon's Kitchen Table upon request

13. Which part of Clatsop County do you live in?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=29 1
Astoria	29%
Cannon Beach	7%
Gearhart	13%
Seaside	17%
Warrenton	12%
Arch Cape or Falcon Cove	4%
Clatsop Plains	5%
Jewell, Elsie-Vine Maple or Hamlet	<1%
HWY 202 or Olney	2%
Knappa	5%
Other (please describe)	7%
Lewis and Clark (in "Other" responses)	4%

14. How many years have you lived in Clatsop County?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=256
5 years or less	24%
6 to 10 years	17%
11 to 20 years	16%
21 years or more	42%
I prefer not to say	<1%

15. Do you live full-time in Clatsop County?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=253
Yes, I live full-time in Clatsop County.	94%

I live part-time in Clatsop County and part-time outside the county.	6%
Other (please describe)	<1%

16. Which races and ethnicities do you consider yourself to be? Please mark all that apply.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=251
Asian, Pacific Islander	2%
Black, African American, African, Caribbean	<1%
Hispanic, Latino, Latina * - online survey only	1%
Native American, American Indian, Native Alaskan	2%
Middle Eastern, North African	<1%
White, Caucasian	91%
Other (please describe)	4%

**In addition to the online responses who marked Hispanic, Latino, Latina, OKT received 40 responses via paper survey through two events that Consejo Hispano, an organization that serves Latinx / Hispanic families in Clatsop County.*

17. What language do you prefer to get information in?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=283
English	89%
Spanish	11%