

Districts

Continued from A1

“Hopefully whoever represents us will actually care and be concerned about the voice of Redmond and northern Deschutes County,” Sande said. “(I) just don’t know what that’s going to look like right now.”

Steve Curley, the director of Redmond Economic Development Inc., said he, too, wasn’t sure how the new districts will impact Redmond businesses.

“Ultimately, it depends on who’s elected and how well they work together,” Curley said. “If they’re not aligned, they’re obviously going to pull against each other.”

If businesses span both districts, Curley said they generally go to the legislator who they feel could move the needle forward in Salem. He said there could be the chance for increased power in numbers, with more legislators in Salem represent Redmond constituencies.

“Now you’ve got potentially up to four people who can champion whatever the issue is,” he said.

He noted that many of the issues facing Redmond — such as housing and lack of child care — are not highly partisan issues.

THINKING CREATIVELY

Jim Moore, an associate professor and director of political outreach for Pacific University’s Tom McCall Center for Civic Engagement, said if districts are split politically and representatives don’t see eye-to-eye, it can make things more difficult for a municipality.

In the case of Redmond, Vikki Breese-Iverson is expected to win the more Republican northern House District 59. In the southern house district, which now leans slightly left, voters will make the choice in a tight race between Republican Michael Sipe and Democrat Emerson Levy.

If Levy is elected, Redmond could be caught between two political parties in a time of growing partisanship in Salem.



The view looking east down NW Greenwood Avenue in Redmond, where the city splits between two house and two senate districts. House District 59 and Senate District 30 are on the left, House District 53 and Senate District 27 are on the right.

Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

The city, in turn, will have to walk a tightrope as they appeal to both sides of the political aisle.

“They’ve got to be strategic. They’ve got to play it well,” Moore said. “It’s going to take people thinking creatively.”

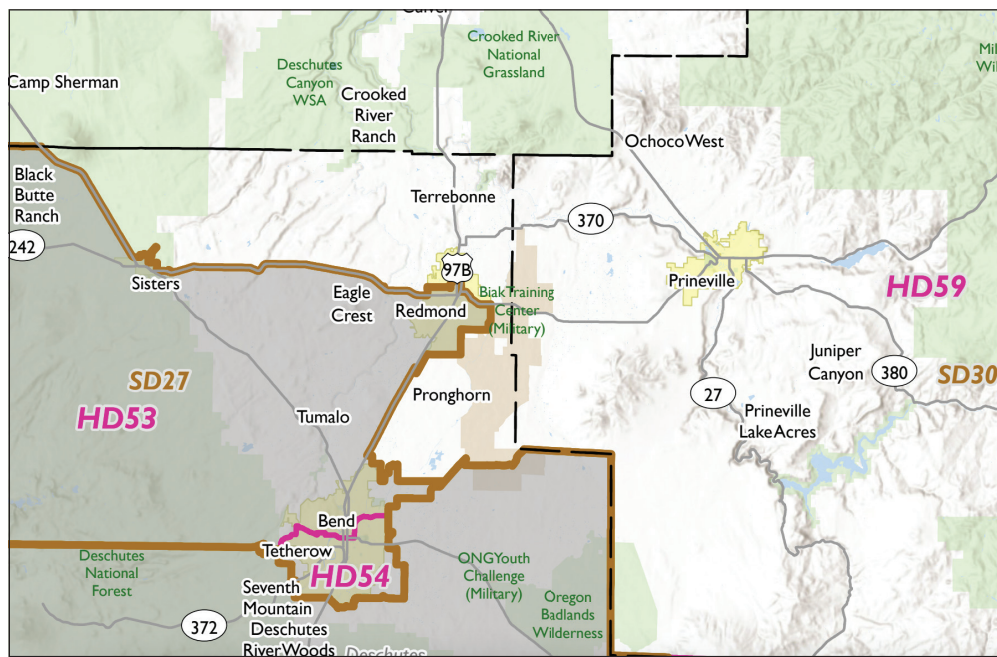
Moore said this process of a city fracturing into multiple districts is common for growing municipalities. With increasing populations, cities are gradually split into more districts to keep a similar number of people in each.

There is also potential that the redistricting could offer more bargaining chips for Redmond to play with in Salem — if the legislators can work together.

“If the districts are more or less the same partisan makeup, then people barely notice,” Moore said.

NEW CITY GOVERNMENT, NEW DISTRICTS

All this will take place with a new mayor and mostly new



State of Oregon map

Redmond will be divided by two senate districts (27 and 30) and two house districts (53 and 59) in 2023.

city council coming to Redmond in 2023.

In the mayor’s race, four are running for the office and each have their own pathways

towards working with the redistricting — with each speaking about their plans during a forum held on Sept. 27 at the Redmond Senior Center.

Ed Fitch, who is currently serving as a city councilor and running for mayor, said building relationships and coalitions with regional partners will

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— Eric Sande, the director of the Redmond Chamber of Commerce,

be key. He added that finding funding from Salem or Washington D.C. is a team project.

“Having a split district is actually a benefit to the city,” Fitch said. “We’ll have more representation in Salem and that’s a good thing.”

Current city councilor and mayoral candidate Jay Patrick said it boils down to relationships, keeping lines of communication open and getting to know the legislators.

“Once you do that, then it’s just about building upon that and building relationships with people,” Patrick said.

Ben Schimmoller parlayed his experience in Salem as legislative director to senator Tim Knopp, arguing that his familiarity with process will be useful when dealing with the additional legislators.

“I can hit the ground running so we can find that money for a \$70 million infrastructure update for water, sewage treatment, or other funds that our community will need,” Schimmoller said.

Mayor candidate Charles Baer said he’d be available at Centennial Park at noon every day, provided there’s no snow or ice on the ground, to find common ground.

Reporter: nrosenberger@redmondspokesman.com

“Only by working together as neighbors can we grow as a community”

JOHN NIELSEN

Redmond City Council Candidate

RESULTS FOR REDMOND

My name is John Nielsen. I am running for Redmond City Council because I believe we need to move beyond political confrontations and divided government.

- Politically Moderate
- 20-year resident of Redmond
- Former-paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne
- Proud Rotarian
- On the Board of Directors for REDI
- Active in the Chamber of Commerce
- Graduate of the Leadership Redmond Program
- Father of 5 children

LEARN MORE ABOUT MY CAMPAIGN BY CONNECTING ONLINE

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Rotary Club of Redmond

Rotary Club of Redmond gives \$4000 to Stroke Awareness Oregon

Marv Kaplan, Lawnae Hunter Founder SAO, Toni Metherall ED-SOA; Paul Spain

SAO is a non-profit created by physicians, stroke survivors and community members, exists to eliminate disability and death from stroke through awareness of causes, symptoms, treatment, and through recovery support. The fifth leading cause of death in Oregon and the greatest source of disability worldwide, stroke is a medical emergency by striking over 800,000 people nationwide each year. Stroke Awareness Oregon is making a difference in stroke outcomes and recovery through these four goals:

- To educate about stroke causes, prevention, and treatment options.
- To make F.A.S.T. a household safety word.
- To support the recovery of stroke survivors and their families.
- To do this work in partnership with the medical community, businesses, and the community.

Be Part of Rotary

We are a community service organization of locally concerned residents, businesspeople, professional and community leaders. Ninety percent of our annual events benefit the children of Redmond and 10% to Redmond based non-profit organizations. Rotarians are People of Action. If you are interested in serving our community and joining Rotary, contact us at rotaryredmond@gmail.com