

## Local schools welcome back students for first day

For the first time since March 2020, Salem-Keizer schools are back to full, in-person instruction.



McNary students gather around the front of the school for their first day of in-person instruction. MATT RAWLINGS/Keizertimes

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## Keizer in limbo as redistricting begins

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For the Keizertimes

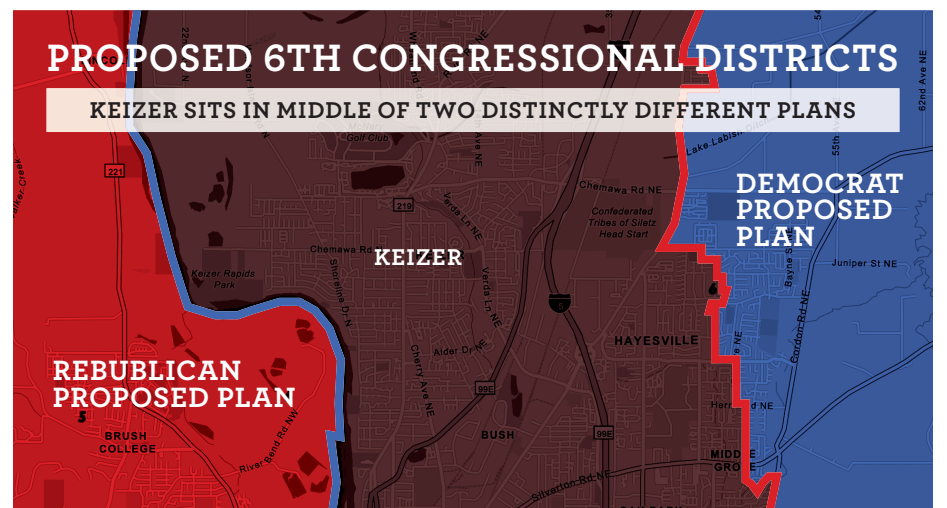
*The next decade of Keizer's political representation hangs in the balance as redistricting officially began last week.*

For the first time since 2010, state lawmakers are attempting to redraw state district maps and released their first attempts during a virtual meeting on Sept. 3. This year's redistricting holds even more weight with Oregon being one of six states to gain at least one congressional seat.

"It's the most important issue of 2021, period. From a political standpoint," said state Rep. Bill Post, whose District 25 includes Keizer. "Because it affects the future for the next 10, maybe 20, years."

Every 10 years, Oregon's 60 House and 30 Senate districts are redrawn to ensure each has roughly the same population in a process called redistricting.

The redistricting committee is composed of three House Democrats and three House Republicans. Each group submitted their own map of House, Senate and



ANDREW JACKSON/Keizertimes

congressional districts during the Sept. 3 meeting and will now have until Sept. 27 to submit finalized maps.

"These maps aren't final. None of them are, and we'll be using them for public input to help us improve and ensure fair representative lines for the final maps we vote on later this month," said Rep. Andrea Salinas, D-Lake Oswego, during the Sept. 3 committee meeting.

Oregon is set to gain a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives after the 2020 Census revealed a population increase of 10.6% since 2010. Each of the two proposed congressional maps shift Keizer from the 5th Congressional District into the new 6th Congressional District.

Under the Republicans' plan, the 6th

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