

RUBY

everywhere he has played.

During Pride Month in June, Ruby was encouraged by his teammate, Evan Brisentine, to wear rainbow colored shoelaces during games.

“These cleats let me know every time I look down that I have support,” Ruby said. “Being authentic is always a step in the right direction.”

Until last month, Ruby's friendship with Bean was his only tie to MLB. But on Sunday, Sept. 12, the Los Angeles Dodgers showed their support for Ruby by inviting him to sing the National Anthem before the Dodgers game against the San Diego Padres.

“I was treated really well there. The fact that there are people in MLB that want to be supportive means the world,” Ruby said. “It means so much that they would care about a little indy league player.”

Whether it's playing semi-pro baseball or writing songs for future country music stars, Ruby wants to use his platform to be an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community.

“If I can lend my voice to the greater good, then I am all for it. But I can't wait for the day when people don't have to come out. Hopefully that day will come sooner rather than later,” Ruby said.

DECADE,

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congressional Rep. Kurt Schrader plans to run in the 5th or 6th District. Re-election for Schrader may be difficult in both districts, with potential to lose in a primary in the more liberal 6th District or in the general election in the highly competitive 5th District. As of press time, a spokesperson for Schrader said no decisions have been made.

Keizer will also switch from District 25 to District 21 in the House, which no longer encompasses cities such as St. Paul and Newberg. House District 21 instead encompasses a larger portion of north and east Salem. District 25 incumbent Rep. Bill Post announced earlier this month that he would not be seeking reelection.

While legislative maps were seen as being more bipartisan than the congressional maps, that doesn't appear to be the case for Keizer's new House district.

“I don't know who thought putting Salem and Keizer together is a great idea because they actually hate each other FYI,” said Salem area Rep. Brian Clem during a speech on the House floor. He also announced during his speech that he would not be seeking re-election.

In the Oregon Senate, Keizer will move from District 13 to District 11. Keizer's new Senate district won't go as far north and also encompasses parts of Gervais and Woodburn.

District 13 incumbent Senator Kim Thatcher did not respond by press time to an email inquiry asking what district she planned to run in if she sought re-election.

Thatcher and Post both had excused absences from Monday's floor session.

Republicans boycotted Saturday's session, and continued to express upset during Monday's session, after House Speaker Tina Kotek reneged on a deal that gave Republicans equal representation in the House Redistricting Committee in exchange for them ending delay tactics with other bills.

I don't know who thought putting Salem and Keizer together is a great idea because they actually hate each other FYI.

— REP. BRIAN CLEM

After Republicans refused to pass Democrats' maps through the redistricting committee onto the House floor, Kotek announced on Sept. 20 that she would be creating two new committees. Both committees gave Democrats the advantage needed to push through their congressional and legislative maps.

Both congressional and legislative maps passed both the House and Senate on Monday in near party line votes.



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