

DISTRICT from page 1A

that congressional representatives be apportioned to the states on the basis of population. There are 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each state is allotted a portion of these seats based on the size of its population relative to the other states.

Consequently, a state may gain seats in the House if its population grows or lose seats if its population decreases, relative to populations in other states. In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Wesberry v. Sanders* that the populations of House districts must be equal "as nearly as practicable."

In Oregon, congressional and state legislative district lines are drawn by the state legislature. District lines are subject to veto by the governor.

If the legislature fails to establish a redistricting plan for state legislative districts, it falls to the secretary of state to draw the boundaries. Oregon currently has five Congressional Districts, and all will be examined and potentially redrawn as a result of this process, while a sixth is going to be added.

U.S. Census Bureau figures from 2021 show the state's population increased by 10 percent over the past decade to more than 4.2 million, enough to give it an additional congressional district for the first time in 40 years.

"It is exciting that we will gain an additional seat in Congress and Oregonians' voices will be better represented in Washington D.C.," said state Sen. Kathleen Taylor, a Portland Democrat who is the Senate Redistricting Chair.

The addition of this seat would normally create an advantage for the state's ruling party, but in this instance the Democrats reached an agreement to share the redistricting responsibilities equally with Republicans in exchange for a commitment from Republican lawmakers to stop delaying Democratic legislative initiatives.

That agreement allows for each party to have three members on the state's redistricting committees and, if no agreement can be reached on U.S. Congressional boundaries, the redistricting boundaries would be determined by a panel of five judges, one from each of the state's current districts.

The members of the Redistricting Committee are co-chairs Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis and Rep. Andrea Salinas, along with

representatives Daniel Bonham, Winsvey Campos, Khanh Pham and House Republican Leader Christine Drazan.

"Now that we have equal representation on the redistricting committee, our legislative and congressional districts will be drawn in a way that avoids political gerrymandering," said Drazan, a Canby Republican. "Our current maps have favored one political party over another for the past 20 years, but Oregonians can be confident that this sixth congressional district will be drawn according to the rules to give people fair representation."

State law requires that congressional and state legislative districts meet the following criteria:

- Districts must be contiguous.
- Districts must "utilize existing geographic or po-

litical boundaries."

• Districts should not "divide communities of common interest."

• Districts should "be connected by transportation links."

• Districts "must not be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent or other person."

The initial proposal from Democrats to redraw the states districts focuses on counties which have higher rates of population growth, such as Washington County and the Salem region of the state.

Republicans were focused more on the sixth congressional district, with an eye towards reducing the area of districts currently represented by Earl Blumenauer and Peter DeFazio, increasing them to include more Republican strongholds in ru-

ral areas of the state.

The proposed placement of the six congressional district was not discussed by the committee members, who met remotely by video on Sept. 3.

A series of virtual public hearings about redrawing the districts will start today, Sept. 8.

Under an order from the Oregon Supreme Court, lawmakers have until Sept. 27 to submit maps. If they cannot pass a plan, or a plan they do pass is vetoed by the governor, Secretary of State Shemia Fagan, a Democrat, will assume responsibility for drawing legislative districts. Congressional districts will be drawn by a judicial panel, under a process that lawmakers created in 2013.

Formoreinformation, visit www.oregonlegislature.gov/redistricting.

MEETING from page 1A

Live at <https://bit.ly/97JYouTubeChannel>.

Sneddon said a community member came up with the idea of holding a meeting at the grandstands, and the board decided it could work. School district staff

then coordinated how the meeting will go.

"This is not a single-topic meeting," Sneddon said. "We're going to be listening to what people have to say about anything. Some people were making the assumption that it's all about masks, but it's about any-

thing anybody wants to talk to us about."

The agenda shows one main item: public input.

"Patrons of the district are offered an opportunity to address the school board. The time limit for public comment at board meetings is 3 minutes; completion of a comment card either in person or by email is required," the agenda states.

People can email com-

ments to 97j@siuslaw.k12.or.us by 1 p.m. on Sept. 8 or fill out a comment card upon entry to the stadium. Submitted comments should include full name, address and phone number to be submitted to the board and become public record.

"I just want to reiterate, our board policies are not to respond immediately to public input," Sneddon said. "It's going to be strict-

ly a listening session, as I call it."

After the meeting, the board will review all the comments, he said, and it is likely some of that discussion will take place at the regular board meeting of the Siuslaw School Board on Wednesday, Sept. 15.

In August, Sneddon was elected to be board chair for his second year. This will provide continuity for a school board that had some changeover with the recent election of new members and retirement from long-time members.

In addition, Guy Rosinbaum, who served in Siuslaw School Board Director Position 1, announced his resignation from the board last week.

According to Sneddon, Rosinbaum will be missed


"because he knows how the process works" with the school board.

"Anyone that is willing to serve, when they don't serve any longer, it's a loss. It doesn't matter if you agree with them on everything, because nobody agrees with everybody about everything," Sneddon said.

At this point, Siuslaw School Board will plan to vote to accept the resignation during the meeting on Sept. 15. Then, the board will have to declare the position vacant and outline the process to appoint someone to complete Rosinbaum's term, which expires Jun 30, 2023.

The agenda for the Sept. 15 meeting will be posted before the meeting at www.siuslaw.k12.or.us/page/school-board.

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 WLEOG — WWW.WLEOG.ORG

Grants available for war memorials and veterans

Oregon Heritage of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is offering grants for the construction or restoration of veterans and war memorials.

Local governments and federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply for work on monuments on public owned properties.

New monuments should acknowledge veterans and wars not already recognized in the community. Grants for restoration may be used for broken monuments, missing elements of monuments or the related design elements of monuments for veterans or wars. Grants may also fund the addition of elements to existing monuments.


Projects must include the active participation of a veteran organization.

A free, online workshop about the grant applications will be held on September 29 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Registration is required. The grant application deadline is December 10, 2021.


Past funded projects include repair to the Doughboy monument in Astoria, a women veteran monument in Springfield, a new monument in Malin and additions to the large memorial in Washington County.

For more information about the Veterans and War Memorials grant and other grant programs, visit www.oregonheritage.org or contact Kuri Gill at Kuri.gill@oregon.gov or 503-986-0685.

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