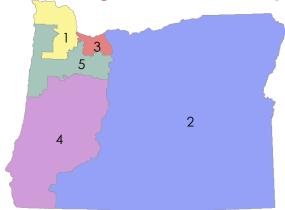
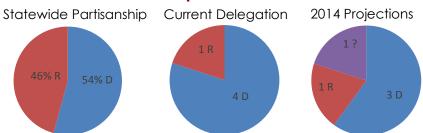
#### **Current Congressional District Map**



#### Representation



Partisanship is a measure of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

## **District Competitiveness**

Majority	Swing	Lean	Safe	
Partisanship	(50-<53%)	(53-<58%)	(58%+)	
Districts	2	1	2	

#### Redistricting

The state legislature controls Oregon's redistricting process. During the most recent round of redistricting, Democrats held a majority in the Senate but the Oregon House was split 30-30 between Democrats and Republicans.

Despite a growing population, Oregon narrowly missed the threshold required to gain an additional Congressional seat in the 2010 census, forcing legislators to increase the population equally among the existing boundaries. Following a period of partisan fighting, the final version of the new map was signed into law in June, 2011. The new lines largely maintained the previous partisan balance of the state's congressional map.

#### 2014 Projections: 1 R, 3 D, 1 ?

Three of Oregon's five House seats – Districts 1, 2, and 3 – favor one of the two major parties by at least 57% and are almost certain to remain with that party in 2014. The two remaining districts have been competitive in presidential elections. While both could be in play in future elections, OR-4 was won in a landslide in 2012 by longtime incumbent Peter DeFazio. The district is unlikely to be competitive before he retires. The most likely outcome in 2014 is a 4-1 split in favor of Democrats, a division that has been maintained since 1996.

Date 2014 Projections Announced: April 2013.

**2012 Projections:** 1 R, 3 D, 1 ? All projections accurate.

**Races to Watch:** Schrader (OR-5, D). The only seat not projected is Oregon's 5<sup>th</sup> District, which leaned slightly Republican in the 2012 presidential election.

Strongest Candidate: Walden (OR-2, D): +7.2% POAC\*

**Weakest Candidate:** Schrader (OR-5, D): -0.1% POAC \*POAC (Performance Over Average Candidate) is a measure of the quality of a winning candidate's campaign. It compares how well a winner did relative to what would be projected for a generic candidate of the same party and incumbency status. See our Methodology section to learn how POAC is determined.

#### Race and Gender in the U.S. House

All of Oregon's congressional districts are majority white, and four out of the five seats are held by white males. Suzanne Bonamici (D), representing the 1<sup>st</sup> District, is the lone female in the delegation.

Bonamici replaced former Congressman David Wu, a Chinese American, who resigned due to scandal in 2011. His initial election in 1998 marked the first time a Chinese American had served in the US Congress.

#### **Dubious Democracy**

Oregon's Democracy Index Ranking: 18th (of 50)

Oregon's mid-level ranking on the Democracy Index can largely be attributed to the fact that four out of its five congressional races in 2012 were won by landslide margins of over 20%. Over the past decade, no incumbent has lost a general election, and a majority of those wins were also landslides. Oregon has also regularly underrepresented Republicans over the past decade. Despite the state's 46% Republican partisanship, Republicans have not held more than 20% of the congressional seats during that period.

Just 38.2% of eligible voters voted for a winning candidate in Oregon in 2012 – a figure that is actually relatively high for U.S. states, ranking 16<sup>th</sup> in the country.



# **2014 ELECTIONS IN OREGON**

July 2014

Listed below are recent election results and 2014 election projections for Oregon's five U.S. House districts. All metrics in this table are further explained in the Methodology section of this report.

**Partisanship** is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. It is determined by measuring how the district voted for president in 2012 relative to the presidential candidates' national averages. Developed by FairVote in 1997 and adapted by Charlie Cook for the Cook Partisan Voting Index, this definition of partisanship is based on only the most recent presidential election.

**Performance Over Average Candidate (POAC)** is an indicator of how well the winner did compared to a hypothetical generic candidate of the same district, incumbency status, and party, based on their winning percentages in 2010 and 2012. A high POAC suggests that the winner appealed to independents and voters from other parties in addition to voters from his or her own party. A low POAC suggests that the winner did not draw many votes from independents and other parties.

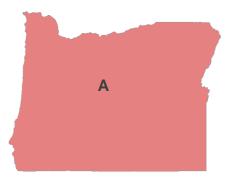
District	Incumbent	Party	Race/Gender	Year First Elected	2012 2-Party Winning Percentage	POAC	District Partisanship (Dem)	2014 Projected Dem %	2014 Projection
1	Bonamici, Suzanne	D	White/F	2012 <sup>1</sup>	64.3%	1.8%	56.7%	62.0%	Safe D
2	Walden, Greg	R	White/M	1998	70.2%	7.2%	39.9%	29.9%	Safe R
3	Blumenauer, Earl	D	White/M	1996	79.0%	2.6%	71.7%	77.5%	Safe D
4	DeFazio, Peter	D	White/M	1986	60.2%	2.6%	51.4%	57.4%	Likely D
5	Schrader, Kurt	D	White/M	2008	56.0%	-0.1%	49.8%	53.5%	No projection

<sup>-</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bonamici was first elected in a January 2012 special election following the resignation of former Congressman David Wu. She then successfully ran for re-election in November 2012.

#### Oregon's Fair Representation Voting Plan

Super District	# of	Pop. Per	% to Win	Partisanship	Current Rep.:	Super District
(w/ current Cong. Dist. #s)	Seats	Seat	(plus 1 vote)	(D/R %)	1 R, 4 D	Rep.: 3 D, 2 R
A (CD s 1,2,3,4,5)	5	766,215	16.7%	54 / 46	1 R, 4 D	3 D, 2 R



**Partisan and Racial Impact:** Under this fair voting plan, Republicans would be more likely to achieve fair representation. We project that Democrats would typically win three seats and Republicans two. There would also be amble opportunity for third parties and independent candidates to win seats in each election. A coalition of racial minority groups would have the ability to elect one candidate of choice.

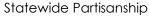
#### **How Does Fair Representation Voting Work?**

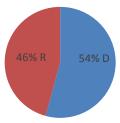
Fair representation voting methods such as ranked choice voting describe American forms of proportional representation with a history in local and state

elections. They uphold American electoral traditions, such as voting for candidates rather than parties. They ensure all voters participate in competitive elections and ensure more accurate representation, with the majority of voters likely to elect most seats and backers of both major parties likely to elect preferred candidates.

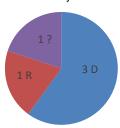
Instead of five individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into one larger "super district." Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a sixth of voters will in a five-seat district.

## Comparing a Fair Representation Voting Plan to Oregon's Current Districts

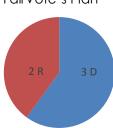




2014 Projections



FairVote's Plan



Partisanship is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

## Benefits of a Fair Representation Voting Plan

**More accurate representation:** Congressional delegations more faithfully reflect the preferences of all voters. Supporters of both major parties elect candidates in each district, with accurate balance of each district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice and competition: Third parties, independents and major party innovators have better chances, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat. Because voters have a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

**Better representation of racial minorities:** Racial minority candidates have a lower threshold to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

*More women*: More women are likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidates.