

Redistricting & Reapportionment

Blumenauer has long championed that a more transparent and accountable redistricting and reapportionment process that guarantees fairness and equity is key reform that is needed.

[2003 New York Times Editorial - *Redistricting: A Bi-Partisan Sport*](#)

[2005 Making Gerrymandering an Endangered Species](#) [PDF]

Political parties have developed into an art form the ability to manipulate the redistricting process to punish opponents and protect incumbents. It should concern us all when politicians have more of an influence picking their voters than voters have in picking their politicians. The result is a House of Representatives that is increasingly dominated by the political extreme and that punishes those whose positions may be more complex.

The House began with 65 Representatives in 1789. This has been adjusted upward to reflect the increases in population, reaching the current 435 Member threshold in 1911. At that time, the U.S. had only 92 million people and the average district was just under 200,000 people.

The average size of a district after the 2000 Census was 650,000, and after the 2010 Census, the average population per district is 710,000. In Oregon, the average is even higher, closer to 770,000 people per district. These trends are clearly unsustainable if we're going to have a truly accountable government. Congressman Blumenauer believes it's time for reform.

Performance-Based Regulations

There are few ways government can do more to increase efficiency, promote effectiveness, and deliver on its goals than moving towards a performance-based regulations model. Through his experience as an administrator responsible for compliance, and as a policy maker at the local, state and federal levels, Blumenauer understands that regulation, when done right, can ensure public safety and accountability, while simultaneously leading to better results faster.

Congressman Blumenauer's leadership on this issue has been particularly important in protecting the environment. He fostered the development of such a model in Oregon that helped local businesses not only meet their development goals, but also enhance air quality and save the environment.

Congressman Blumenauer has made it clear that there is a better way for the government to make sure that both public and private interests are taken into account through a performance-based regulations process. He will continue to work with the administration and his colleagues to see that these principles are implemented.

Elections & Campaign Finance Reform

Congressman Blumenauer has long been an ardent supporter of campaign finance reform, including public financing for congressional campaigns. The Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*

represented a radical step towards unraveling the modest campaign finance controls already in place and is an unfortunate escalation in the campaign spending arms race. In response, he supported the

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) Act

, which would have been an important step toward reining in corporate influence in our democracy. This legislation would have brought transparency to the electoral process by requiring organizations that fund political commercials or advertisements to identify themselves, allowing our citizens to make informed decisions.

Blumenauer believes that campaign finance reform is a fundamental building block of good governance. It's integral to protecting free speech, citizen participation and accountability and, historically, has been a bipartisan issue.

Publicly funded campaigns would loosen the stranglehold that a tiny sliver of large donors have on the political process, and would give qualified candidates who demonstrate broad constituent support an opportunity to compete on a level playing field.

Alarming, less than one-quarter of one percent of Americans made itemized contributions to political campaigns in 2010, yet they accounted for more than 90 percent of the money raised. Even more concerning was an effort by Republicans at the start of this Congress to eliminate

the Presidential Election Campaign Fund. This fund provides public grants and matching funds during a presidential campaign for primary candidates, general election nominees, and party conventions. This program, while in need of reform, has played an important role of increasing transparency, ensuring that campaigns are funded at an appropriate and sustainable level, and strengthened the voice of small-donor Americans. Blumenauer voted against this bill that made no effort at reform.

Congressman Blumenauer supports the [Fair Elections Now Act of 2011](#) . The Fair Elections Now Act would provide funds to candidates who are able to prove they have broad community support, and would make politicians beholden to small donors, rather than the large, bundled donations that dominate today's campaigns.