

King County Districting Committee

Meeting Materials

September 23, 2021

Draft Minutes from September 9, 2021

Summary of Legal Criteria

Adoption of Map Schedule



King County
Meeting Minutes
King County Districting Committee

Thursday, September 9, 2021
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Ann Schindler, Chair, Sophia Danenberg, Cherryl Jackson-Williams and Rob Saka

Members Excused:

Paul Graves

County Staff:

Patrick Hamacher, Erin Arya, Tania Santiago Pastrana, Mike Sinsky and Mari Isaacson

Districting Master:

Dennis Higgins, King County GIS

1. Call to Order

Chair Schindler called the meeting to order at about 7:02 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes from August 26, 2021

Member Saka moved approval of the minutes from August 26, 2021. Member Jackson-Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Disclosure of contacts per Operating Procedure 4.6 and the Districting Master MOU

There were no disclosures from members and the Districting Master. Staff disclosed that they coordinated with the Councilmembers on the agenda for this meeting and their staffs to facilitate attendance at the meeting.

4. Public comment

There was no public comment.

5. King County Councilmember Rob Dembowski

Councilmember Rob Dembowski provided his perspective to the committee about the redistricting.

6. King County Councilmember Joe McDermott

Councilmember Joe McDermott provided his perspective to the committee about the redistricting.

7. King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles provided her perspective to the committee about the redistricting.

8. Reports of community outreach listening sessions

Committee Member debriefed on the community listening sessions held since the last Districting Committee meeting, which included the following meetings:

September 1 – City managers listening session – Danenberg, Graves

September 1 – Latino Community Fund community listening session – Graves, Saka

September 3 – Lived Experience Coalition community listening session – Danenberg, Schindler

September 7 – Veteran pathfinder community listening session – Saka, Schindler

9. Census data briefing by Districting Master

Dennis Higgins provided an overview of the 2020 Census Data which was released on August 12. He also noted that the first committee member work session to develop a draft map occurred today with Sophia Danenberg.

10. Map development schedule

Staff reviewed the updated draft map development schedule with the committee. Member Danenberg raised concerns about the timeline's overlap with a religious holiday. The chair directed staff to generate potential alternative schedule dates for review at the next meeting.

11. Executive Session

At 9:09 pm, the Committee went into Executive Session for 12 minutes pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(iii) to discuss with legal counsel legal risks of a proposed action when public knowledge of the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal consequence to the County.

12. Staff updates

Staff reviewed the potential dates and times for the town hall meetings with the committee. Staff asked for any final changes to the King County TV promo to be sent to staff. Staff also asked members to send any additions to the community listening session summaries. The committee agreed to share the meeting materials containing the potential candidates.

13. Chair updates

Chair Schindler reminded the committee that she will be providing an update to the King County Council at their meeting on September 14. Chair Schindler reviewed with the committee a request from the City of Seattle's redistricting staff to meet with them in September to brief them on King County's redistricting process and to receive a list of potential chair candidates that were considered by the committee.

14. Adjournment

Chair Schindler adjourned the meeting at about 9:39 p.m.

Redistricting legal criteria

State law (RCW 29A.76) and the King County Charter (KCC Section 650) prescribe committee criteria for developing the new district boundaries:

Nearly Equal Population

- Districts shall be as nearly equal in population as possible to each other

Compact and Contiguous

- Districts are to be compact and comprised of contiguous territory

Existing Natural Boundaries

- To the extent feasible, district boundaries shall coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries and be composed of economic and geographic units

Communities of Interest

- To the extent feasible, districts boundaries shall preserve existing communities of related and mutual interest

Census Tracts + Municipalities

- As nearly as practical, district boundaries shall correspond with the boundaries of municipalities and census tracts

Not favor or disfavor a group

- Population data may not be used for purposes of favoring or disfavoring any racial group or political party

Adoption of Map Schedule

High-level timeline overview where each committee member develops a draft map:

(Note that updates not previously discussed in a committee meeting are noted in teal)

- **September 7 - September 23** - Each member works with Districting Master (DM) to develop a draft map that meets all legal criteria.
- **September 23** - Each member (with DM and staff) present draft maps at committee meeting.
- **September 30** - Review areas of similarities and differences between the draft maps. Decide if any maps can be combined and if fewer than four maps can be published before the town hall meetings.
- **October 5, 6 or 7**: If needed hold additional special meeting to combine draft maps prior to town hall meetings.
- **October 7 - October 16** – Waiting period between draft maps being published and the first town hall meeting.
- **Town hall meetings** to review draft maps and seek input: **Sunday, October 17 at 2pm, Tuesday, October 19 at 2pm, Wednesday, October 20 at 2pm & Thursday, October 21 at 7pm.**
- **October 26 - November 18** – DC meets to refine and give direction to the DM to prepare a final draft map.
- **Plan Approval Schedule:**
 - DM must submit the proposed final redistricting plan to the Committee for publication on or before **November 23**.
 - Required Final Public Hearing on **November 30**.
 - Final vote on the redistricting plan no later than **December 7**.

Proposed upcoming meeting dates of the King County Districting Committee:

Thursday, September 23 at 7pm (regular)

Thursday, September 30 at 7pm (special)

October 5, 6 or 7 at 7 pm (special)

Thursday, October 14 at 7pm (regular)

Town Hall Meetings:

- Sunday, October 17 at 2pm
- Tuesday, October 19 at 2pm
- Wednesday, October 20 at 2pm
- Thursday, October 21 at 7pm

Tuesday, October 26 (special)

Thursday, October 28 at 7 pm (regular)

Thursday, November 4 at 7pm (special)

Tuesday, November 9 (special)

Cancel due to Veterans Day: Thursday, November 11

Tuesday, November 16 (special)

Thursday, November 18 (special)

Tuesday, November 23 (special, DM Presentation of the Plan) Time TBD

Cancel due to Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 25

Tuesday, November 30 (special, required public hearing) Time TBD

Tuesday, December 7 (special, expected vote) Time TBD