



King County

King County Districting Committee

May 2, 2011

6:30 p.m.

King County Council Chambers, Rm 1001

516 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Minutes

Chair: Terrance Carroll
Members: Rod Dembowski
John Jensen
Sally Nelson
Sally Poliak

Staff: Simon Farretta, Council Staff
Joanne Rasmussen, Council Staff

The following members were present: Terrance Carroll, Chair, Rod Dembowski, John Jensen, Sally Nelson and Sally Poliak.

Excused: None

I. Call to Order

Judge Terrence Carroll called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. The King County Council redistricting process

Judge Carroll, Chair of the King County Districting Committee, offered introductory remarks. He noted that the members of the redistricting committee were chosen by the King County Council and they in turn chose him as the Chair of the Districting Committee. The task before the committee is to look at the population changes in the county and see if council district boundaries need to be realigned. The committee is required to by law to weigh many factors. He announced the website and the dates of the upcoming public hearings.

III. King County population data

John Schlosser, Districting Master, using overhead maps, demonstrated population imbalance in the existing council districts and the process used to balance those districts. He briefly explained the challenges the committee will face in this process.

IV. Public Testimony

The following people appeared before the committee to offer public comment and to answer questions from the members:

1. **Councilmember Larry Phillips, Council District 4**, noted that Council District 4, as now constituted, is within 1700 people of meeting the population target. This district comprises many communities of interest that work well together. He would like to keep these communities intact as much as possible.
2. **George Cheung** commented that 35% of the population of King County is people of color. He would like to see one third of the council districts contain at least 50% people of color to reflect that countywide percentage. He would like the committee to consider this request as an organizing principal. He distributed a map to the members showing a possible division of districts that would achieve this goal. The members requested this map in electronic format.
3. **James Burrows** using an overhead map discussed a process of applying mathematical formulas to redistrict based only on population criteria.
4. **Toby Guevin** spoke on behalf of OneAmerica. He distributed written testimony to the committee members in addition to his verbal remarks. He requested that the committee prioritize keeping related communities of color and immigrant and refugee communities together.
5. **Gregg Hirakawa**, District 4 constituent, requested that the boundaries remain as close to the current ones as possible since the district already reflects all legal requirements for creating districts.
6. **Janet Anderson** Chair, Washington Citizens for Proportional Representation, noted that her group advocates eliminating all council districts and electing officials proportionally at large.
7. **Judith Hine**, District 4 constituent, noted that the district is very diverse and she would like to see the boundaries remain as they are currently.
8. **Linda Clifton**, District 4 constituent, identified problems along Aurora Avenue. She would like to build community ties across Aurora Avenue to help fight crime in the area. She feels I-5 is a more natural geographic boundary in the section of Aurora north of Lake Union.
9. **Celeste Warren**, would be willing to discuss her experience with communities of color and traffic needs.
10. **Nate Miles** noted that his issue is communities of color. He feels voting power has dispersed as people of color have had to move out of the Central Area. He would like to share ideas from the African American community.

V. Adjourn

Chair Carroll thanked the members of the public for attending and sharing their thoughts. The next meeting will be on May 5, 2011 in Kent.

Ms. Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Poliak seconded the motion. The Chair so ordered and the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.