



**King County**

## King County Districting Committee

May 5, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Kent-Meridian High School Library  
10020 SE 256<sup>th</sup> Street, Kent, WA 98030

### 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. They serve as volunteers. 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. He noted that comments from members of the public are important in the process.

#### **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. This process is balancing the population and not just the registered voters in each district.

#### **IV. Public Testimony**

Prior to the formal public testimony the Chair opened the meeting for questions on Mr. Schlosser's presentation. Members of the audience asked Mr. Schlosser if it is possible to accurately predict growth, whether it would be possible to satisfy everyone with the new district boundaries, and what is the tolerance of difference allowed between district populations? Mr. Schlosser answered that in many ways predicting growth is a guessing game. The Chair noted that the law sets the requirements for redistricting and the real challenge is fitting what the public feels is most important into that framework. The population difference from one district to another could be as much as five to ten percent but the goal is to keep it smaller.

The Chair introduced the following elected officials: Julia Patterson, Councilmember, District 8; Lisa Jensen, Councilmember, City of Newcastle; and Patrick Seiver, UAC, Maple Valley Area Council. The following people appeared before the committee to offer public comment and to answer questions from the members:

1. **Larry Jackson**, thanked the committee for the information on the web. He found it very helpful. He made the following suggestions for some changes. He suggested moving Districts Four and Two north into District One. District One could move into District Three. District Eight could move into District Five and District Five could move into District Nine. District Seven could move into District Nine, perhaps looking at picking up Black Diamond.
2. **Don Rex**, resident of Des Moines, commented that he has lived with the political implications of these district boundaries. He commented that Des Moines (District Five) is very much a part of Normandy Park but they are not in the same district at this time. District Five only represents part of Kent. He suggested expanding District Eight and District Two by drawing a line across from Normandy Park directly east taking Renton and giving part of that to District Two. SeaTac's orientation is more to the airport and Burien than to the Des Moines area. Cut off Normandy Park and dip down and take all of SeaTac and cut right across and give District Eight and District Two a horizontal cut rather than trying to stretch them north and south. In effect this would squash District Five east-west.
3. **Councilmember Julia Patterson, King County Council District 5** thanked the committee for their hard work. She wanted to show her support for the committee. She asked whether Mercer Island identifies with East King County? She noted that Mercer Island could solve a number of problems. She offered to discuss the elements of the district she currently represents with the committee.

4. **Katie Hanzeli**, resident of Kent East Hill, has experienced numerous boundary changes. She is in the new annexation area now. It is very confusing to her and she asked why there couldn't be more districts since the population is expanding.

#### **V. Adjourn**

Chair Carroll thanked the members of the public for attending and sharing their thoughts. He thanked staff and his fellow committee members. The next meeting will be on May 11, 2011 in Kirkland.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.