



King County

King County Districting Committee

June 30, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall – Council Chambers
450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

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 6:37 p.m.

II. The King County Council redistricting process

Judge Carroll, Chair of the King County Districting Committee, offered introductory remarks. He thanked the City of Bellevue for hosting the public hearing and introduced the following elected officials in attendance at the public hearing: Richard Cole, Councilmember, City of Redmond; Hank Myers, Councilmember, City of Redmond; David Hutchinson, Mayor, Lake Forest Park; Lisa Jensen, Councilmember, City of Newcastle; Lyn Watts, Commissioner, Fall City Water District; and Ken Hearing, Mayor, City of North Bend.

Judge Carroll discussed the redistricting process and noted that the Districting Committee's job is to balance district population to ensure each resident has an equal voice in County government. The four draft maps each explore a different way for drawing equally populated districts that meet legal requirements and take into consideration public input the committee has received. Tonight the committee is hoping for further comment on each of the draft maps. He announced the website and the dates of the upcoming public hearings.

III. Overview of draft redistricting plans

John Schlosser, Districting Master, briefed the audience on the four draft maps indicating differences among the maps and with the districts as currently defined.

IV. Audience Questions

There were no questions from the audience.

V. Public Testimony

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

1. **Richard Cole, Councilmember, City of Redmond**, testified that Redmond would like to be split between two districts. Both map 3 or 4 are acceptable, but Map 4 is preferable. Seattle should have 3 districts and map 4 addresses that the best. He responded to a question from Mr. Dembowki suggesting that Willows Road is a natural boundary that could be used to split Redmond.
2. **Hank Myers, Councilmember, Redmond**, prefers map 3. This map best anticipates the growth in the eastern and southern parts of the county.
3. **David Hutchinson, Mayor, Lake Forest Park**, indicated that he preferred a map that keeps the five Northend cities in the same district. He distributed a letter from the City of Lake Forest Park addressed to the Districting Committee members dated May 24, 2011 which stated that Lake Forest Park has benefited from its partnership with other Northend cities and would like any new boundaries to support the current established relationships.
4. **Lori Sotelo, Mercer Island resident**, testified that Mercer Island is a suburban city and shares cooperative agreements with the Eastside. These agreements include children's sports associations and 911 responders. She prefers any map that does not have Mercer Island in a district with Seattle because Mercer Island's interests would be overshadowed by Seattle interests. Ms. Sotelo distributed copies of her testimony to the committee members.
5. **John Larsen, Mercer Island resident**, stated that he agrees with the testimony of Ms. Sotelo.
6. **Ken Hearing, Mayor, North Bend**, asked the committee to keep together the cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie, specifically including the nearby unincorporated areas south of I-90 that associate with the cities. He

responded to questions from Mr. Dembowski and Ms. Poliak clarifying the area to which he was referring included rural North Bend and Rattlesnake Ridge. If these areas were redistricted into District 9, there would be an isolating geographic split between these residents and the rest of their new district.

7. **Nancy Spaeth, Mercer Island resident**, agreed that Mercer Island is very different from Seattle. It is much closer to the Eastside. She is concerned that changing Mercer Island into a Seattle district would divide the 41st Legislative District.
8. **Jackie Denbar, Mercer Island resident**, testified that she understood that I-90 would be tolled. She urged the committee not to put Mercer Island into a Seattle district from which it would be divided by a toll area. That would make it harder to participate in local government.
9. **Kelsie Beck, Food Lifeline and North Urban Human Services Alliance**, testified that the five northend cities are all part of the alliance. They need one strong voice for human services. Keep the five cities in one district.
10. **James Burrows, citizen**, distributed and discussed a map using population as the only redistricting criteria.

Members of the committee made final comments to the audience and thanked them for their testimony.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Carroll also thanked the members of the public for attending and sharing their thoughts. He noted that there were two additional public hearings and members of the public could submit testimony online at the districting committee website. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.