



King County

King County Districting Committee

July 12, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
Van Asselt Community Center
2810 S Myrtle Street, Seattle, WA 98108

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 6:38 p.m.

II. The King County Council redistricting process

Judge Carroll, Chair of the King County Districting Committee, welcomed the members of the audience and introduced the members of the committee. He 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.

Judge Carroll acknowledged the attendance of Lisa Jensen, Councilmember, City of Newcastle.

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 and responded to questions of clarification from the audience.

IV. Audience Questions

John Schlosser, Districting Master, answered a question from Lonnie Lusardo about what data was presented on one of the maps. Karmonda Pearson made a statement in favor of following commonly understood city boundaries when redistricting. She also suggested that the Districting Committee should be more diverse.

V. Public Testimony

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

- 1. Cherry Cayabyab, United for Fair Representation**, requested that three districts have a majority of minority communities to correspond with the one-in-three residents of King County who are persons of color. She distributed copies of a district map that would accomplish this goal. She noted that the make-up of the County Council and Districting Committee do not reflect the County's diversity. Having three majority minority districts is important in order for communities of color to feel empowered to civically engage, to be fairly represented by leadership accountable to the community, and to not have their voting power diluted.
- 2. Lonnie Lusardo**, is interested in representation for people of color. He requested information on how redistricting would change the ethnic profile of the various districts. The committee discussed data resources and their legal mandate.
- 3. Henry Yates, United for Fair Representation**, noted he was disappointed with King County Councilmembers for not including persons of color on the Districting Committee. People of color make up thirty-five percent of the County, and the committee has a deficit by not having appropriate representation. The committee should pay special attention to the issue of people of color, given the communities' historical lack of representation in government.
- 4. John Morgan**, asked if the residences of the current King County Councilmembers are within their districts in all the map options. Mr. Schlosser said that the current draft maps do not redistrict any members out of their district. Judge Carroll noted that the committee adopted a rule that communications from councilmembers or their representatives favoring any particular map configuration must be reported to the committee at a public meeting.
- 5. Scott Fords, Chair, 43rd District Democrats**, asked that the committee consider transit issues during this process. Map 1 takes people from the

University District and puts them with Shoreline, rather than with Capitol Hill with whom they share transit interests. He prefers Maps 2 and 4.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Carroll thanked the members of the public for attending and sharing their thoughts. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.