



King County

King County Districting Committee

November 1, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
King County Council Chambers, 10th Floor
King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, 98104

Minutes

Chair: Terrance Carroll
Members: Rod Dembowski
John Jensen
Sally Nelson
Sally Poliak
Staff: Simon Farretta, Committee Staff
Joanne Rasmussen, Committee Staff

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

Excused: None

Outside Attendees: John Schlosser, Districting Master
Mike Sinsky, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, King County

I. Call to Order

Judge Terrence Carroll called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. The King County Council redistricting process

The Chair offered introductory remarks regarding the redistricting process to the audience. He discussed the process from the inception of the committee to the present.

III. Overview of the proposed Districting Master's Plan

Mr. Schlosser discussed the map by district and how the population has been balanced in the Master's map.

IV. Public Testimony

The following people appeared before the committee to offer public comment:

- 1) George Cheung, Director, Win/Win Network, would like to see at least two majority minority districts on the map. District 2 should include the International District.

- 2) Yemane Gebremicael, US citizen originally from Ethiopia, would like to see three majority minority districts on the map.
- 3) James Burrows distributed map showing compactness. According to his calculations the Districting Master's map has a 22% violation of compactness criteria.
- 4) Oscar Eason, Jr., President, NAACP, encouraged the committee members to refer to the Unity Map and create three majority minority districts in King County. The population is 35 % people of color in the county.
- 5) Scott Morris, President, Denny Creek Alliance, and resident of Finn Hill, would like to have Finn Hill moved into District 6.
- 6) Lori Sotelo, Mercer Island resident, thanked the committee for keeping Mercer Island in District 6.
- 7) Tino Gallegos, Seattle resident, spoke in support of creating 3 majority minority districts. He would like to see the committee use the Unity Map.
- 8) Cos Roberts, member of a group of entrepreneurs of color, supports use of the Unity Map to create majority minority districts.
- 9) Jon Morgan, has a background in urban planning and political science and supports having at least two majority minority districts.

The Chair thanked the audience for their testimony and announced the next Districting Meeting would be at 9:00 a.m. on November 9, 2011 in the Chinook Building. That meeting will be where the committee makes the decision on a final districting map. The Chair noted that, in response to inquiries from groups, he had asked staff to prepare a document for this meeting that shows the current and proposed district populations by race. This information was not used in creation of the map. To adhere to the committee's policy of transparency, the document was distributed to the audience.

Mr. Dembowski thanked the members of the community that came out to testify. He assured the audience that he has been listening and reading all of their comments. He described some of the changes the committee made to address their concerns, including

- The current District 2 does not include the First AME Church. The new District 2 includes it.
- The International District is no longer split between Districts 8 and 2 but entirely in District 8 with the stadiums to afford the International District a voice in stadium decisions that affect them.
- More of Beacon Hill is included in the proposed District 2.
- Skyway is fractured in the current map. The proposed map keeps Skyway together in District 2.
- District 2 is more diverse under the proposed map.
- District 5 is 49.3% non-white in the new map and is a strong representation of its communities of interest.

- Finn Hill was a difficult challenge. The size of King County makes it necessary to split some cities. The districts themselves are so large that there will be some communities that are not clearly connected. But, the committee did make sure the Finn Hill community itself remained together in one district.

V. Adjourn

The Chair announced the next Districting Meeting would be at 9:00 a.m. on November 9, 2011 in the Chinook Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.