



Washington State
Redistricting Commission

Your Voice. Your Vote. Redistricting 2011

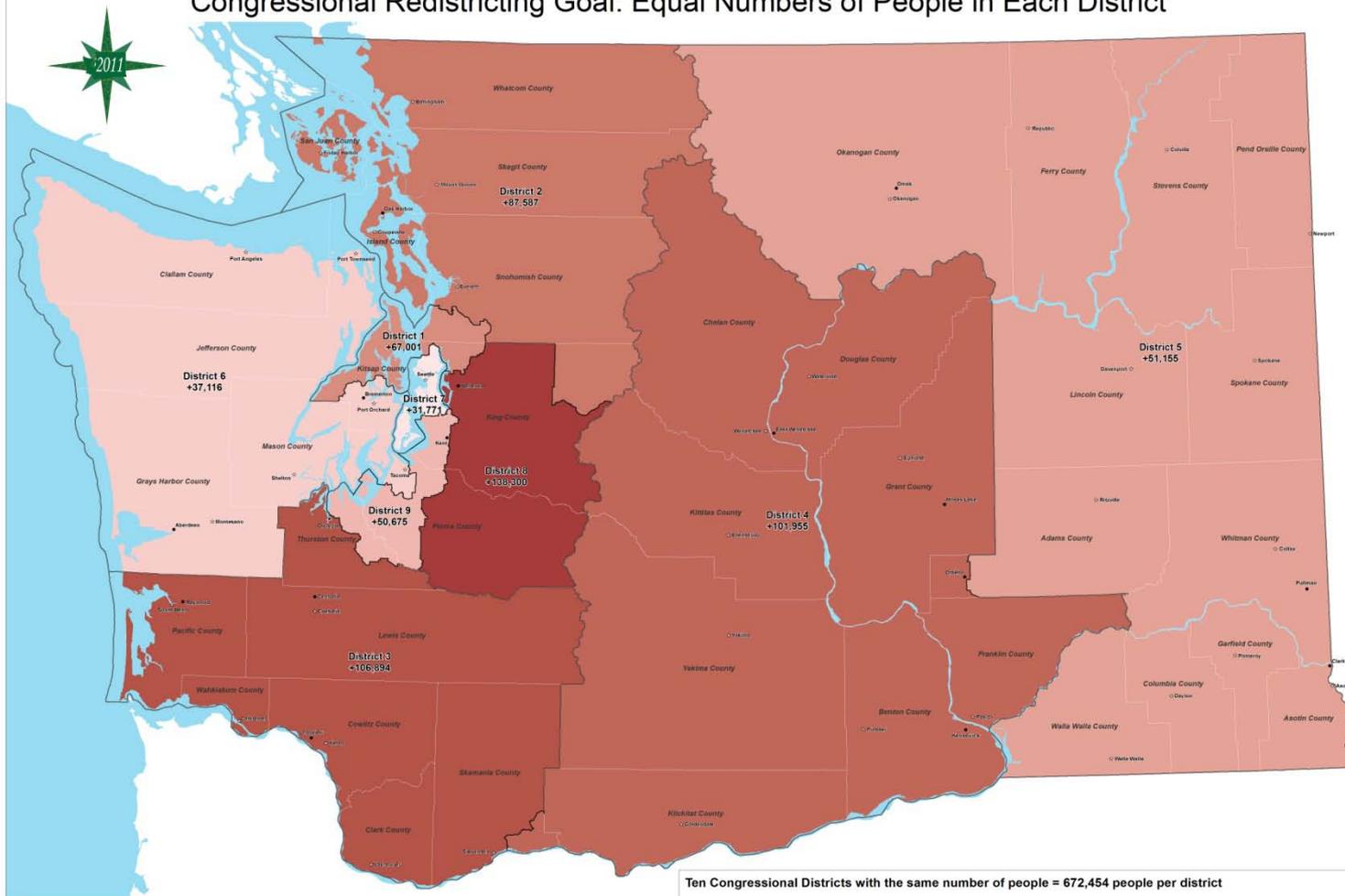
Redrawing congressional and legislative
districts in Washington State

What is redistricting?

- Revising the boundaries of voting districts
 - So that,
 - Citizens have equal representation
 - Based on 2010 Census data



Congressional Redistricting Goal: Equal Numbers of People in Each District



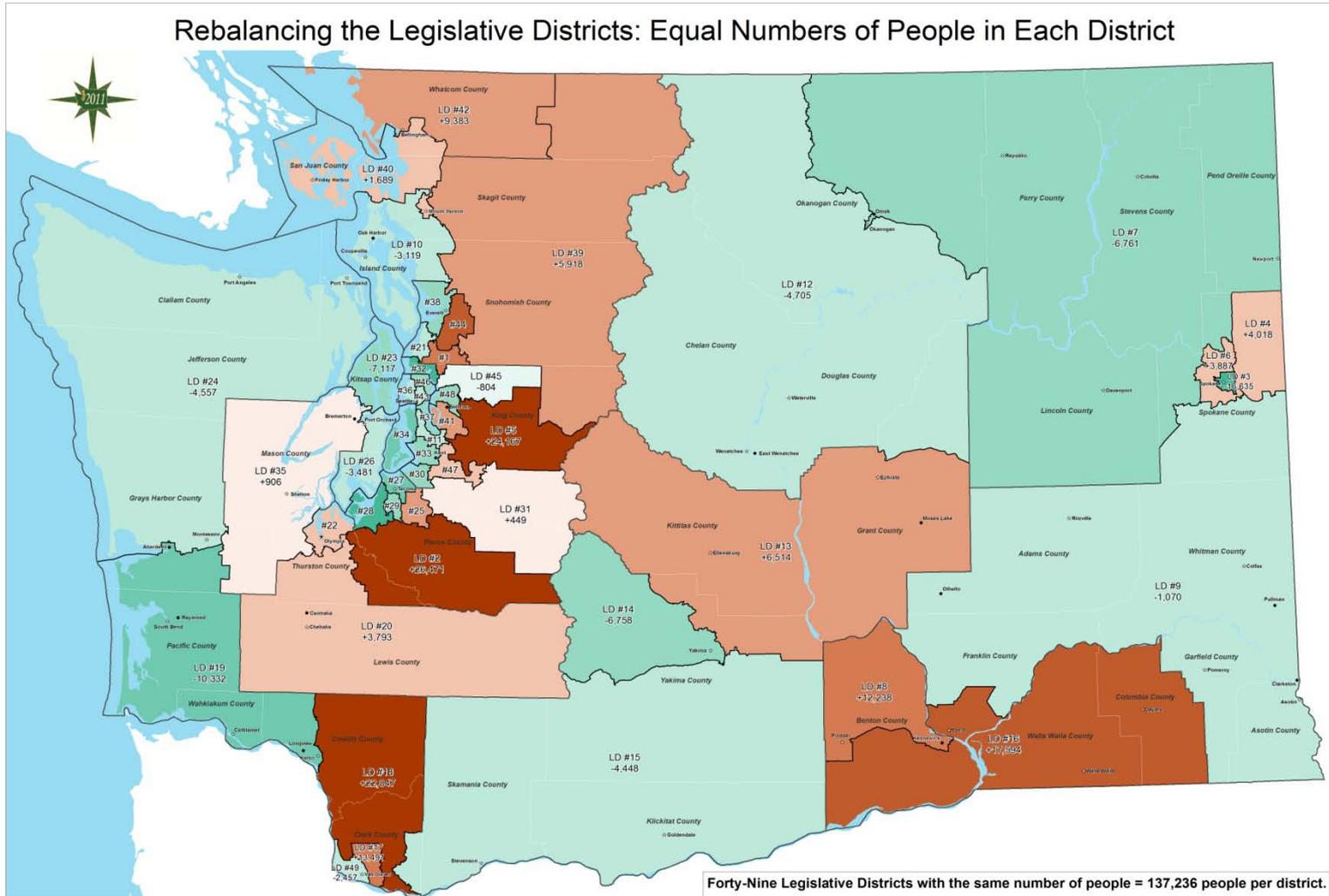
Ten Congressional Districts with the same number of people = 672,454 people per district

Current district total populations (lowest to highest)

7th District - Pop. 704,225 (31,771 too many)	5th District - Pop. 723,609 (51,155 too many)	4th District - Pop. 774,409 (101,955 too many)
6th District - Pop. 709,570 (37,116 too many)	1st District - Pop. 739,455 (67,001 too many)	3rd District - Pop. 779,348 (106,894 too many)
9th District - Pop. 723,129 (50,675 too many)	2nd District - Pop. 760,041 (87,587 too many)	8th District - Pop. 810,754 (138,300 too many)

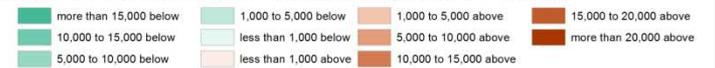
Washington State Redistricting Commission
 P.O. Box 40948 Olympia, WA 98504-0948
www.redistricting.wa.gov
 The official state population is 6,724,540 (April 1, 2010)
 Map data by United States Census Bureau and Washington State Department of Transportation.
 May 2011

Rebalancing the Legislative Districts: Equal Numbers of People in Each District



Forty-Nine Legislative Districts with the same number of people = 137,236 people per district.

Number of people below or above an equal share of the state's population:



Washington State Redistricting Commission
 P.O. Box 40948 Olympia, WA, 98504-0948
 www.redistricting.wa.gov
 The official state population is 6,724,540 (April 1, 2010)
 Map data by United States Census Bureau and Washington State Department of Transportation.
 May 2011

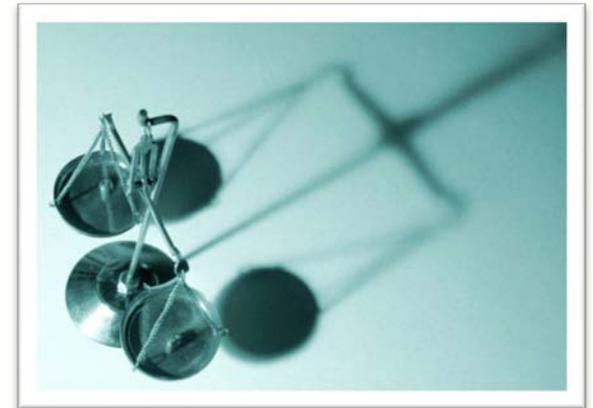
Who does the redistricting?

- Washington State Redistricting Commission
- County legislative authorities



What laws address redistricting?

- U.S. Constitution – Article I, Section 2
- U.S. Voting Rights Law
- Washington State Constitution – Article II, Section 43
 - Amendment to State Constitution
 - Adopted by voters in 1983
- State Legislation
 - 44.05 RCW and Implementing Rules 417 WAC



How has redistricting changed over the years?

1889
The state Constitution requires that the Legislature redistrict based on "the number of inhabitants" after each U.S. Census.

Pre-1950s

1931
Citizens complain that representation is badly apportioned and debate using an initiative to redraw district boundaries.

1954
The League of Women Voters proposes its own redistricting initiative—Initiative 199—after legislators battle along party lines to redraw voting boundaries.

1950s

1956
Initiative 199 passes, linking redistricting to population trends in the state. But in the next session, the Legislature amends the resulting redistricting plan significantly.

1960s
The League of Women Voters proposes another initiative to improve redistricting. The federal court gets involved after finding that the districts drawn in 1957 were discriminatory. The Legislature takes three years to pass compromise legislation that satisfies federal justices.

1960s

1958
The League of Women Voters proposes an amendment to the state Constitution that would establish a commission to take over redistricting if the Legislature failed to quickly adopt a redistricting plan. Voters reject the amendment.

1970s
The U.S. District Court finds that the 1965 redistricting legislation is unconstitutional. The state is restricted from holding further elections under the existing law. The court gives the state until February 25, 1972, to create a fair redistricting plan. The Legislature fails to meet the deadline, and the court draws the redistricting plan for the state.

1970s

1980s
In 1982, growing weary of the constant battles, the Legislature proposes a bill to create an independent, bipartisan redistricting committee to begin work in 1991. But facing another court imposed 90-day mandate, it appoints a temporary five-commissioner panel, which successfully meets the 1983 redistricting deadline.

1980s

1983
Voters approve a ballot measure to amend the state Constitution and institute the commission. Washington becomes the third state in the U.S. to redistrict by commission.

1991
The first Redistricting Commission meets and successfully creates a redistricting plan by the constitutional deadline.

1990s

2001
The second Redistricting Commission generates a redistricting plan by the constitutional deadline.

2000s

2011
The third Redistricting Commission convenes.

2011



How does the Commission work?

- New commission appointed every year ending in 1
- Four members appointed by two largest political parties in House and Senate
- The non-voting Chair is appointed by the four commissioners
- Listen to people and gather ideas and input
- Work with map specialists to draft plans
- Agrees on a redistricting plan by Jan 1, 2012
- Must disband by June 2012

What makes Washington's process work?

- Bipartisan
- Public can participate, and submit plans
- There are guidelines for drawing the boundaries
- Firm deadline
- One of only 11 states with a commission
- Commissioners cannot be a legislator or lobbyist or seek public office for two years following completion

What if the deadlines are missed?

- If deadlines are missed or an agreement isn't reached in time, the State Supreme Court steps in and must adopt a plan by March 1, 2012



What is the Role of the Supreme Court

- ✓ Keeps the process moving if appointment deadlines are missed.
- ✓ Adopts a plan if the Commission can't agree by the deadline.
- ✓ Hears challenges to the approved plan
- ✓ -----challenges to Redistricting plan takes precedence over all court matters

What about Commission staff?

- Collect, format, and provide public access to census data, electoral data, and precinct and other official geographic data
- Respond to public, media, governmental inquiries and requests
- Provide support for Commission meetings
- Ensure public comments reach commissioners
- Prepare and publish a report with the plan

How can I make my voice heard?

- Attend a forum in person or via the webcast
- Tell us what you think is most important about your community—in person, over the web, fax, email
- Follow us on the Internet:
 - Website
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Listserv

How do I submit my ideas about boundaries?

- Draw a map and send it to us by **August 15, 2011**
- All districts or any part of any district—you draw the line
- Create a plan using commission software – available in Olympia
- Submit a plan electronically (map or table).
- Submit plan on maps provided by commission
- Questions about plan submission?
360-786-0770 or www.redistricting.wa.gov

Questions?

