



**Comments on Redistricting Commission's Draft Plans
December 29, 2011**

Messages to the Commission		CD	LD	
12/29/11	The Congressional district plan creates some very strange bedfellows in the 8th and 1st districts. The enormous new 8th district boundaries seem to be a transparent effort to keep a certain Republican politician in office, without regard to the natural geographical and community divisions of our state. I see no logic in placing East and South King County in the same district as counties located east of the Cascades. It is also disturbing to see that communities are still being divided up among more than one district. The plan creates several quite geographically small districts (7, 9, 10), and leaves several other districts (1, 6, 8) unmanageably large. Even if the population counts were roughly equal, the interests of the areas lumped together are not. In the Legislative map, the 31st district continues to inexplicably straddle the boundary between King and Pierce County, forcing together communities that have little in common. South King County communities (including Enumclaw) have more in common with Issaquah than they do with Graham etc. These maps should create districts with common community and geographical interests. They should not be an exercise in perpetuating entrenched party politics.	8	31	Linda Atkins Enumclaw
12/29/11	Please do not split Yakima County from north to south when creating 14th & 15 district boundaries. The natural and cultural boundaries of Upper and Lower Yakima Valley districts are better served by leaving the Upper Valley in the 14th and the Lower Valley in the 15th.	4	15	John Pickens Zillah
12/29/11	Redistricting should take shared watersheds into consideration. Shared resources play a huge role in our future. So along with population balance, that should be considered. For instance Kittitas County and Yakima County really need a strong voice pertaining to the Yakima River Basin, a shared economic and environmental resource. Re: the Yakima legislative district splits: I respect taking minorities into consideration, but don't fuel resentments... logical physical and community boundaries should rule. Don't cut people off from their interests by forcing them into a minority position. Probably way too late for you to consider...	4	14	
12/29/11	Shift the boundary north of Everett, please. I am concerned that the urban citizens do not have the same concerns as our agrarian population, and with their urban history of destroying arable land, I have grave concerns to the point of having zero congressional representation instead of two. Please refer to the Chuckanut Park district controversy of Skagit and Watcom counties and the boundary review boards' issues, and you will understand my concern.	1	40	Robert Pare Bow

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12/29/11	I AM A RETIRED HIGH SCHOOL AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TEACHER. I FIND IT VERY DISTURBING TO SAY THE LEAST THAT EDUCATED AND RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE ASSIGNED THE TASK OF CREATING NEW CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ARE STILL EMPLOYING AN 18TH CENTURY GERRYMANDERING MENTALITY AND TRYING TO CREATE SAFE REPUBLICAN OR SAFE DEMOCRATIC DISTRICTS. LET"S MOVE INTO TKHE 21ST CENTURY AND CREATE GOOD FAIR AMERICAN DISTRICTS. IT IS THE ONLY RIGHT DECISION TO MAKE.	5	6	KEN PELO Spokane
12/29/11	When drawing a majority/minority legislative district in Central Washington, please be cognizant of the younger age distribution and lower voter participation rates of minority groups. I hope that you increase the minority population within the 15th LD sufficiently to close age and participation discrepancies.	4	14	Eleanor Hungate Yakima
12/29/11	I strongly oppose Commissioner Huff's redistricting plan. Cheney, Medical Lake and Airway. Heights. Should be in the 6th District because they share a community of interest. I strongly support Commisioner Ceis plan.	5	6	M. Laurie FlinnConnelly Spokane
12/29/11	Please don't put any of Skamania County in the Clark County legislative areas - these folks have not felt included in the Clark County organizations - and the timber interests in Skamania County certainly don't fit with East Clark County. Break it at the Clark County line.	3	17	
12/29/11	I strongly oppose Commissioner Huff's redistricting proposal for Spokane county. The 6th LD as proposed initially by Commissioner Ceis seems to best incorporate logical boundaries in Spokane County. Why not incorporate existing streets and neighborhoods in reconfiguring these legislative districts? Airway Heights, Medical Lake and Cheney belong in a LD that is totally within the confines of the Spokane County borders. Spokane County is best served with 4, not 5, legislative districts. The bi-partisan make-up of Spokane County needs to be represented and maintained in new redistricting plans. Do do otherwise is totally blatantly partisan.	5	7	Kristen Cejka Spoane
12/29/11	The Commissioner Huff map goes too far in fracturing the representation for Spokane and Spokane County which is not in the best interest of the constituents of the City of Spokane or Spokane County.	5	6	Melinda Travis Spokane

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12/29/11	I strongly oppose Commissioner Huff's redistricting proposal. Airway Heights, Medical Lake and Cheney interests and values should be respresented in the 6th legislative district- that is wholly captured in the confines of the Spokane County Borders. To settle for a map, like Commissioner Huff proposed, seems to blatantly disregard the bi-partisan make-up of the suburban parts of Spokane County. The recent Commissioner Huff map does not take into account using streets as boundaries in a logical manner in several of the Spokane legislative districts. The Commissioner Huff map goes too far in fracturing the representation for Spokane and Spokane County which is not in the best interest of the constituents of the City of Spokane or Spokane County.	5	6	Tanya Riordan Spokane
12/29/11	As a white voter that lives in the 14th district, I strongly support creating a district that is truly representative of the Latino population in this area. I oppose Commissioner Huff's plan to dilute the population into districts that represent smaller total percentages of Latinos. I support Commissioner Foster's plan to draw the 15th LD as a strongly Latino district. That demographic has unique needs AND unique talents that must be represented in Olympia.	4	14	Yakima
12/29/11	After reviewing the suggested redistricting maps, the Commissioner Ceis proposal seems the most logical and in keeping with the Commission's mandate to honor "natural communities of interest". Please don't make this an exercise in politics by trying to "best" the opposition with gerrymandered districts. The public has had quite enough of political shenanigans, we want an honest, forthright election process.	5	3	Linda McHenry Spokane
12/29/11	Good morning, I'm concerned by the most recent map drawn by Commissioner Huff that redistricts Spokane City into 5 districts instead of 4. As a resident of the 6th district, I know that our community is best served with the logical boundaries and local interests. Please support the Heis map that contains Cheney and Airway Heights within the Spokane County borders and keeps similar community interests within common boundaries. Thank you.	5	6	Amy Biviano

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12/29/11	I recommend as someone who has lived in the 6th District for 9 years and has voted in every election the 6th District for 4 years since I turned 18 in 2007 that the 6th District be redistricted into a more competitive district. It is absolutely absurd to redistrict the 6th into a republican safe seat. The reason the commission was formed was to avoid these types of gerrymandering tactics by a controlling party. I think it is totally unfair and does not do the 6th district any justice. The goal is to create something that is more representative of different types of lifestyles, backgrounds and political ideologies. This is a political game and it is irresponsible to play such games. As a Political Science major at the University of Idaho I have taken a Congress class that focused on gerrymandering and I have seen that political gerrymandering causes divides such as in Texas when Democratic lawmakers fled the state to Oklahoma to avoid a vote on an unfair political gerrymandering proposal by the leading Republican Caucus. I think that Commissioner Huff and all members of the Commission should work together to create competitive districts that represent the people of Spokane County and the 6th District more fairly. I hope you reconsider because the current map that was proposed by Commissioner Huff sets a bad example for future Commissions.	5	6	Nicholas CastroLang Spokane
12/29/11	We in the city of Walla Walla would like to remain in the 5th Congressional District. The plan released by Gorton and Ceis seems to be a good compromise for our area. Although we would lose part of Walla Walla County, the city does remain in the 5th District. This plan does seem to be acceptable to me and others that I know.	5	16	
12/29/11	Re: Spokane County. Please don't chop up Spokane County by selecting the Huff plan for LDs. Those who organize everything from campaigns to picnics are looking forward to the Foster plan boundaries that make sense and are actually based on natural geographic boundaries, supported by other political boundaries as well such as school districts, commissioner districts, and more. The logic of the Foster plan for Spokane County must outweigh any devilment being sought by the Huff plan.	5	4	Valerie Rongey Spokane Valley
12/29/11	After studying maps proposed by Commissioner Huff and Commissioner Ceis, I believe the Ceis version makes the most sense. It best incorporates logical boundries and keeps several communities together. It also splits Spokane county into 4 districts instead of 5. Thank you so much!			Rich Cowan Richard Cowan <rcowan@nxnw.net>

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12/29/11	My name is Andrew Graham, I live in Grapeview, Mason County, 35th LD, 6th CD, and I appreciate this opportunity to write to you. I notice several of the proposed Congressional District lines do not coincide with Legislative District lines when it would be a relatively straightforward adjustment to do so. In particular, the southern edge of the proposed 6th CD aligns with the 2000 Legislative district lines but not the latest proposal. There are two problems with this. Legislative Districts are designed to put like communities together, and the citizens of the district have a significant common bond in their common legislators and senator. Splitting these communities isn't in their best interest. Elected officials at the Legislative and Congressional levels work together. Keeping their districts aligned as well as practical will improve this collaboration. Going back to the particulars of the 6th CD, the current proposal removes the Mason County seat of Shelton from the 6th CD into the 10th, leaving the rest of the county in the 6th. This cuts the heart out of Mason County and will harm both its residents and its government's effectiveness. Therefor, I recommend that the entirety of Mason County be returned to the 6th CD, and that the border between the 6th and 3rd CDs follow the proposed border between the 19th and 24th Legislative Districts as described in the Foster-Huff plan of December 16.		Andrew Graham 181 E Stadium Place Grapeview, WA andrewgraham@att.net
12/29/11	I am totally against Commissioner Huff's plan for Spokane County. We need 4, not 5 Legislative districts. All of south western Spokane County needs to be in the 6th LD. Cheney, Medical Lake and Airway Heights will not be well served at all to be in the 9th LD. Spokane has a distantly bi-partisan make-up and that needs to be considered in this new plan.		Kristen Cejka 7th LD 509-706-2004 krisfrankc@icehouse.net
12/29/11	I strongly oppose Commissioner Huff's redistricting proposal. Cheney, Medical Lake, and Airway Heights should absolutely be included in the 6th District. They interact closely with Spokane County communities, industry and legislators and their interests should be further incorporated versus continuing to be isolated. Commissioner Ceis initially proposed a map that incorporates logical boundaries using streets as major borders and should be reconsidered.- As a stated goal of the redistricting commission-Splitting Spokane County into 4 districts versus 5 is important if our interests are to be represented in the state legislature. Commissioner Huff's proposal blatantly disregards the bi-partisan make-up of the suburban parts of Spokane County. It is simply not in the best interest of our community. It is offensive that you are abandoning Spokane County in this effort and hope you will quickly rectify this.		Tanya Riordan 6th Leg District 509-990-9777

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12/29/11	I'm not sure who drew your map. it's obvious the person doesn't know how to draw lines because it's very confusing. The new 10th district goes up into part of Mason County and it makes no sense from the map because it's not a straight line what will be in the 10th District in Mason County and what will stay in its original district. I wish people would learn how to draw maps correctly so you can read them. It's just really strange having that little bump shoot up their and be Wiggly.			Mr. Parrett
12/29/11	With the few numbers represented in Lincoln County, it would seem unnecessary to split the count for the purpose of balancing numbers. What you do to our representation is farm more detrimental to us that the splitting gains for any other purpose.			John Nelson Reardan Washington
12/29/11	Dear Commissioners, I strongly support including Airway Heights, Medical Lake and Cheney in the new 6th District. We should have a legislative district that keeps representation for Spokane County together and does not fracture it. These communities naturally are part of Spokane. Thank you for your consideration.			Dan Morrissey
12/29/11	I strongly oppose Commissioner Huff's redistricting proposal. Cheney, Medical Lake, and Airway Heights should absolutely be included in the 6th District. They interact closely with Spokane County communities, industry and legislators and their interests should be further incorporated versus continuing to be isolated. Commissioner Ceis initially proposed a map that incorporates logical boundaries using streets as major borders and should be reconsidered. Splitting Spokane County into 4 districts versus 5 is important if our interests are to be represented in the state legislature. Commissioner Huff's proposal blatantly disregards the bi-partisan make-up of the suburban parts of Spokane County. It is simply not in the best interest of our community. It is offensive that you are abandoning Spokane County in this effort and hope you will quickly rectify this.			Becky Graham Newman Lake, WA
12/29/11	Commissioners: As someone who has lived and campaigned for candidates for nearly 15 years in Spokane County, the plan is best that supports Airway Heights, Medical Lake and Cheney interests and values in a legislative district that is wholly within the confines of the Spokane County Borders. Thank you for your continuing efforts on behalf of Washington voters.			Diane Crow Spokane
12/29/11	In the proposed split of Walla Walla County between the 4th and 5th Congressional Districts, in which district do the towns of Lowden and Touchet fall?			Shane Laib Walla Walla

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12/29/11	My family and myself have been long time residents of the beautiful Lower Yakima Valley. We as a part of the current 15th Legislative district take pride in the small town, Americana, atmosphere that this area supports. The cities of Sunnyside and Grandview, which lie on the border, tend to rely heavily on each other for resources. It is a shame to me to consider that if the new district lines do go into effect, placing Sunnyside into Franklin county, this will serve as a division of the unity that we have come to depend and take pride in. I cannot stress how important it is to keep the Lower Yakima Valley intact. Please consider these thoughts into your decision.		Lara Family
12/29/11	Please DO NOT split Lincoln County in half, this divides our school, fire districts as well as our cities and other municipalities. While Lincoln County is a rural area with low density, we share the least social ties with the counties on the proposal of Huff 13th District. Again ! - Being part of Eastern Washington we Do Not have much of a voice in state issues now, (I would consider us a minority group) Please do not split Lincoln County's voice !		Darrel Parsons Davenport



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12/29/11	<p>As I look at commissioner Huff's redistricting plan, I am trying to figure out how it meets any of the commission's criteria by dividing Lincoln County along highway 2. The southern portion of this plan drags a person 195 miles from one end to the other for a 3+ hour's driving time through country with which the Eastern end has very little in common socially, economically and culturally with the western end. The plan also not only divides towns in half, but also school districts, fire districts, commissioner districts and other municipal jurisdictions. We have a low population density. Considering we are already outnumbered in Olympia, it seems as though we are being discriminated against in that it would be nearly impossible for anyone to well represent us when it is much more convenient for politicians to listen only to the people closest to Olympia. Splitting our population makes it very difficult for our citizens to be engaged in the political process. Is the Ballard community lobbying for a Scandinavian district? In listening to the comments regarding Hispanic representation, I think creating districts that give special advantages to a segment of the population based on skin color or country of origin is very regressive. We are never going to be a color blind country as long as government continues to draw distinctions. I should think that minority peoples would be offended by government pandering, but since some members of the redistricting commission are bent on creating a minority majority district, I think Lincoln, Adams and Grant Counties could be one district of persons of German, Russian, Scandinavian descent. It is getting down to the wire. It is time to start drawing districts based on common sense and the criteria you professed rather than on points on a graph. As with so many things, it works well on paper, but not in real life. Do not divide Lincoln County. Put us entirely in the 7th, 9th or wherever, but don't hack us up.</p>		Carol Paul Lincoln County

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12/29/11	I would favor only splitting Spokane County into 4 districts instead of 5. This makes much more sense for Spokane to make sure our interests are truly Airway Heights, Medical Lake and Cheney should be included in the 6th District as both the recent Foster plan and initial Ceis plan propose. Additionally, those 3 communities interests and values are best voiced in an LD that is totally within the confines of the Spokane County Borders. The map that Commissioner Huff proposed seems to woefully disregard the bi-partisan make-up of the suburban parts of Spokane County. That map does not seem to take into account using streets as boundaries in a logical manner in several of the Spokane LD's.represented in Olympia. The 6th L D boundaries proposed by Commissioner Ceis at the outset seems to best incorporate logical boundaries as it pertains to using streets as major borders.		Mary Weathers