

From: [Obie OBrien](#)
To: [Foster, Dean](#); [zzRedistricting Commission Voicemail](#)
Subject: RE: Congressional Redistricting
Date: Friday, July 15, 2011 10:38:51 AM

Good morning Commissioners,

Thank you again for your efforts to engage the public on so many fronts. I commend you for the public forums and the webcasts to reach out to all of the citizens of Washington. This note is going out Friday which is the day that I hope you are taking off and recharging your personal batteries.

During my statements in Moses Lake I did not include the reference to the letter contained below in this message. The reason is that although I believe it has merit, I was unable to confirm the specifics myself. So I am sending it along now for your information with the hopes it can be validated. The issue of bridging the Cascade Mountains in order to balance voting districts is contentious for us all. During my review of the recorded webcasts of prior public forums I did not notice anyone from the 8th congressional district asking to be united with the eastern side of Snoqualmie pass. As I said during my comments we have so very little in common with them. The common experience is being stuck on the wrong side of the pass due to traffic, avalanche, or construction delays. Humor aside the physical division is a real one that have to be addressed.

The idea of clockwise rotation of the boundaries in Eastern Washington ending with pushing 150,000 voters into Skamania and Clark counties of the 3rd con. dist. is worth strong consideration. By creating the 10 district from the reallocating those 150K with 520K from the 8th and the 3rd you could follow the western side to the cascade mountains down to the Columbia River. Moving the other boundaries in western Washington should be possible to make those adjustments.

I realize this statement is very oversimplified. I intend to send the suggested map changes by 1 August.

Supportively,

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From: jeff.owens@q.com [mailto:jeff.owens@q.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 11:09 AM
To: Paul Jewell; Alan Crankovich; Obie OBrien; Julie Kjorsvik; ron.walter@co.chelan.wa.us; keith.goehner@co.chelan.wa.us; doug.england@co.chelan.wa.us; cathy.mulhall@co.chelan.wa.us
Subject: Congressinal Redistricting

As you know the redistricting commission is currently drawing new congressional districts in Washington State. With the addition of a 10th district the boundaries could change significantly.

The 4th (Hastings) and the 5th (McMorris-Rogers) will continue to be entirely in Eastern Washington. However, about 150,000 people from Eastern Washington who are currently in

the 4 or 5 must be moved to a district or districts west of the crest of the Cascades.

One option is to add a portion of Yakima (130,000) and all of Klickitat (20,000) to the 3rd Congressional District that currently has most of Skamania County.

Another option is to add Klickitat (20,000) to the 3rd District and add 130,000 primarily from Kittitas (41,000) and Chelan (73,000) to the 8th Congressional District in King County. If this were to happen Kittitas County would be about 6% of the 8th; Chelan County would be about 11% and King County would have 83% of the 8th District.

I don't know if either Chelan or Kittitas Counties want to be in the 8th and dwarfed by King County or would prefer to be in a congressional district with other similar sized counties such as Grant, Douglas, Okanogan, Ferry, etc.

If you do not want to be included with King County there is possible opportunity for judicial relief.

In 1972 the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals hired a special master to draw congressional and legislative districts in Washington State. The instructions included that the master could not consider electoral data or where people lived. The instructions also prohibited him from drawing a legislative or congressional district that crossed the crest of the Cascade Mountains north of Lewis County.

Therefore one could argue the 9th Circuit precedent established in 1972 prohibits Kittitas and/or Chelan Counties from being included in a Congressional District or Legislative District that includes parts of King, Pierce or Snohomish counties. The directions about crossing the crest of the mountains is in the order given to the master and NOT the summary of the case one can find in Westlaw. To get a copy of the order you have to contact the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to obtain a copy of the court order.

The name of the case from 1972 is: George N. Prince v. A Ludlow Kramer, No. CIV. NO 9668, April 21, 1972 before Jertberg, Goodwin and McGovern.

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