

**Comments on the Redistricting Commissioners' Sept, 2011
Legislative District Map Proposals:
Districts 48, 37 and 11**

48TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Ten years ago advocates from the Greater Eastside testified on behalf of a growing Redmond/148th Avenue NE community of interest (COI) with vastly different needs and socio-economic demographics from the Eastside communities west of I-405. In response, the community of interest continued to be split among the 45th, 48th and 41st legislative districts (LD's). This year we are gratified to see that in varying degrees each commissioner's map proposal includes modifications that begin to unify the Redmond/148th Avenue NE community of interest.

While all four map proposals retain the City of Medina – located west of Bellevue and Clyde Hill and home to two of the current 48th LD electeds -- the 48th LD proposed by Commissioner [Ceis](#) includes all of the neighborhoods west of 405 and south to I-90 and thus dilutes the identified community of interest.

Of the four LD 48 proposals, Commissioner [Huff](#)'s map unites more of the Redmond/148th Avenue NE community of interest into one district. This is accomplished by extending the northern boundary into Redmond, excluding South Kirkland to the east and extending the southwest border to include Lake Hills. To join the cities of Medina and Clyde Hill with the Redmond/148th Ave NE COI, the map includes a narrow path through northwest Bellevue.

Commissioner [Huff](#)'s map also divides the Kirkland waterfront and downtown area from other parts of Kirkland and relies on a narrow strip of land to merge this community with one that is quite different -- the rural communities of Woodinville, Duvall and unincorporated Redmond – in order to create the 45th LD. This practice is not consistent with the redistricting criteria "to make sure that, to the extent possible, boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities that have common interests are respected, and their division minimized." Moreover, by joining unrelated communities that share little in common and excluding the neighborhoods that bridge those communities, Commissioner Huff, as well as Commissioner [Gorton](#), propose odd-shaped maps for the 48th, 41st and 45th LD's.

We support Commissioner [Foster](#)'s 48th LD, because it is compact and more consistent with published redistricting criteria and brings us closer to a 48th LD that will engender greater civic participation within the Redmond/148th Ave NE community of interest. Commissioner [Foster](#)'s map could be further enhanced by modifying the 48th LD's northern boundary to include more of South Redmond and exclude a portion of Bridle Trails.

37TH AND 11TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

We are also supporting Commissioner [Foster](#)'s proposed 37th and 11th LD's, which will allow the districts to retain a large proportion of their current constituents. Doing so will foster continued growth of civic participation in these historically underrepresented communities.

1. There are practical, topographic reasons for drawing the 11th LD with a North/South rather than an East-West orientation. This is due to the geography and terrain, the orientation of major roads and arterials within the district and bordering it, and the natural community spaces that result from them.

- The 11th LD currently includes parts of Beacon Hill, Georgetown, South Park and portions of Renton, Kent, Tukwila and Burien.
 - [Major roads and arterials](#) follow the terrain within and around the 11th LD, including I-5, Airport Way, Marginal Ways East and West, and SR 509. These major thoroughfares are oriented north-south.
 - With easy freeway and/or highway access, residents of Georgetown and South Park readily travel to Renton and Tukwila.
 - Residents on the eastside of the current 37th LD -- Rainier Beach, Madrona and Mount Baker – have little reason to travel to Georgetown and South Park in the current 11th LD and vice versa.
 - For everyday shopping, more residents in the north end of the current 11th LD drive south – not east -- where Southcenter Mall and major grocery and ethnic food stores are located.
2. We also believe the 37th and 11th LD's proposed by Commissioner Foster will encourage the emerging community of voters who reside in these districts to enhance their civic participation. By contrast, the maps proposed by [Commissioners Huff, Gorton and Ceis](#) would significantly alter the districts and displace one or two of the current 11th LD incumbents.

Voters in both the existing 11th and 37th districts currently have elected representatives from the majority community, as well as minority and underrepresented communities. In the 11th LD, this includes Senator Margarita Prentice – an Hispanic American -- and Representative Bob Hasegawa – an Asian American – who, with fellow Representative Zack Hudgins, are held in high regard by their constituents and colleagues. In addition, Senator Prentice and Representative Hasegawa are role models within the minority communities; they inspire and are accessible to ethnic community members throughout the state on matters that are important to them.

Given that minority communities are currently underrepresented in elective politics, that civic participation within these communities remains a goal of leaders in majority as well as minority communities, and that a stated criteria of the redistricting commission is to comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minorities have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice, we support the 37th and 11th LD's proposed by Commissioner Foster.

Thank you for your work on behalf of all Washington constituents.

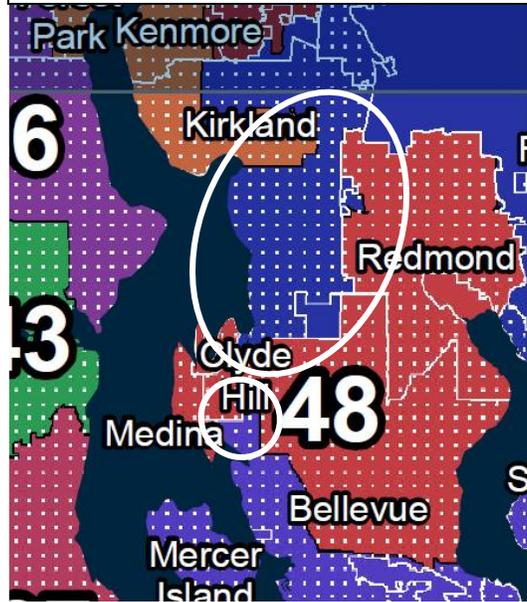
Respectfully,

Nadine Shiroma
Kirkland, WA

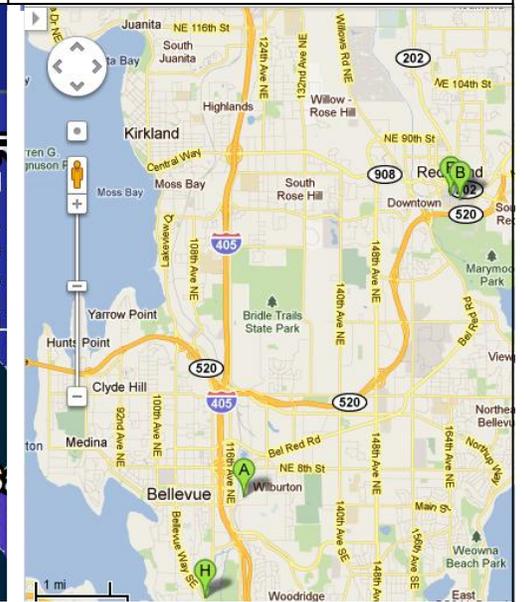
James Arima
Bellevue, WA



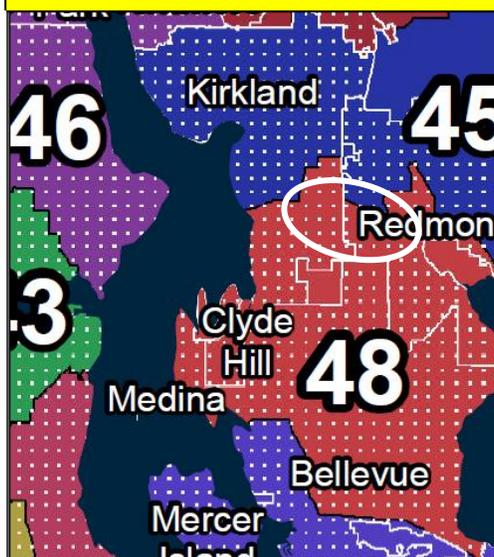
HUFF, PROPOSED 48TH



Major Rds & Neighborhoods



FOSTER, PROPOSED 48TH



Major Rds & Neighborhoods

