

From: [Scott Meyer](#)
To: [Boe, Heather](#); [zzRedistricting Commission Voicemail](#)
Subject: Comment on Proposed Congressional Districts (12/28 Version)
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2011 11:40:25 PM

Dear Ms. Boe,

I would like to submit the following comments on the proposed Congressional redistricting plans which were released on December 28, 2011. I attempted to use the "submit a comment" tool on the redistricting commission's website, but the tool does not allow for rich text formatting or for attachments, both of which are essential to my comments. Please forward my comments below to the commission members for their review.

Thank you.

Dear Commissioners:

Please consider the following comments prior to finalizing your congressional redistricting effort. I appreciate the commission's efforts but I feel that the proposed map released on December 28, 2011 would benefit from the following recommendations:

- District creation should not use the location of incumbents as a consideration. Please do not consider the position of sitting representatives when configuring districts. Please see the attached suggested statewide map.
- The proposed 1st and 2nd Districts divide many communities of interest. Please keep the old 2nd District largely intact so that Bellingham stays in the same district as the rest of Whatcom County; Mount Vernon and Burlington stay in the same district as the rest of Skagit County; Everett stays in the same district as the rest of Snohomish County, etc. I feel that it does not make sense for the major population centers of the northwestern counties to be separated from their respective counties. Please see the attached recommended 2nd District map.
- One district must cross the Cascades. The most logical place for this crossing is at the Columbia River, not in the center of the state. Please reconfigure the 3rd District to run from Vancouver eastward toward Yakima County to accommodate this need. This would unify the Republican-leaning Clark County area with the Republican-leaning rural portions of south-central Washington. Please see the attached recommended 3rd District map.
- Districts should be compact and should emphasize keeping regions, communities and geographic areas intact. Some of the current proposed districts seem to sprawl in a manner that does not respect traditional geographic or community boundaries. In particular, the following proposed districts appear to sprawl inappropriately: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 7th, 8th, and 9th. Please consider reconfiguring these districts to be more compact and to

respect traditional regional, geographic and community boundaries. Please see attached district maps for guidance.

- There are not enough competitive districts. Please see the attached statewide map for suggestions about how to make a map which has a healthy mix of Democratic-leaning, Republican-leaning and toss-up districts. My proposal has three lean 'R' districts, four lean 'D' districts and three genuine toss-up districts, including the new 10th District. I feel this mix reflects the recent voting trends of the state. I recommend adopting the attached statewide map, which has the following partisan breakdowns:

1. North Puget Sound

- Northern Seattle suburbs, Whidbey Island
- 55% D – 45% R
- Likely Democratic

2. Northwest

- Everett, Bellingham, San Juan Islands
- 51% D – 49% R
- Toss-Up

3. Columbia River

- Vancouver, southern Cascades
- 45% D – 55% R
- Likely Republican

4. Southeast

- Yakima, Tri-Cities, Columbia Basin
- 36% D – 64% R
- Solid Republican

5. Northeast

- Spokane, Wenatchee, Okanogan Highlands
- 41% D – 59% R

- Solid Republican
6. Tacoma and Peninsulas
 - Tacoma, Kitsap Peninsula, Olympic Peninsula
 - 53% D – 47% R
 - Lean Democratic
 7. Seattle
 - Seattle, Vashon Island
 - 80% D – 20% R
 - Solid Democratic
 8. Eastern King County
 - Bellevue, Renton, Redmond
 - 55% D – 45% R
 - Likely Democratic
 9. South Puget Sound
 - Burien, Federal Way, Auburn, Puyallup
 - 50% D – 50% R
 - Toss-Up
 10. Southwest
 - Olympia, Lakewood, southwest coast
 - 49% D – 51% R
 - Toss-Up

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me should you require any clarification on my comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Scott Meyer