

Annex H.

For Distribution

21st Legislative District Democratic Organization
P.O. Box 2062
Lynnwood, WA 98036



Washington State Redistricting Commission
1063 Capitol Way South, Suite 16
P.O. Box 40948
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

May 17, 2011

Official Comments by the 21st Legislative District Democratic Organization to the Washington State Redistricting Commission

Approved by the membership of the 21st Legislative District Democratic Organization at a meeting held on May 17, 2011.

General Principles

The 21st Legislative District Democratic Organization is composed of the elected precinct committee officers and other interested citizens that live within the 21st Legislative District. We strive to ensure quality representation for the people of Southwest Snohomish County at all levels of government.

We are excited to live in a growing and changing community, and we are proud to advocate for full participation by all people in our political process. The decennial redistricting process is an opportunity to ensure that the people of Southwest Snohomish County continue to receive strong representation in the Washington State Legislature and the United States Congress.

We note that RCW 44.05.090 sets out the general principles that the Commission will use in creating a redistricting plan. The law provides that district lines should be drawn to coincide with boundaries of cities and counties and "communities of interest", and that districts should be "convenient, contiguous, and compact".

We believe that the current boundaries of the legislative and congressional districts in Southwest Snohomish County conform to the spirit of the law, and as new district boundaries are constructed, these boundaries should continue to reflect the spirit of the redistricting statute.

Legislative District Boundaries

The 21st Legislative District generally covers Southwest Snohomish County west of Interstate 5. The current district boundaries include all or portions of the cities of Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace and Mukilteo. In addition, the current boundaries include unincorporated communities between these cities. The district also includes one precinct in the city of Everett and parts of unincorporated south Everett.

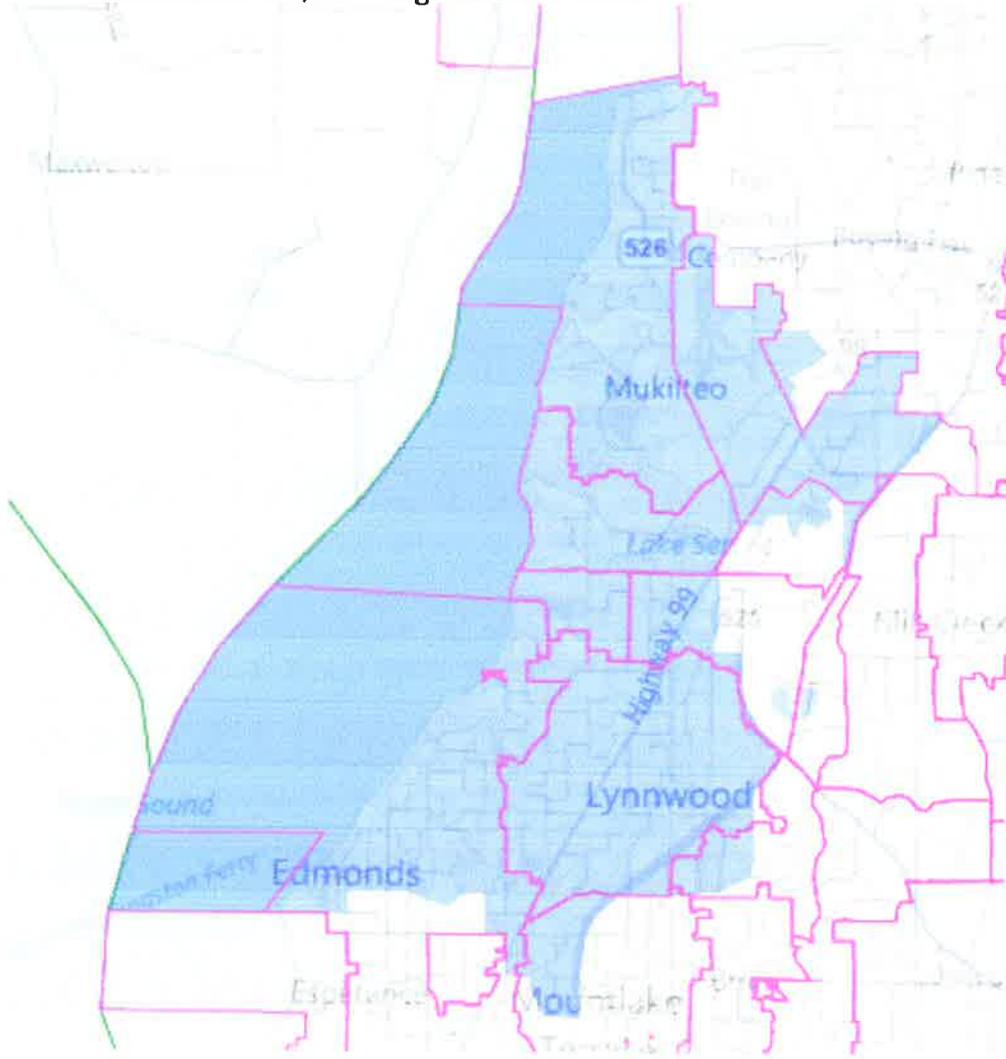
We consider Southwest Snohomish County to be a community of interest. This community stretches from the county line north to the city limits of Everett, and from Interstate 5 west to Puget Sound. Our community is distinctly urban and compact, with good transportation connections, strong public schools and established cities and neighborhoods.

In addition, we are proud of the growing diversity in our community. Southwest Snohomish County is home to large Asian-American and Hispanic communities, both comprising over 10% of the population.

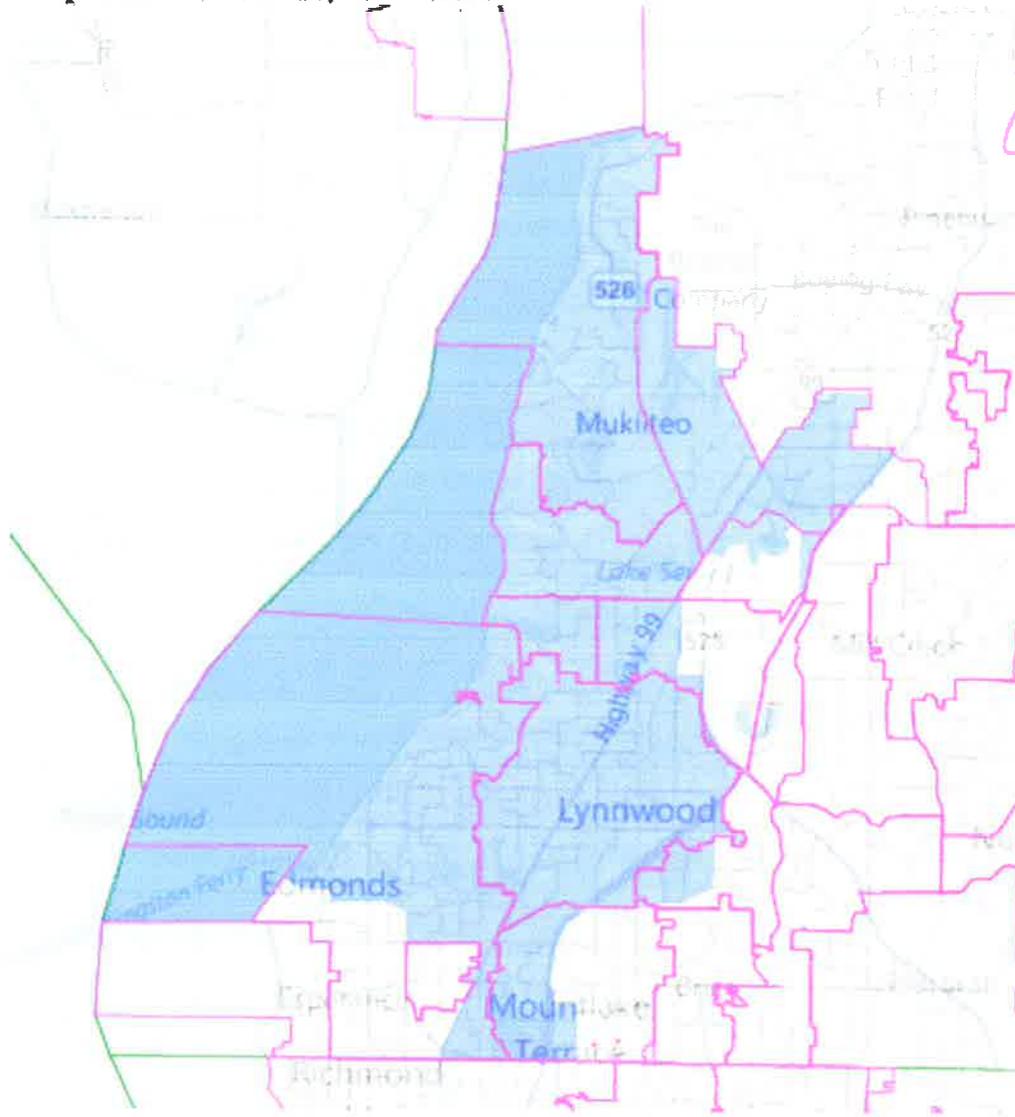
As the Redistricting Commission considers new boundaries for our district, we hope that the Commission will continue to include the population of Southwest Snohomish County in as few districts as possible. Currently, the 21st District includes about 80% of this area, with the 32nd and 1st Districts including the remaining portions.

Consolidating more of the Southwest Snohomish County community within the 21st District (as shown in the proposed map below) would ensure that our community is more cohesively included within fewer legislative districts and that our communities of color continue to have a strong voice with the 21st District. The chart below identifies the racial and ethnic makeup of the current and proposed boundaries.

Current Boundaries, 21st Legislative District



Proposed Boundaries, 21st District



Racial/Ethnic Composition, 21st District

	Current		Proposed		Change
Total	133,370		136,274		
White	87,810	65.8%	89,632	65.8 %	0.0%
Black	5,411	4.1%	5,623	4.1%	0.0%
Hispanic	14,611	11.0%	14,899	10.9%	-0.1%
Asian	18,919	14.1%	19,310	14.2%	+0.1%
Native Am	984	0.7%	1,006	0.7%	0.0%
Other	5,635	4.3%	5,804	4.3%	0.0%

Data from <http://gardow.com/davebradlee/redistricting/launchapp.html>

Congressional District Boundaries

We would encourage the Commission to apply the same principles to the identifying the boundaries for the 1st and 2nd Congressional Districts. The communities of interest and cities that are part of Southwest Snohomish County should be kept together as much as possible.

Currently, the 1st Congressional District includes most of Southwest Snohomish County, while a few precincts of north Mukilteo are part of the 2nd Congressional District. New boundaries should consider municipal boundaries and the cohesiveness of our Southwest Snohomish County community.

List of Legislative District Changes by Precinct

--Everett 79

+Edmonds 15

+Edmonds 19

+Edmonds 27

+Edmonds 52

+Lynnwood 32

+Mountlake Terrace 1

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit this information.

Jennifer Gregerson

21st Legislative District Democratic Organization Chair