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Tenth Congressional District

There is something very strange about the conversation going on about the new congressional district which will be created in Washington this year.

Almost all of the chatter I've been hearing is focused on the question of where in metropolitan Puget Sound the new district will be placed. I most often hear suggestions of Olympia and northeast King county.

This chatter does not appear to be informed by a careful examination of the population data.

One way of looking at the state is to divide it into two parts, metropolitan Puget Sound, composed of five counties, King, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston and Kitsap, and the rest of the state, the other 34 counties. The table below shows the percentages of the state's population in each of these two divisions over the last five censuses.

	Five counties	34 counties
1970	59.05%	40.95%
1980	57.22%	42.78%
1990	59.80%	40.20%
2000	59.10%	40.90%
2010	58.64%	41.36%

As is apparent, the rate of population growth in metropolitan Puget Sound and the rest of the state has been remarkably stable. Metropolitan Puget Sound has a slightly lower percentage of the state's population than it did 40 years ago.

Over the forty year period, Washington gained two congressional seats. Both of those went to metropolitan Puget Sound. One of the effects of adding these seats in metropolitan Puget Sound has been to reduce that area's share of the 2nd congressional district. The 1991 redistricting reduced the share of metropolitan Puget Sound in the 2nd district to just slightly less than half. After 2001, it dropped to about 45%. However, the member of congress from that district over the last decade has been from Snohomish county. It is fair to say that metropolitan Puget Sound has the six members of Congress to which its population entitles it.

In view of stability of the growth rates of the two parts of the state and the fact that the last two congressional seats have been placed in metropolitan Puget Sound counties, it is hard to understand why the discussion now is to place the new one there also.

I urge you to place the new congressional district in the 34 counties which are not part of metropolitan Puget Sound.

The question is where?

It is not often in redistricting that there is clearly one best answer to a question like this.

Usually there are options and the relevant factors do not clearly indicate that one alternative is really the only one which should be considered. But I do believe that this is the case with Washington's tenth congressional district.

It will be necessary to place about 150,000 people from central Washington in one or more western Washington districts. In my opinion, the fairest way to treat these people is to place all of them in one district and to make that a district without an incumbent.

Bearing in mind the statutory direction to make the number of split counties "as small as possible", there is only one place to find the appropriate number of people in central Washington and place them in a district not dominated by metropolitan Puget Sound.

My proposal is to divide the 2nd district, combining the four northern counties, Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan, with four counties east of the Cascades, Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Ferry. To these counties it would be necessary to add about 100,000 people from the rural areas of King and Snohomish counties.

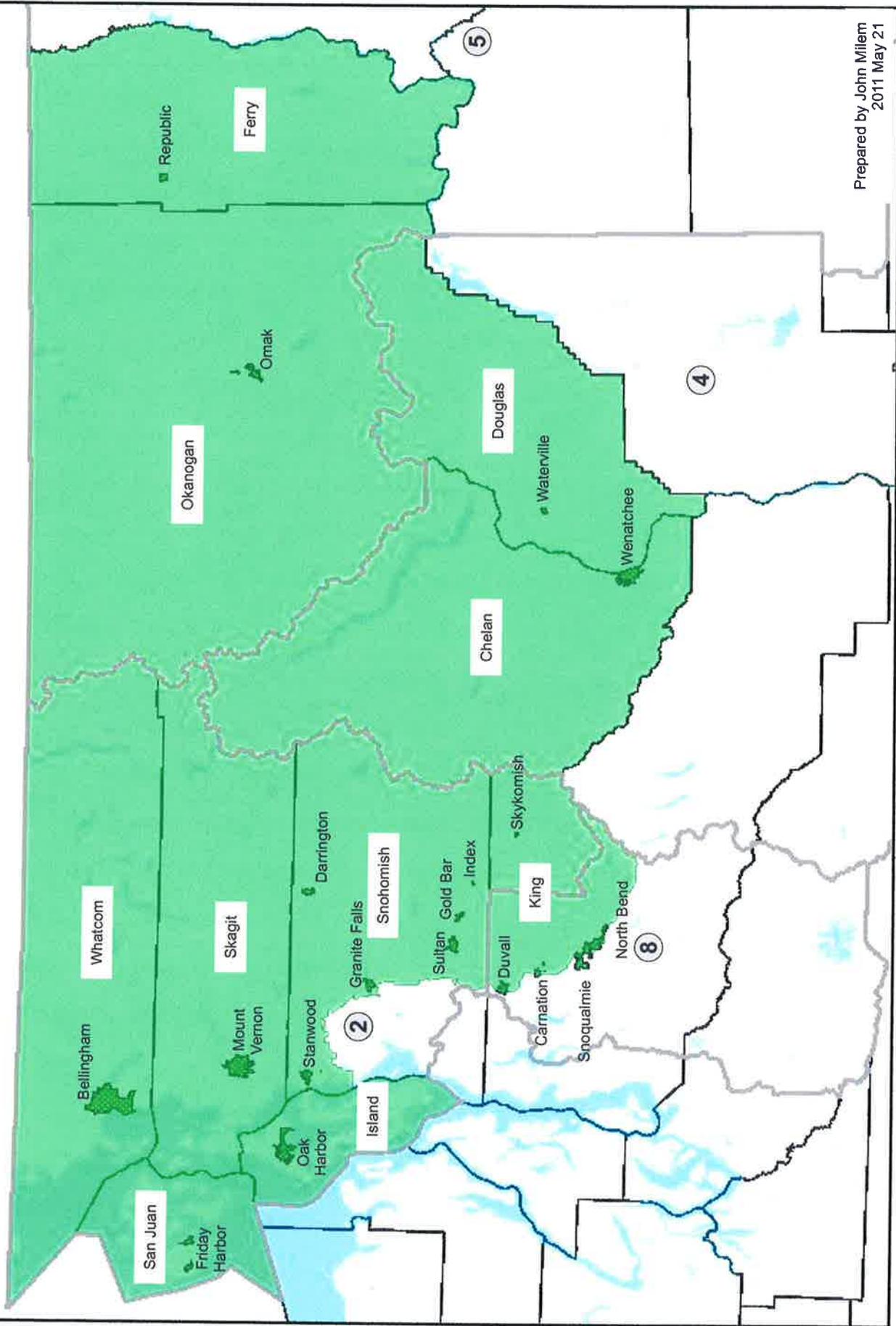
This district will be unique among the state's congressional districts. It is by far the most mountainous. It will be the most rural district in the state. It will be the second district in the state in terms of value of agricultural production. It combines agricultural counties of central Washington with the two western Washington counties which have the highest value of agricultural production. And the part counties included are third and fourth in value of agricultural production in western Washington. That production in King and Snohomish counties is probably disproportionately located in the area I am suggesting be included in the new district. It will be a district more different from metropolitan Puget Sound than any other new district which can be created.

It is a district which is likely to be as politically competitive as the 3rd and 8th have been. In the eleven statewide partisan contests from 2006 to 2010, it went one way six times and the other way five times. Can't get much more competitive than that.

Creating this district will allow for creating ten congressional districts in the state without dividing any counties other than the three counties which are too large to be a district. (A slavish devotion to the zero deviation myth will require the division of an eastern Washington county, but this is not necessary within the Supreme Court's 1% overall range.)

On following pages are the specifics of the populations of the counties in the proposed district, a general boundary description in the divided counties, an estimate of the votes for the Republican and Democratic candidates in the eleven state-wide partisan contests in 2006 through 2010, and a listing of the value of agricultural production for the counties of the state as shown by the 2007 Census of Agriculture, as well as maps indicating the proposed boundaries.

PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
in color
CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
gray boundaries and district numbers



Population by County of Proposed Congressional District

Whatcom	201,140
Skagit	116,901
Island	78,506
Chelan	72,453
Snohomish (part)	63,778
Okanogan	41,120
Douglas	38,431
King (part)	37,353
San Juan	15,769
Ferry	7,551
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	673,002

Population by Current District of Proposed Congressional District

2	476,721
4	110,884
5	48,671
8	36,726
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	673,002

General Boundary Description in Divided Counties

In King County, begin at the boundary of Kittitas County. Go west on Interstate 90, north on SR 202, and north on SR 203 to the boundary of Snohomish County. Cities divided by these highways, North Bend, Snoqualmie, Carnation and Duvall are all included in the proposed district.

In Snohomish County, begin at the boundary of King County. Continue north on SR 203, to the southern boundary of Monroe. Follow the southern boundary of Monroe to its easternmost point. Go more or less due north to a point just west of the Pilchuck River south of Granite Falls (unfortunately, there is no road or other physical feature which can easily define this portion of the boundary). Go west to 163rd Ave NE and then north. Go north on 163rd Ave NE and west and north on Burn Road, continuing north on the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River and following the river to Interstate 5. Go south on Interstate 5 then west on Pioneer Highway to its intersection with the boundary between Lakewood and Arlington School Districts. Continue along the boundary between Arlington and Stanwood-Camano School Districts on the north and Lakewood and Marysville School Districts on the south to Island County. This proposed district includes Granite Falls and Warm Beach, but does not include Monroe or Arlington.

Value of Agricultural Production by County

County in Proposed District	Value(\$000,000)	County not in Proposed District	Value(\$000,000)
		Yakima	\$1,200
		Grant	\$1,190
		Benton	\$526
		Franklin	\$467
		Adams	\$344
		Walla Walla	\$344
Whatcom	\$326		
Skagit	\$256		
		Whitman	\$254
Chelan	\$209		
Okanogan	\$209		
Douglas	\$193		
King*	\$127		
Snohomish*	\$126	Lincoln	\$126
		Thurston	\$118
		Spokane	\$117
		Lewis	\$110
		Pierce	\$83
		Kittitas	\$61
		Klickitat	\$57
		Clark	\$53
		Columbia	\$40
		Mason	\$37
		Pacific	\$35
		Grays Harbor	\$33
		Cowlitz	\$26
		Garfield	\$26
		Stevens	\$25
Island	\$14	Asotin	\$13
		Clallam	\$11
		Jefferson	\$9
		Kitsap	\$7
San Juan	\$4		
Ferry	\$3	Pend Oreille	\$3
		Skamania	\$3
		Wahkiakum	\$3

*County only partly in district

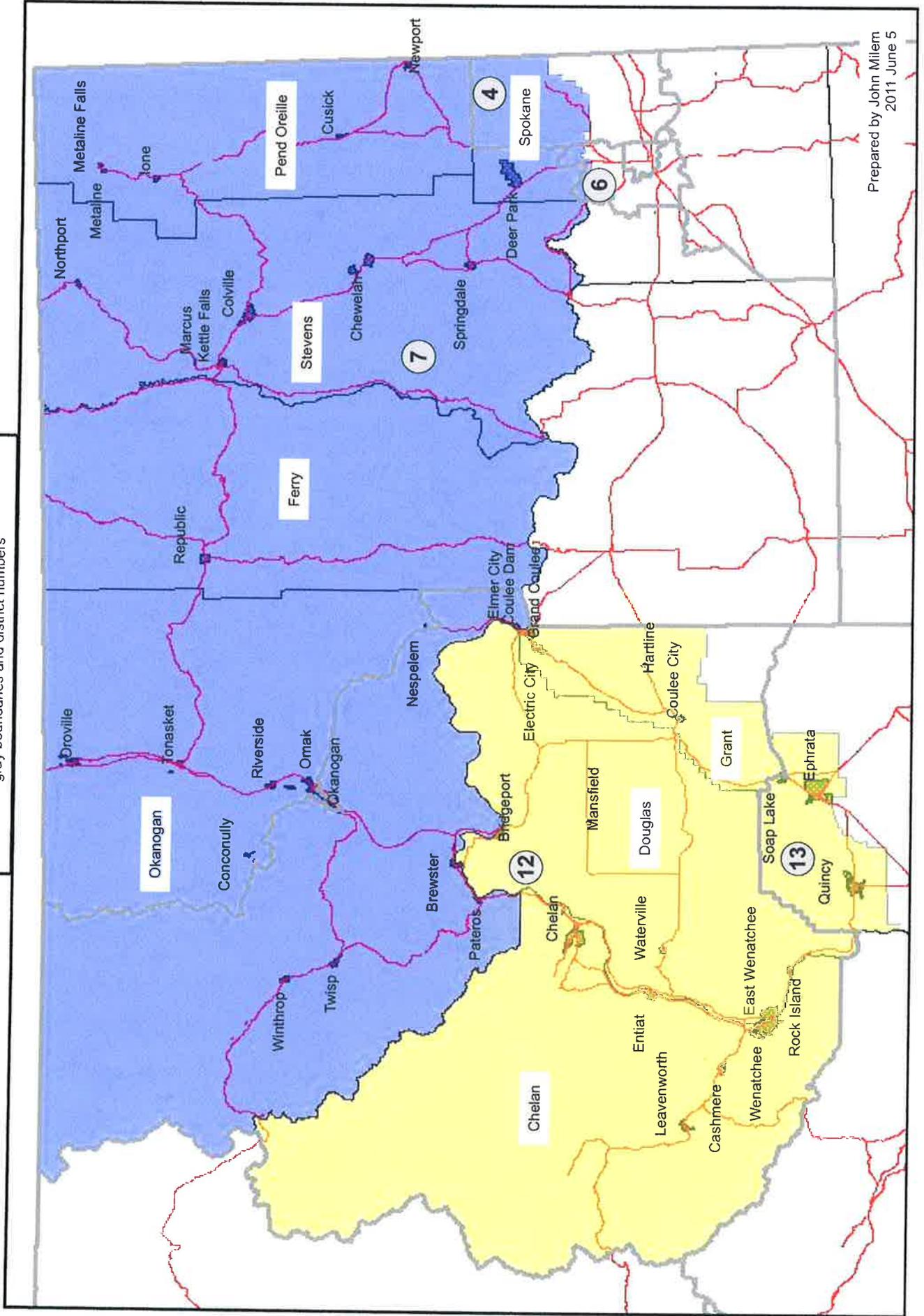
Estimated Vote for Statewide Candidates in Proposed District
(compared with current 2nd, 3rd and 8th districts)

Year	Office	D candidate	D vote**	R vote**	R candidate	R percentage*	In current 2 nd R percentage*	In current 3 rd R percentage*	In current 8 th R percentage*
2006	Senator	Cantwell	121,000	105,000	McGavick	46%	43%	45%	44%
2008	President	Obama	174,000	148,000	McCain	46%	43%	46%	42%
	Governor	Gregoire	160,000	166,000	Rossi	51%	48%	50%	51%
	Lt Governor	Owen	174,000	134,000	McCraw	44%	41%	41%	42%
	Sec of State	Osgood	120,000	187,000	Reed	61%	58%	59%	63%
	Treasurer	McIntire	143,000	160,000	Martin	53%	50%	50%	54%
	Auditor	Sonntag	177,000	126,000	McEntee	42%	39%	41%	37%
	Atty Gen	Ladenburg	116,000	192,000	McKenna	62%	61%	58%	66%
	Land Comm	Goldmark	145,000	161,000	Sutherland	53%	51%	54%	53%
	Ins Comm	Kreidler	169,000	128,000	Adams	43%	40%	42%	41%
2010	Senator	Murray	134,000	148,000	Rossi	52%	49%	53%	51%

** Estimated

* of two-party vote

**NORTH CENTRAL
PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS**
in color
CURRENT LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
gray boundaries and district numbers



Population by County of Proposed Legislative Districts

	<u>Wenatchee District</u>	<u>Omak District</u>
Chelan	72,453	
Douglas	38,431	
Ferry		7,551
Grant	26,034	
Okanogan		41,120
Pend Oreille		13,001
Spokane		31,717
Stevens		43,531
	<u>136,918</u>	<u>136,920</u>

Population by Current District of Proposed Legislative Districts

	<u>Wenatchee District</u>	<u>Omak District</u>
4		10,525
6		6,769
7		102,963
12	115,488	16,663
13	21,430	
	<u>136,918</u>	<u>136,920</u>

Description of Proposed Districts

The proposed Wenatchee district is composed of Chelan and Douglas counties and the northwestern part of Grant county, including Quincy, Ephrata, Soap Lake, Hartline and the Grand Coulee communities.

The proposed Omak district is composed of the four northern tier counties and that part of Spokane county east of Stevens county. Whereas Airway Heights, an urban community, is the largest municipality in the present 7th district, Omak is the largest municipality in the proposed district. This suggests that the proposed district has less urban influence than the current district.

Estimated Vote for Statewide Candidates in Proposed Districts
(each compared with a current district)

Wenatchee District

Year	Office	D candidate	D vote**	R vote**	R candidate	R percentage*	In current 12 th R percentage*
2006	Senator	Cantwell	16,600	23,600	McGavick	59%	57%
2008	President	Obama	23,200	32,200	McCain	58%	56%
	Governor	Gregoire	20,400	35,800	Rossi	64%	62%
	Lt Governor	Owen	24,600	28,200	McCraw	53%	52%
	Sec of State	Osgood	16,200	37,000	Reed	70%	68%
	Treasurer	McIntire	18,400	34,200	Martin	65%	64%
	Auditor	Sonntag	26,200	26,400	McEntee	50%	49%
	Atty Gen	Ladenburg	15,600	37,600	McKenna	71%	69%
	Land Comm	Goldmark	20,200	32,600	Sutherland	62%	60%
	Ins Comm	Kreidler	23,000	27,800	Adams	55%	53%
2010	Senator	Murray	17,000	31,600	Rossi	65%	63%

Omak District

Year	Office	D candidate	D vote**	R vote**	R candidate	R percentage*	In current 7 th R percentage*
2006	Senator	Cantwell	21,600	27,200	McGavick	56%	56%
2008	President	Obama	26,600	38,200	McCain	59%	61%
	Governor	Gregoire	24,600	41,600	Rossi	63%	64%
	Lt Governor	Owen	29,600	33,200	McCraw	53%	54%
	Sec of State	Osgood	21,000	41,600	Reed	66%	68%
	Treasurer	McIntire	24,400	37,200	Martin	60%	61%
	Auditor	Sonntag	29,200	32,600	McEntee	53%	54%
	Atty Gen	Ladenburg	19,600	43,200	McKenna	69%	70%
	Land Comm	Goldmark	26,400	37,000	Sutherland	58%	60%
	Ins Comm	Kreidler	26,800	33,400	Adams	55%	57%
2010	Senator	Murray	20,400	38,000	Rossi	65%	66%

** Estimated

* of two-party vote