

**Remarks by George Cheung, Executive Director of the Win/Win Network at the
WA State Redistricting Commission Hearing in Renton, WA on May 23, 2011**

Esteemed members of the WA State Redistricting Commission, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is George Cheung and I am the Executive Director of the Win/Win Network, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization. Part of my organization's mission is to increase civic engagement in underrepresented communities, including voter registration, civic education and encouraging democratic participation. Redistricting will have a profound impact on people of color and their participation in civic life. As you seek input from communities across the state, you have an important opportunity and obligation to reach out to underrepresented communities.

To that end, I hereby request in writing any plans for this Commission to educate and encourage people of color, particularly those who are limited English proficient, to participate in this process.

According to Census 2010, more than a quarter of the population in Washington State identifies as a person of color. In King County, that number is more than one-third. Much of the growth of communities of color has occurred here in cities south of Seattle. In fact, four cities in this region have the distinction of now being majority people of color – Kent, Sea-Tac, Tukwila and my hometown, Renton.

The Win/Win Network respectfully submits this 2011 Unity Map for the new 10th Congressional District. This district encompasses the entire cities of:

Renton
Kent
Sea-Tac
Tukwila
Federal Way
Burien
Normandy Park
Des Moines

Additionally, it includes Seattle South of Union Street as well as the unincorporated communities of Skyway/Bryn Mawr, White Center/Boulevard Park, South Park/Riverton. Demographically, this district has a majority of people of color, including significant populations of African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. It is compact, contiguous, follows the I-5 South corridor in South King County and respects political boundaries of 8 cities. In contrast, the current Congressional District boundaries split the four majority people of color cities into two Congressional Districts – and in the case of Renton, into three Congressional Districts.

300 people
> target

We believe that creating a majority people of color district is critical for encouraging people of color, many of which are new Americans, to participate in the democratic process. On one level, people of color will feel that their votes matter – that they have the ability to swing future elections. On another level, this 10th District Representative will be accountable to this community, and will be a champion for their interests, including issues such as comprehensive immigration reform, and addressing disparities in education and health care.

In conclusion, this commission has a duty to draw boundaries that respect communities of interest. By creating a majority people of color Congressional District, you will be fulfilling a promise that our government be truly representative of the people.

Respectfully submitted by George Cheung (george@winwinnetwork.org, 206-726-1818)

2011 Unity Map
Proposed 10th Congressional District



