



Washington State Association of County Auditors
c/o Washington Association of County Officials
206 Tenth Avenue, SE, Olympia, WA 98501

October 10, 2011

Lura Powell, Chair
Washington State Redistricting Commission
PO Box 40948
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

Dear Ms. Powell,

The Washington State Association of County Auditors thanks the commission for all of their hard and thoughtful work to develop Washington's new legislative and congressional boundaries.

We sincerely appreciate the accelerated process at which you worked to provide these drafts as quickly as possible. You recognize the urgency that local county auditors face in developing final precinct boundaries during a presidential election year. In 2012 Auditors – at best – will have less than three months to -

- Starting in February 2012, conduct two special elections.
- Draw new precinct lines based on city, county, legislative and congressional lines.
- Notify all voters and candidates of the new precinct lines.
- Conduct candidate filing for the 2012 election year during the second full week of May.

We further appreciate that during hearings and presentations you listened to our comments about creating workable boundaries for precincting purposes. We have identified the following over-arching principles for you to consider when debating and developing your final plans -

- Follow existing jurisdictional boundaries, such as counties, cities, school districts and fire districts.
- Align congressional and legislative boundaries as much as possible to avoid creating areas with few or no voters.
- Keep small cities together.
- Use permanent features, such as navigable waters, as boundaries. Avoid impermanent features, such as non-navigable rivers, creeks and powerlines.
- Follow street centerlines. Avoid using unnamed streets as boundaries.
- Consider future growth and urban growth boundaries.

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During our review of the four proposals, some counties identified potential conflicts with the principles listed above. County Auditors already have or will contact you citing specific variations of the principles for each of the four plans:

- Gorton Draft Plan
- Ceis Draft Plan
- Foster Draft Plan
- Huff Draft Plan

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vicky M Dalton".

Vicky M Dalton, CPA

Spokane County Auditor

President, Washington State Association of County Auditors (WSACA)