



1~~3~~ October 2011

Washington State Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioners:

APACE (Asian Pacific Islander Americans for Civic Empowerment) thanks you for the tremendous amount of work you Commissioners have done in creating your proposed maps of Congressional and WA State Legislative Districts. APACE has worked with United for Fair Representation and given voice to our 250 APIA members in this redistricting process.

We are particularly gratified that three out of four of the congressional redistricting maps draw a majority people of color Congressional District in South King County. The 2010 census data clearly supports the United for Fair Representation Unity Map. We support the "majority minority" district located in South King County, as drawn by Commissioner Huff. The creation of a new Congressional District with no incumbent gives us the opportunity for strong representation that is truly accountable to the new district's diverse communities of interest.

We also support the Congressional District maps of all the 4 Commissioners keeping Yakima and the Tri-cities together in the same Congressional District. We further support a unified Pasco. Two of the 4 maps cut Pasco into two districts. This will dilute the political voices of the Latino and Immigrant communities.

We feel these two new majority POC Congressional Districts reflects changing demographics of the people of Washington and recognizes the need for better representation of communities of color and immigrant communities.

We are concerned, however, with the proposed maps of the Commissioners of Washington Legislative Districts. We advocate for at least five majority POC Legislative Districts: 3 in King County, 1 in Tacoma, and 1 in Pasco as drawn by Commissioners Ceis and Foster. These 5 Legislative Districts will increase the participation and representation of our community's constituents. Our Unity Map keeps all current Legislators of Color in their Districts. Current representation in the State Legislature of our communities of color is only 6%, certainly not proportional to our population. Washington State is gaining a congressional district because of the growth of communities of color over this past decade. Representation in the State Legislature of these diverse populations should appropriately reflect this growth. It has been a meaningful experience for us to work alongside our United for Fair Representation partners to engage with you in this important redistricting process.

Board of Directors of APACE, please reply to c4board@apace-wa.org:

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