



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ray Stephanson
Mayor

May 25, 2011

Ms. Lura J. Powell, Chair
Commission Members
Washington State Redistricting Commission
1063 Capitol Way South, Suite 16
P.O. Box 40948
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

Dear Chairwoman Powell and Commission Members:

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of the redistricting process. The City of Everett has some history with the process and shares some of the responsibility for creation of the commission.

On behalf of the citizens of Everett, I offer some community perspectives and suggestions as you go about the work of redrawing Congressional and Legislative District boundary lines.

In response to your criteria that "... to the extent possible, boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities that have common interests are respected, and their division minimized," we believe it is vital for the City of Everett to continue to be a focus of the 2nd Congressional District and the 38th Legislative District.

The City of Everett historically has served as an employment, government, commercial and economic development center for Snohomish County and the region. In the past 30 years, the City's profile in health care, the military, arts and cultural interests has expanded dramatically.

These community interests are reflected in the focus, attention and priority given these concerns by our representatives; committee preferences, staff considerations and funding opportunities. Regardless of party, the City of Everett has always maintained a collaborative, collegial and congenial relationship with our elected representatives and members of their staffs.

Among your Commission guidelines is to recognize political subdivision lines and communities of interest. Interests linking the citizens of Everett to the 2nd Congressional District and 38th and neighboring State Legislative Districts are:

- **Transportation:** The City is located at the confluence of Interstate 5 and U.S. Highway 2. A significant employment center, these transportation corridors take residents from outlying areas to and from worksites. Equally important, I-5 and U.S. 2 bring customers, clients, patients, students and visitors into the city center for goods and services, care, classes and entertainment.

Beyond its highway corridors, the City:

- Is a hub to major freight (BNSF) and passenger (AMTRAK, Sound Transit) rail services; local and regional transit; and terminal services at Everett Station.
- Serves as the host to the Port of Everett marine operations and Everett Marina, the largest public marina on the West Coast.
- Provides the Southwest Everett industrial infrastructure network surrounding the Snohomish County Airport/Paine Field.

Over 100 years old, Everett is ever-attentive to the transportation and infrastructure needs of the community.

- **Employment center:** The City provides an estimated 87,000 jobs.
 - Everett is the home to The Boeing Commercial Airplane Company and the state's largest aerospace industrial cluster, high technology and a diverse manufacturing base.
 - A regional health care center is anchored by Providence Regional Medical Center, Everett Clinic and Group Health.
 - A government center, the City serves as the Snohomish County seat, supports the Port of Everett, Snohomish County PUD and numerous federal, state and non-profit agencies.
- **Military:** Naval Station Everett is homeport to the USS Abraham Lincoln, soon to be the USS Nimitz, six support ships and the U.S. Coast Guard. Naval Station Everett is an environmentally superior facility and leads the Navy in environmental and energy initiatives.
- **Emergency services, law enforcement and homeland security:** Among assets unique to the City of Everett warranting special attention of safety and security officials, are the Boeing plant and surrounding aerospace industrial center, the Port of Everett, Naval Station Everett, major highway and rail infrastructure, regional health facilities and regional water distribution facilities.
- **Arts and culture, entertainment and recreation:** The Comcast Arena and Hansen Conference Center, Imagine Children's Museum, The Schack Art Center and The Everett Performing Arts Center provide venues for the regional arts, culture, and entertainment.
- **Education:** Washington State University joins Everett Community College and the University Center of North Puget Sound partnership to enhance the higher education opportunities for students, families and employers of Everett, Snohomish County and the north Sound.
- **Environment:** The City shares stewardship to such valued natural resource areas as Puget Sound and the Snohomish River estuary.

We believe these are all good and relevant reasons for the City of Everett to continue as the focal point for the 2nd Congressional and 38th State Legislative Districts.

Congressional Districts

There is a long history and tradition of the City of Everett serving as the seat of the 2nd Congressional District. It is important for that continuity to be maintained. As a principal juncture for state road, rail, air and waterborne traffic, Everett through the 2nd Congressional District, has established an effective working relationship on issues key to state transportation, trade and commerce. Likewise, the District with Everett has been a leader on defense, military family and veterans' affairs. The interests of the City are clearly represented in the 2nd Congressional District political and legislative leadership, issue focus, committee assignment and staff structure.

The City of Everett provides a seasoned, strong, articulate voice in the 2nd Congressional District.

Legislative Districts

Everett is currently served primarily by the 38th State Legislative District with a few precincts in both the 21st and 44th Legislative Districts. These relationships continue to make sense.

The City works collaboratively with all members of the Snohomish County Legislative delegation. While we believe the 38th District should continue to be the primary district serving Everett, the neighboring 21st and 44th Districts share common interests in employment, transportation, commerce, health care and government. Expanding the 21st and 44th Districts further into the City of Everett would be practical.

In summary, we hope the Redistricting Commission will continue the tradition of having Everett as a central hub of the 2nd Congressional and 38th Legislative districts. We will voice this perspective at your May 25 Commission forum, and we want to thank you in advance for the time, effort, and public outreach you are putting into this important work.

Sincerely,



Ray Stephanson
Mayor

C: Everett City Council