



RECEIVED  
JUL 13 2011

BY:.....

**CITY COUNCIL**  
Jamie Perry, President  
220 4th Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032  
Fax: 253-856-6712

**PHONE: 253-856-5712**

---

July 8, 2011

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

Dear Chairwoman Powell & Commission Members:

On behalf of the City of Kent, I am writing to provide you with our community's perspective on redistricting of both Congressional District and state Legislative District boundaries.

In short, we want to convey we believe we are well-served on the federal level, but have some reservations about a proposal to combine South Seattle and South King County into a new 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. At the state level, we want to ensure that Kent is not an after-thought portion of any Legislative District.

One criterion the Commission uses in proposing and ultimately drawing its boundaries is to respect "communities of interest" and to prevent those communities from being split to the maximum extent practicable. Kent is becoming a much more critical "community of interest" in South King County, with a population just under 120,000 and an employment base that includes the second largest warehousing distribution complex on the West Coast.

While we understand it may not yet make sense to have Kent comprise a single Legislative District, we believe the Commission should note this possibility for future redistricting efforts. In any case, we want to ensure that if Kent is spread across two Legislative Districts, it is done in a way that doesn't disenfranchise just a few thousand residents.

Our specific comments on Congressional and Legislative Districts are as follows:

Congressional Districts

Kent currently falls within both the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts. We wish to express our reservations with a proposal being touted by groups such as One America, the Win-Win Network, and the Minorities Executive Directors' Coalition (MEDC) to combine the South Seattle and South County portions of King County into a new 10<sup>th</sup> District.

As we express this reservation, we want to be clear that we respect and celebrate the communities of color which are forwarding this proposal, and we believe the rich diversity of Kent is one of the strengths of our schools, our churches, and our civic groups. Kent maintains a Human Services Commission to put a focus on issues that impact the diverse array of races, religions, and ethnicities that comprise our community.

That said, we worry about the cities of Kent and Seattle being combined in a Congressional District. On issues such as transportation, public safety, economic development, fiscal policy, and infrastructure investment, there are distinct and significant differences, perspectives, and approaches between Kent and Seattle. These differences need to be respected and maintained. We would urge that these very different jurisdictions *not* be lumped together in a new 10<sup>th</sup> District.

#### Legislative Districts

At the present time, Kent is split among the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> legislative districts.

In the future, we believe Kent is gaining a level of population and influence that might make a single-city district ideal. For now, we recognize that geography and logistics make that very difficult to achieve. However, we do not want to see a redrawing of the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> that, for instance, leaves 100,000 Kent residents in one district and only 20,000 served by the other.

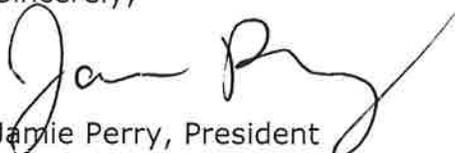
Given its place as a center for employment, arts and culture and entertainment, parks and recreation, and human services, Kent should be a significant portion of any Legislative District it is a part of.

We would urge you to continue to spread the population of Kent as evenly across the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> as possible.

In summary, we believe we have been well-served by two-district representation both in Congress and in the State Legislature. We do not believe a new "minority majority" 10<sup>th</sup> District of South Seattle/South King County is appropriate, and we would urge that Legislative District boundaries not be drawn in a way that leaves only a few thousand Kent residents served by one district or the other.

We thank you in advance for your consideration, and for your willingness to take on the vital work of redistricting for our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Perry", written in a cursive style.

Jamie Perry, President  
Kent City Council