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July 27, 2011

Washington State Redistricting Commission
1063 Capitol Way South, Suite 16
P.O. Box 40948
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

Subject: Redistricting of state legislative districts

Dear Commission members:

The City of Marysville submits the attached proposal for redistricting of state legislative districts. The City is very interested in consolidating our current legislative districts with respect to our city limits. The City is currently located in four legislative districts-38th, 44th, 10th and 39th. With respect to our city limits and neighborhoods, the districts do not follow any geographic, topographic, community or neighborhood boundaries. We have attached the current boundaries as Exhibit A.

We have studied the information provided through the redistricting commission website including population growth/reduction needed for each legislative district. Our proposal is based on a goal of establishing Marysville within a single legislative district, instead of the current split. We believe this would provide greater understanding and representation of the community's legislative priorities and encourage our 60,000 residents to become more engaged in the state political system. We have also studied available demographic numbers and have proposed boundaries that provide our community with representative racial, and political diversity at both a city and state legislative district level. This would seem to be consistent with the goal of equal representation. We are attaching the spreadsheets of our proposed boundary.

We have reviewed available information to try and maintain a similar mix of voter representation within the current and proposed district boundaries. The city is not interested in changing the political environment or partisan propensity within the legislative districts and is therefore submitting a proposal that attempts to maintain status quo with respect to these characteristics.

Attached please find Exhibit B, which depicts the city of Marysville in a single legislative district –the 44th District.

The city of Marysville's proposal also considered the adjoining, affected legislative districts. Since we have a strong desire to place our community in a single legislative district, we are proposing a boundary that would not create a split in other communities. We looked at the cities of Lake Stevens, Snohomish, Mill Creek, Everett and the Tulalip Tribes and our proposal keeps their respective city limits and tribal reservation within a single legislative district as well, as we did not want our solution to create a similar problem for another community.

We also ran a scenario that encased the city of Marysville wholly in the 38th legislative district. Unfortunately by attempting to include all 60,000 Marysville residents in a single district, it would have resulted in overpopulation of the 38th. Since we understood that the city of Everett was asking to maintain district boundaries with respect to their city limits, we assumed that they would be opposed to removal of parts of their community from the 38th to accommodate Marysville's request. Instead our proposal actually includes all of the city of Everett corporate limits within the 38th, whereas a few of their neighborhoods are currently excluded. Also, in reviewing demographics, we found that our community characteristics in these areas more closely aligned with the 44th district.

In conclusion, we would appreciate the Commission's support in consolidating the city of Marysville into fewer legislative districts. We would like for the city of Marysville to be represented by the 44th district as depicted in the attached Exhibit B.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Nehring
Mayor

cc: Marysville City Council

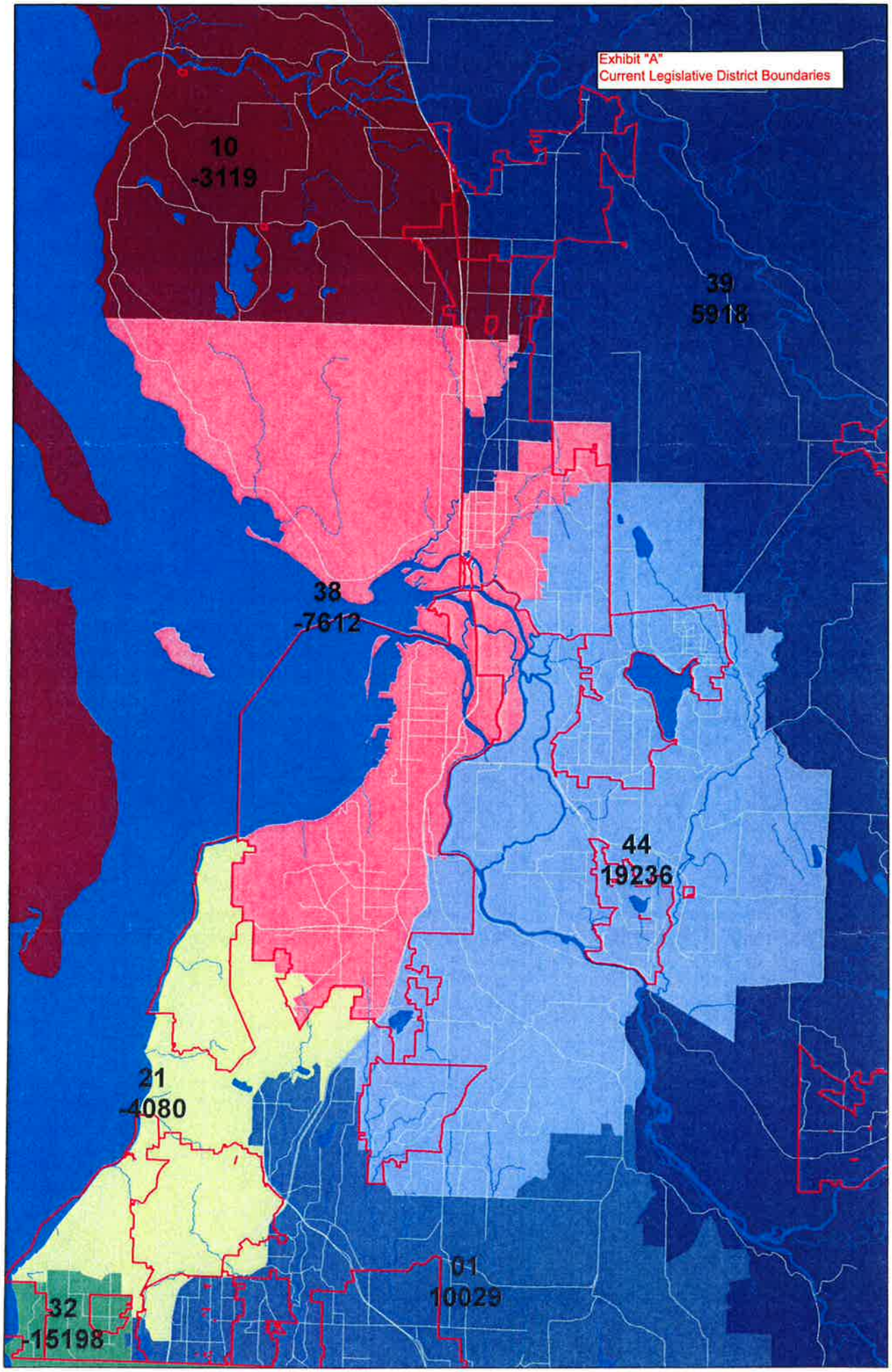
Exhibit "A"
Current Legislative District Boundaries
10
-3119
39
5918
38
-7612
44
19236
21
-4080
01
10029
32
-15198

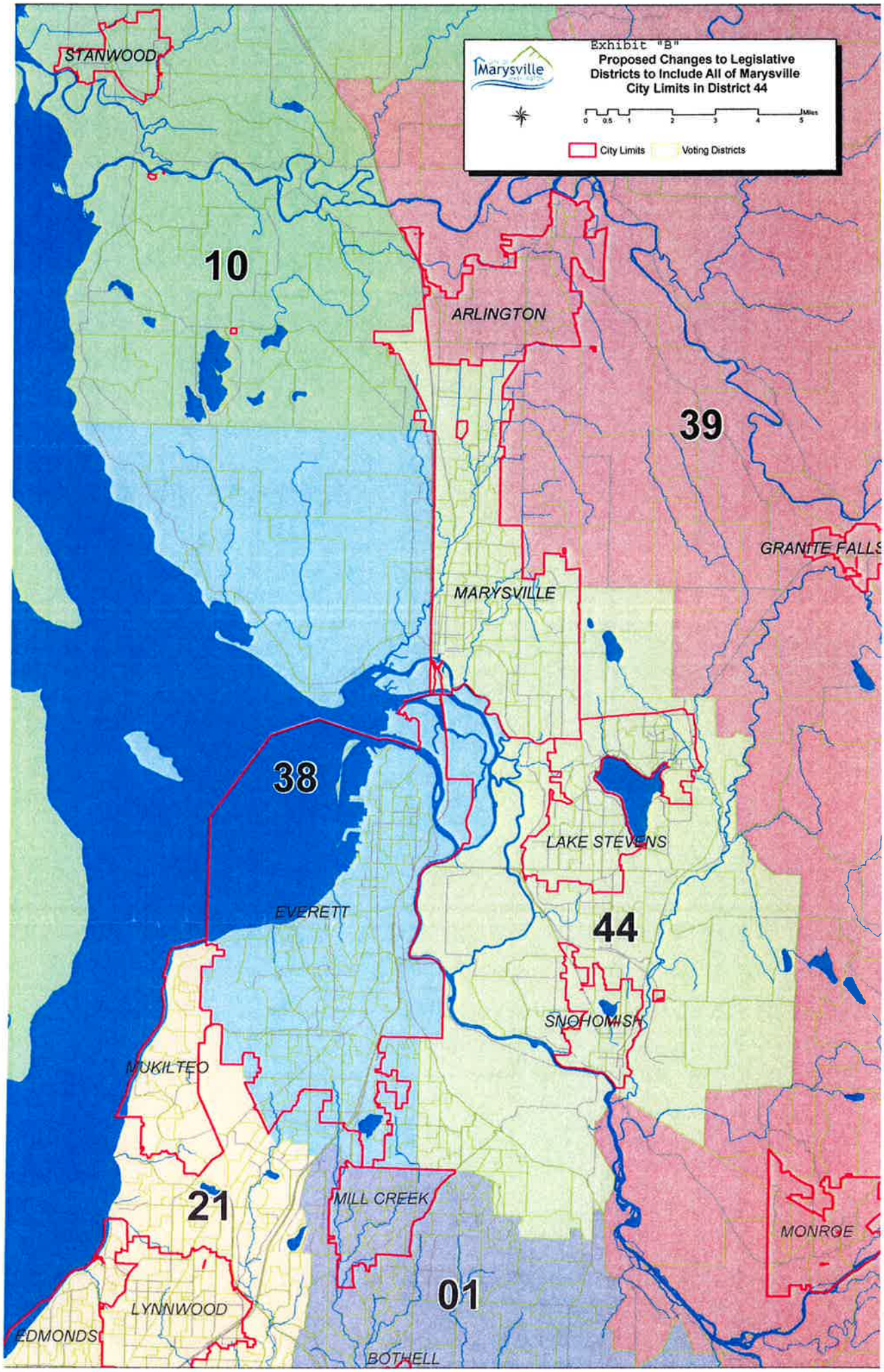
Exhibit "B"
Proposed Changes to Legislative Districts to Include All of Marysville City Limits in District 44
Marysville
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
City Limits
Voting Districts
STANWOOD
10
ARLINGTON
39
GRANITE FALLS
MARYSVILLE
38
LAKE STEVENS
EVERETT
44
SNOHOMISH
MUKILTEO
21
MILL CREEK
MONROE
01
LYNNWOOD
EDMONDS
BOTHELL