



September 29, 2011

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

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Dear Dr. Powell and Members of the Commission:

As Mayor of the City of Renton, I am writing to further express my community's interests as you continue the process of redistricting Washington State Congressional and Legislative districts. Let me first thank you and the members of your commission for listening to stakeholders and developing the first set of draft maps.

It appears that many of the draft proposals reflect Renton's desires as shared previously with you in letter and testimony. These include our goals of:

- Relatively even distribution between the districts that serve the city
- Preserving existing connections with both urban and suburban districts
- Having our potential annexation areas (PAAs) served by the same districts that serve the existing city boundaries

I must, however, emphasize two bottom-line goals for Renton that I ask you to consider as you further refine the Congressional and Legislative district boundaries between now and November:

- The final Congressional district boundaries should group Renton with other communities that share common interests, including south Seattle, Bellevue, and urban South King County. To the extent possible, we also would like to see the Congressional district maps keep the city's PAAs together.
- With regard to the Legislative district boundaries, strong Renton representation should be maintained within the 41st District, as two of the draft plans do. However, two do not—and one removes Renton entirely from the 41st District. We also would like to see the West Hill/Skyway PAA grouped together with part of Renton in the 37th Legislative District.

Following are specific Renton perspectives on the individual maps in order of our preference:

Congressional Plans

Gorton—This is our preferred proposal. It places Renton squarely in the center of a new 1st Congressional District that includes South Seattle, much of urban South King County, and Bellevue. If the boundary could be adjusted slightly eastward to include all of Renton's East Plateau and Fairwood PAAs it would be even better. However, we are comfortable with these areas remaining in the 8th District as it is configured in this plan.

Huff—This plan also places Renton centrally in the new 10th Congressional District. However, unlike Senator Gorton's proposal, it extends further south to the Tacoma border. It does include all of the Renton PAAs. This plan would be acceptable, but is slightly less desirable given the split between King and Pierce counties.

Foster—Renton is in the middle of a more suburban 9th Congressional District that excludes the City of Seattle. This plan excludes a small portion of Renton's West Hill PAA. We would ask that this area be included in the 9th District as the boundary is adjusted.

Ceis—Renton is also in the 9th District in this plan. However, it places our East Plateau PAA in an 8th District that extends across the Cascade Mountains to include Chelan and Kittitas counties. We are concerned that it would be challenging to garner the attention of the representative who would be serving this area given the large geographic area.

Legislative Plans

Foster—This plan closely resembles Renton's current legislative boundaries. The city would be served by the 11th, 37th and 41st districts primarily. We believe that makes good sense, given the "crossroads" nature of the city, its rich diversity, and its linkage to other "communities of interest" along the Interstate 405 corridor. The Fairwood PAA would be served by the 47th District and the southernmost section of the city would be served by the 33rd District under this plan. Renton has strong, existing ties to the 47th District, and we would appreciate seeing its boundary moved to the west to incorporate the area proposed to be served by the 33rd District.

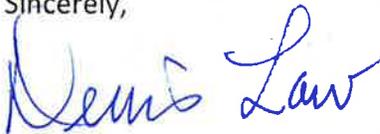
Ceis—This plan has Renton served primarily by the 11th and 41st districts. Only a small portion of the West Hill PAA is served by the 37th District to which we have strong ties, and some of the Fairwood PAA is in the 47th District. If this plan were to be advanced, we would ask that the 37th District be extended east as far as possible. At a minimum, a newly drawn 37th District should include all of the West Hill PAA.

Huff—This plan excludes all but a small portion of the Kennydale neighborhood from the 41st District, significantly reducing Renton’s influence on this essential piece of the city’s representation. The plan also splits indentified neighborhoods in the West Hill PAA awkwardly between the 37th and 11th districts and includes small portions of the city and its PAAs in the 5th and 47th District. This plan, as drawn, is of strong concern to Renton and we would ask that you look at others.

Gorton—This plan fully excludes Renton from the 41st District. For this reason alone, it is unacceptable to Renton as drawn. Furthermore, the plan places portions of our eastern annexation areas in the 5th District and awkwardly splits recognized neighborhoods in the West Hill area between the 37th and 11th districts.

I recognize that these draft plans represent a first cut at establishing boundaries. As the maps are further refined, I would ask that you continue to consider Renton’s requests. And, as you zoom in on the specific boundaries of each district, my staff and I would be more than happy to work with you to identify the most logical locations for these boundary lines. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Alex Pietsch, Administrator of the Department of Community & Economic Development, at apietsch@rentonwa.gov or 425-430-6592. Thank you once again for your hard work in this difficult, but essential task.

Sincerely,



Denis Law
Mayor

DL:aa

cc: Honorable Patty Murray
Honorable Maria Cantwell
Honorable Jim McDermott
Honorable Dave Reichert
Honorable Adam Smith
Honorable Cheryl Pflug
Honorable Margarita Prentice
Honorable Adam Kline
Honorable Steve Litzow
Honorable Joe Fain
Honorable Glenn Anderson
Honorable Jay Rodne
Honorable Bob Hasegawa

Honorable Zack Hudgins
Honorable Sharon Santos
Honorable Eric Pettigrew
Honorable Marcie Maxwell
Honorable Judy Clibbon
Honorable Mark Hargrove
Honorable Pat Sullivan
Renton City Council
Jay Covington, Chief Administrative Officer
Marty Wine, Asst. Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Pietsch, CED Administrator
Suzanne Dale Estey, Economic Dev. Director