

December 27, 2011



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

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Kirkland, I would like to express our concern about the proposed redistricting plan for Legislative Districts 45, 32 and 1. I ask that the Commission reconsider the Draft Partial Plan L-CG 3.0 - Commissioners Ceis & Gorton - December 16, 2011. Our concern relates to the proposal to divide Kirkland between King County and Snohomish County legislative districts.

As you may be aware, the City of Kirkland recently annexed the neighborhoods of Juanita, Finn Hill and Kingsgate increasing Kirkland's population by more than 31,000 residents. The majority of this area, and the city of Kirkland, has historically been a part of 45<sup>th</sup> and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Districts. State elected officials from these legislative districts were key proponents of the annexation and a tremendous asset to our city and to the annexed areas in facilitating the transition. The annexation area has long identified with the interests of Kirkland, and north and east King County cities as evidenced by the decision of the residents to annex.

The annexation became effective on June 1, 2011 and we are striving to assimilate the new areas and unify our community. The redistricting proposal aligns the Juanita and Finn Hill neighborhoods within the 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative District and the city of Bothell, and the Snohomish County cities of Mountlake Terrace, Brier as well as some unincorporated areas of southern Snohomish County. While we have excellent relationships with our neighbors and legislators to the north, Kirkland would only be a small part of the 1<sup>st</sup> district and we are concerned that the voices of our northern residents will be diluted by the number of cities and disparate interests represented by these other communities. We do understand the need to balance the districts by population to the greatest extent possible. However, we believe that the present proposal gives undue weight to the population factor rather than maintaining strong communities of interest. One alternative to consider would be to extend District 45 west to include Juanita and Finn Hill and extend the 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative District into Woodinville or Duvall. Another option to consider would be to extend District 32 east to include Juanita and Finn Hill rather than dropping part of it south into the City of Seattle as proposed.

The "Draft Partial Plan L-CG 3.0 - Commissioners Ceis & Gorton - December 16, 2011" plan was released just before the holidays, following a December 16, 2011 Special Meeting and communities have not had adequate time to respond. We urge you to take the time to evaluate Kirkland's concerns. Please reconsider the redistricting proposal so that the newly annexed areas continue to be a part of the 45<sup>th</sup> with the majority of the city of Kirkland. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kurt Triplett".

Kurt Triplett  
Kirkland City Manager