THE WE PLAN

EMPOWERING ALL OF WASHINGTON STATE VOTERS WITH EQUALITY, UNITY, AND COMMON GEOGRAPHY; IN LINE WITH OUR STATE'S POPULIST TRADITION.

A PROPOSAL TO
THE WASHINGTON STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Submitted by David John Anderson 8-15-2011

A political districting system that is designed by its divisions and not anchored by its unity unwittingly invites decline by promoting partisan interpretation to all political and legislative outcomes.
A districting system that unites all voters through an inherent internal logic allows voters a more honest and level playing field leading to more engagement and personal security to discuss issues freely.

Where is the Life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

-- from T.S. Eliot, "Choruses from 'The Rock'"

Thank you for reading and sincerely considering this districting plan.

The birth of a new 10th district in the state of Washington is cause for great celebration. Where will it land? What new politics will spring from it? As I pondered these questions I realized that the best use of this new 10th district is to spread its newness as far and wide throughout our state. How can we give every one the power and spirit of a new 10th district?

Ancient civilizations used to rebalance themselves through a celebration of Jubilee. Observed only once every fifty years Jubilee was as time when all slaves were released and all debts canceled offering great hope for the disempowered masses.

The arrival of the new 10th Congressional district is an opportunity ripe with potential to create an electoral Jubilee. A chance to rebuild and re-brand our representative district structure so that it is easier to learn, understand and participate in for every voter in Washington State. A fair rebalancing of our

political districts will welcome in a new era of political discourse. Allow voters to re-explore their communities political landscape and shrug off the baggage of our current districting system that reelects all incumbents and cancels it's presidential primaries. Sadly culture surrounding our current districting schema is putting our voters to sleep. This is a proposal to wake them up..

The philosophy, principles and graphics laid out within are to inspire you with an ideal vision of Washington State.

A State where level headed voters consider the issues of the day before them with transparency, balance and privacy.

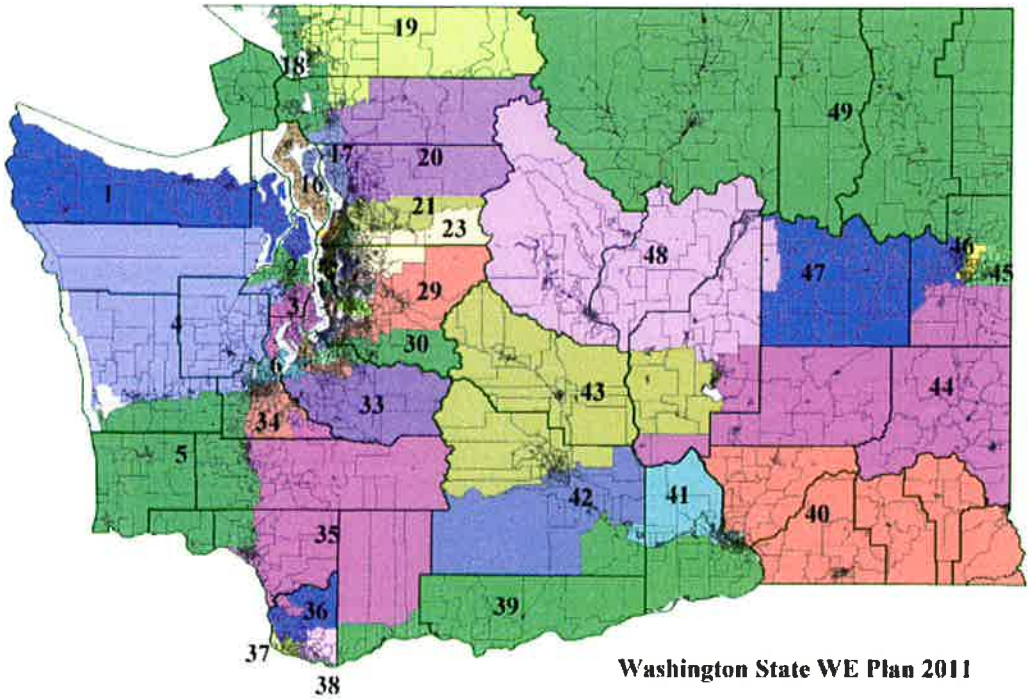
A State that assures every voter an equal stake in our government.

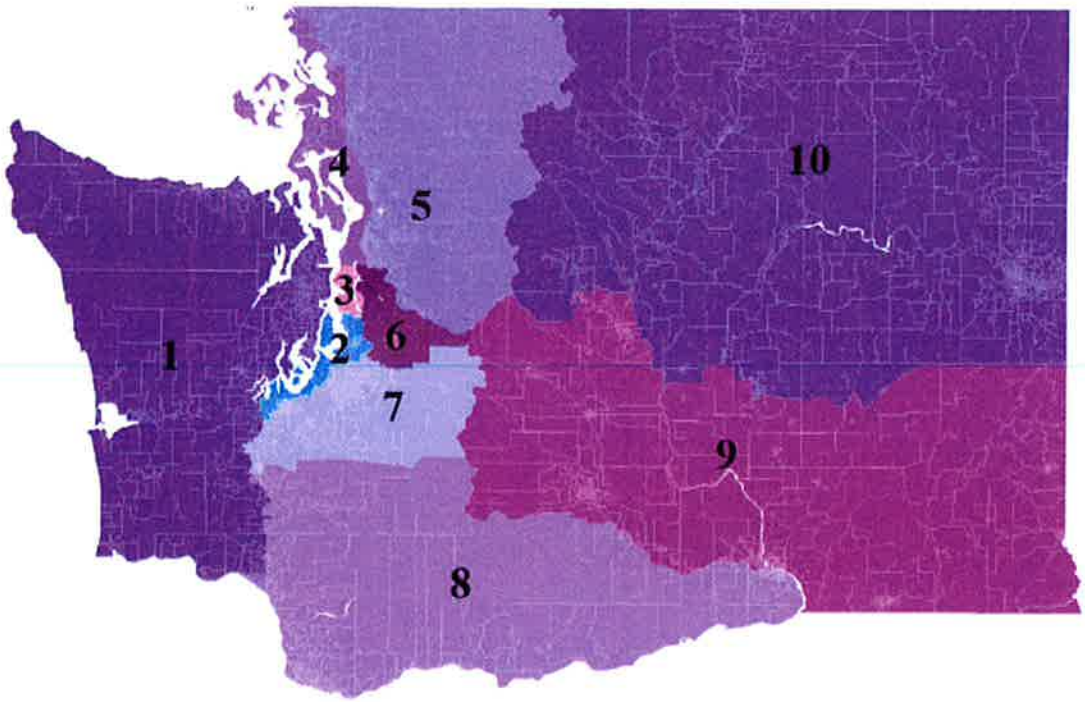
A State government forbidden by its citizens to overreach its constituted role by honing and controlling the scope the political debate through districts that corrals voters in sustains and managed division. Rather a government taking it's cue only after voters have spoken and not presuming in it's districting foundation how voters will probably vote.

A State where voters have more voice and impact than voters elsewhere.

A State that through calm minds agreeing on the best procedures to achieve a common good that evolved enough to create this very decennial districting process.

The design of this of this plan and the principals behind it are consistent with the US Constitution and Federal Judicial rulings regarding districting and the mandate given to you from the 2011 legislature to District this state in manner of providing equal, competitive, continuous and compact political districts.

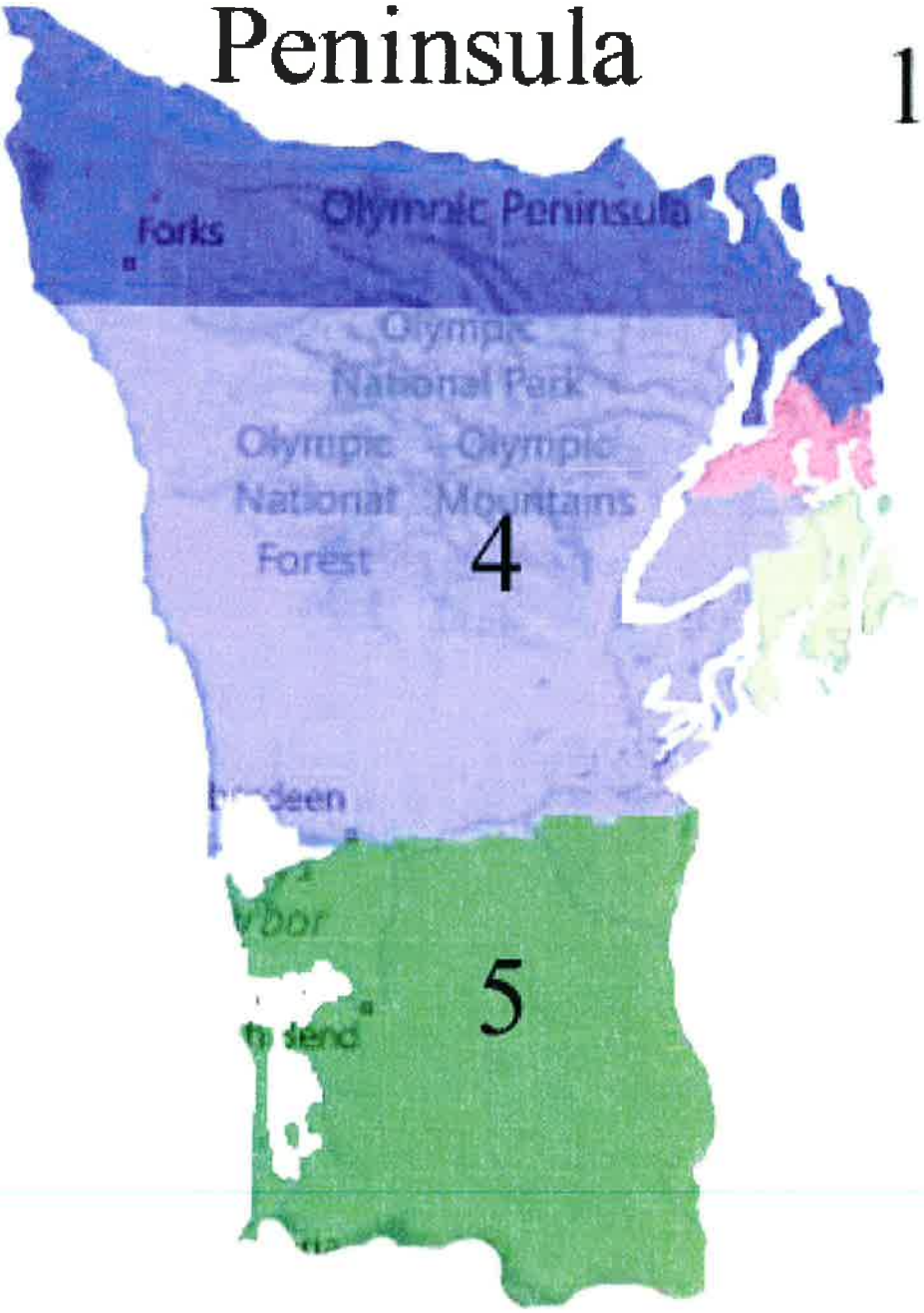




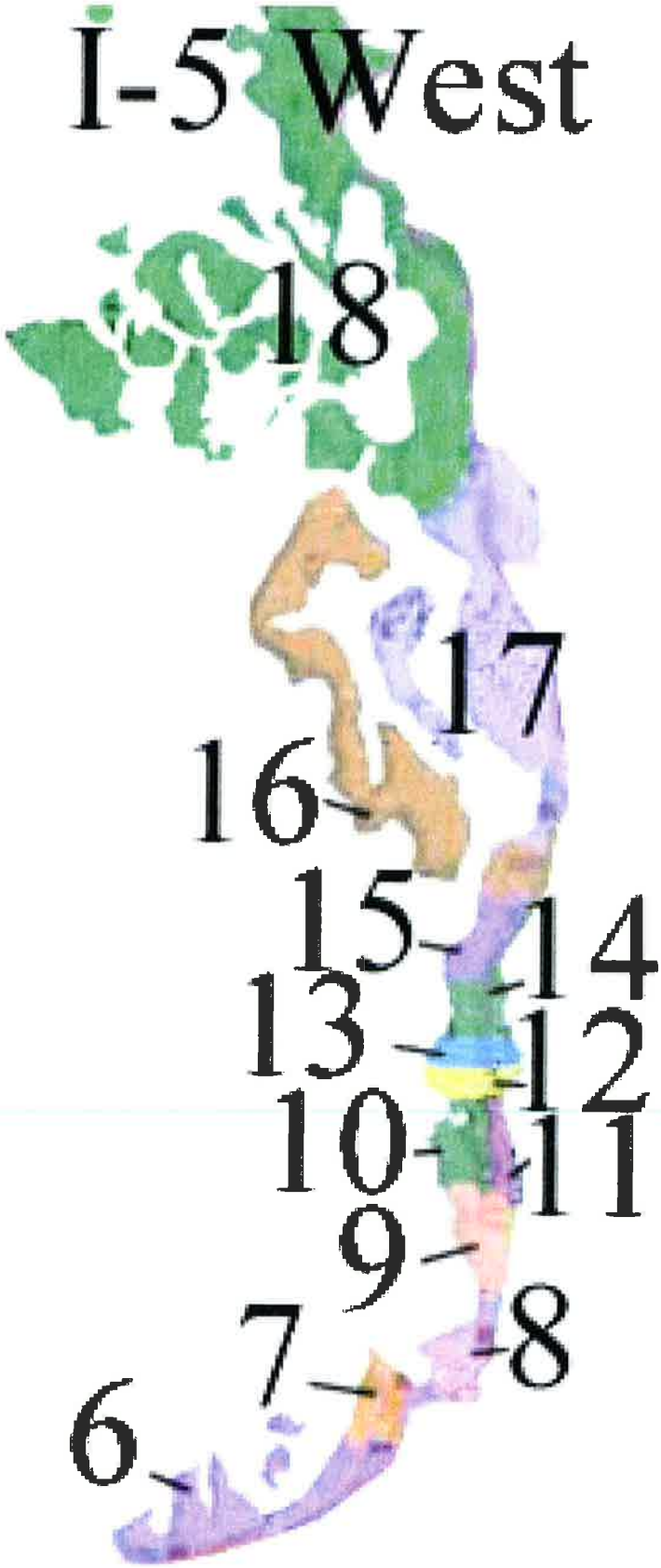
"WE" PLAN CONGRESSIONAL

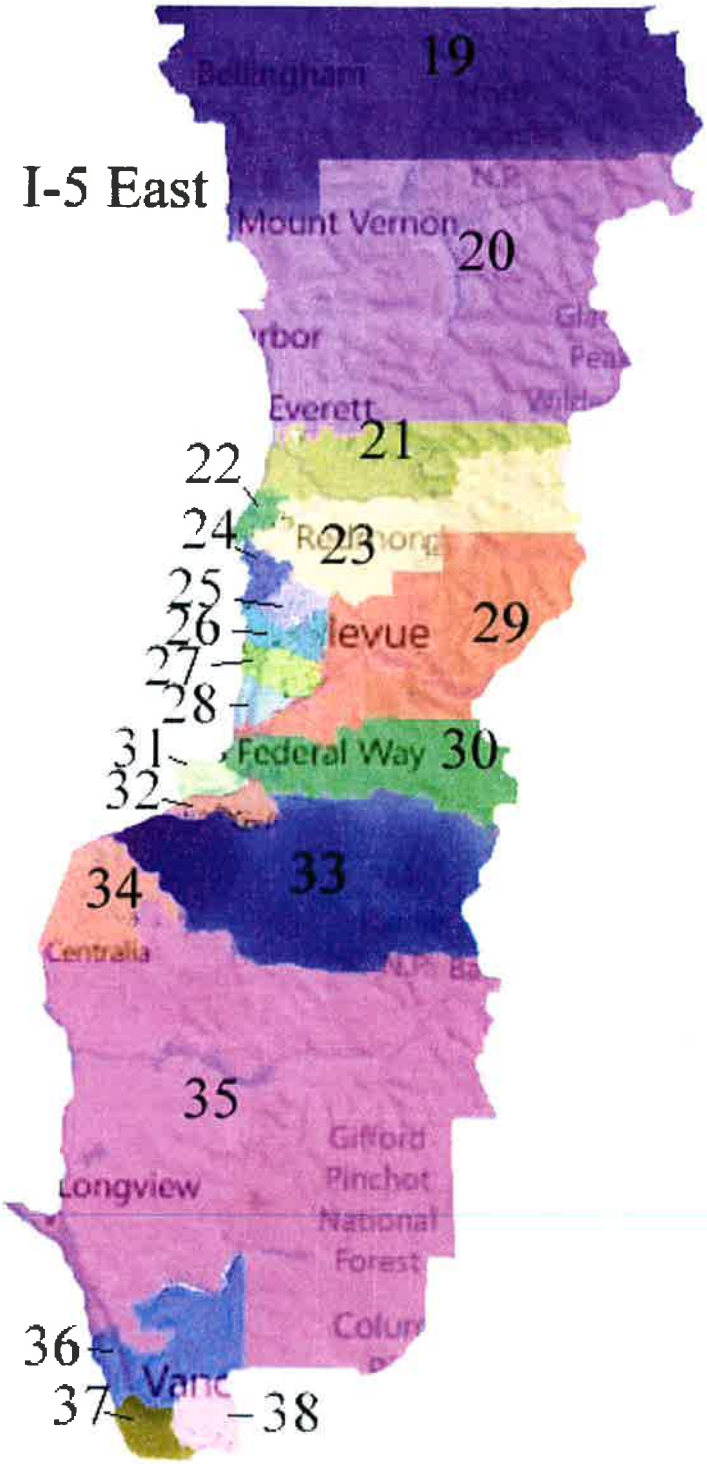
My process was to organize the state into four natural channels: Peninsula/ Puget Sound, I-5 West, I-5 East and Eastern Washington. Then sequentially drawing districts using one contiguous line through these natural channels until all 10 Congressional and 49 Legislative Districts were drawn. I only used precincts and not blocks so the actual numbers are not perfect…but from my understanding would stand up to a court challenge. It's the principle behind creating this kind of structure that is the point of this proposal. After I finished the Legislative map Linnea, my wife said it looks like the word "WE" so that's where the name comes from.

Peninsula


Forks
Olympic Peninsula
Olympic
National Park
Olympic
National
Forest
Olympic
Mountains
1
2
3
4
5

I-5 West




I-5 East
19
Bellingham
Mount Vernon
20
Everett
21
22
24
23
25
26
29
27
28
31
Federal Way
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32
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34
Centralia
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Longview
Gifford
Pinchot
National
Forest
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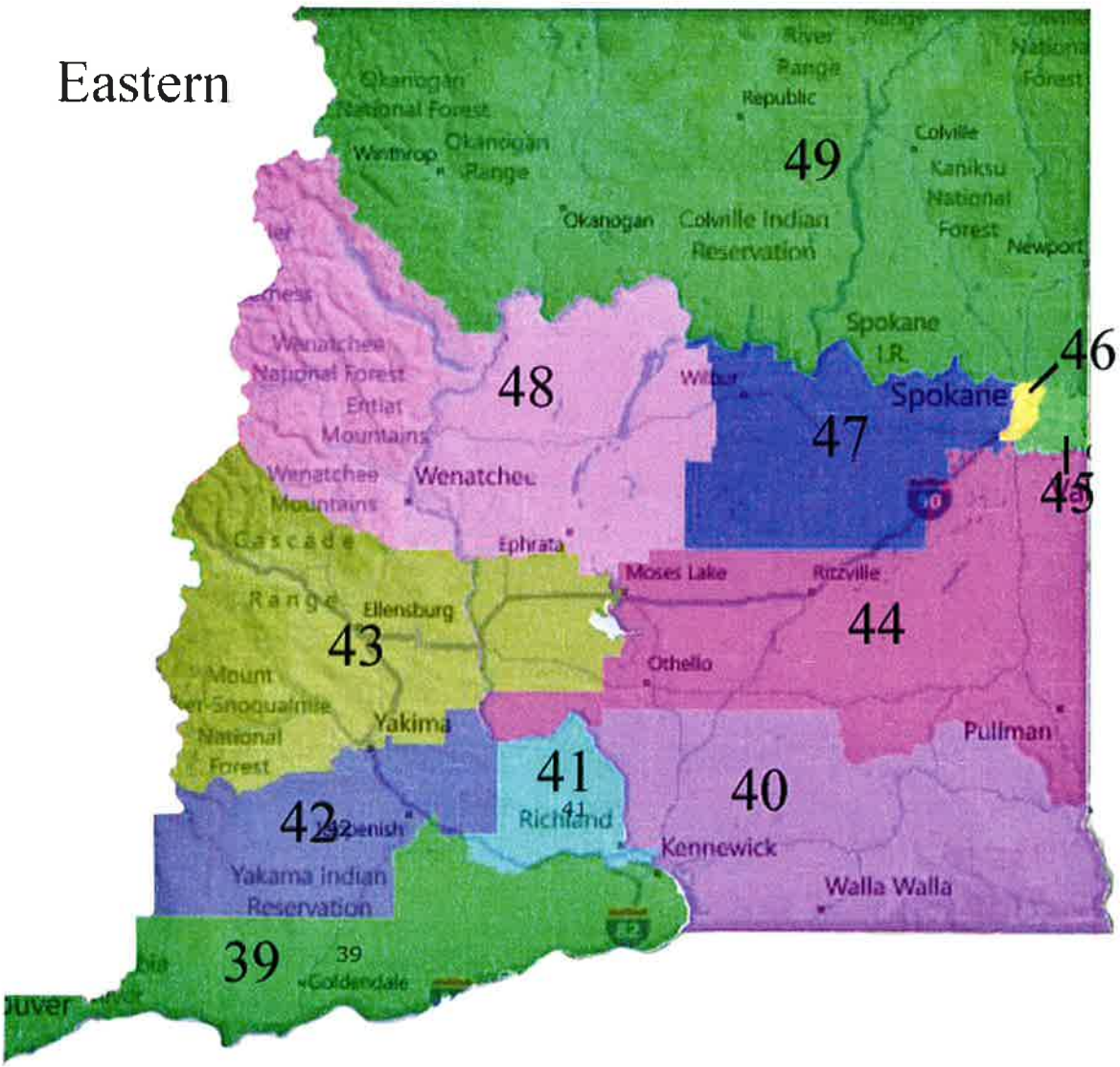
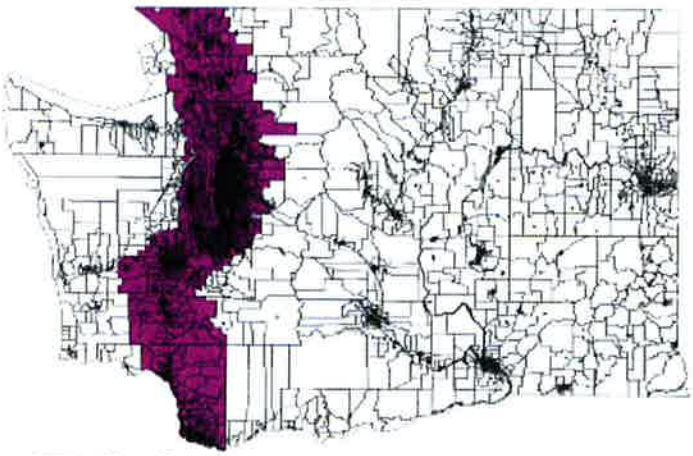


The reason that redistricting is controversial elsewhere is that process is that and the process is overly partisan and open to manipulation by special interests. In 1981 our state made great strides in evolving the process of reassigning of voters creating a redistricting commission that functions independent of the legislature. Certainly, the associated interests of voters will still be expressed through the practice of this plan but those interests of partisanship will not be what designs the plan. The forces of partisanship and grassroots organizing belong in our campaigns, debates and political fundraising. But they do not belong in the physical foundation of our democracy that is district lines. Partisan and activist groups are forever fluctuating but the proposed hard boundaries of the Puget Sound, Interstate 5 and the Cascade Mountains, in the WE PLAN are not.



73% of Washington's citizens live within 25 miles of Interstate 5 making it the most logical line in which to organize districts.

This plan hopes to further the goals, wisdom and spirit that originally created a Redistricting Commission that functions independent of the legislature. By overtly designing populist districts you will express a culture and state that is dedicated to transparency and with voters understanding the district shapes and the boundaries, purpose and rational of the lines drawn.

The WE PLAN offers empirical evidence to voters that fairness is a fundamental organizing principal of in Washington State's elections by presenting a rational for districting decisions instead of keeping mysterious an already skewed structure of political representation.

The WE PLAN offers a strong districting structure.
By relying more heavily on the natural geography and sequential numbering that voters will easily understand, navigate and identify our physical/political landscape resulting in a more engaged unified and empowered citizenry and State.

Using this strong structure will make it easier for you the commissioners to deliberate and defend the 2011 Districting plan. As well as set a strong precedence for future districting commissions to follow.

The visual and numerical rationality built our political system…being further amplified by the power and spirit of a new district will shared by all voters across our great State.

Minority Majority Districting

By utilizing preexisting non-changeable structures as organizing principles in the districting process like: natural geographic channels, sequential numbering, colorblindness, equal districts sizes that follow a contiguous line through the geography of our state issues about racial disproportionality become moot due to a transparency and rationality in districting.

Gerrymandering should be avoided at all costs. Because it's the use of gerrymandering that opens the doors for legitimate cases of Minority discrimination. The Commission should adamantly reject all proposals to gerrymander. For the franchise of democratic voting is not to be an expression of race rather it is an expression of citizenship the role that we all hold in common.

The WE plan asks the Commission to explicitly and intentionally refuse to gerrymander in anyway shape or form. All districting injustices happen when states choose to district using gerrymandering. Administering injustice is what gerrymandering is design to do.

If the Commission does chooses to profile voters and rely on the partisan forces of national parties and minority activist groups the commission threatens to undermine the very idea of what it means to be a state. By seeking to divide our government instead of uniting it... As well as ignoring the instructions from it's legislative mandate to not favor any one group or political interest.

The purpose of our state should be to unify our citizens and engaging them toward a more deliberative form of self governance. I fear that if the commission pursues a profiling/separating fashion of districting they are in fact leading our state farther down the pipelines of demagoguery into the echo chambers of submission. And will make our state and Nation even more stuck, with more distrust of our fellow citizens, inconceivable debts, unstoppable wars and lack of ability to agree with our neighbors.

The WE Plan might not empower the voice of our political parties or make our elections cheaper efficient and easier to manage…that's the point. Please give Washington State competitive elections in every district for every voter.

Again thank you for giving this plan a serious reading.

Sincerely,

David Anderson

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PS…Remember…**George Washington** our namesake and Nations founder **was a passionate non partisan.**