10/14/11

October 7th 2011

RE: Creating a Public Record of Redistricting deliberations.

A proposal to TVW and Washington State Redistricting Commission,

Voters have a right to know how and why each political boundary is drawn.
TVW should broadcast these negotiations live as it happens to insure that voters a full transparent view into the mechanisms currently structuring their government.

The laws creating this commission essentially provide no checks and balances. The map it decides on will be final for the next 10 years. (The legislature can only amend 2% if it can marshal an unlikely 2/3's majority vote.) But absent that, this map will be law.

Every voting commissioner has acknowledged that their proposed maps give favor to political parties, incumbents and minority-identity groups. This is a practice that is clearly discouraged in our State Constitution.

"The commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group." ~Washington State Constitution Article 2 Section 43 (5)

I propose at their next meeting the commissioners should approve a resolution and rule giving TVW full access to all of the commission's deliberations in accordance with the guidelines of Washington State Public Records Act. RCW Chapter 42.56

Sunshine is the only way to insure trust in government in this matter.

The Non-partisan staff has been helpful with information and opportunity to petition during the redistricting process. It's the firewall blocking public disclosure the voting commissioners will negotiate behind that seeds suspicion. This proposal is aimed at dispelling such suspicion and restoring public trust with a public record.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

David Anderson

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