

June 27, 2021

Dear Community Member,

2021 is **Redistricting time** for us, and now is the time to make yourself familiar with the process and provide input. Every 10 years, following completion of the decennial [U.S. Census](#), the State Redistricting Commission is formed. Redistricting is the process of creating new districts or redrawing existing district boundaries to adjust for population changes that occurred in the last decade. Congressional and State legislative district boundaries in Washington will be redrawn, proportional to population changes. Each state establishes its own method. In Washington, a bi-partisan commission is formed and tasked with the responsibility to present new map recommendations to the state legislature for approval. The Commission does this after soliciting input from citizens in every part of the state.

The number of people allocated to each district is based on the 2020 Census, which determined that the population of Washington state was 7,705,281 as of April 1, 2020. This figure represents a 14.6 percent growth in population over the last decade, but it does not change the number of Congressional representatives, which remains at 10. As a result, each Congressional district in Washington state should represent about 770,528 people, while each of the 49 legislative districts should represent about 157,251 people. Final results of the 2020 U.S. Census, by locality, will be given in August, so the above numbers are approximate and subject to some change.

It is important to take this opportunity to give input and find out how the State Redistricting Commission is developing alternatives to the current configuration of Congressional Districts and Legislative Districts in Washington State. There is one alternative out there so far that would move the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District further west and move both Wenatchee and East Wenatchee into the 4<sup>th</sup> CD. If this is done, we may lose our sole blue representative in Eastern Washington: **Kim Schrier**. The realignment will undoubtedly reposition the boundaries of both the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts, moving both further to the West. Some current proposals being made would approximate a “Liberty State” in Eastern Washington. It’s vital that people who know our communities best and who understand the implications and impacts be thoughtfully involved in making solid recommendations to the Redistricting Commission.

The Commission website offers three ways for you to share your community feedback—email, written testimony, or Zoom testimony before the Commissioners.

1. **Tell us about your community.** Send us your comments and insights about your community and what makes it whole. You can send your ideas by mail, email, phone, webform, or by submitting a video. Communication through any of these methods will reach each Commissioner directly.

2. **Draw your community using our mapping tool.** Share your idea of how voting district boundaries should be drawn in your community or throughout the state. Use our **DRAW YOUR WA** mapping tool to easily draw the boundaries of your community and send it directly to the commission.  
<https://washington.mydistricting.com/legdistricting/washington/community>
3. **Share your testimony with the Commission.** Participate in a public forum in your outreach district. Find out where and when by finding your outreach district on our map. All forums will be held virtually, and participation is easy. If you have trouble accessing the internet, we have formed a partnership with Washington public libraries who will make available laptops and WIFI at their branches so you can sign up and participate.

If you are going to do Zoom testimony before the Commissioners, keep the following in mind:

- You will only have 2 minutes to state your input to the commissioners.
- Be brief. Write it out. Practice and time yourself.
- Make your statement your own.
- Tell them Who you are; Where you live; and any relevant titles you hold.
- Avoid describing your political party affiliation.
- Concisely state **what you do or don't like about previous redistricting boundaries.**
  - (Example: *I do like that the City of East Wenatchee is in the same Congressional District as the City of Wenatchee.*)
  - (Example: *I want to see Chelan County included in a West-River Congressional District because these communities have a stronger relationship with populations of the west-side of the state than of the east-side of the state.*)
- Tell the Commissioners what you would **want to see done** in this 2021 Redistricting effort.
  - (Example: *I would like to see the Colville Nation included within one Congressional District and one Legislative District.*)
- Remember you sign up to give a 2-minute talk on your points, so it is important to keep it within that time frame. They won't let you go over two minutes, so it is a good idea to also submit written comments via email.

In lieu of testifying to the Commission, you can also submit written comments or draw your own community map.

If you want to “speak out,” your best opportunity is at the Redistricting Commission **Outreach Meetings**. There will be two Outreach Meetings for each Congressional District.

- The first outreach meeting for **CD 4** (Newhouse) was already held June 5th. The second **CD 4** and CD 5 Outreach Meeting has been scheduled for **July 24th from 1 pm to 3 pm**.
- The first outreach meeting date for **CD 8** is scheduled for **June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. It includes all of **CD 8** and affected LDs (2, 11, 12, 13, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 41, 45 and 47). The second outreach meeting for **CD 8** and CD 10 is scheduled for **July 31st from 1 pm to 3 pm**.
- Signing up to testify at the Redistricting Commission outreach meetings is easy. Here is the link to register to testify (be sure to select the appropriate CD area): [Register for Public Comment](#)

If you are interested in testifying, here are some sample testimonies to check out:

Sample Testimonies CD4: [Click Here to View CD4 Videos](#)

Sample Testimonies CD6: [Click Here to View CD 6 Videos](#)

This is an important opportunity to be heard.

If you have further questions please don't hesitate to call or email back.

Karen Keleman, Chair  
Douglas County Democrats  
509-630-3055

Bill Miller, Chair  
Democrats of Chelan County  
425-444-9598

### **Some more information:**

Washington State Redistricting Process: [www.redistricting.wa.gov](http://www.redistricting.wa.gov)

League of Women Voters alternative CD and LD suggested maps. Zoom into both and see if it is affecting your area. This is important to look at and see if it is affecting you in any negative way and call it out.

- LWVWA Maps and Links: <https://lwvwa.org/maps/>
- LWVWA Links to LD suggestion: [Map](#)
- LWVWA Links to CD suggestion: [Map1](#) [Map2](#)

Following are some generic talking points we are promoting, but you will want to make your testimony your own.

- Chelan County and the greater area of East Wenatchee would fit best with a western WA Congressional District as our issues, visitors, transportation needs, markets, and media markets are primarily western WA based.
- Although physically located in two separate counties, the communities of Wenatchee and greater East Wenatchee would benefit from being in the same

congressional district (and legislative district). The two communities are governmentally, recreationally, and economically intertwined, sharing health care resources, port administrations, a chamber of commerce, and many other organizational structures that would challenge their effectiveness if they were required to navigate support from multiple representatives.

- In a similar fashion, after what happened in 2011, the commission must prioritize keeping Native Lands and populations together.
- The commission should do outreach to each Tribe.
- Communities of interest should stay together geographically within CD and LD.
- Joe Fain should step down and be investigated for his past behavior.
- How will the Commission get mapping data to real people in ways they can understand?
- How can the Commission make certain minority populations get at least a chance at a voice in districts in Central and Eastern Washington?
- Gerrymandering comes when you try to just modify existing maps - will you draw maps that start "from zero" as the maps should be, not how they "have been"?
- The Commission should not protect incumbents but should protect diverse populations and their right to representation.