

Madame Chair Osiadacz, Commissioners Wright and Wachsmith,

The Redistricting Advisory Committee respectfully submits this report to you and recommendation for the redistricting of the County Commissioner Districts.

Charge of the Kittitas County Commissioner Redistricting Advisory Committee:

Committee members shall approve and prepare for presentation a final recommended redistricting map to the Board. Reasons and rationale for any amendments to the Auditor's proposed draft shall accompany the approved map in paper form with signatory approval by committee members

The Committee met twice. The first meeting was Dec. 15, 2021 in the Auditors Elections office, and the final meeting in the Commissioners Auditorium on Dec. 22, 2021.

I think all members will attest to a very cordial and focused process without any major difficulties in our deliberations. The County Auditor was very helpful in providing immediate technical support as we analyzed the districts and population figures for each district.

The Committee reviewed the statutory requirements for county redistricting and specifically crafted the plan to be consistent with the provisions outlined RCW 29A.76.010 (4):

(4) The plan shall be consistent with the following criteria:

(a) Each internal director, council, or commissioner district shall be as nearly equal in population as possible to each and every other such district comprising the municipal corporation, county, or special purpose district.

(b) Each district shall be as compact as possible.

(c) Each district shall consist of geographically contiguous area.

(d) Population data may not be used for purposes of favoring or disfavoring any racial group or political party.

(e) To the extent feasible and if not inconsistent with the basic enabling legislation for the municipal corporation, county, or district, the district boundaries shall coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries and shall, to the extent possible, preserve existing communities of related and mutual interest.

The Auditor also relayed the following additional County Commissioner directives to be considered by the Redistricting Advisory Committee:

1. To the greatest extent possible, the City of Ellensburg should remain within Commissioner District #3
2. Commissioner districts should reflect like interests

The Auditor presented the Committee with three options for an initial working plan. Committee members unanimously chose Plan 1 as working draft rejecting, Plan 2 & 3 as a less desirable starting point to achieve an approved final plan.

The Auditor provided the committee with the following pertinent information from 2020 census that guided the Committee's deliberations regarding the "equal population" criteria in 29A.76.010 (4)(a):

In order to equalize the population of the Commissioner districts, the Committee worked with the additional following objectives:

Commissioner District #1 should remain agriculture centric and pick up the balance of population needed from the northeast corner, as well as the southern more sparsely populated portion of the City of Ellensburg.

Commissioner District #2 should remain as geographically compact as possible and balance population requirements by adjusting district boundaries along the northwest portion of Ellensburg.

Commissioner District #3 should represent as much of the city of Ellensburg as possible, particularly focusing on coalescing the older residential area to the east and south of downtown.

We believe the final plan approved unanimously by the Committee members substantially meets the statutory criteria for adjusting the commissioner districts. The new population numbers for each district are:

District One: 14,817

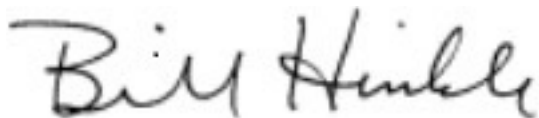
District Two: 14,716

District Three: 14,804

The attached map reflects the district boundaries agreed to by Committee members. You can also view this in the Counties GIS system.

As chair I greatly appreciate the ability of the committee to get down to business quickly and with such a non-partisan approach.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Hinkle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Hinkle, Chair

Ann Anderson

Ann Anderson

Karen Raymond

Karen Raymond

Kent Verbeck

Kent Verbeck

Matthew Lundh

Matthew Lundh

