

Pierce County Districting Committee

July 13, 2011

Julie Anderson
Pierce County Auditor
Pierce County Annex
2401 South 35th Street
Tacoma, WA 98409

RECEIVED
PIERCE COUNTY AUDITOR
JUL 13 2011

Dear Ms. Anderson,

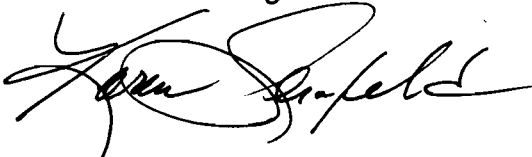
In compliance with the provisions of Section 4.60 of the Pierce County Charter, the Pierce County Districting Committee is pleased to submit for filing the attached Districting Plan for the County. The plan complies with the applicable provisions of the Pierce County Charter and the Revised Code of Washington. The plan was adopted by the Pierce County Districting Committee on a vote of 3-2 at a public meeting on July 12, 2011.

Please find the following items attached to this filing letter:

- Attachment A - the Pierce County Districting Plan approved by the Committee on July 12, 2011, including the listing of Census blocks and districts, and
- Attachment B - The Final Map approved by the Committee on July 12, 2011.

The contact person for questions about the district boundaries is the Districting Master, Steven Garrett. His contact information is provided on the Districting Plan report.

For the Districting Committee:



Karen Seinfeld
Chair, Districting Committee

Attachments

c: Members of the Districting Committee:
Karen Seinfeld, Chair
Deryl McCarty, Vice Chair
Michael Abernathy, Member
Ken Blair, Member
Sam Ross, Member

Proposed 2012 Pierce County Districting Plan

SUBMITTED BY:

Steven Garrett

Principal, Free Range Consulting
817 North Sheridan Ave
Tacoma, WA 98403-1419
geografood@yahoo.com

DATE: June 28th, 2012

This plan is the culmination of two months of work by the Districting Master, the five members of the Districting Committee, and Pierce County staff. This work included seven public meetings and several internal business meetings that were open to the public. Throughout each meeting, public testimony brought forth issues that related to maintaining cohesive natural communities based on shared governance and economies. The most compelling comments were then integrated into each successive map, to the degree possible, given the constraints of the Pierce County Charter and population. The population target was 113,604 for each district. Appendix B shows how each district meets this target population.

This report provides (in order), a narrative description of the districts, a comparison of the 2002 district plan and the proposed 2012 district plan, and then the appendices. Attachments to this report include a large format map (36" x 48"), a smaller format map (11" x 17"), and a text file of the census blocks included in each district.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICTS

District 1

Communities: Bonney Lake, South Prairie, Buckley, Wilkeson, Carbonado, Orting, South Hill, Prairie Ridge, Prairie Heights, Greenwater, McMillin, Crocker, and Lake Tapps.

Description:

This northeastern district maintains the north/south divide (along with District 3) that was put into place in the 2002 redistricting plan. It borders on Yakima and King Counties. While this district, and District 3, are not geometrically compact, this arrangement was greatly desired by the communities in this district to allow for ease of access to rural from Council members. The district also forms an upper Puyallup River watershed for watershed/flood control planning. By connecting the large population of South Hill to this district, the overall size has been greatly reduced in order to allow for better access by Council members. District 1, like Districts 7 and 3, is mostly rural but includes significant suburban/urban communities in order to meet the target population.

District 2

Communities: Tacoma: New Tacoma and NE neighborhoods, Puyallup, Milton, Edgewood, Sumner, Auburn, Pacific, Fife Heights, Alderton, and North Puyallup.

Description: This district shifted north in the 2012 plan to take in the entire lower Puyallup River communities. This district was well supported in public comments since it combines issues related to watershed/flood control planning, the Port of Tacoma economic activities, and transportation issues; such as Highway 167 completion and the lack non-motorized transportation connections between Tacoma and the Puyallup Valley.

District 3

Communities: Roy, Eatonville, Fredrickson, Kapowsin, McKenna, Clear Lake, Elbe, LaGrande, Ashford, Graham, Elk Plain, Spanaway, Joint Base Lewis McChord, South Creek, Spanaway, Parkland, and Elk Plain, and most of the Mt Rainier National Forest.

Description: This district encompasses the southeastern part of the county. Its borders include Yakima, Lewis, and Thurston Counties. Like District 1, this district was also popular with its rural constituents who like the ease of access for council members to be able to reach all of its communities. One feature that was especially popular was putting all of the Graham Planning Area in one district.

District 4

Communities: University Place, Fircrest, and Tacoma (Southend, Central, New Tacoma, and North Slope neighborhoods)

Description: This district has always been Tacoma-centric, as was each previous iteration of maps during this process. However, due to the concerns about large variance of District 6, University Place needed to be moved out of that district. University Place and Fircrest citizens wanted their cities to be together. This was the best way to accomplish that goal, while maintaining other districts around District 4.

District 5

Communities: Summit-Waller, Midland, the eastern half of Parkland, Clover Creek, Summit View, and Tacoma (East, and most of South neighborhoods).

Description: There was unanimous support on the Districting Committee to create district that encompassed all of Joint Base Lewis McChord and the surrounding communities that are impacted by the base. The problem was that those communities were not big enough to meet the target population goal and that the adjacent communities (Tacoma, University Place and Parkland) were too large to meet the target goal. I put the smallest community, University Place, into this district, but opposition was strong due to the high variance, so I needed to split some community. So instead of University Place, that community was Parkland.

This District keeps the Mid-County Planning Area intact.

District 6

Communities: Lakewood, Steilacoom, DuPont, western half of Parkland, Anderson Island, Ketron Island, and Joint Base Lewis McChord.

Description: The biggest change from 2002 is that Roy and McKenna are not in this district. This saves a good deal of driving time for a Council member who wants to visit the entire district, since it is now centered on the I-5 corridor. McNeil Island was also moved to District 7 to help with the variance. During the census, 1,500 people were counted on the island, but since then the

prison has closed and according to the Pierce County Auditor's office, there are no registered voters on the island. Moreover, there is no public access or transportation to the island.

As for moving the western half of Parkland to District 6, this created a more compact district than the previous maps. And this part of Parkland is highly impacted by JBLM.

District 7

Communities: Tacoma (West and most of Northend neighborhoods), Gig Harbor, Maplewood, Canterwood, Rosdale, Artondale, Raft Island, Fox Island, Wollochet, Wauna, Stanberry Lake, Home, Vaughn, Key Center, Longbranch, McNeil Island, and Herron Island.

Description: This district is nearly the same as it had been for 21 years; until 2002. Tacoma is the only community that is connected on the east side of the bridge to Gig Harbor. Connecting Gig Harbor to University Place and Fircrest required an isthmus of Tacoma; leaving West Tacoma split. Besides those geographic and community issues, there is no economic or governance connections between Gig Harbor and UP/Fircrest. While it was brought up that they share similar demographics, it was the Pierce County legal opinion that I was not supposed to consider demographics.

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE 2002 AND 2012 DISTRICT PLAN

Issue	2002 District Plan	Proposed 2012 District Plan	Notes	Advantage
Compactness (average)	3.6%	4.3%	The higher the number the more geometrically compact the districts are. Relates to potential gerrymandering.	2012
End-to-end drive time (average)	45 minutes	42 minutes	Relates to potential gerrymandering.	2012
Keeps communities together	Split Spanaway and Graham	Splits Parkland		2012
Protects incumbents	Redistricted out two Council members. One moved and ran again. The other lost his position	Redistricts out one Council member	While this is not in the charter, nonetheless, it is something the public and committee are concerned about.	2012
Keeps districts in same place	Moved District 6 to where District 3 had been for 21 years	All districts in the same relative place		2012
Variance	1.3 (very low)	5% (low)	Anything above 10% is considered a high variance.	2002

APPENDIX A: District Driving Time Comparisons

2012 Proposed District Driving Time Comparison (using Google Maps)			
District	Start	End	Time*
1	Greenwater, WA	Woodland Ave E and 160 th Street E	78 minutes
2	128 th Street S & SR 162 E	E Side Dr NE & Spring St NE	35 minutes
3	Military Rd S and Spanaway Loop Dr S	Ashford	61 minutes
4	Chambers Creek Road West	Eels Street & Milwaukee Way	19 minutes
5	E Thompson Ave & I-5	Woodland Ave E and 160 th Street E	24 minutes
6	Pacific Ave and 96 th Street SW	Nisqually Road SW	20 minutes
7	North 21st and N Steele street	Key Peninsula Hwy S and 88th Street KP S	57 minutes
Average			42 minutes

2002 Districts Driving Time Comparison (using Google Maps)			
District	Start	End	Time*
1	Greenwater, WA	18 th street NE & Northwood Ave NE	80 minutes
2	128 th Street S & SR 162 E	E Side Dr NE & Spring St NE	37 minutes
3	Shaw Road SE & 122 Street E	Ashford	67 minutes
4	Military Rd S and Spanaway Loop Dr S	Eels Street & Milwaukee Way	16 minutes
5	E Thompson Ave & I-5	Canyon Road E and 160 th Street E	22 minutes
6	8th Ave S & 288th St S	Nisqually Road SW	36 minutes
7	Chambers Creek Road West	Key Peninsula Hwy S and 88th Street KP S	59 minutes
Average			45 minutes

APPENDIX B: Achieving Target Population Goals

DISTRICT	POPULATION	TARGET	VARIANCE
D1	116475	113604	2.5%
D2	115612	113604	1.8%
D3	115612	113604	1.8%
D4	110727	113604	-2.5%
D5	111373	113604	-2.0%
D6	115858	113604	2.0%
D7	110985	113604	-2.3%

Total overall variance was five percent.