



WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

MAP NARRATIVE

This narrative applies to the following map on Dave's Redistricting App. This is the official submission of the League of Women Voters of Washington.

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/129a61ac-6e8f-4b9a-9afa-9a19feb56298>

You will find current legislative districts and tribal lands as overlays on the maps to aid analysis. Question about these maps should be directed to: Alison McCaffree, amccaffree@lwvwa.org, LWVWA Redistricting Issue Chair, 253-720-6813. Please find more information and additional details at lwvwa.org/maps.

We started our maps using ideas from the community. We did not start from existing districts. We have ranked the criteria in Washington State law and have prioritized the maps in the following way:

1. Contiguous & Equal Population
2. Keep Communities of Interest together:
 - a. Consolidate each native reservation and surrounding tribal populations into single districts or distribute into multiple according to the expressed wishes of tribal members or representatives
 - b. Known racial & ethnic communities (Latinx, Black, AAPI, etc.)
 - c. Build majority black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) districts where possible (examples: CD9, LD14, S. King Co districts)
 - d. Identified areas of shared economic, environmental and transportation common interests
 - e. Identified rural, suburban, and urban communities
3. Provide fair and effective representation.
4. Create districts that are compact and convenient.
5. Minimize splitting Political Boundaries - county, city, and other municipalities.
6. Encourage electoral competition at district, region, and state level; Do not favor incumbent or party interests.

For our purposes we define a community of interest as an area with recognized similarities of legislative concerns, including but not limited to racial, ethnic, geographic, governmental, regional, social, cultural, partisan, economic or historic interests. While we have prioritized racial and ethnic communities, we recognize that not everyone in each group thinks or votes the same way. Our focus has been on giving those communities who have historically been underrepresented enough voting power to have a chance to decide their own representatives.

Overall, we have found the following tensions and trade off in making the legislative maps.

- Increase in population in Puget Sound area has increased the size of most eastern Washington districts and pushed many westward.
- Rural populations tend to not have enough population for entire districts, so a choice must be made to either create districts that wrap around cities, or districts that combine rural area with urban areas. Each

approach has pluses and minus. We have created wrap-around districts where the communities were supportive and rearranged where we heard there was discontent.

- Several areas voiced a desire for smaller physical districts to make running for office easier, increasing the ability for representatives to visit all areas of their district and hopefully have a more coherent community. While we honored this wish in several places, it was not possible to accommodate particularly in eastern Washington districts, given population density.
- The shape of the state and location of bodies of water (Puget Sound, rivers) made certain district boundaries an obvious choice. Ex: LD 23 in the Kitsap peninsula.
- Districts in the center of the state are more irregularly shaped to incorporate the necessary population. We made the decision to split Wenatchee from E. Wenatchee, split Moses Lake, and in some cases to split counties to keep districts compact. This is an area of tension where not all voice could be accommodated.
- We worked to avoid/remove strange bumps or crooked lines except where they were defined by city or county borders, or a by a geographic feature was highly desired among respondents to LWVWA. This avoids the appearance of favoring incumbents.
- Some districts as drawn will necessitate a change in representation, as incumbents will no longer be in their current district. We acknowledge this as a reality of the redistricting process. The suggested maps are in no way a statement of quality of service or responsiveness on the part of the representatives affected.
- There are 5 majority BIPOC districts and 11 more that have over 30% nonwhite population in the districts. This meets our goal of giving more voting power to historically underrepresented groups. LD14 is 47% Hispanic voting age population and may very well be a majority Latinx district by the end of the decade.
- According to analysis within Dave's Redistricting App, we have created 13 districts that are swing (45–55% competitive range) meeting our goal of increasing the number of competitive districts. We understand that this measure does not reflect the exact nature of the districts due to the election results used.

Below are the regions of the state and bullets describing what feedback we were able to incorporate and that which we were not able to address. We hope this gives insight into the tradeoffs made in each area.

Olympic Peninsula

Desired qualities accomplished

A straightforward area, the Olympic peninsula residents understand they will be in LD24 and CD6. However, decisions about the borders can change the characteristics of the districts.

- Reuniting Hoquiam and Aberdeen in LD24 that have many common interests and common city-wide functions (fire, police)
- Including Westport and other areas just south of Grays Harbor waterway as a community of interest.
- Clark Co residents expressed unhappiness with the size of LD20. We have changed to a horizontal solution (ie LD19 North and LD20 South). The map creates LD19 to include Pacific, South Grays Harbor and Lewis Co, and part of Thurston Co.
- In LD20 Kelso residence did not want to be split. We have put the I-5 corridor towns together except where 1500 residence need to move to LD19.

- Chehalis tribe is split between LD35 and LD19 as desired.
- Rochester is united in the LD35.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- Some feedback suggested that Lewis County doesn't want to be with the coastal areas.
- Could not get all SW WA in 4 Districts – population just misses necessary numbers even with Underwood neighborhood in Skamania in LD14.

Kitsap and Mason Counties

This area has medium size urban areas which necessitates combination with rural areas. Waterways make natural borders but also limit the options. We kept historical land masses together, and honored wishes of people on the outskirts of cities regarding which LD was more desirable.

Desired qualities accomplished

- Uniting Bremerton in LD26. Lots of input to keep Bremerton together especially with communities of color. The only elegant solution was to put it in the LD26.
- Communities just north of Bremerton proper (Tracyton)– preferred being with LD23, so city border was used.
- Some higher income areas also expressed interest in staying in LD23. NE Bremerton has very few people and is in LD23.
- LD23 remains Kitsap peninsula – some solutions considered going over Hood Canal bridge toward Port Ludlow.
- Most of Sunnyslope and Fernwood kept in LD26.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- LD35 remains large, has a variety of types of communities and spans three counties.
- Evergreen college in LD35 not LD22.
- AAPI community outside E Olympia would rather be with LD22.
- Anderson Island and Fox Island moved from LD28; some expressed interest in keeping it in LD28.

Northwest

A vast and growing part of our state, the Northwest islands have distinct needs, as do the cities and rural areas to the east. We created Salish sea-oriented districts and honored requests to unite cities into one LD. Requests for competitive districts were not always achievable.

Desired qualities accomplished

- Reduced size of LD39 will allow more people to run for office and allow electeds to travel to all parts.
- Unites the Skagit Valley into LD39.

- Unites Mt Vernon in one LD – LD 39.
- Unites growing suburbs of Arlington to the east with the City of Arlington.
- LD 42 remain competitive and its lines with LD40 through Bellingham are drawn along neighborhood lines.
- LD 40 remains a “Salish Sea” district trading Mt Vernon for population along the Skagit Co and Snohomish CO coast.
- Unites Fidalgo Island, and Anacortes remains in LD40.
- LD10 keeps Whidbey Island together, and trades parts of Skagit Co with Mukilteo.
- Marysville split in two LDs rather than three LDs.
- Tulalip Tribe with north half of Marysville.
- Edmonds united in LD21.
- Splitting of Snohomish / King Co line is minimized.
- Makes LD1 more compact. Bothell is kept whole.
- LD32 unites Shoreline, combines with Lake Forest Park and Kenmore, unites Mount Lake Terrace.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- Competitiveness desires of residents not necessarily accomplished.
- Some longtime Whidbey Islanders expressed discomfort with the power of the military base population to decide outcomes of the districts.
- Tulalip not kept in LD38.
- LD44 become more rural with the addition of East Snohomish and NE King Co along Hwy2. Mill Creek is lost to LD1.
- LD1 - Woodinville split at Hwy 522.

North Seattle/N King Co

The fastest growing part of the state, residents identify strongly with their local neighborhoods. We honored the city and county line desires as much as possible.

Desired qualities accomplished

- LD46 becomes an ALL-Seattle district with northern line at city border. Unites more of the Green lake neighborhood. 46/43/36 shift counterclockwise.
- LD43 keeps the University of Washington and housing to the west.
- Central District remains united in LD37 which is a majority BIPOC district.
- Belltown neighborhood united in LD36.
- Compactness improves for LD43 and LD46.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- Does not unite neighborhoods around Green Lake.
- Unclear northern border of LD36.

Bellevue/ East King Co

Mixing tech and farmland, we changed the characteristics of some of these districts by honoring desires to keep cities together and making them more compact, and switching which districts included the less populated east.

Desired qualities accomplished

- Districts unite more cities (Kirkland, Redmond, Sammamish). Bellevue split in only two LDs.
- Districts are more compact except where city lines dictate (especially LD41).
- Sammamish united in LD5 which is a much more compact district.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- LD 48 desired to be a urban district – instead it picks up the rural areas in E King Co.

South Seattle / South King Co

The most discussed area of the state, S. Seattle and S. King Co are home to the highest population of people of color. We prioritized the desire of people from the community to potentially maximize the voting power of these communities and creating 4 majority BIPOC districts.

Desired qualities accomplished

- LD37, 11, 33, 30 are majority BIPOC districts, which is strongly favored by LWVWA and the Redistricting Justice Washington coalition.
- Districts are more compact.
- Renton is split between 3 LDs, not 5 LDs.
- White Center with its Hispanic population is in LD11 - a major desire despite the lack of compactness.
- LD33 moves east to encompass population growing outside of Kent proper.
- LD30 picks up more of Auburn and becomes a majority BIPOC district.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- Didn't put Renton in two LDs – being at the intersection of the east and west side, this would make lots of other districts awkward.
- SeaTac split for compactness of LD11.
- Transportation throughout LD34 is long, with travel from Normandy Park to Vashon Island.
- Due to population increases, LD12 moves west and picks up rural populations in King Co. awkwardly.

Pierce County

Pierce County legislative districts feel the tension of urban and rural differences as well the alliance with King Co. area and Thurston Co. areas. We honored a desire for maximizing people of color in at least one district in this region and keeping the needs of military families near Fort Lewis-McCord centered.

Desired qualities accomplished

- LD29 designed to be a majority BIPOC district uniting communities and S. Tacoma.
- LD28 is drawn more compactly - WA16 to its northern boundaries and eastern border stops at Spanaway-McKeena Hwy while centering a core population centered around Fort Lewis- McCord.

- LD28 unites the Nisqually reservation in the south and the conservation area nearby.
- LD27 unites the Puyallup tribe - tribal center and port are together.
- LD25 is more compact and focuses on Puyallup and South Hill
- LD2 include Yelm and the communities to the southeast of Yelm.
- LD31 is made likely competitive.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- LD2 and LD31 are awkwardly shaped to pick up rural areas and suburban areas.

Thurston County

Population growth in Olympia makes the central district of this region smaller and surrounding districts move closer to the cities. We kept districts as compact as possible while meeting population needs.

Desired qualities accomplished

- LD22 keeps to Olympia City lines.
- Rochester united in LD35
- The two peninsulas north of the City of Olympia are in LD22.
- Minimized growth of SW WA district in Thurston Co. (Was LD20. We switched to LD19.)

Not accomplished/undesired results

- LD19, LD2, LD22 and LD28 connect in an awkward way around Lacey.
- Bush area of Tumwater in LD35 not LD22

Southwest Washington

SW Washington has a blend of being isolated in the corner of our state yet having ties to parts north through I-5 and east along the Columbia River. We prioritized the desires from residents that competitiveness and compactness were key while keeping growing communities of Ridgefield and Battle Ground together.

Desired qualities accomplished

- Compactness of districts are greatly improved. No districts wrap around other districts.
- Skamania residents along river desire to be in LD18 connected with Clark Co. Except Underwood neighborhood who send their kids to White Salmon schools – they want to be in LD14.
- Camas and Washougal are growing industrial areas that are kept together.
- Regional competitiveness is a large consideration – two swing districts (LD17 and LD18) and one likely each major party (LD49 and LD20).
- LD17 concentrates POC population to approximately 29%.
- Vancouver is split only into two LDs.
- LD20 contains greater portion of Clark Co for more connection to Vancouver news etc. Ridgefield and its growth area are together in LD20 as well.
- Cowlitz Co and Wahkiakum Co are kept together in LD20.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- LD19 needs population in Cowlitz Co, so 19 and 30 are awkwardly shaped districts.

North Central WA (Omak / Okanogan)

Large counties and vast areas are united in the center of our state. While reducing the east to west expanse of districts, we none the less kept many of the same areas together as in current districts.

Desired qualities accomplished

- LD12 more compact and focused westward with Wenatchee and Ellensburg - who desire the “west of the mountains” connection.
- Coulee City, Hartline and Almira kept together. They have a common School district.
- Colville tribe split between LD13 and LD7 as desired, while still growing LD7 by 7K.
- Moses Lake not split.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- Wenatchee is split from E. Wenatchee and Chelan.
- LD9 reaches to Quincy, increasing the size of the district.
- Pullman not with other like towns or cities and in predominately rural districts.

South Central WA (Yakima/Kittitas Co.)

Another unique part of Washington, South Central is home to the largest population of Latinx people as well as the Yakama Nation. We prioritized keeping the Yakama nation together with fishing villages and creating a majority BIPOC district in the LD14.

Desired qualities accomplished

- Yakama Nation Reservation is united in LD14 and includes fishing villages in Klickitat Co.
- Cities of Union Gap, Tappico, White Swan, with the Yakama Nation (native and POC populations).
- Down valley cities of Wapato, Zillah, Grange and Toppenish united with Yakama Nation.
- LD14 is a majority BIPOC district.
- City of Yakima is wholly within LD15; does not exacerbate historical racial lines from west to east Yakima.
- Keeps Kittitas Co whole in LD12.
- Compact districts.
- Benton Co agricultural area united with other agricultural areas in Yakima Co.
- Yakima Co in 2LDs.
- Underwood neighborhood in LD14 with White Salmon.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- Splits Grant Co to keep Kittitas Co whole. Awkward border around Mattawa

Tri-cities

Three cities that think of themselves as cohesive group, Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco have close to 213,000 people. We prioritized ethnic and economic connections in the region.

Desired qualities accomplished

- Columbia Co with Walla Walla Co because of their economic connections.
- Pasco nearly all within LD16 and unites with Walla Walla in consideration of economic connections of people who work in Walla Walla and live in Pasco. Pasco has enough population to influence LD16 elections.
- Latinx communities in Pasco united with east Kennewick Latinx populations.
- Richland in LD8 uniting many of the people who work at the Hanford facility.
- Urban Tri-cities mostly in two LDs, with rural population in other like LDs.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- Benton Co has three LDs (not desired) and Benton City is separated from Richland and Kennewick.
- Kennewick is split.

Northeast WA

Often overlooked, NE Washington residents desire stability, so we kept the districts as close as possible to the current ones adding population where necessary.

Desired qualities accomplished

- Maintain LD7, respecting the wishes of the Colville Tribes to stay split between two districts.
- Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille united in LD7.
- Minimized the amount of people switching districts. (Some changes in NE Spokane Co. due to population shift.)

Not accomplished/undesired results

- Unincorporated areas of Mead and Fairwood are split.
- LD7 not compact.

Spokane Area

Home to many active residents, the Spokane area is growing outside the City of Spokane. We prioritized keeping neighborhoods together and keeping LD6 all in Spokane County.

Desired qualities accomplished

- Keeps income communities of interest more closely aligned and better represented by progressive voices in the legislature.
- LD3 is as close as possible to its current boundaries.
- LD 6 within Spokane County.
- Residents just north of Spokane city limits desire to be in LD6 not LD7.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- LD6 wraps around north and south of Spokane; better if it did not, but residents didn't mind.

Southeast WA

Home to WSU and much valuable agricultural land, Southeast WA balances the needs of thriving cities and rural areas. We kept honored county boundaries where possible after connecting areas of economic interest.

Desired qualities accomplished

- LD9 is primarily a rural area district.
- Asotin, Garfield, and Whitman Counties together.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- LD9 is very large and picks up rural populations across Eastern Washington.
- Pullman/WSU area would like to be a district with part of Spokane Co.