

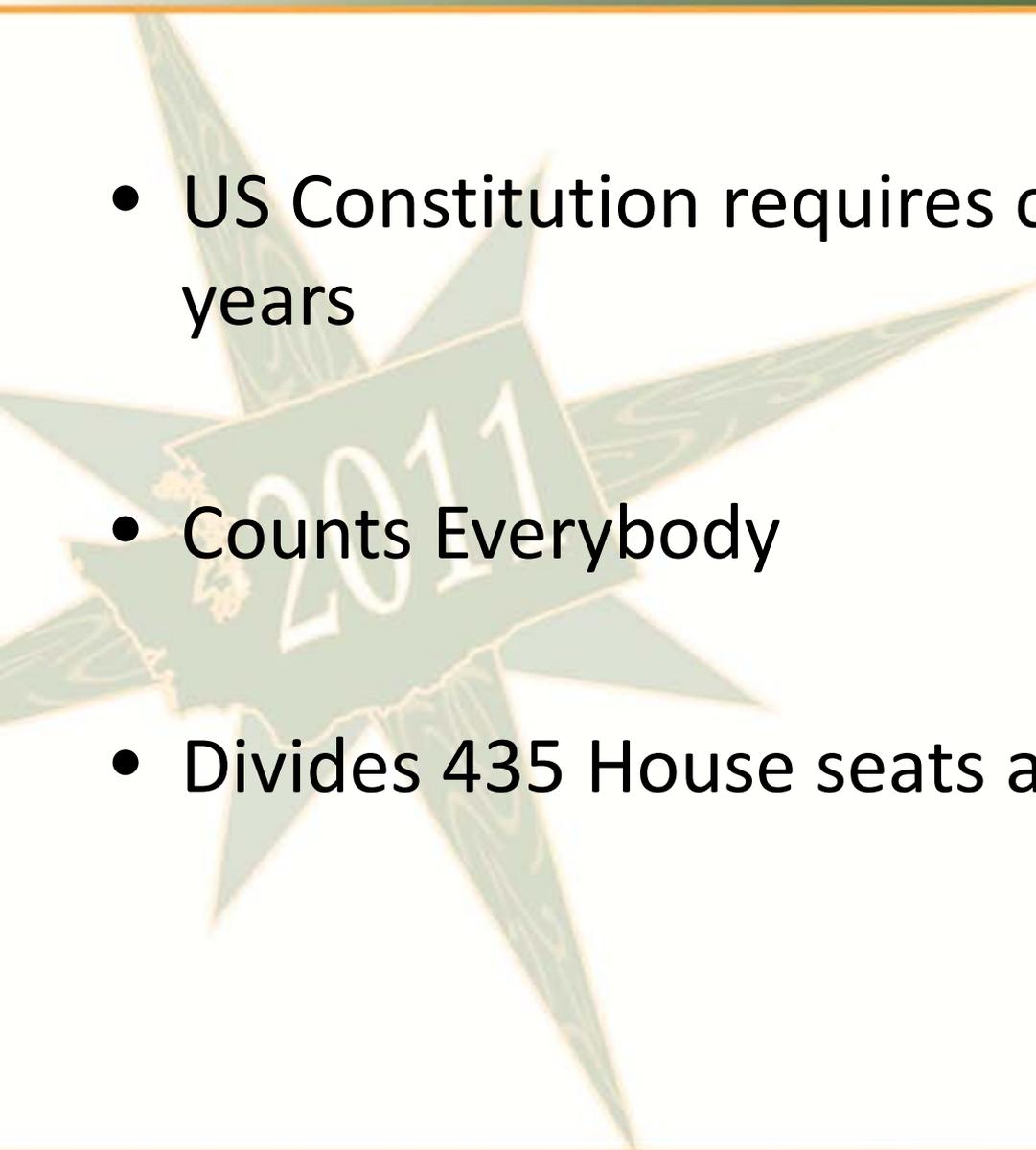


Washington State
Redistricting Commission

Your Voice. Your Vote. Redistricting 2011

Redrawing congressional and legislative
districts in Washington State

It starts with the Census

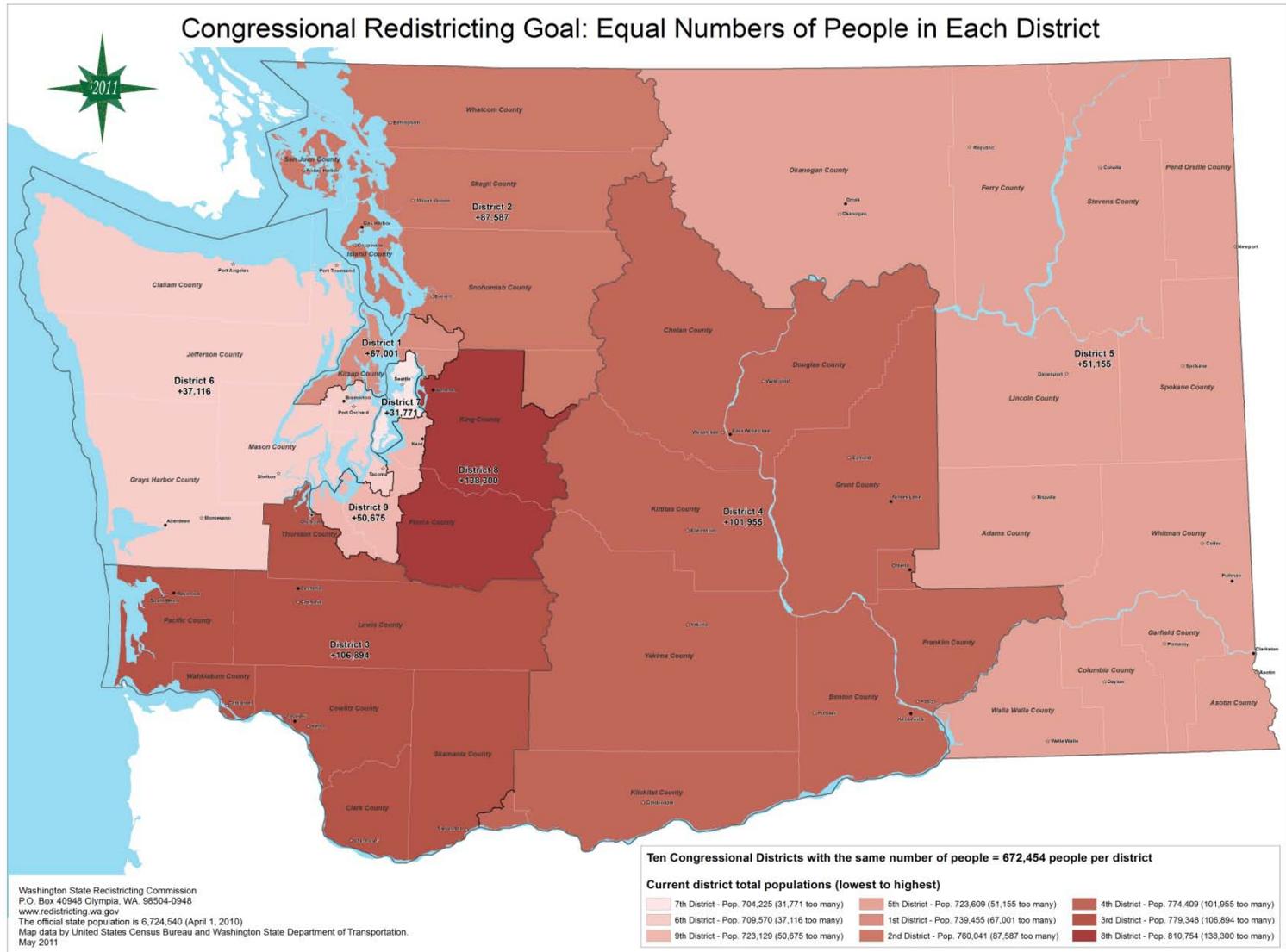
- US Constitution requires census every 10 years
 - Counts Everybody
 - Divides 435 House seats among the 50 States
- 

Congressional Redistricting

- Each state gets at least one Representative
- The rest are divided on the basis of population
- Some gain, some lose
- Washington gains a 10th seat in 2011
- The “ideal” size of each Congressional district in WA is 672,454



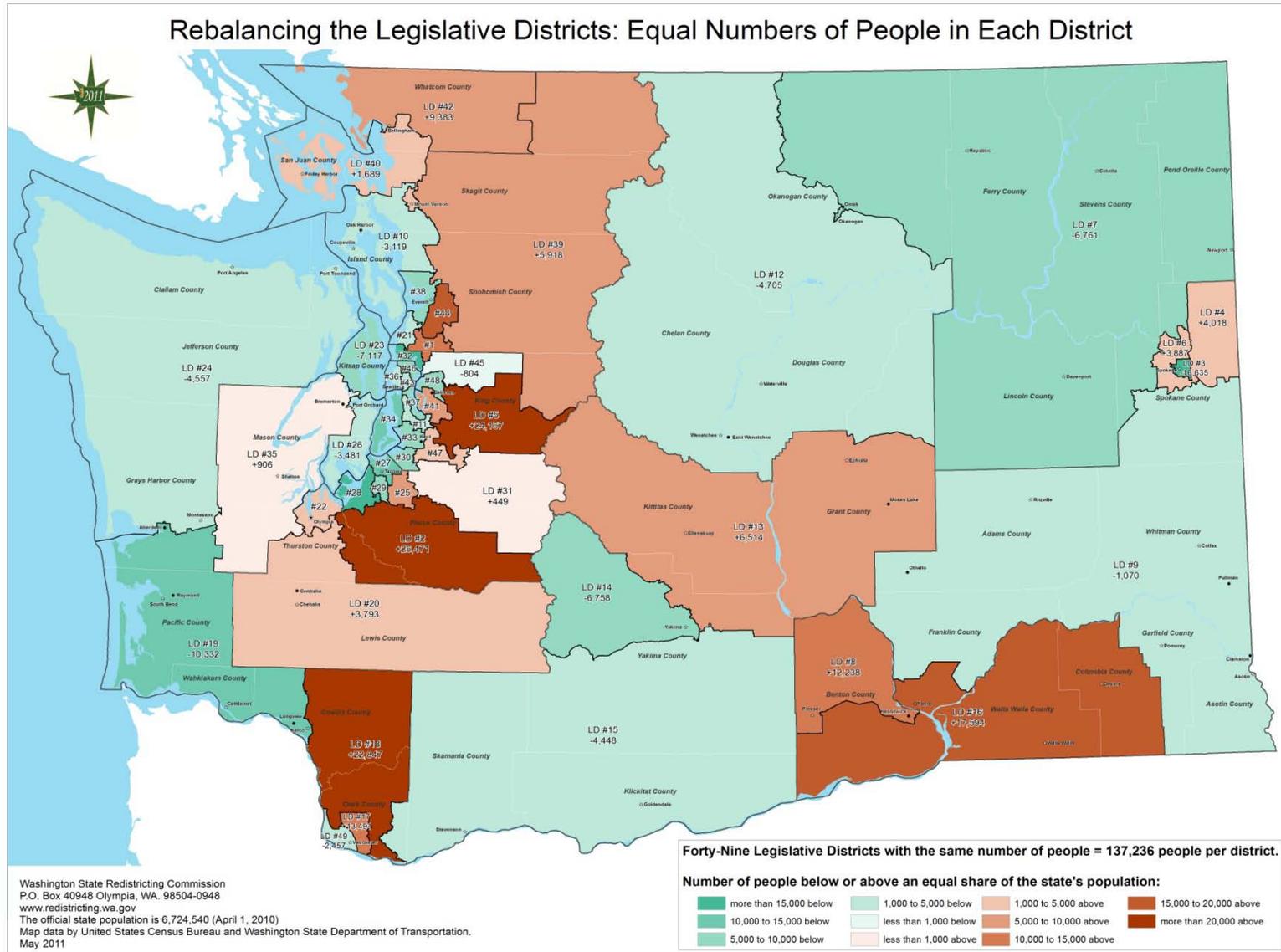
All 9 Districts must lose population



Legislative Redistricting

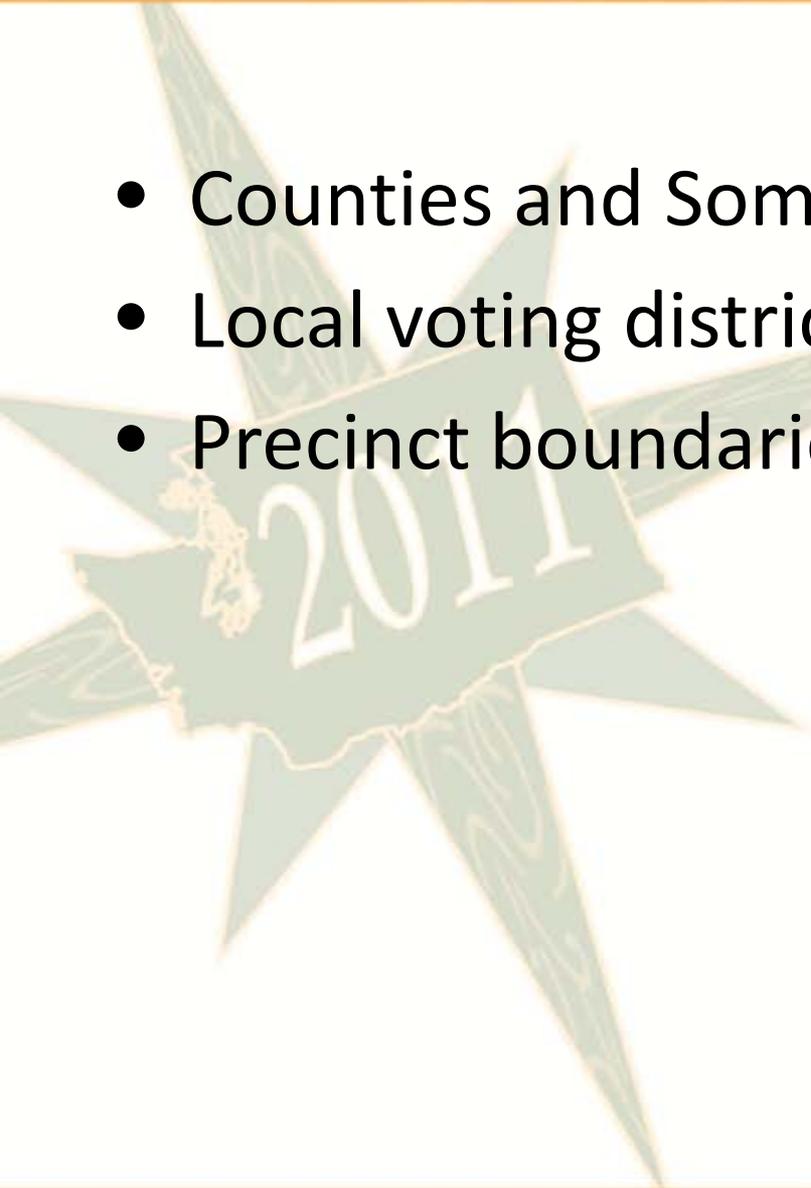
- State Constitution requires redistricting in each year ending in 1
- based on population from 2010 census
- 2010 Population in WA—6,724,540 people
- “Ideal size” of each legislative district in 2011 is 137,235 and $1/2$

District population shifts = Districts out of balance



Local redistricting

- Counties and Some Cities
- Local voting districts based on population
- Precinct boundaries to be adjusted by 2012



Redistricting Can Be Controversial

Around the nation....

- “Back to the drawing board: The first redistricting maps ...are flawed”
- [“... Chaos in Colorado: Compromise nowhere in sight”](#)
- “...Louisiana redistricting proves a cruel mistress”
- “Get ready for start of redistricting war”

How has redistricting changed over the years?

1889
The state Constitution requires that the Legislature redistrict based on "the number of inhabitants" after each U.S. Census.

Pre-1950s

1931
Citizens complain that representation is badly apportioned and debate using an initiative to redraw district boundaries.

1954
The League of Women Voters proposes its own redistricting initiative—Initiative 199—after legislators battle along party lines to redraw voting boundaries.

1950s

1956
Initiative 199 passes, linking redistricting to population trends in the state. But in the next session, the Legislature amends the resulting redistricting plan significantly.

1960s

1958
The League of Women Voters proposes an amendment to the state Constitution that would establish a commission to take over redistricting if the Legislature failed to quickly adopt a redistricting plan. Voters reject the amendment.

1960s
The League of Women Voters proposes another initiative to improve redistricting. The federal court gets involved after finding that the districts drawn in 1957 were discriminatory. The Legislature takes three years to pass compromise legislation that satisfies federal justices.

1970s

1970s
The U.S. District Court finds that the 1965 redistricting legislation is unconstitutional. The state is restricted from holding further elections under the existing law. The court gives the state until February 25, 1972, to create a fair redistricting plan. The Legislature fails to meet the deadline, and the court draws the redistricting plan for the state.

1980s

1980s
In 1982, growing weary of the constant battles, the Legislature proposes a bill to create an independent, bipartisan redistricting committee to begin work in 1991. But facing another court imposed 90-day mandate, it appoints a temporary five-commissioner panel, which successfully meets the 1983 redistricting deadline.

1990s

1983
Voters approve a ballot measure to amend the state Constitution and institute the commission. Washington becomes the third state in the U.S. to redistrict by commission.

1991
The first Redistricting Commission meets and successfully creates a redistricting plan by the constitutional deadline.

2000s

2001
The second Redistricting Commission generates a redistricting plan by the constitutional deadline.

2011
The third Redistricting Commission convenes.

2011



Washington's Redistricting Commission

- Appointed every 10 years
- Four members appointed
- Not a lobbyist or elected official prior
- Can't run for office for two years after
- Non-voting Chair



What makes Washington's process work?

- Bipartisan
- Non-voting, non-partisan chair
- Public participation and “3rd Party plans”
- Firm deadline—January 1, 2012
- Once approved, only minor Legislative changes

RCW 44.05.090 – Redistricting Plan

And the law provides guidance

- ✓ “..shall have a population as nearly equal as is practicable...”
- ✓ “insofar as practical... lines should be drawn to coincide with the boundaries of local political subdivisions and communities of interest...”
- ✓ “..the number of counties and municipalities divided...should be as small as possible...”
- ✓ “...should be composed of contiguous, convenient and compact territory...”

RCW 44.05.090 – Redistricting Plan

- ✓ “Whenever practicable, a precinct shall be wholly within a single leg. district..”
- ✓ “The commission shall exercise its powers to provide fair and effective representation and to encourage electoral competition.”
- ✓ The commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group.”

What if the deadlines are missed?

- If deadlines are missed or an agreement isn't reached in time, the State Supreme Court steps in and must adopt a plan by March 1, 2012



Commission timeline

- Monthly Commission meetings on second Tuesday
- **May – July:** Public Forums
 - **August 15:** Third party plans due
 - **Mid-September:** DRAFT Commissioners' plans released followed by two-week public comment period
 - **November 1:** Goal for completion of Commissioners' Congressional and Legislative plans
 - **January 1, 2012:** Constitutional deadline
 - **February 10:** Deadline for Legislative amendments

Schedule of public forums

Tuesday, May 17 – Aberdeen

Wednesday, May 18 – Olympia

Thursday, May 19 – Vancouver

Monday, May 23 – Renton

Tuesday, May 24 – Bellevue

Wednesday, May 25 – Everett

Thursday, May 26 –
Bellingham

Tuesday, June 7 – Pasco

Wednesday, June 8 - Yakima

Thursday, June 9 – Wenatchee

Monday, June 13 – Seattle

Tuesday, June 14 – Auburn

Thursday, June 30 – Bremerton

Monday, July 11 – Tacoma

Tuesday, July 12 – Spokane

Wednesday, July 13 – Walla Walla

Thursday, July 14 – Moses Lake

How do I submit my ideas about boundaries?

- Draw a map and send it to us by **August 15, 2011**
- All districts or any part of any district—you draw the line
- Create a plan using commission software – available in Olympia
- Submit a plan electronically (map or table).
- Submit plan on maps provided by commission
- Questions about plan submission?
360-786-0770 or www.redistricting.wa.gov

How can you help?

- Attend a forum in person or via webcast
- Tell us what you think is most important about your community—in person, over the web, by mail or email
- Host a webcast in your community
- Connect with the media and tell your story

Follow us

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- LISTSERV®

Thank You for Coming

