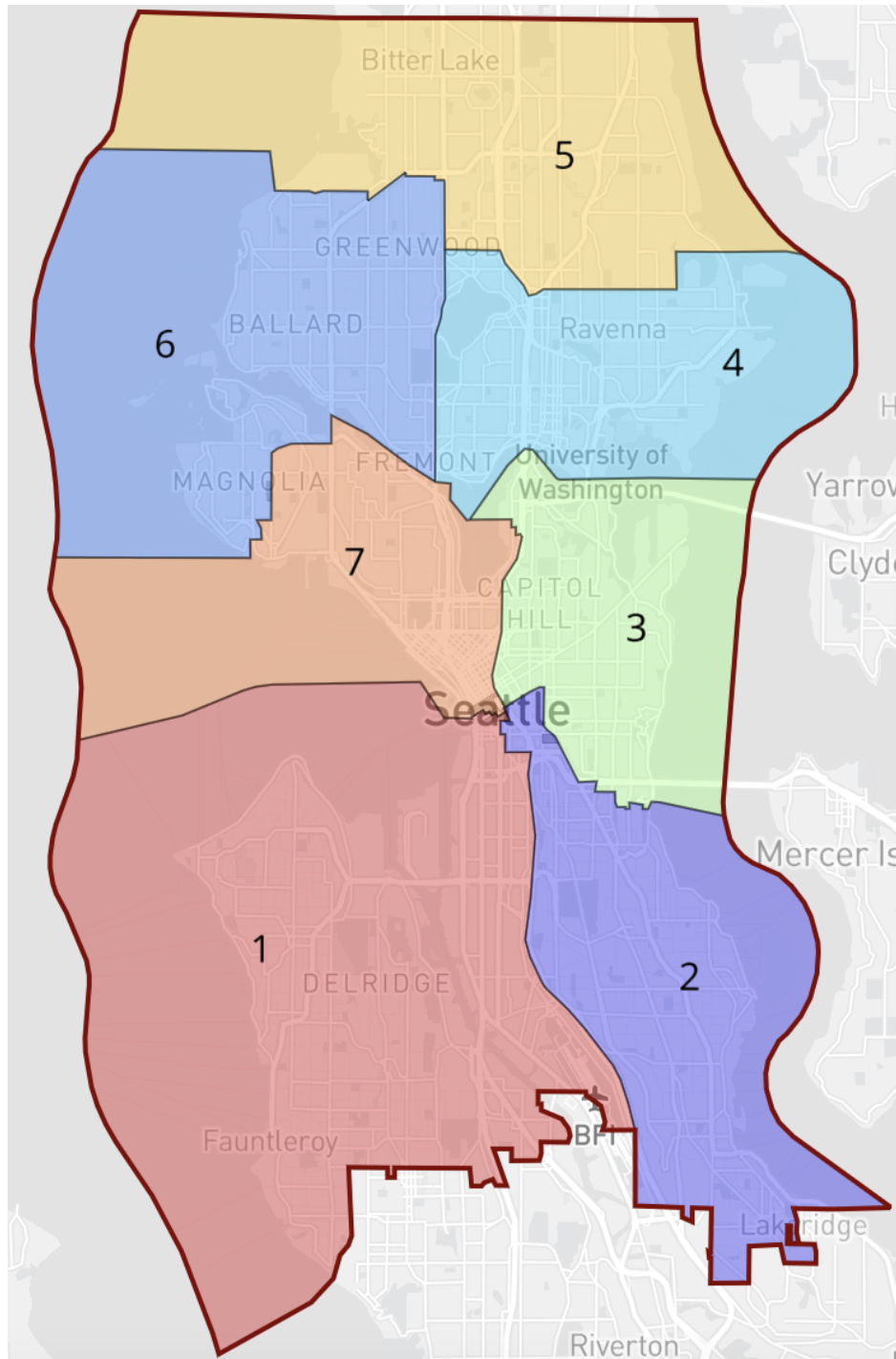


Redistricting Justice for Seattle Map Proposal

Andrew Hong, Redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition



Who We Are

Redistricting Justice for Seattle is made up of community-based organizations, advocacy groups, community members and non-profits interested in calling for an equitable and transparent Seattle redistricting process.

Our coalition values are the following:

1. **Transparency of Data and Process.** Ensure the commission announces the process early and often, and publishes all data sets and values used for making the maps. Additionally, the commission should comply with [SB 5583](#) to count incarcerated individuals in their last known address if it was in Seattle.
2. **Equitable Community Input.** Community input should be gathered equitably and across the city, ensuring that all voices are being heard equitably when drawing maps. Ensure South End and Skyway communities are equitably considered in the process.
3. **Keeping communities of interest together.** Ensure Black, Indigenous, Asian-Pacific Islander, Latino, and Native communities' voting rights are protected and not diluted. Keep neighborhoods together and not divided. Finally, do not dilute the voting power of young people, renters, working class people, and other marginalized groups.
4. **Prioritize people and communities over incumbent politicians and special interests.**

Coalition membership:

Washington Community Alliance

WinWin Network

Fix Democracy First

Asian Counseling & Referral Service

Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle

League of Women Voters Seattle-King County

Asian Pacific Islander Americans for Civic Empowerment

Washington Bus

Pacific Islander Health Board

Rainier Beach High School community

Planned Parenthood NW

Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation Development Authority (SCIDpda)

Our Process

We created our final map proposal over the course of four months of internal coalition meetings and community mapping events. Our process centered around communities of interest and compliance with the rules outlined in the City Charter. Much of our focus and community input was centered around communities that our coalition organizations serve, primarily in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 7.

The coalition coordinator, Andrew Hong, developed dozens of different map proposals on [Dave's Redistricting App](#) over the course of the process. Our final map, too, was developed on Dave's Redistricting App using 2020 Census population data and 2020 Citizen Voting Age Population (VAP) data.

The coalition presented different map proposals—both citywide maps and district-specific proposals—in a series of community mapping sessions hosted by the RJS coalition itself, individual RJS coalition organizations (namely the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle), and other groups' meetings across the city. At these community mapping sessions, RJS educated attendees on redistricting, presented RJS map proposals, facilitated discussions and feedback on map proposals, and plugged attendees into further engagement in the redistricting process. Attendees had the opportunity to rank map proposals and provide written feedback to RJS that were directly used in our mapping and decision-making process. In total, RJS presented to people at seven different community mapping sessions and over 20 different community-based organizations for a total of 200+ individuals.

Additionally, at least one representative from the coalition was in attendance and taking notes at every public meeting the Redistricting Commission held. Andrew Hong reviewed every public comment and map proposal submitted on the Commission website to inform RJS' final map proposal.

Our internal coalition would typically dedicate 15 minutes per meeting to discuss and review different, consistently-updated map proposals. All coalition members had the chance to participate in dialogue and feedback on our map proposals and review community input we received during community mapping sessions. Our coalition had the final say on the map proposal and unanimously approved it.

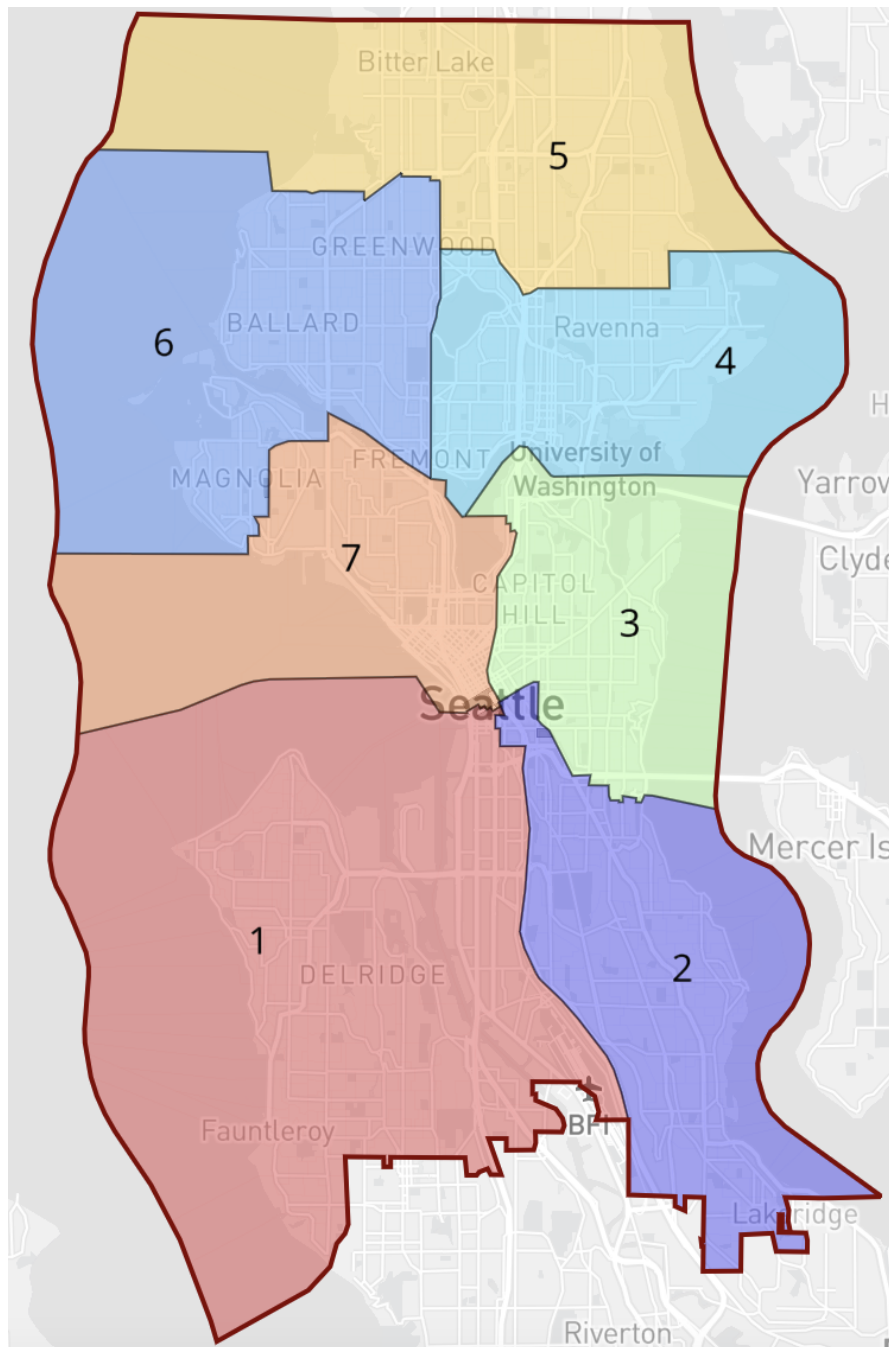
The Map Proposal

Link to Dave's Redistricting App map:

<https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::Od7334b5-2477-42ec-8862-8368c0eae824>

Link to necessary shapefiles, block assignments, district analytics, etc.:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FsST3zrdeVS2qx4E-x5U4TewnXC1cVbQ?usp=sharing>



The following is an objective description of the geographic composition, changes, and reasoning behind each City Council district proposal.

District 1: West Seattle, South Park, Georgetown, SoDo, Pioneer Square (105,848 people)

- Keeps West Seattle intact in District 1
- District 1 needed to add 5,500 people, so we opted to expand District 1 west to I-5 to pick up Georgetown and SoDo, then north into Pioneer Square *in its entirety*.
 - Adding Georgetown and SoDo into District 1 united the whole of the Duwamish River community under one district
 - Additionally, this plan minimized waterway-crossing (over the Duwamish River) to just one instance, complying with the City Charter’s requirement to limit waterway splits.
 - Adding Pioneer Square (in its entirety) into District 1 was a compromise to achieve equal population and *not* split both Beacon Hill (east of I-5) and the Chinatown-International District away from District 2 into District 1.
 - Keeping Pioneer Square intact into one district.

District 2: South Seattle, Chinatown-International District, Yesler Terrace, Mount Baker, parts of the Central District (105,357 people)

- Keeps South Seattle communities of color intact in District 2
 - In particular, it keeps historically redlined neighborhoods that share unique common histories, partnerships, and issues of Rainier Beach, Rainier Valley, Hillman City, New Holly, Beacon Hill, and Columbia City together.
- Keeps the Chinatown-International District intact fully in District 2
 - CID residents and small business owners share common issues and have deep connections to South Seattle neighborhoods, particularly those in Beacon Hill’s Asian-Pacific Islander community.
 - Namely, add in all blocks in precincts 37-3672 and 37-1827 west of Rainier Ave S and Boren Ave S.
- Adds Yesler Terrace into District 2 *in its entirety*, reuniting the historic partnership between Yesler Terrace and the Chinatown-International District.
 - This undoes the current split of Yesler Terrace between Districts 2 and 3 via Yesler Way. The Yesler Community Center resides in the current District 2 (south of Yesler Way) while the rest of Yesler Terrace sits in District 3 (north of Yesler Way). Adding all of Yesler Terrace into District 2 undoes this split.
 - Coalition partners at the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle worked with the community at Yesler Terrace, including Black immigrant leaders, to discuss Yesler Terrace’s district placement. They came to a consensus that this neighborhood is best served as one of the neighborhoods currently in District 3 that must move south into District 2, as District 2 must grow by about 6,000 people.

- The CID and Yesler Terrace share a close geographic, community, and social relationship. Both are largely immigrant communities that are working class and reside near the Downtown corridor. Thus, these neighborhoods have had close partnership throughout the years to work on common issues and goals.
- This addition into District 2 also helps minimize the division of the Central District between Districts 2 and 3 by reducing the number of people needed to move from District 3 to 2.
- Moving Yesler Terrace into District 2 is a top priority of RJS.
- Adds one Mount Baker precinct into District 2 (Precincts 37-1890 and 37-1891)
- Adds several precincts along the southern edge of the Central District into District 2:
 - Precinct 37-1853 in its entirety.
 - Blocks south of the NW African-American Museum of precinct 37-1854
 - Blocks west of Rainier Ave S and Boren Ave S of precincts: 37-1839, 37-3672, 37-1827,
 - *These precincts were very carefully selected in collaboration with the Central Area Neighborhood District Council, who support our District 2 and 3 map proposals.*

District 3: Central District, Capitol Hill, Madison Park, Broadmoor, Montlake (105,174 people)

- Drawn primarily as least-changed.
- Keeps as much of the Central District intact as possible in District 3 while complying with City Charter rule of less than 1% population deviation.
- Composed of neighborhoods south of the Montlake Cut and east of I-5, much like the current district.
- Adds parts of Eastlake into District 3 instead of District 4 in order to keep District 4 north of the Cut.
 - We had to unfortunately split Eastlake between Districts 3 and 7 to achieve equal population and not split communities Downtown.
- See District 2 description for a breakdown of the District 2-3 boundary.

District 4: Northeast Seattle, University District, Laurelhurst, Ravenna, Wallingford, Greenlake, Meridian, parts of Fremont (105,763 people)

- Drawn as least-changed.
- Keeps District 4 completely north of the Montlake/Lake Union Cut to preserve communities of interest around District 3 (Montlake, Eastlake, Madison Park, Capitol Hill).
 - Instead, District 6 moves south of the Lake Union Cut.
 - Keeps the number of waterway crosses over Lake Union to just one: District 6.
 - See District 7 description for a detailed explanation of this decision.
- Moves District 4 west to Aurora Avenue to compensate for the loss of Eastlake, using Aurora Ave as a boundary south of N 85th St.
 - This reunites Wallingford together under one district.

District 5: Northgate, Lake City, Licton Springs, Maple Leaf, Bitter Lake, Broadview (105,892 people)

- Drawn as least-changed. Adds in precincts horizontally along the southern edge of District 5, primarily precincts in the current District 4.
- Keeps BIPOC communities in Northgate, Lake City, Bitter Lake, and around Aurora Avenue north of N 85th St together.

District 6: Greenwood, Ballard, Phinney Ridge, Magnolia, parts of Fremont (104,977 people)

- Adds Magnolia from District 6, moving the district south over the Lake Union Cut.
 - See District 7 description for a detailed explanation of this decision.
- Shifts the whole eastern district boundary west of Aurora Avenue.
- Otherwise, the district is drawn as least-changed.

District 7: Downtown, Queen Anne, South Lake Union, Westlake, Interbay (105,084 people)

- District 4 or 6 must pick up an additional few thousand residents south of the Lake Union Cut. We chose to move Magnolia from District 7 into District 6. Here is why:
 - District 7 is the fastest growing district, so it must shrink the most in this redistricting cycle.
 - Removing Magnolia centers District 7's population around Lower Queen Anne, Downtown, Westlake, and South Lake Union—where the majority of the district's growth stemmed from this decade.
 - Removing Magnolia appropriately centers District 7, where the district is growing and is expected to continue to grow fastest in the next decade. This makes redistricting in 10 years a simpler task because it gives District 7 an existing pathway to further contract as South Lake Union and Downtown continues to explode.
 - The majority of District 7's growth came from renters, young people, and people of color *south of* Magnolia, a contrasting majority-white neighborhood with less renters and young people. Thus maintaining Magnolia's placement in District 7 would be out of place and dilute voices closer to Downtown.
 - Magnolia has more in common with waterfront areas in District 6 than it does with Downtown and Queen Anne (District 7).
 - Magnolia also has more in common with District 6 than the alternative way to add neighborhoods south of the Cut into a North End-based district (which would put District 4 with the District 3-based neighborhoods of Montlake, Broadmoor, and Madison Park).
- District 7 keeps its base in Downtown, Queen Anne, Westlake, and South Lake Union.
- District 7 loses Pioneer Square to District 1 to ensure balanced population in District 1.

- District 7 adds parts of Eastlake from District 3/4 to ensure balanced population in District 3.

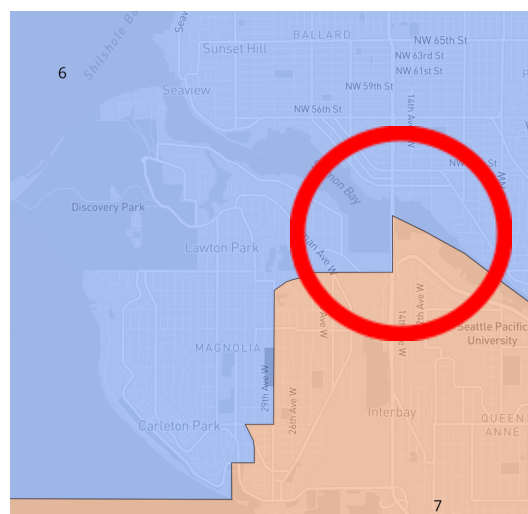
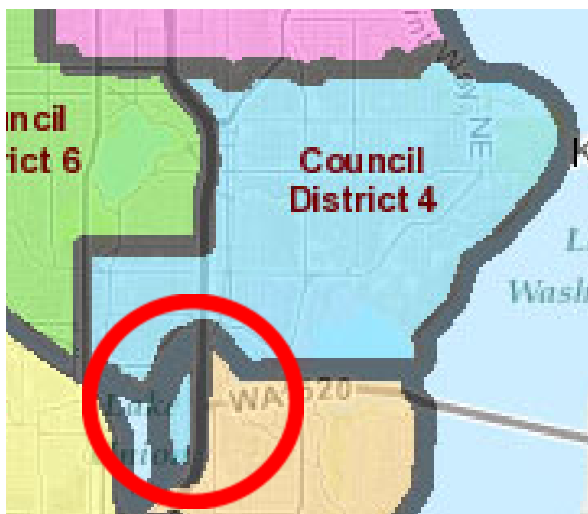
Legal Compliance

This map complies with Seattle City Charter. Our districts are both compact, contiguous, and keep the same general shape as the existing council districts. We minimized the number of waterway splits to those that are only necessary: one across the Duwamish River and one across Lake Union. All districts are within 1.00% of each other, according to Dave’s Redistricting App’s 2020 Census Total Pop. (Adj) data. The largest difference between two districts’ populations is 105,982 people (District 5) and 104,977 people (District 6)—a 0.96% deviation or 1,005 people. Our map does not gerrymander for or against any political party or interest. Finally, our maps do an extensive job to keep Seattle neighborhoods and communities of interest intact.

Our plan complies with state and federal laws for local redistricting. This map plan complies with both the Federal and Washington State Voting Rights Act, as neither law mandates any particular district to be drawn. This is due to the lack of consistent, substantial racially polarized voting in the City of Seattle, particularly in neighborhoods around majority-minority precincts in South Seattle.

Our coalition did not consider home addresses of any former elected officials, current elected officials, potential future candidates, nor any individual residents of Seattle when drawing our map proposal.

Note for Commissioner Nickels: Our District 6, Ballard Bridge cross over Lake Union Cut is legally contiguous. There exists a road (W Emerson St) that enters Ballard Bridge (the boundary within District 6) that crosses over the Cut into the rest of District 6 in Ballard. While not “all” of Ballard Bridge is in District 6 (it is shared with District 7 in parts), District 6 still technically covers the necessary parts of Ballard Bridge to meet the contiguity requirements of the City Charter, state, and federal law. The same type of cut is, in fact, used in the current Seattle City Council district map. District 4 includes just “half” of the Montlake Bridge as it crosses over the Montlake Cut from the University District into Eastlake. See comparison images below (left: current District 4; right: RJS’ Districts 6 and 7):



Boundary Explanations and Values

Important note: Our coalition is composed of organizations who predominantly serve Districts 1, 2, 3 and 7— in particular South Seattle and the Central District. Our expertise and community connects are strongest in these districts, and subsequently where our coalition feels the strongest about the proposed district boundaries outlined above. Thus our coalition requests that the Redistricting Commission closely follows our District 1, 2, 3, and 7 proposals over others in the final official map plan. Our District 4, 5, and 6 boundaries have had less community input, thus we are more open to changes of those district boundaries.

Our coalition’s values are the following (restated):

1. **Transparency of Data and Process.** Ensure the commission announces the process early and often, and publishes all data sets and values used for making the maps. Additionally the commission should comply with [SB 5583](#) to count incarcerated individuals in their last known address if in Seattle.
2. **Equitable Community Input.** Community input gathered equitably and across the city ensuring that all voices are being heard equitably when drawing maps. Ensure South End and Skyway communities are equitably considered in the process.
3. **Keeping communities of interest together.** Ensure Black, Indigenous, Asian-Pacific Islander, Latino, and Native community’s voting rights are protected and not diluted. Keep neighborhoods together and not divided. Finally, do not dilute the voting power of young people, renters, working class people, and other marginalized groups.
4. **Prioritize people and communities over incumbent politicians and special interests.**

In particular, we’d like to highlight the third and fourth values above. Keeping communities of interest together—in particular, historically marginalized communities—is the key driving force of our map proposal after satisfying legal requirements outlined by the City Charter, state, and federal law. We urge the Commission to look at historic redlining as a key marker of communities of interest, as neighborhoods historically redlined for Black, Asian, and racial minorities. While redlining ended decades ago, these neighborhoods share a common history and face unique issues of health, economic, housing, and educational inequities that permeate to this day. We also urge the Commission to look at data of renters and young people when drawing lines around communities of interest, as these communities share important needs but have the least representation in the City Council. Prioritizing keeping communities of interest together, and not divided, in this redistricting process will result in fairer elections and a more representative City Council for all communities in the city. In the end, districts elect representatives that serve neighborhoods. So we hope the Commission prioritizes neighborhoods and communities of interest over achieving the most perfect, compact district shape or the ideal number of residents in every district—so long as all legal requirements are thoroughly met.

RJS' stated values materialized in RJS' boundaries throughout the citywide map proposal. Each boundary in our proposal was drawn with intention. In particular, our coalition spent a large amount of time drawing the boundary between Districts 2 and 3. We partnered with the Central Area Neighborhood District Council (CANDC) to draw these lines, who were concerned about keeping historic landmarks of the Central District intact in District 3. RJS Coalition wanted to ensure the historically redlined communities of color in South Seattle remained the majority base of the District 2 electorate. Thus, as District 2 needed to add about 6,000 new residents, we aimed to add blocks from District 3 that were also historically redlined and still today share similar characteristics as most of District 2. This method should and must take priority over following freeway boundaries of I-90 and I-5, which were themselves deliberately constructed in ways that harmed Central District and South End communities in the name of "urban renewal" and removing "blight" to accomplish de facto redlining after it was ruled illegal. Drawing lines based on harmful urban planning only furthers the harm caused by racist urban design. We urge the commission to look at communities of interest—particularly historic redlining and the impacts of institutional racism in different communities—when adding precincts from District 3 into the new District 2. This method also explains why our coalition sought to add Yesler Terrace—a community that faces similar issues and interests as the C/ID and South Seattle—into District 2.

Our RJS values also materialized when drawing District 7. District 7 is the city's fastest growing district, and its growth stems mainly from people of color, young people, and renters in South Lake Union, Westlake, Lower Queen Anne, and Downtown. Thus we aimed to redraw District 7 to ensure its new shape reflects the fact that the district has changed to more renters and young people in primarily Lower Queen Anne, Downtown, Westlake, and South Lake Union. Thus, we opted to move District 6 south of the Lake Union Cut (instead of District 4) into Magnolia, a neighborhood with less renters and young people that was previously in District 7. District 7 has to lose people to achieve equal population, and Magnolia was the clear decision among our coalition because of its vast differences from the rest of the district in heavily-renter and youth-heavy Downtown communities. This decision to remove Magnolia from District 7 also works to keep as much of Downtown within District 7 as possible.

Our coalition heavily valued and relied on public input that we received from community mapping sessions as well as public comment received by the Redistricting Commission. We incorporated all feedback and public comment into our final map proposals so long as (1) it complied with city, state, and federal law and (2) it would not divide communities of interest particularly in South Seattle, Chinatown-International District, and the Central District.

Community Input

Below is a list of all community feedback we have received from our internal coalition meetings and community mapping sessions:

NOTE: *We conducted surveys over Zoom and on Google forms that cannot be easily reflected on to the document. Additionally many attendees gave map feedback over Zoom audio, Zoom comments, face-to-face communication, and other formats that cannot be copied over to this document. However there was an overwhelming theme throughout our process to keep South Seattle together in District 2, especially neighborhoods that were divided in preliminary map proposals released by the Redistricting Commission like Beacon Hill, Central District, and the Chinatown-International District.*

Nirae Petty (Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle & Yesler Terrace resident): Yesler Terrace in District 2. Blocks around the Langston Hughes Center in District 2. Chinatown/ID in District 2. South Seattle and Beacon Hill in District 2.

Katie Stultz (WinWin, Lake City resident): Aurora Ave is a boundary line for communities, especially south of 85th Street. Keep South Seattle, Beacon Hill, and the C/ID in District 2.

Joanna Cullen (CANDC): Keep the Central Area in District 3. Keep South Seattle, Beacon Hill, and the C/ID in District 2.

Jude Ahmed (Urban League): Keep South Seattle, Beacon Hill, and the C/ID in District 2. Don't split Black communities.

Jazmine Smith (WA Bus, D7 resident): Put Magnolia into District 6. Keep Downtown together. Make District 7 a renter-majority district. Keep South Seattle, Beacon Hill, and the C/ID in District 2.

Lai King (Pacific Islander Health Board): Keep Pacific Islander communities in Rainier Beach and Rainier Valley intact in District 2. Keep South Seattle, Beacon Hill, and the C/ID in District 2.

Yesler Terrace Black immigrant leaders at Rainier Ave Radio event (May 24): We feel a strong connection to the communities in District 2. We should be in District 2.

Central Area Neighborhood Community Council: Keep as much of the Central Area as possible within District 3, especially Langston Hughes Center.

Joseph Lachman (ACRS): Keep South Seattle, Beacon Hill, and the C/ID in District 2. Protect A&NHPI communities and do not split us apart.

Andrew Hong (RJS, D2 resident): Keep South Seattle, Beacon Hill, and the C/ID in District 2. Add in blocks around the NW African American Museum and Langston Hughes Center into District 2.

Virginia Bethea (Rainier Beach HS community): Keep Rainier Beach and the Southend together in District 2.

Attendees and facilitators of 5/24 Rainier Ave Radio event: Keep South Seattle and Central District communities together.

Beacon Hill Community Council: Keep Beacon Hill and the Chinatown-International District together in District 2. Do not split up the Central District.

Member of the Duwamish River Community Coalition: Unite Georgetown and South Park in District 1. District 1 council member and other services (police, etc.) address our community's concerns better than District 2.

[SCID-PDA](#): Keep ALL of the Chinatown International District in District 2, including ALL of the blocks west of Rainier Ave and Boren Ave that are south of Yesler Way.

I feel kind of as though Crown Hill (north of Ballard) might fit better with District 5 because it's a micro-neighborhood of primarily people of color, and Greenwood to my knowledge is more associated with Phinney Ridge/Ballard/Greenlake part.
CD must stay whole
I think this map is great
It is the goal of our organization (Jackson Place Community Council) to stay within D3
The single strongest priority for Pioneer Square is to keep us in one district. This is likely going to be district 1 or 2. We define Pioneer Square as the Pioneer Square Preservation District and Pioneer Square Business

Improvement Area boundaries (Map:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Urg90pm5OmD9dQVJA8-19WCU-N8I5Hv2/view?usp=sharing>)

1 - Preserve Beacon Hill in D2 | 2 - Preserve the International District in D2 | 3 - Avoid gerrymandering on D3

Preference would be Yesler Terrace in D3 if border between it and CID, especially Little Saigon, clarified. It seems to be a block to the north of Jackson which would split a census block. Not enamored of a landlocked district, although intrigued by a Lake Union District.

I tried an idea of basically keeping the boundary changes between D1/D2/D3 amongst those three, and making D7 the Lake Union and part of the waterfront by chopping away at D7 from west and south, and shifting it narrower and across Lake Union, including all of SLU, Eastlake and Portage Bay. This nearly completely leaves D3 intact, maybe expanding some to the west at Pike Pike and First Hill. Arrangement remains the same north of the ship canal, other then D6 coming across. D6 shifts a bit to the west, D4 spreads a bit west north of the Lake Union adjacent (Wallingford and Green Lake), and D5 borders expand generally south. Had the populations balanced, but it all involves a ton of neighborhoods with their own boundaries, and I don't have the time.

Not sure it could ever fly to cut downtown just south of Pike Pine, but the thought of D1 having the SAM and D3 having the convention center, maybe D2 having First Hill, is very interesting.

Prefer City Map #3 instead of this one as full magnolia very diff needs from ballard/Fremont with high income fams in magnolia vs. Renting singles in ballard.

see Keller maps

https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Redistricting/Public%20Comments/Map%20Image%20PDF%27s/KathrynKeller_PublicComment.pdf

I wish there was a way to have Central District or most of Central District together with District 2. I worry that chopping the CD up or it being outside of D2 would help to accelerate gentrification of the area.

Georgetown and South Park have similar issues both being in the Duwamish valley. I'm supportive of moving to D1, especially since our D2 council member has been MIA since elected.

Central District
Rainier Beach
Beacon Hill
Mt. Baker
Yesler Terrace

Historical and current areas of high Black pop

I think there's a continuity with Wallingford, Fremont, Ballard, Phinney Ridge and Greenwood.

Seattle's historic cultural and BIPOC community, the Central District

Central Area, always a concern it stays together and increases BIPOC population. Pretty much life is focused in D1, D2, D3 and those are communities I have history with. No clue about north of ship canal, downtown or Magnolia.

Madison Park

As long as the district 2 doesn't change then I know for a fact that the PI community won't have any

problems with the maps

South Park has historically been majority BIPOC and low-income although displacement is threatening that. We share a lot of environmental justice issues with Georgetown and I think we should be advocating for engagement by City/County/Port together

D3 should have the working class prioritized

Advocating to keep Pioneer Square in District 7 entirely

I am in District 3 (pressed District 2 in chat by mistake). Some issues are with affordable rent, amenities/access to resources, gentrification vs. Reinvigorate, training opportunities for community kids and more in area.

Chinatown-International District; prefer options that support strong bonds between BIPOC communities.

As you know, we have to keep the Central Area together.

Don't want to split D5 at all. That's been said by BIPOC people in D5 and I respect that. Not fond of any of the above maps. Think D6 needs to take more of Magnolia and Interbay, D4 stay north of the ship canal (get out of eastlake) and take Fremont/Wallingford to Green Lake. But -- really need more info in how those communities self identify.

Hoping I can submit this survey without answering all the questions---I don't feel comfortable answering for other districts.

Student concentration is only for 4 years. If not doing same for student districts within Seattle proper/downtown, no reasoning to exclude here AND may reduce voter turn out long term.

Contact

Reach out to team@redistrictingjusticewa.org for additional questions.