



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010

Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2022-177

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| File ID: | AB2022-177 | Version: | 1 | Status: | Adopted |
| File Created: | 03/10/2022 | Entered by: | SHenthor@co.whatcom.wa.us | | |
| Department: | Auditor's Office | File Type: | Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing | | |
| Assigned to: | Council | Final Action: | 04/12/2022 | | |
| Agenda Date: | 04/12/2022 | Enactment #: | ORD 2022-028 | | |

Primary Contact Email: Dbradric@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 1.14, Electoral Precincts, adjusting boundary lines based on decennial census information in the Legislative, Congressional and County Council districts

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Changes are needed to precinct boundary lines in Whatcom County Code Section 1.14 due to changes in the Legislative, Congressional and County Council district boundary lines based on decennial census information. During this process precinct numbers were changed to establish a more logical progression of numbers on the County precinct map. Whatcom County Code Section 1.14 is replaced in its entirety with newly established voting precinct boundaries and substituted into the "Book of Election Precinct Maps" available through the Whatcom County Council Office, the Whatcom Auditor's Office and online.

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

| Date: | Acting Body: | Action: | Sent To: |
|--------------|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| 03/22/2022 | Council | SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING | Council |
| | | Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner | |
| | | Nay: 0 | |
| | | Absent: 0 | |
| 04/12/2022 | Council | ADOPTED | |

Agenda Bill Master Report Continued (AB2022-177)

Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Attachments: Ordinance, County Precinct Map, Precinct maps, Substitute precinct maps, Substitute county precinct map

PROPOSED BY: AUDITOR
INTRODUCTION DATE: March 22, 2022

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-028

**REPLACING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE SECTION 1.14, ELECTORAL
PRECINCTS, WITH NEWLY ESTABLISHED VOTING PRECINCT
BOUNDARIES FOR WHATCOM COUNTY**

WHEREAS, changes to the Congressional boundary lines removing District 1 and modifying the boundary line of District 2 have been passed by the Washington State Legislature based on the decennial census information and recommendations of the State Redistricting Commission; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislative boundary line between the Forty Second (42nd) and the Fortieth (40th) have been altered by the Washington State Legislature based on the same decennial census information and the recommendations of the State Redistricting Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Districting Committee has recommended and the County Council has adopted changes to the Whatcom County Council District boundaries based on the decennial census information; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.16.050(1) requires every voting precinct must be wholly within a single congressional district, a single legislative district and a single district of the county legislative authority; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.16.040(2) limits precinct size to 1,500 registered voters and some of the precincts were close to that limit; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to balance the number of registered voters within precincts and some of the precincts were very small; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to limit the number of "splits" within a precinct due to the number of taxing districts within a precinct insofar as is practical; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.16.040 provides the county legislative authority shall divide the county into precincts and establish boundaries for the precincts; and this statute further provides that no precinct boundary changes may be made starting fourteen (14) days prior to the first day candidates may file for the primary election through the period ending with the general election; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.16.070 provides the County Auditor shall transfer and notify any registered voters that may be affected by the change in boundaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that all previous ordinances establishing voting precinct boundaries for Whatcom County are hereby repealed.


BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED that Whatcom County Code Section 1.14 is hereby replaced in its entirety with newly established voting precinct boundaries and substituted into the "Book of Election Precinct Maps"; said revised Book of Maps available through the Whatcom County Council Office and online through the Election page at the Whatcom County Auditor's Office homepage.

ADOPTED this 12th day of April, 2022.

ATTEST:


Dana Brown-Davis, County Clerk

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY,
WASHINGTON**


Todd Donovan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Royce Buckingham (via e-mail) /JL

Royce Buckingham, Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Approved () Denied



Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Date: April 15, 2022