



# Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
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## Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2023-200

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<b>File ID:</b>	AB2023-200	<b>Version:</b>	1	<b>Status:</b>	Adopted
<b>File Created:</b>	03/09/2023	<b>Entered by:</b>	SHenthor@co.whatcom.wa.us		
<b>Department:</b>	Auditor's Office	<b>File Type:</b>	Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing		
<b>Assigned to:</b>	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee			<b>Final Action:</b>	04/11/2023
<b>Agenda Date:</b>	04/11/2023	<b>Enactment #:</b>	ORD 2023-019		

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### TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 1.14 Election Precinct Boundaries

### SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Changes are needed to precinct boundary lines in Whacom County Code Section 1.14 due to redistricting completed for Blaine School District 503, Ferndale School District 502, Meridian School District 505, Mount Baker School District 507, Nooksack Valley School District 506, South Whatcom Fire Authority, Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer, City of Bellingham, and City of Blaine based on decennial census information. In addition, internal director district boundaries precinct splits and identifying labels were incorporated into the precinct maps. Whatcom Couny 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.

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### HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

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Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
03/21/2023	Council	SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee
		Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner	
		Nay: 0	
04/11/2023	Council	ADOPTED	
		Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner	

Nay: 0

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**Attachments:** Substitute Proposed Ordinance (staff initiated) for 3.21 Introduction, Substitute Precinct maps part 1, Substitute Precinct maps part 2, Substitute Precinct maps part 3, Original Precinct maps part 4, Substitute Precinct maps part 5, Summary of changes in substitute precinct maps

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023 - 019**

**AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE SECTION 1.14, ELECTORAL PRECINCTS, FOR CHANGES IN CERTAIN ESTABLISHED VOTING PRECINCT BOUNDARIES IN WHATCOM COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Districts that were not on the ballot in 2022 were not required to complete their redistricting exercises until November 15, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, redistricting was completed for Blaine School District 503, Ferndale School District 502, Meridian School District 505, Mt Baker School District 507, Nooksack Valley School District 506, South Whatcom Fire Authority, Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer, City of Bellingham and City of Blaine; and

**WHEREAS**, precinct splits and interior director districts have been incorporated into the precinct maps; and

**WHEREAS**, precincts located on the coast were revised to appropriately extend the precinct boundary into the water; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 29A.16.040(2) limits precinct size to 1,500 registered voters; and

**WHEREAS**, precinct 306 is a new precinct in the City of Blaine; and

**WHEREAS**, the following precincts have external boundary changes: 102, 103, 105, 113, 114, 117, 118, 128, 131, 135, 146, 152, 155, 156, 157, 175, 176, 178, 201, 202, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 601; and

**WHEREAS**, the following precincts have internal splits added: 106, 109, 115, 126, 129, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 146, 147, 148, 151, 153, 156, 158, 161, 166, 169, 170, 171, 174, 175, 177, 178, 202, 237, 305, 401, 503, 507, 508, 509; and

**WHEREAS**, precinct splits were removed from the following precincts: 111, 112, 113, 114, 118, 164; and

**WHEREAS**, identifying information has been added to the bottom of all precinct maps; 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 day of 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 amended in its entirety with newly established voting precinct boundaries and maps and substituted into the "Book of Election Precinct Maps"; said revised Book of Maps is available through the Whatcom County Council Office and online through the Election page at the Whatcom County Auditor's Office homepage.

**ADOPTED** this 11th day of April, 2023.

**ATTEST:**

  
Dana Brown-Davis, County Clerk

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

/s/ Royce Buckingham approved via email on 4/12/2023/MR

Royce Buckingham, Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Approved ( ) Denied

  
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Date: 4/13/23