

## REDISTRICTING INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

Every ten years following the completion of the U.S. Census, the Washington State Redistricting Commission (created with the passage of a ballot measure amending the state's constitution in 1983) is required to redraw all the legislative and congressional district lines so that each district has approximately the same number of people in it (equal representation). For many people nothing will change, but some people will be assigned to a new voting district. This means that you may have new representatives in the State Legislature and/or U.S. Congress after the next general election in November 2012. The information below seeks to answer questions you may have about this process. If you still have questions, you can call the Legislative Information Center at 360-786-7573 for more information.

1. HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT DISTRICT YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN?
  - a. Your local county auditor will send new information regarding changes in district lines by mail, but you can call them at any time to check.
  - b. You can contact the Legislative Information Center at 360-786-7573.
  - c. You can use the [new district finder](#) on the Redistricting Commission's Webpage .
  - d. You can call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.
  - e. You can check the new district maps on the Redistricting Commission's [website](#).
  
2. IF YOU ARE STILL IN THE SAME DISTRICT...
  - a. Nothing has changed—you are represented by the same Legislators as before and will vote for candidates from the same district in the next primary and general elections.
  
3. IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE REASSIGNED TO A NEW OR DIFFERENT DISTRICT...
  - a. Your representatives remain the same until newly elected officials are sworn into office following the next general election in November 2012. You should continue to contact your current representative for information or assistance until after the next general election. Here is the link to the [current district finder](#) for this purpose.
  - b. During the 2012 primary and general elections, you will vote for candidates running in your new district.
  - c. After the general election results are certified and the newly elected officials have taken office, they will officially be your representative. State Senators whose terms of office don't expire until 2015 will begin representing the newly defined districts after the November 2012 general election is certified.

For example, if you are currently in the 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District but will be assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> Legislative district as a result of redistricting, you will continue to be represented by your 8<sup>th</sup> district legislators until after the next general election in November. At election time, you can vote for one of the candidates running for the 9<sup>th</sup> district, and the winner of that election will be the person representing you now from the 9<sup>th</sup> district.

4. IF YOU HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE NEWLY CREATED 10<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT...
  - a. Your representative remains the same until newly elected official is sworn into office following next general election in November 2012. You should continue to contact your current representative for information or assistance until after the next general election.
  - b. During the 2012 primary and general elections, you will vote for a candidate running in the new 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.
  - c. After the general election results are certified and the newly elected officials have taken office, they will officially be your representative.