



Meeting Date: October 24, 2011
 Agenda Item No:

<u>Kitsap County Board of Commissioners</u>			
Department: Commissioners Office			
Staff Contact: Eric Baker, Special Projects Manager			
Title: 2011 Commissioner District Redistricting Ordinance			
Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance approving new Commissioner District boundaries			
Summary:	Kitsap County is required by RCW 29A.76.010 to revise its Commissioner District boundaries based upon the results of the 2010 US Census and set criteria. The County is required to submit a redistricting plan to the Secretary of State no later than December 1, 2011. Kitsap County has reviewed the Census data and other information to prepare three redistricting alternatives. These alternatives balance the RCW criteria while minimizing changes to existing boundaries and the communities they affect. These alternatives have been presented to stakeholders, the political parties and the general public for comment. After the Board of Commissioner's hearing, the Board must select one alternative for submittal.		
Attachments:	1) Draft Ordinance with Attachments		
<u>Fiscal Impact</u>			
Expenditure required for this specific action:	None		
Total cost including all related costs:	None		
Related Revenue:	N/A		
Cost Savings:	N/A		
Total Fiscal Impact:	None		
Source of Funds:	N/A		
<u>Fiscal Impact (DAS) Review</u>			
Departmental Coordination			
Department	Representative	Recommendation/Comments	
Commissioner's Office	Charlotte Garrido		
Contract Information			
Contract Number	Date Original Contract or Amendment Approved	Amount of Original Contract Amendment	Total Amount of Amended Contract

Revised - May 2007

ORDINANCE _____

**ORDINANCE REGARDING THE REDISTRICTING OF THE KITSAP COUNTY
COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS PURSUANT STATE STATUTE**

WHEREAS, Washington State RCW 29A.76.010 requires local jurisdictions to periodically redistrict its voting districts consistent with population information from the most recent decennial census; and

WHEREAS, the United States conducted the 2010 Census and made the updated population, racial and ethnicity data available to Washington State and local jurisdictions in early 2011;

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions are required to use this information to revise district boundaries consistent with five unprioritized criteria that include: 1) each district shall be as equal in population to each other as possible, 2) each district boundary shall be as compact as possible, 3) each district shall consist of geographically-contiguous areas; 4) the population data is not used to disfavor any racial group or political party; and 5) the revised boundaries coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries preserving existing communities to the extent feasible; and

WHEREAS, Kitsap County received the 2010 Census population data in April of 2011; and

WHEREAS, Kitsap County has met with multiple stakeholders including local political parties and community groups in early 2011 to discuss the process and preliminary 2010 Census results; and

WHEREAS, Kitsap County held a public open house on May 18, 2011 to discuss the process and preliminary 2010 Census results with the general public; and

WHEREAS, Kitsap County developed three draft redistricting alternatives based upon public comment and state statute; and

WHEREAS, Alternative 1 maintains the current Commissioner District boundaries (Attachment 1); and

WHEREAS, Alternative 2 modifies the District 1 and 3 boundary by moving the Olympic View Road area west of State Highway 3 and south of Mountain View Road from District 1 to District 3. Additionally, this alternative moves the Tiger and Panther Lake area from District 2 to District 3 (Attachment 2); and

WHEREAS, Alternative 3 modifies the District 1 and 3 boundary by moving the portion of The Ridgetop area east of Silverdale Way and West of Ridgetop Boulevard from District 1 to District 3 (Attachment 3); and

WHEREAS, Kitsap County developed a staff report analyzing the three alternative boundaries and their consistency with RCW 29A.76.010 (Attachment 4);

WHEREAS, Kitsap County released the three draft alternatives to the public on September 22, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Kitsap County presented the draft redistricting alternatives to stakeholders and the political parties in September and October 2011 to discuss their boundaries and their consistency with RCW criteria; and

WHEREAS, Kitsap County held public open houses on September 29, 2011 and October 6, 2011 to discuss the redistricting alternatives' boundaries and their consistency with the RCW criteria with the general public; and

WHEREAS, after proper and timely public notice, Kitsap County held a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners on October 24, 2011 to take additional testimony on the proposed alternatives.

BE IT ORDAINED, that based upon the analysis of proposed alternatives provided in the attached staff report (Attachment 4), the Board of County Commissioners adopts alternative ____ as shown in Attachment ____ and legally-described in Attachment _____. The Board finds that this alternative meets all of the redistricting criteria established by RCW 29A.76.010.

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take affect immediately upon adoption.

Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person, entity or circumstance is for any reason held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision(s) to other persons, entities or circumstances is not affected.

DATED this ____ of November, 2011.

KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charlotte Garrido, Chair

Robert Gelder, Commissioner

Dana Daniels, Clerk of the Board

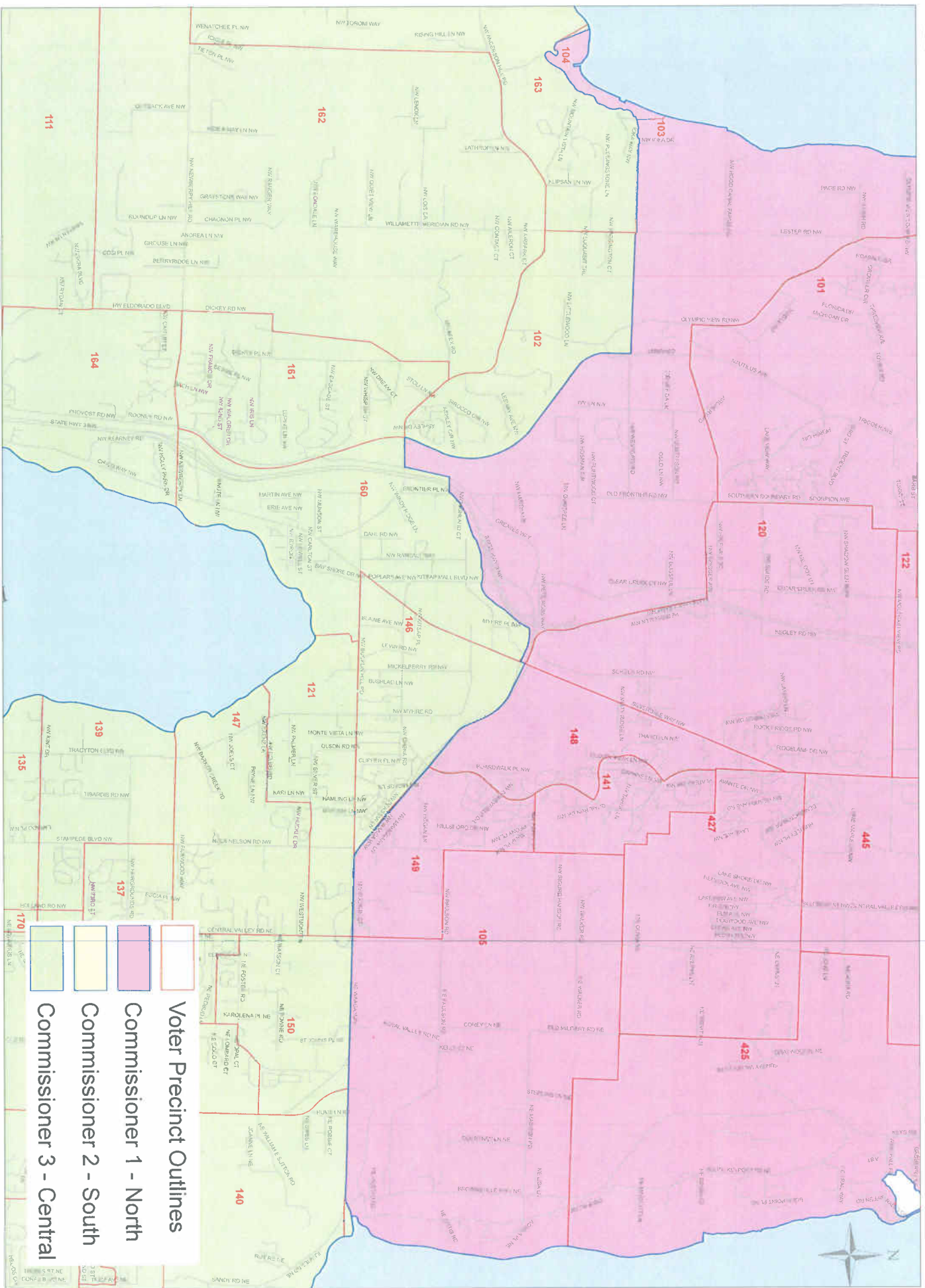
Josh Brown, Commissioner

Approved as to form:

Shelley Kneip, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ATTACHMENT 1

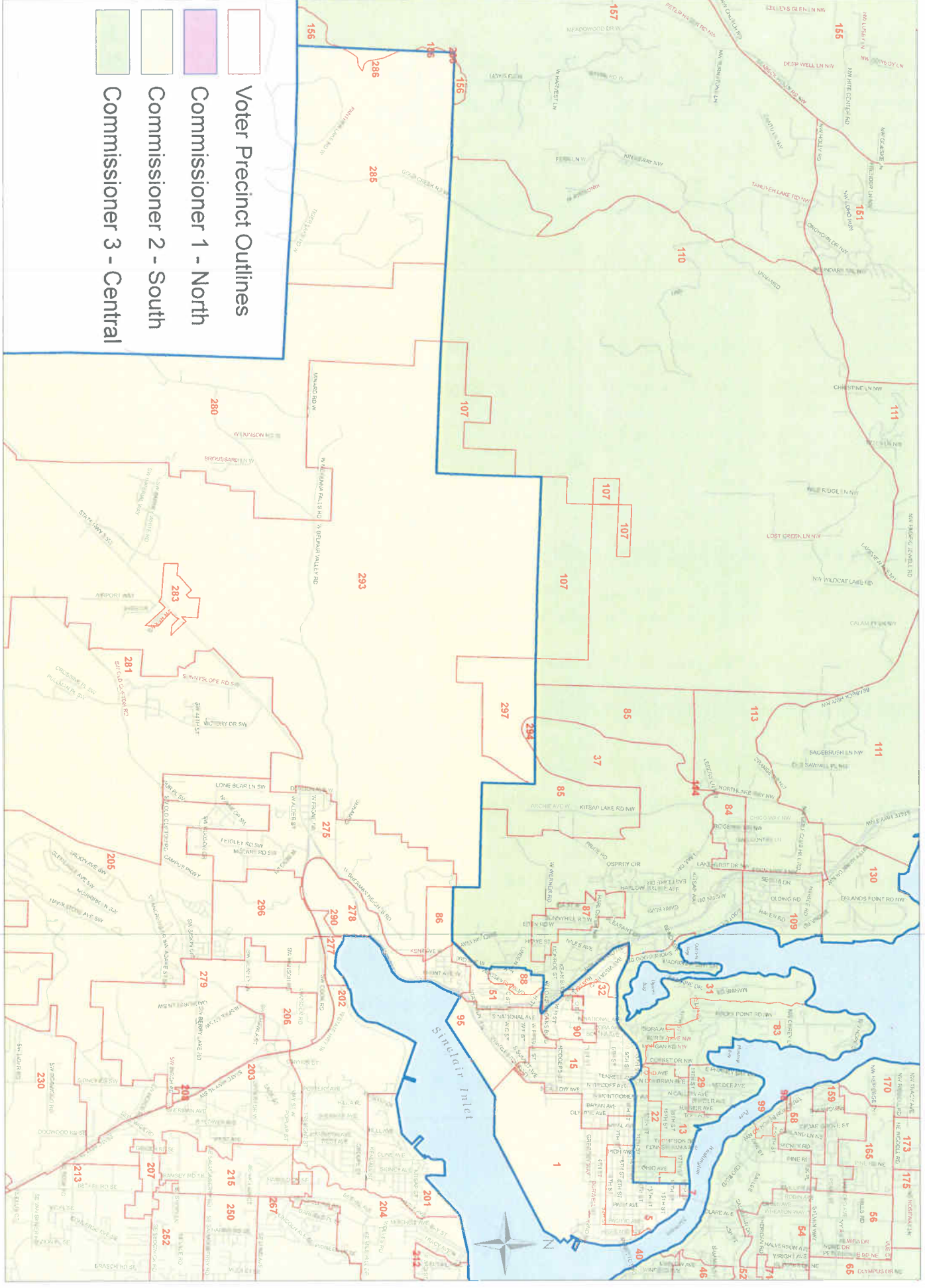
Alternative 1 Precincts - North



Voter Precinct Outlines

- Commissioner 1 - North
- Commissioner 2 - South
- Commissioner 3 - Central

Alternative 1 Precincts - South



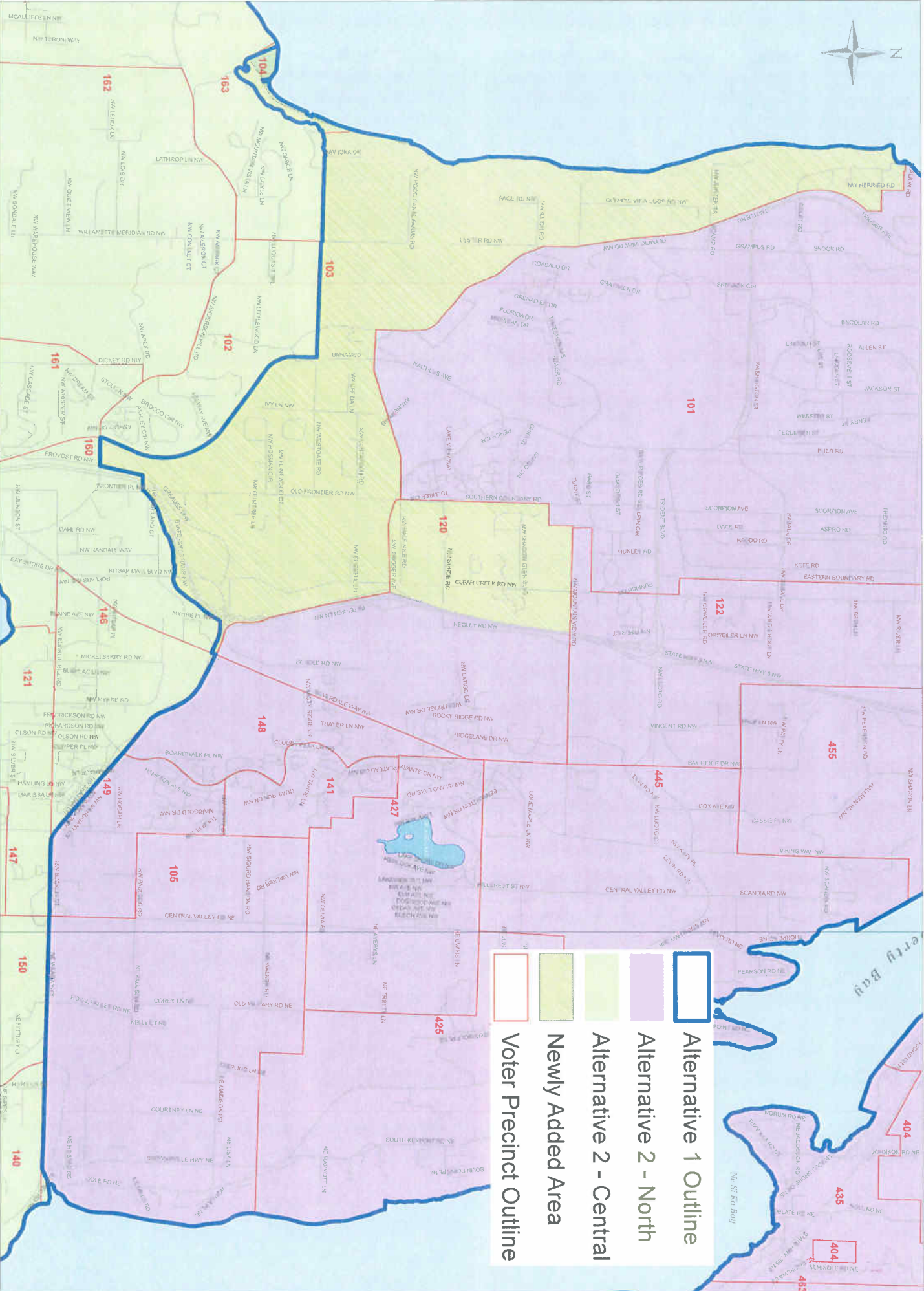
- Voter Precinct Outlines
- Commissioner 1 - North
- Commissioner 2 - South
- Commissioner 3 - Central





ATTACHMENT 2

Alternative 2 - North



Alternative 1 Outline

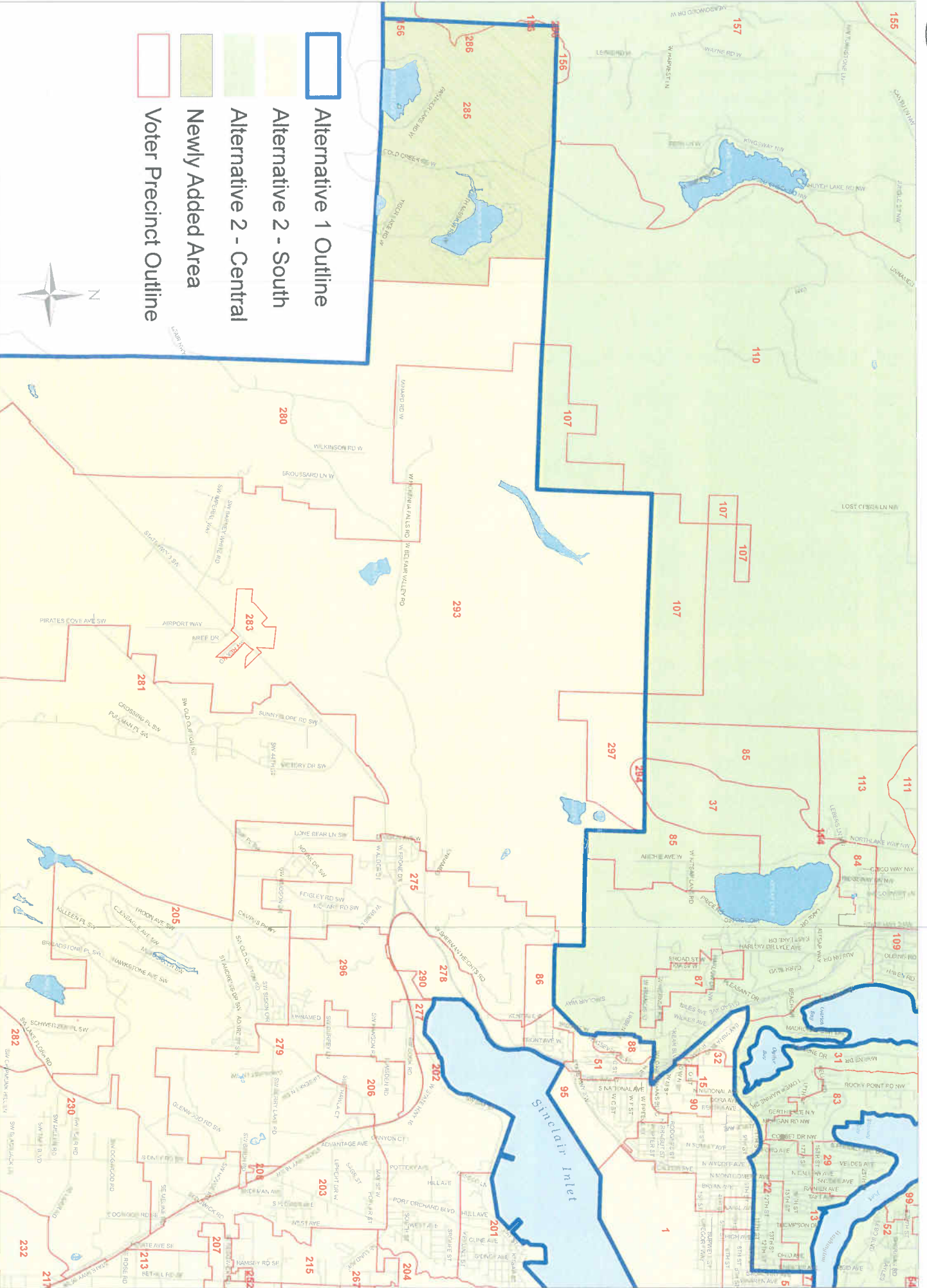
Alternative 2 - North

Alternative 2 - Central

Newly Added Area

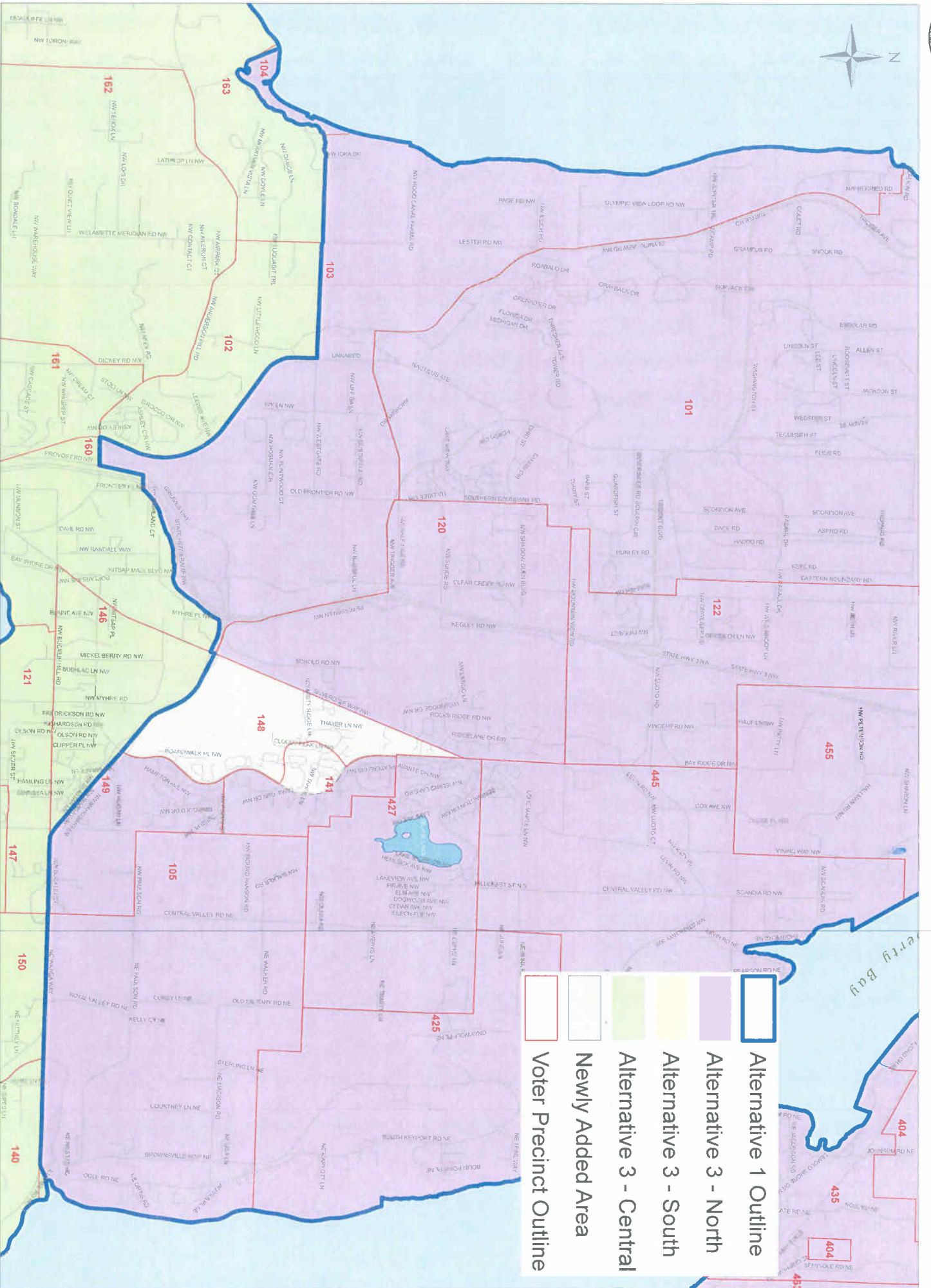
Voter Precinct Outline

Alternative 2 - South



ATTACHMENT 3

Alternative 3 - North



Alternative 1 Outline

Alternative 3 - North

Alternative 3 - South

Alternative 3 - Central

Newly Added Area

Voter Precinct Outline

ATTACHMENT 4

KITSAP COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT REDISTRICTING STAFF REPORT

STATE RCW CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Kitsap County is required by Washington State RCW 29A.76.010 to update their commissioner district voting districts to reflect the results of each decennial census (2010). The process for this update is directed by the following RCW language:

(1) It is the responsibility of each county, municipal corporation, and special purpose district with a governing body comprised of internal director, council, or commissioner districts not based on statutorily required land ownership criteria to periodically redistrict its governmental unit, based on population information from the most recent federal decennial census.

(2) Within forty-five days after receipt of federal decennial census information applicable to a specific local area, the state commission established in RCW [44.05.030](#) shall forward the census information to each municipal corporation, county, and district charged with redistricting under this section.

(3) No later than eight months after its receipt of federal decennial census data, the governing body of the municipal corporation, county, or district shall prepare a plan for redistricting its internal or director districts.

(5) During the adoption of its plan, the municipal corporation, county, or district shall ensure that full and reasonable public notice of its actions is provided. The municipal corporation, county, or district shall hold at least one public hearing on the redistricting plan at least one week before adoption of the plan.

For the 2011 redistricting process, this will require the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners to adopt revised Commissioner District boundaries no later than December 1, 2011.

To guide this process, RCW 29A.76.010 requires that all revised boundaries meet specific criteria located below.

(4) The plan shall be consistent with the following criteria:

(a) Each internal director, council, or commissioner district shall be as nearly equal in population as possible to each and every other such district comprising the municipal corporation, county, or special purpose district.

(b) Each district shall be as compact as possible.

(c) Each district shall consist of geographically contiguous area.

(d) Population data may not be used for purposes of favoring or disfavoring any racial group or political party.

(e) To the extent feasible and if not inconsistent with the basic enabling legislation for the municipal

corporation, county, or district, the district boundaries shall coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries and shall, to the extent possible, preserve existing communities of related and mutual interest.

Kitsap County has used these criteria in developing three alternatives for consideration by the public and Board of Commissioners.

2002 REDISTRICTING PROCESS

To understand the Kitsap County Commissioner District boundaries, it is important to review past updates. The previous redistricting process, conducted in 2002 by the Kitsap County Auditor’s Office faced some significant challenges. Based upon the 2000 Census data for Kitsap, the County faced large range of population between districts. District 1 exceeded the population of District 3 by over 20,000 persons. District 2 fell in between. Additionally, the District boundaries included an arguably irregular shape that was not particularly compact. For example, the District 1 boundary extended south through east Bremerton, along State Hwy. 303 down to Manette (a community that was split between all three districts). The Pre-2002 district boundaries are shown in Figure 1.

The Auditor’s Office proposed three alternatives with the goal of reducing the population disparity and improving the regularity and compact nature of the districts. The result of their process did just that; bringing the District’s nearly equal in population while creating a clear and reasonable north, central and south split based on County geography. This process concluded with the Board adopting a clear boundary that met the redistricting criteria. The resulting boundaries are shown in Figure 2.

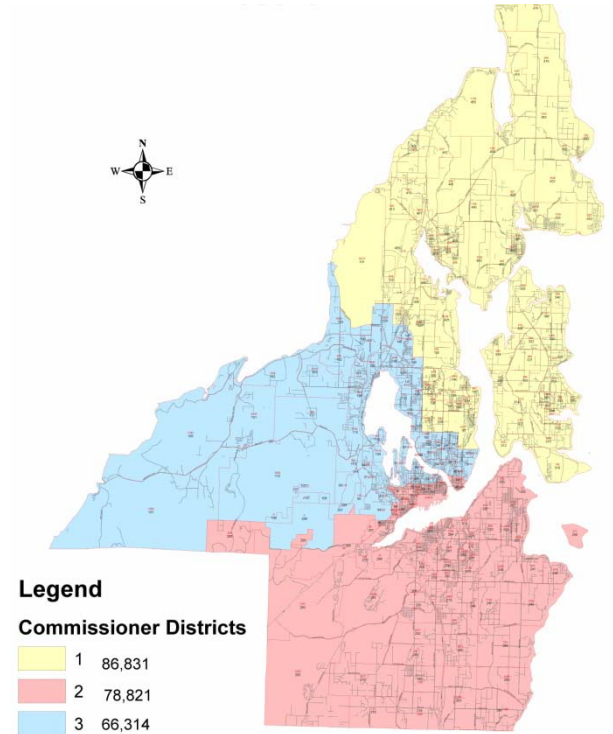
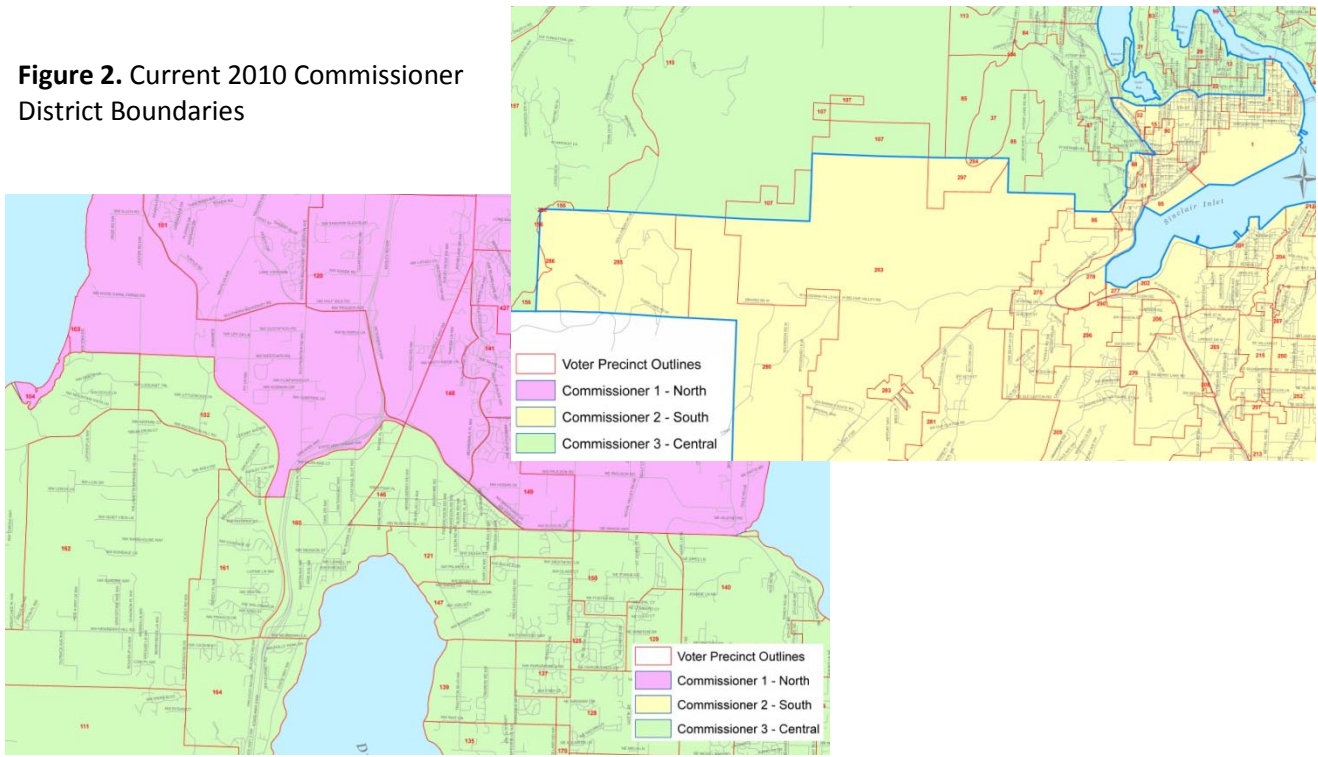


Figure 1. Pre-2002 Commissioner District Boundaries

Figure 2. Current 2010 Commissioner District Boundaries



2010 US CENSUS RESULTS

The 2010 United States Census released its population, race and ethnicity results in early 2011. This data was transmitted to Kitsap County by Washington State in April 2011. Based upon review of the 2010 these results, Districts 1 had grown the fastest while District 3 has grown the slowest. While the difference is not as great as in 2002, there is a 6,293 person difference (7.2%) between District 1 and 3 with District 2 falling in between. Shown below are 2010 census population estimates between Districts 1 through 3.

District 1 = 86,436

District 2 = 84,554

District 3 = 80,143

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

Kitsap County has used the established RCW criteria to prepare three alternatives. Additionally, staff has attempted to minimize the number of necessary changes to achieve these criteria to limit confusion for registered voters. Kitsap County has used the following data to develop alternatives and complete an analysis of each.

US Census (2010) – Most recent and accurate population data for Kitsap. Required to be used under state RCW.

Aerial Mapping – Kitsap County’s geographic information system was used to assess each alternative’s geographic boundaries and potential affects to existing communities or neighborhoods.

2008 Commissioner District Race Results – The Kitsap County Auditor’s Office, Election’s Division provided final County Commissioner race result data by precinct. Kitsap County selected 2008 as its data point due to the high voter turn-out associated with a presidential election year and that 2008 had two County Commissioner seats up for election.

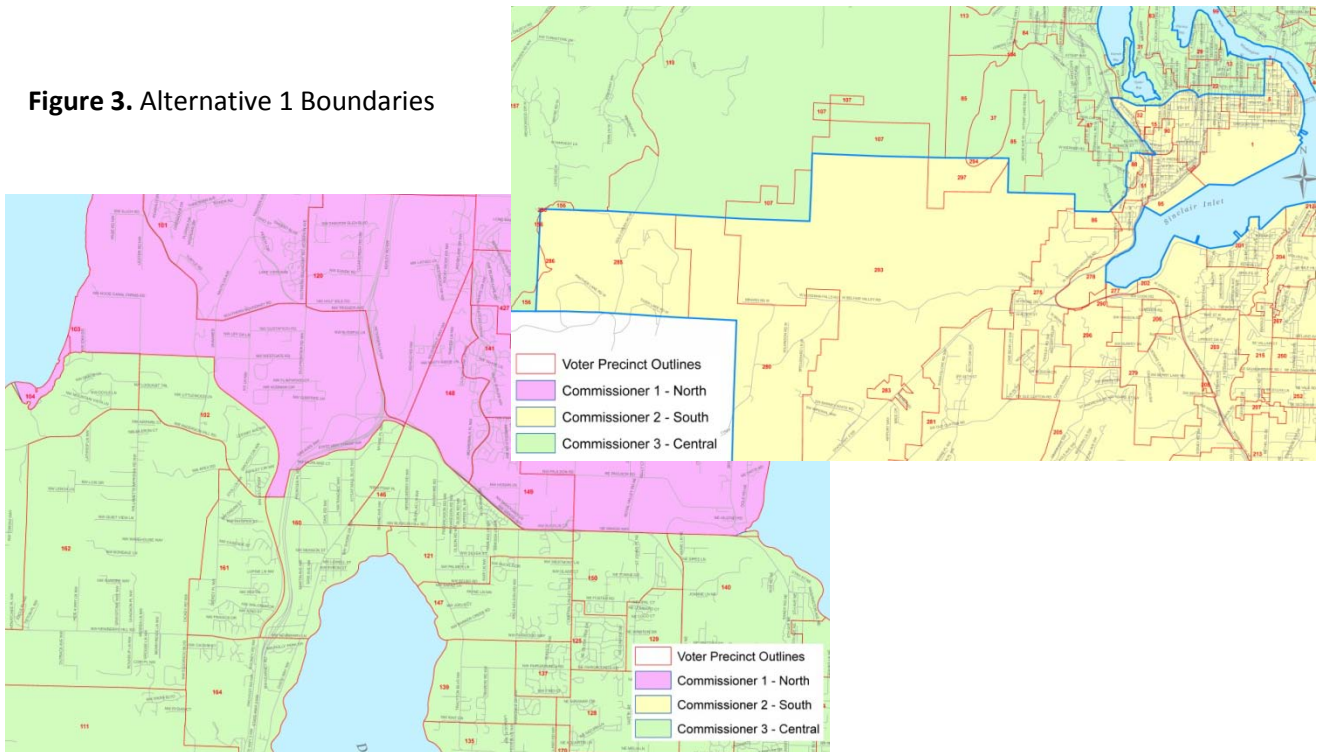
Alternative 1

This alternative proposes no changes to the district boundary. The boundaries as shown in Figure 3 below are roughly described as follows:

District 1 and 3: The boundary runs east from Puget Sound along Waaga Way to its intersection with State Highway 3 then south to the Anderson Hill Road underpass, then west along Anderson Hill Road to the United States Navy rail line, north along the rail line to Westgate Road and then west to Hood Canal.

District 2 and 3: The boundary runs south from the Port of Washington Narrows to 11th Street, then west along 11th to Kitsap Way, then west along Kitsap Way to State Highway 3, then south along State Highway 3 to Loxie Eagans Boulevard, then west along Loxie Eagans to the Bremerton City Limits, then generally following the City Limits through the Bremerton Watershed to just west of Tiger/Panther/Mission Lake area and then south to the Kitsap/Mason County line.

Figure 3. Alternative 1 Boundaries



The alternative’s premise is based on the fact that the geographic boundaries of the 2002 effort created compact districts using clear physical elements (roads, railroads, etc.). Additionally, this alternative reduced potential splits of communities beyond those necessary due to significant population concentrations (Silverdale and Bremerton). However, the population difference between districts is the highest of the alternatives, but at 6,293 persons for an over 251,000 person County is not clearly inconsistent with the criteria. The demographics of the Census data for the existing boundaries show very minor changes in populations of racial and ethnic groups between the districts and all political party considerations remain the same (Table 1).

Table 1. Alternative 1 Population and Demographics								
District	Race							Ethnicity
	Population	White	Black	Am. Indian	Asian	Pacific Island	Other	Hispanic
District 1	86,436	74,010	1,241	1,903	3,517	272	1,218	4,961
District 2	84,544	70,791	2,450	1,103	3,109	1,000	1,272	5,436
District 3	80,143	62,568	2,959	1,034	5,770	1,038	1,429	5,289

Note: Hispanic is considered an ethnicity rather than race.

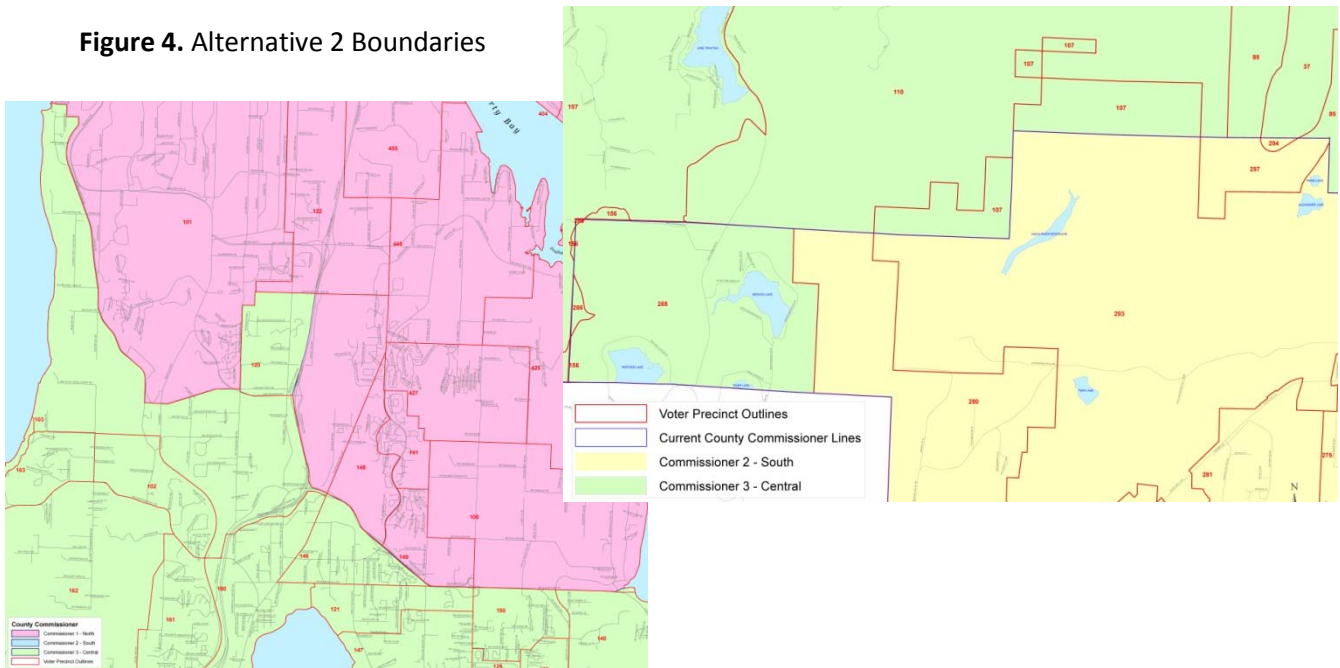
Alternative 2

This alternative proposes changes to both the District 1 and District 3 boundary and the District 2 and 3 boundary. The boundaries as shown in Figure 4 below are roughly described as follows:

District 1 and 3: The boundary runs east from Puget Sound along Waaga Way to its intersection with State Highway 3 then north along State Highway 3 to the Mountain View Road overpass, then west along Mountain View Road to Naval Base Bangor fence line, then following the fence line south, west, north and then west again out to Hood Canal.

District 2 and 3: The boundary runs south from the Port of Washington Narrows to 11th Street, then west along 11th to Kitsap Way, then west along Kitsap Way to State Highway 3, then south along State Highway 3 to Loxie Eagans Boulevard, then west along Loxie Eagans to the Bremerton City Limits, then generally following the City Limits through the Bremerton Watershed to just east of Tiger/Panther/Mission Lake area and then south to the Kitsap/Mason County line.

Figure 4. Alternative 2 Boundaries



With these changes, the population difference is greatly reduced to fewer than 1,200 persons, a 1.4% difference. District 2 becomes the largest and District 3 remains the smallest (Table 2).

Table 2. Alternative 2 Population and Demographics								
District	Race							Ethnicity
	Population	White	Black	Am. Indian	Asian	Pacific Island	Other	Hispanic
District 1	84,043	71,949	1,216	1,872	3,388	259	1,209	4,898
District 2	84,203	70,471	2,450	1,102	3,104	1,000	1,265	5,420
District 3	82,877	64,949	2,984	1,066	5,904	1,051	1,445	5,191

Note: Hispanic is considered an ethnicity rather than race.

The alternative uses the physical boundaries where possible (St. Hwy 3, Naval Base Bangor fence line and Mountain View Road) as well as jurisdictional boundaries (the Bremerton city limits). The boundary is slightly more irregular due to the use of the Bangor as a boundary but not significantly so. The boundary is less compact along the District 1 and 3 boundary and more compact along that of District 2 and 3. No new communities or neighborhoods are split and the existing split of Silverdale is improved by joining the northwest portion of the Silverdale urban growth area with downtown Silverdale in District 3. The racial demographics are not significantly affected.

Only four precincts are affected by this alternative; Precincts 103 (Olympic View), 120 (Clear Creek), 285 (Twin Lakes) and 286 (Tin Mine Creek). Of these, only Precinct 120 is split with the other three moving to a new District in their entirety. All four precincts show a split vote in the 2008 Commissioner races with one Democrat and one Republican receiving the majority of votes. The 2008 vote totals are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3. 2008 Commissioner Race Results By Affected Precinct				
Precinct	District 1		District 2	
	Bauer (Dem)	LaCelle (Rep)	Garrido (Dem)	Matthes (Rep)
103	553	496	436	607
120	455	455	346	556
285	97	80	82	97
286	0	0	0	0

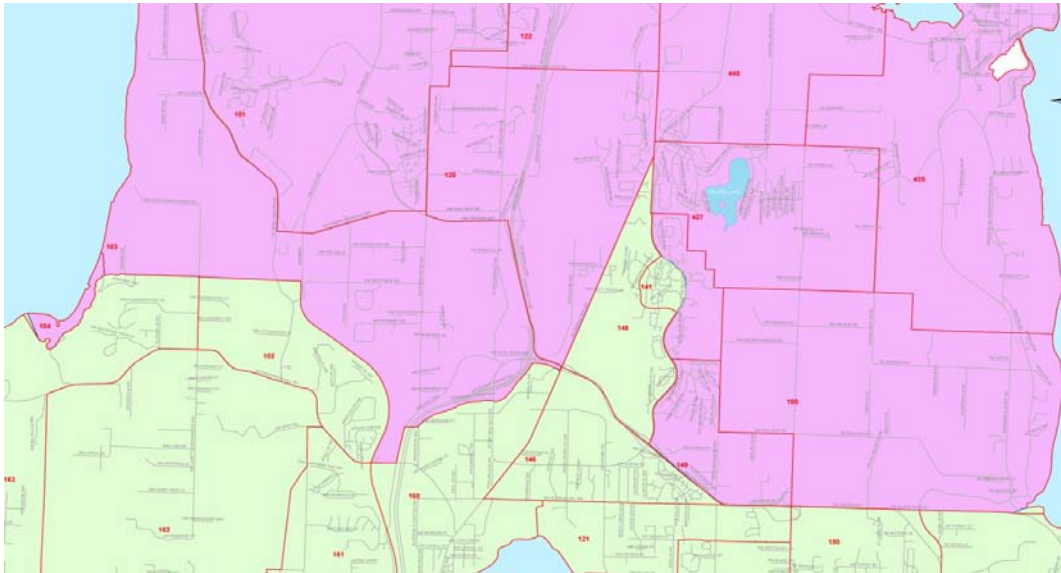
From these results, it is shown that the precincts are equally represented by members of both major parties. The inclusion or removal of any of these precincts should not have any predictable affect on future political results.

Alternative 3

This alternative proposes changes to only the District 1 and District 3 boundary with District 2 and 3 boundary identical to current. The boundaries as shown in Figure 5 below are roughly described as follows:

District 1 and 3: The boundary runs east from Puget Sound along Waaga Way to the Ridgetop Boulevard overpass, then north on Ridgetop Blvd to its intersection with Silverdale Way, then south along Silverdale Way to the Waaga Way overpass, then north on Waaga Way to its intersection with State Highway 3 then south to the Anderson Hill Road underpass, then west along Anderson Hill Road to the United States Navy rail line, north along the rail line to Westgate Road to Hood Canal.

Figure 5. Alternative 3 Boundaries



This change reduces the population difference to just over 1,400 persons (1.7%). District 2 becomes the largest and District 1 the smallest (Table 4).

Table 4. Alternative 3 Population and Demographics

District	Race							Ethnicity
	Population	White	Black	Am. Indian	Asian	Pacific Island	Other	Hispanic
District 1	83,127	71,574	1,047	1,864	3,241	242	1,143	4,620
District 2	84,544	70,791	2,450	1,103	3,109	1,000	1,272	5,436
District 3	80,143	65,004	3,153	1,073	6,046	1,068	1,504	5,630

Note: Hispanic is considered an ethnicity rather than race.

The alternative uses the physical boundaries of Waaga Way, State Highway 3 Silverdale Way and Ridgetop Boulevard. The revised District 1 and 3 boundary can be perceived as splitting the Ridgetop community. However, it begins to join the Ridgetop community with the downtown Silverdale in one district (District 3). This transition could be furthered by future redistricting efforts if the growth rates of 2000 and 2010 continue, eventually bringing the entirety of Ridgetop into one district. The boundary is slightly more irregular but generally as compact. The racial demographics are not significantly affected.

Only two precincts are affected by this alternative; Precinct 148 (Santa Fe) and 141 (Ridgepoint). Of these only Precinct 141 is split. Both precincts show a split vote in the 2008 Commissioner races with one Democrat and one Republican receiving the majority of votes in each race. The vote totals are shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5. 2008 Commissioner Race Results By Affected Precinct				
Precinct	District 1		District 2	
	Bauer (Dem)	LaCelle (Rep)	Garrido (Dem)	Matthes (Rep)
141	324	308	296	342
148	347	320	302	360

From these results, it is shown that the precincts are equally represented by members of both major parties. The inclusion or removal of any of these precincts should not have any predictable affect on future political results.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kitsap County conducted a comprehensive public participation process which included stakeholder meetings, presentations to community groups and a webpage. The webpage was highlighted as a clearinghouse for all information regarding the project. This page is located at:

http://www.kitsapgov.com/boc/Special_Projects_Division/redistricting/redistricting.htm

Early in 2011, Kitsap extended offers to meet with multiple stakeholder groups to discuss the process and preliminary US Census results. Meetings held included:

- Kitsap County Republican Party leadership - April 26, 2011
- Kitsap County Democratic Central Committee leadership – May 16, 2011
- Public Open House – May 18, 2011, Kitsap County Administration Building, Port Orchard, WA
- Democratic Party Central Committee – June 20, 2011

Upon release for the draft alternatives, Kitsap extended additional offers to meet with multiple stakeholder groups and held two community open houses in areas affected by the proposed changes, South and Central Kitsap. Meetings held included:

- Kitsap County Republican Party – September 12, 2011
- Public Open House - September 29 2011 - Silverdale Community Center, Silverdale, WA
- Public Open House - October 6 2011 - Kitsap County Administration Building, Port Orchard, WA
- Kitsap County Democratic Central Committee – October 17, 2011

Each public open house included an opening presentation on process and draft alternatives followed by opportunities for the public to speak one-on-one with staff in an open house format. All comments received at these meetings and open houses were forwarded on to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration.

The Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the alternatives on October 24 2011 at the Kitsap County Administrative Building, Port Orchard, WA to take formal testimony on the proposed alternatives. After this opportunity for public comment, the Board will deliberate and then adopt a single alternative for submission to the Washington State Secretary of State’s office.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the review of the draft alternatives and their consistency with the criteria of RCW 29A.76.010, staff recommends Alternative 2 for adoption. Alternative 2 reduces the population disparity between districts creating a compact boundary that largely uses physical boundaries. The alternative also includes minimal effects to racial and ethnic demography between the districts and no predictable impacts to future political elections.