

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL  
Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 676-6690



COUNCILMEMBERS  
Barbara Brenner  
Rud Browne  
Barry Buchanan  
Sam Crawford  
Pete Kremen  
Ken Mann  
Carl Weimer

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

# AGENDA REVISION NOTICE FOR MARCH 25, 2014


(DISTRIBUTED AT 2:30 P.M. ON MARCH 20, 2014)

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM HAS BEEN ADDED TO COUNCIL, INTRODUCTION:**

7. Ordinance repealing and replacing Whatcom County Code Section 1.14, Election Precincts, to amend certain election precinct boundaries, approve new precinct boundaries as necessary, and adopt a book of election precinct maps by reference (AB2014-130) (paperwork attached below)

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL**

**NO. 2014-130**

<b>CLEARANCES</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Date Received in Council Office</b>	<b>Agenda Date</b>	<b>Assigned to:</b>
Originator:	DA	3/19/14		3/25/14	Introduction
Division Head:				4/8/14	Hearing
Dept. Head:	DA	3/19/14			
Prosecutor:	AK	3-20-14			
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:		3-20-14			

**TITLE OF DOCUMENT:**  
**Repealing and Replacing Whatcom County Code Section 1.14, Electoral Precincts, to Amend Certain Election Precinct Boundaries, Approve New Precinct Boundaries as Necessary and Adopt a Book of Election Precinct Maps by Reference**

**ATTACHMENTS:**  
**Ordinance**

SEPA review required?    ( ) Yes    ( x ) NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing?    ( x ) Yes    ( ) NO
SEPA review completed?    ( ) Yes    ( x ) NO	Requested Date: April 8, 2014

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:** *(If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)*

Changes are needed to correct certain precinct boundary lines in Whatcom County Code Section 1.14 due to annexations in the City of Bellingham and the City of Everson; to correct a scrivener’s error in the Congressional district boundaries; and to change boundaries to reduce the number of “splits” in designated precincts. This replaces the entire language of WCC 1.14, with new language creating a “Book of Election Precinct Maps” adopted by reference and available through the Whatcom County Council Office, the Whatcom County Auditor’s Office, and online.

<b>COMMITTEE ACTION:</b>	<b>COUNCIL ACTION:</b>

<b>Related County Contract #:</b>	<b>Related File Numbers:</b>	<b>Ordinance or Resolution Number:</b>

**Please Note:** Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County’s website at: [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council).

PROPOSED BY: Auditor \_\_\_\_\_  
SPONSORED BY: Auditor \_\_\_\_\_  
INTRODUCTION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**REPEALING AND REPLACING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE SECTION 1.14, ELECTORAL  
PRECINCTS, TO AMEND CERTAIN ELECTION PRECINCT BOUNDARIES, APPROVE  
NEW PRECINCT BOUNDARIES AS NECESSARY AND ADOPT A BOOK OF ELECTION  
PRECINCT MAPS BY REFERENCE**

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

**WHEREAS**, annexations in July, 2013 to the cities of Bellingham and Everson divided some precincts of Whatcom County requiring that they and some adjacent precinct boundaries be redrawn resulting in the creation of a new precinct (268) and a change to an existing precinct (13) in the City of Bellingham, and a change to Precincts 402 and 146, respectively, in the City of Everson; and

**WHEREAS**, a scrivener's error was discovered in the district boundary between Congressional Districts One and Two resulting in the boundaries of Precincts 221, 160 and 159 being adjusted; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that many of the existing precincts included a large number of "splits" due to the number of taxing districts within the precinct boundaries and that by adjust the boundary lines of certain precincts the number of "splits" could be reduced, namely, Precincts 102, 104, 105, 107, 108, 110, 111, 113, 114, 119, 124, 126, 127, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 140, 141, 144, 145, 146, 147, 153, 154, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 163, 165, 168, 244, 250, 259, 263, 266, 610 and 611 having their boundaries adjusted and Precincts 109 and 128 being eliminated; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 29A.16.040 requires the county legislative authority of each county in the state to divide the county into election precincts and establish the boundaries of the precincts and does not specify the format of the boundary descriptions; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that it is more efficient to adopt precinct boundary maps and the county shape files as the precinct boundaries instead of written boundary descriptions; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 29A.16.040(1) further provides that no precinct boundary changes may be made starting fourteen (14) days prior to the first day candidates may file for

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39

primary election (this year May 12, 2014) through the period ending with the general election, make this a timely request; 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 Whatcom County Code Section 1.14 is hereby repealed and replaced in its entirety as outlined in Exhibit A to this Ordinance.

**BET IT FINALLY ORDAINED** that all future amendments to election precinct boundary maps will be adopted by the Whatcom County Council.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carl Weimer, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
APPROVED AS-TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Royce Buckingham  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Louws, County Executive

( ) Approved      ( ) Denied

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **1.14 ELECTION PRECINCT BOUNDARIES**

The Whatcom County election precinct boundaries as drawn by the Whatcom County Auditor are set forth in a Book of Election Precinct Maps dated \_\_\_\_\_, adopted by reference and available through the Whatcom County Council Office, the Whatcom County Auditor's Office, and online through the Election page at the Whatcom County Auditor's homepage, <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/auditor/>.