



Auditor's Update – New Districts & New Precincts (corrected)

Last year, the voters approved the proposal to create five (5) new Council districts with representatives chosen from each district and two additional at-large positions. The Districting Committee developed the new district lines. Now the Auditor's Office has to re-precinct those precincts that are affected by the change in district lines. (And while these affected precincts will be adjusted, the Auditor will also propose a few changes to balance the size of some precincts in the county.)

To clear up a few misconceptions which seem to be out there, these are what will happen next:

1) The precinct changes will be proposed by the Auditor for adoption by the County Council at a meeting later this summer or early fall. The districts were adopted at the July 12, 2016 council meeting. The precinct boundaries will take effect as of the first of the year (2017).

2) No changes can be made to the election precincts until after certification of the General Election. At that time all voters will be assigned to the appropriate precincts and new voter registration cards will be mailed out.

3) No current sitting Council Members lose their positions. The County Charter provides in Section 4.20: "Any change in the boundaries of the councilmember's district which shall cause that member to be no longer a resident of the district which that councilmember represents shall not disqualify that councilmember from holding office during the remainder of the term for which that councilmember was elected or appointed." They remain in office until their term expires. During that year they can seek to run again from the new district or run at large.

4) The new districts the Districting Committee created are:

- District #1 – S Bellingham
- District #2 – N. Bellingham
- District #3 – Foothills
- District #4 – Farmlands
- District #5 – Coastal

5) In 2017, there are four (4) council members whose terms will expire (new district residing in):

Ken Mann	District #2 - N. Bellingham
Barry Buchanan	District #2 - N. Bellingham
Carl Weimer	District #4 - Farmlands
Rud Browne (currently at large)	District #1 - S. Bellingham

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- 6) Other continuing council members (new district residing in):
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|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Todd Donovan | District #2 - N. Bellingham |
| Satpal Sidhu | District #3 - Foothills |
| Barbara Brenner | District #4 - Farmlands |
- Their terms expire in 2019.

7) Members have the choice to run from the district they reside in or to run for one of two new at-large positions.

- 8) In 2017, the following positions will be on the ballot: (from the transition language)
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| District #1 – South Bellingham | District #2 – North Bellingham |
| District #3 – Foothills | At Large Position A |

- 9) The transition to the five districts model will be completed with the election in 2019 when the following positions will be elected:
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| District #4 – Farmlands | District #5 – Coastal |
| At Large Position B | |

The Auditor's Office is drafting a proposed ordinance to adopt a new "Book of Election Precinct Maps." Revised precinct maps have been developed for those precincts whose boundaries will be affected. (Since new district numbers will need to be added, all maps will have to be modified to that extent and the entire Book of Election Precinct Maps adopted.) Meetings will be held with affected jurisdictions and interested parties and presented to the County Council.

The final stage involves Auditors' staff reviewing each of the affected precincts to be certain that each and every voter in that precinct is accounted for in the appropriate change that was made. At that point, the new voter registration cards will be mailed to voters.

I hope this clarifies some of the questions out there. Feel free to contact me if there is something more you need.



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