

**Chapter 29A.76 RCW
REDISTRICTING**

Sections

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RCW 29A.76.010 Counties, municipal corporations, and special purpose districts. (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 as adjusted by RCW 44.05.140.

(2) Within forty-five days after receipt of federal decennial census information applicable to a specific local area, the 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) Except as otherwise provided in chapter 301, Laws of 2018, no later than November 15th of each year ending in one, the governing body of the municipal corporation, county, or district shall prepare a plan for redistricting its internal or director districts.

(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.

(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. Before adopting the plan, the municipal corporation, county, or district must:

(a) Publish the draft plan and hold a meeting, including notice and comment, within ten days of publishing the draft plan and at least one week before adopting the plan; and

(b) Amend the draft as necessary after receiving public comments and resubmit any amended draft plan for additional written public comment at least one week before adopting the plan.

(6) (a) Any registered voter residing in an area affected by the redistricting plan may request review of the adopted local plan by the superior court of the county in which he or she resides, within fifteen days of the plan's adoption. Any request for review must specify the reason or reasons alleged why the local plan is not consistent with the applicable redistricting criteria. The municipal corporation, county, or district may be joined as respondent. The superior court shall thereupon review the challenged plan for compliance with the applicable redistricting criteria set out in subsection (4) of this section.

(b) If the superior court finds the plan to be consistent with the requirements of this section, the plan shall take effect immediately.

(c) If the superior court determines the plan does not meet the requirements of this section, in whole or in part, it shall remand the plan for further or corrective action within a specified and reasonable time period.

(d) If the superior court finds that any request for review is frivolous or has been filed solely for purposes of harassment or delay, it may impose appropriate sanctions on the party requesting review, including payment of attorneys' fees and costs to the respondent municipal corporation, county, or district. [2022 c 48 § 2; (2022 c 48 § 1 expired January 1, 2023); 2021 c 173 § 2; (2021 c 173 § 1 expired January 1, 2023); 2018 c 301 § 8; 2011 c 349 § 26; 2003 c 111 § 1901. Prior: 1984 c 13 § 4; 1983 c 16 § 15; 1982 c 2 § 27. Formerly RCW 29.70.100.]

Effective date—2022 c 48 § 2: "Section 2 of this act takes effect January 1, 2023." [2022 c 48 § 4.]

Expiration date—2022 c 48 § 1: "Section 1 of this act expires January 1, 2023." [2022 c 48 § 3.]

Effective date—2021 c 173 §§ 2 and 4: "Sections 2 and 4 of this act take effect January 1, 2023." [2021 c 173 § 6.]

Effective date—2021 c 173 §§ 1 and 3: "Sections 1 and 3 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [May 3, 2021]." [2021 c 173 § 7.]

Expiration date—2021 c 173 §§ 1 and 3: "Sections 1 and 3 of this act expire January 1, 2023." [2021 c 173 § 5.]

Findings—Short title—2018 c 301: See notes following RCW 36.32.051.

Effective date—2011 c 349: See note following RCW 29A.04.255.

Contingent effective date—1983 c 16: See RCW 44.05.900.

RCW 29A.76.020 Boundary information. The legislative authority of each county and each city, town, and special purpose district which lies within the county shall provide the county auditor accurate

information describing its geographical boundaries and the boundaries of its director, council, or commissioner districts and shall ensure that the information provided to the auditor is kept current. [2013 c 11 § 77; 2003 c 111 § 1902. Prior: 1991 c 178 § 2. Formerly RCW 29.15.026, 29.04.220.]

RCW 29A.76.040 Maps and census correspondence lists—

Apportionment—Duties of secretary of state. (1) With regard to functions relating to census, apportionment, and the establishment of legislative and congressional districts, the secretary of state shall:

(a) Coordinate and monitor precinct mapping functions of the county auditors and county engineers;

(b) Maintain official state base maps and correspondence lists and maintain an index of all such maps and lists;

(c) Furnish to the United States bureau of the census as needed for the decennial census of population, current, accurate, and easily readable versions of maps of all counties, cities, towns, and other areas of this state, which indicate current precinct boundaries together with copies of the census correspondence lists.

(2) The secretary of state shall serve as the state liaison with the United States bureau of census on matters relating to the preparation of maps and the tabulation of population for apportionment purposes. [2003 c 111 § 1904; 1989 c 278 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 128 § 4; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 129 § 2. Formerly RCW 29.04.140.]

Severability—1977 ex.s. c 128: See note following RCW 29A.16.040.

Effective date—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 129: "This 1976 amendatory act shall take effect on February 1, 1977." [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 129 § 5.]

Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 129: "If any provision of this 1976 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 129 § 6.]

RCW 29A.76.050 Voluntary change to electoral system—Use of population data regarding political parties. In any change to its electoral system under RCW 29A.92.040 or preparation of a redistricting plan under RCW 29A.92.040, political subdivisions may use population data regarding political parties only to the extent necessary to ensure compliance with chapter 113, Laws of 2018 or federal law. [2018 c 113 § 502.]

Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 113: See RCW 29A.92.005 and 29A.92.900.