

King County Districting Committee

Meeting Materials

February 11, 2021

Enclosed:

Minutes from January 22, 2021

Minutes from January 29, 2021



King County
Meeting Minutes
King County Districting Committee

Friday, January 22, 2021
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Sophia Danenberg, Paul Graves, Cherryl Jackson-Williams and Rob Saka.

County Staff:

Patrick Hamacher, Simon Farretta, Erin Arya, Mike Sinsky and Mari Isaacson.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Hamacher at 10:02 am.

2. Welcome from Council Chair Claudia Balducci

King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci thanked the members for volunteering their time and expertise to serve on the committee noting that this is the first nonpartisan Districting Committee. She urged members not to shy away from difficult, but meaningful discussions as they work through the tasks before them and to offer feedback freely to each other. Constructive conflict and engaging are critical to good, enduring decision making. Chair Balducci also conveyed the support of the entire Council.

3. Introductions of county staff

County staff providing support to the districting committee briefly introduced themselves. They are Patrick Hamacher, Simon Farretta, Erin Arya, Mike Sinsky, and Mari Isaacson.

4. Introductions of Districting Committee members

Members of the Districting Committee briefly introduced themselves. They are Sophia Danenberg, Paul Graves, Cherryl Jackson-Williams and Rob Saka.

5. Overview of process and key deadlines

Patrick Hamacher provided an overview of the decisions key dates and issues that the committee will face in 2021. He noted the committee will need to elect a fifth member to serve as Chair. They will also need to select a Districting Master by April 1. The districting plan will be submitted to the County Clerk by December 31. He noted there is no county council process after submission. The boundaries they submit will be the new council districts. He also noted a bill that has been introduced in Olympia that could shorten their timeline by six weeks.

6. High level training on the Open Public Meetings Act and public records

Mike Sinsky provided training to the members of the committee on three laws fundamental to their work: The Open Public Meetings Act, Public Records Act and records retention requirements.

7. Discussion/decision on the process to select the Chair

Patrick presented possible options for the committee to consider in selecting its Chair as set forth in the King County Charter 650.30.20. Members decided each member would identify individuals that might excel in serving as chair and the committee would discuss those individuals at the next meeting with each member soliciting nominees as desired in order to act as expediently as possible. Some members noted the time constraints made it difficult to have an advertised process.

8. Future topics and next meeting

There was discussion of the best times to hold the next meeting. The committee showed interest in the following Friday with direction that staff will follow up with members to finalize the next committee meeting date and time.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.



King County
Meeting Minutes
King County Districting Committee

Friday, January 29, 2021
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Sophia Danenberg, Paul Graves, Cherryl Jackson-Williams and Rob Saka.

County Staff:

Patrick Hamacher, Simon Farretta, Erin Arya, Mike Sinsky, Mari Isaacson and Vazaskia Cockrell.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Hamacher at 3:02 p.m.

2. Discussion/decision on the interview process to select the Chair

Hamacher recapped the decision points covered at the last meeting in selecting a chair. Some members have since expressed interest in judicial candidates. There was also an inquiry into the prior committee's process. It was just announced that the local data from the Census local data will likely not come earlier than July 31. Additionally, SB 5013 which would move up the deadline for the districting plan by six weeks passed the Senate today. Awareness is building that maybe that needs to be moved.

Hamacher asked for discussion and direction about how to proceed. Committee members discussed their efforts since the last meeting to solicit and bring forward candidates and showed interest in doing additional outreach to gather more names. Committee members directed staff to gather a list of retired Superior and District Court judges, and to reach out to bar associations including minority bar associations for recommendations.

Member Saka asked how the delay in receiving data will impact the process of the committee and deadlines. Hamacher shared the committee will need to decide but offered potential options for how the committee might want to organize their process to mitigate impacts to their final product.

3. Discussion of nominees for the Chair position

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

4. Future topics and next meeting

Hamacher reviewed possible future topics for the committee including an overview of the operational legal structure of the committee's work; King County's equity focus; creating and adopting bylaws/rules; review of current districts with the county demographer and related discussions; and outreach plans.

Member Saka inquired about staffing and other resources available to support the work of the committee with the uncertainty surrounding the timing of the Census data. Hamacher shared about the scope of the Districting Master and availability of council and other King County staff to support this work.

King County Council Equity and Social Justice Director Vazaskia Cockrell provided a brief introduction of her role at the council and offered her expertise in equity analysis and community engagement to the committee.

Hamacher noted that Farretta would work with members to schedule the next meetings which members agreed would be held 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Member Saka suggested members consider holding a virtual retreat after the fifth member is chosen.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.