



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2021

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Independent Redistricting Committee establishing five new Spokane County commissioner districts by Oct. 23

Committee needs input from communities across the county

SPOKANE, Washington—A state-appointed Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) has begun the process of redistricting Spokane County from three county commissioner districts to five, with each electing a commissioner for their new district. This is happening while the state is also moving through the [state-required decennial redistricting](#) process.

The bipartisan committee is tasked with developing a plan to divide Spokane County into five new county commissioner districts by Oct. 23, 2021. Under state law, the districts created under the new plan shall:

- Be nearly equal in population
- Be as compact as possible
- Consist of geographically contiguous area
- Not use population data to favor or disfavor any racial group or political party

The plan should also, to the extent feasible:

- Draw boundaries that coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries; and
- Preserve existing communities of related and mutual interest.

The IRC is working to assess the county's population, develop and publish a draft plan by Aug. 24, present preliminary options, and develop and submit a final plan to the Spokane County Auditor's office by Oct. 23.

New districts resulting from 2022 elections will take effect in January 2023 for Spokane County.

The IRC desires a robust conversation with the county's many communities to help ensure awareness of the process, what the new plan will mean for voters and residents, and opportunities for public input. The committee will implement a comprehensive community engagement plan to reach diverse audiences throughout the redistricting process. It has scheduled four public information sessions and four public hearings to share information, receive input,



answer questions, and develop a plan that reflects the community's needs and interests while adhering to state redistricting requirements.

Public engagement and feedback opportunities are scheduled throughout the five-month process, which also includes two deadlines for publication and submission of the draft and final plans.

Redistricting key dates and events (times and locations to be announced in advance of each event)

- **July 10** – Information session #1
 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - West Central Community Center, 1603 North Belt Street, Spokane
- **July 19** – Public hearing #1
 - 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 - Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena, 720 W. Mallon Avenue, Spokane
- **Aug. 5** – Information session #2
- **Aug. 12** – Public hearing #2
- **Aug. 24** – Draft plan published for public review
- **Sept. 9** – Information session #3
- **Sept. 16** – Public hearing #3
- **Sept. 30** – Information session #4
- **Oct. 7** – Public hearing #4
- **Oct. 12** – Adoption of final plan
- **Oct. 23** – Final plan due to Spokane County Auditor's Office

For more information about Spokane County's redistricting process, public meetings, committee meetings and more, visit www.RedistrictSpokaneCo.com.

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The Independent Redistricting Committee consists of four voting members and a non-voting chair. The voting members were appointed by local Republican and Democrat legislators. The Republican members of the redistricting committee are Robin Ball and Jim McDevitt. The Democrat members of the redistricting committee are Natasha Hill and Brian McClatchey. The Spokane County Board of Commissioners selected retired Providence Health Care executive Elaine Couture as non-voting chair to lead the IRC. For more information, visit www.RedistrictSpokaneCo.com.