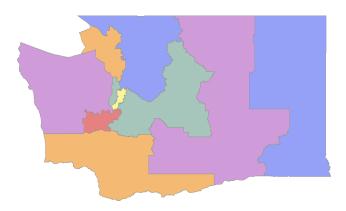
# 2011-2012 REDISTRICTING AND ELECTIONS IN WASHINGTON

September 2012

### **Final Congressional Redistricting Plan**



Approved by the Washington legislature on Jan. 27, 2012.

### 2012 Projections (2R, 4D, 4?)\*

Washington State's history of having relatively balanced districts and competition should continue in 2012. The question is whether incumbents' 50-race streak going back to 2000 will also continue.

The odds are that it will, with every incumbent either projected to win or slightly favored. Democrats are projected to win four seats, Republicans two seats, and each party is slightly favored in two of the remaining four races.

The three open seats all favor Democrats by 6%-10% -- within striking range of the GOP, but less likely in a high turnout presidential election.

\* See details and the fair voting alternative on the following pages.

### **Washington's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines**

#### New Redistricting Plan and Partisan Representation

# Current Plan Previous Plan Statewide Partisanship 3 Balanced 5 2 Seats D Seats R Seats R

Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election.

#### **Competition and Voting Rights in Washington**

	<b>Current Plan</b>	Previous Plan
District Competition	30% (3/10)	33% (3/9)
Racial Minority Voting Strength*	0%	0%

<sup>\*</sup> Measures the percentage of eligible voters of a racial minority in districts where their racial group is a majority of eligible voters. Voters might not choose to vote for a candidate of their same race.

### **Redistricting Process in Washington**

In Washington, a bipartisan redistricting commission, comprised of members appointed by the legislature, is responsible for redistricting and open to the public. Washington gained a district as a result of the 2010 Census, creating opportunities for change. The Win/Win Network and ACLU sought to create a majority-minority district, but the commission decided against such a district, as it cut through Washington's major city, Seattle.

The commission proposed its final map to the legislature on January 1, 2012. The legislature made final changes to the maps, within its authority to make changes that affect less than 2% of a district's population.

### **U.S.** House Elections in Washington

All seven incumbents seeking re-election won their primaries on August 7. The state's history shows that Washington has more competitive elections than many states, but in 2000-2010, all 50 incumbent attempts at reelection were successful.

Still, Washington ranked first in FairVote's Democracy Index for House races in 2010, with relatively high turnout and close races.

In 2010, the state elected its first House representative of color, by electing a Latino Republican. Two women were elected in 2010, the most since the 1996 election, although both of the state's U.S. Senators and the governor are women.



# 2012 House Elections IN Washington

September 2012

Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Washington's new congressional districts. Incumbents are listed according to the districts in which they are running in 2012, with the 2010 district partisanship connected to that incumbent.

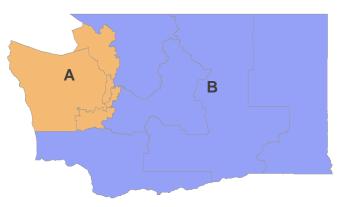
District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
1	OPEN (J. Inslee)	D			59 / 41	53 / 47	Balanced	None
2	Rick Larsen	D	2000	51%	53 / 47	58 / 42	Lean D	Likely D
3	Jamie Herrera Beutler	R	2010	53%	49 / 51	48 / 52	Balanced	None
4	Doc Hastings	R	1994	68%	37 / 63	37 / 63	Strong R	Safe R
5	Cathy Rodgers McMorris	R	2004	64%	43 / 57	44 / 56	Lean R	Safe R
6	OPEN (Norm Dicks)	D			54 / 46	54 / 46	Lean D	None
7	Jim McDermott	D	1988	83%	81 / 19	78 / 22	Strong D	Safe D
8	Dave Reichert	R	2004	52%	54 / 46	49 / 51	Balanced	None
9	Adam Smith	D	1996	55%	56 / 44	66 / 34	Strong D	Safe D
10	OPEN*					55 / 45	Lean D	Likely D

<sup>\*</sup>Washington gained one U.S. House seat after reapportionment.

# WASHINGTON REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012

### Washington's Fair Voting Plan



Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisan Projection: 4R, 5D, 1?
A (CDs – 6,10,9,7,2)	5	721,529	16.7%	62 / 38	2R, 3D
B (CDs- 1,3,4,5,8)	5	721,529	16.7%	57 / 43	2R, 2D, 1?

\* plus 1 vote

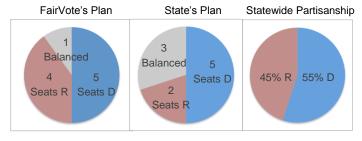
### **How Does Fair Voting Work?**

Fair voting describes American forms of proportional representation that uphold electoral traditions and are based on voting for candidates. They ensure meaningfully contested elections and provide voters with more accurate representation.

Instead of ten individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into two larger "super-districts" with five representatives each. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than one sixth of voters will win in a five-seat district.

### Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Washington's Redistricting Plan

#### More Accurate Political Representation\*



\* Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election similar to the Partisan Voting Index. They do not account for other candidate-based factors like incumbency.

### Meaningful Elections and Representation

	FairVote's Plan	State's Plan
District Competition	100% (2/2)	30% (3/10)
Shared Representation*	100% (2/2)	0% (0/10)

<sup>\*</sup> Shared representation indicates districts represented by both Democrats and Republicans – which enables more accurate congressional representation for most voters.

### **Benefits of a Fair Voting Plan**

**Shared representation of different views:** Supporters of both major parties elect candidates everywhere, with accurate balance of that district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice: Better chance for third parties, independents and major party innovators, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat.

More competition: With voters having a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

**Better representation of racial minorities:** Lower threshold for racial minority candidates to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

More women: More women likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidacies.