



Introduction

The Spokane County Independent Redistricting Committee formed this 2021 Redistricting Plan through seven months of public discussion, multiple public meetings and hearings, hundreds of public comments, and coordination with legal, analytical, and demographics professionals.

The plan creates five new County Commissioner districts for Spokane County, as required by Substitute House Bill 2887, also known as the 2018 Responsible Representation Act. These new districts increase the number of County Commissioners for Spokane County from three to five. Starting in 2022, each of the five new districts will elect a commissioner to represent their district on the Board of County Commissioners rather than electing them in a countywide vote.

The committee also set staggered terms of office for each district. Districts 1, 3, and 5 are on an initial two-year cycle. Districts 2 and 4 are on an initial four-year cycle. The district descriptions are as follows:

District 1 (West Central)

District 1 contains approximately half of the Spokane City Council District 3 and much of the Spokane Central Business District. The district boundary extends south to 29th Avenue, east along US 2, and north to Hastings Road. The furthest extent of the western boundary includes the part of the Spokane River beginning at West Wellesley Avenue. The communities of Town and Country and Country Homes are wholly included within the district, as well as most of the community of Fairwood.

District 2 (East Central)

District 2 primarily consists of east Spokane, extending generally north to Farwell Road, east to Orchard Avenue Park and Felts Field Spokane Airport, and south to 65th Avenue. To the west, the boundary is shared with District 1, primarily following US 2 and Nevada Street. The transportation corridors of Freya Street, the North Spokane Corridor, and I-90 are in this district, as well as the future I-90/US 395 interchange. This district also includes Hillyard and the East Central neighborhood up to the Ben Burr Trail bluff.

District 3 (North)

District 3 is largely comprised of rural and suburban areas in the northern portion of Spokane County, including the cities of Deer Park and Millwood, and the communities of Newman Lake, Mead, Colbert, Green Bluff. The district also includes the northern half of the City of Spokane Valley. The northern growth areas of Spokane County are within this district, including the US 395 North Spokane Corridor, approximately north of Hastings Road.

District 4 (Southeast)

District 4 is generally comprised of rural and suburban areas in the southeast portion of the county, including the cities of Rockford, Fairfield, Waverly, Latah, and Spangle, as well as the communities of Otis Orchards-East Farms, Mica, Valleyford, and Freeman. The district includes the City of Liberty Lake in its entirety, as well as the southern and western portions of the City of Spokane Valley.

District 5 (West)

District 5 consists of the city of Spokane's South Hill (approximately half of the existing Spokane City Council District 2) and the West Plains cities of Airway Heights, Medical Lake, and Cheney. The district



also includes the community of Four Lakes and Fairchild Air Force Base. The US 195/I-90 interchange is in northeast portion of this district, near the southwest border of District 1. This district also includes the growth areas beyond the south city limit of Spokane.

How This Plan Was Built

The U.S. Constitution and Washington state laws require the redrawing of electoral district boundaries using the most recent decennial U.S. Census, which was completed in 2020. Washington state law also requires that, beginning in 2022, any non-charter county with a population of 400,000 or more must have a board of commissioners with five members, and must use district nominations and district elections for its commissioner positions. Spokane County met these conditions, and in spring 2020 the Republican and Democratic caucuses appointed two members each to a bipartisan Independent Redistricting Committee. The committee members were:

- Robin Ball (Republican)
- Natasha Hill (Democrat)
- Brian McClatchey (Democrat)
- Jim McDevitt (Republican)

The Spokane County Board of Commissioners selected a non-voting chair, Elaine Couture, to lead the committee. The committee's responsibility was to oversee the process of drawing the most fair and equitable boundaries possible for five new districts and select staggered terms of office for each new district.

Funds for this process were provided by the Washington State Legislature and administered through Spokane County. The County solicited proposals from firms qualified to assist the committee with redistricting and in April 2021 selected FLO Analytics as its redistricting consultant.

The map in the final plan was developed in accordance with RCW 29.A.76.010 §4:

(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.



The map in the final plan was also developed in accordance with RCW 36.32.054 §6:

(6) Each commissioner district established by a redistricting committee under this section must comprise as nearly as possible one-fifth of the population of the county. The boundaries of commissioner districts must:

- (a) Correspond as nearly as practicable to election precinct boundaries; and
- (b) Create districts with compact, contiguous territory containing geographic units, natural communities, and approximately equal populations.

Public Involvement

The committee held weekly public meetings between April and October to discuss new districts and receive public input. The committee also hosted four public information sessions and four public hearings—eight public meetings in total—in different parts of the County to hear from community members and organizations across Spokane County.

Date	Meeting	Location
July 10, 2021	Public Information Session #1	West Central Community Center 1603 North Belt Street Spokane, WA 99205
July 19, 2021	Public Hearing #1	Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena 720 West Mallon Avenue Spokane, WA 99201
August 5, 2021	Public Information Session #2	Northeast Community Center 4001 North Cook Street Spokane, WA 99207
August 12, 2021	Public Hearing #2	CenterPlace 2426 North Discovery Place Spokane Valley, WA 99216
September 9, 2021	Public Information Session #3	Deer Park Public Library 208 South Forest Avenue Deer Park, WA 99006
September 16, 2021	Public Hearing #3	Moran Prairie Public Library 6004 South Regal Street Spokane, WA 99223
September 30, 2021	Public Information Session #4	Cheney Public Library 610 First Street Cheney, WA 99004
October 7, 2021	Public Hearing #4	Northern Quest Resort & Casino 100 North Hayford Road Airway Heights, WA 99001

Spokane County
2021 Adopted Redistricting Plan
October 21, 2021



The committee was dedicated to sharing information, key milestones, and requests for public comment with as many people in as many communities within the County as possible. At the committee's direction:

- A website, www.RedistrictSpokaneCo.com, was published as the hub for all committee and redistricting process information.
- Fourteen news releases were sent to a robust list of local media and stakeholders to provide information about steps in the process, major milestones, and public meetings.
- Thirteen stakeholder emails detailing key milestones and process updates were sent between July 7 and October 13 to an email subscription list that included 92 contacts.
- Advertisements were placed in eight local publications to encourage public involvement and promote public comment periods:
 - The Black Lens
 - The Cheney Free Press
 - The Exchange
 - The Fig Tree
 - The Inlander
 - The Liberty Lake Splash
 - The Spokesman-Review
 - The West Plains Extra
- Flyers were included in a September 2021 utility bill, reaching approximately 43,000 account holders in Spokane County.
- Key dates were published on community calendars.
- Information was included on community organizations' websites, blogs, and social media accounts:
 - Spokane Home Builders Association
 - Greater Spokane Progress
 - Spokane Public Library

Other organizations, including Spokane Community Against Racism and the League of Women Voters of Spokane Area, included redistricting information on their websites using information provided at www.RedistrictSpokaneCo.com and in public meetings.

The committee also presented information to local organizations, including the Building Owners and Maintenance Association, Rotary Club, Republicans of Spokane Valley, Spokane Home Builders Association, Spokane Morning Republican Club, and Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce, and used flyers and display boards to communicate the process and potential district boundaries with community members.

The committee received 600 public comments via email and website comment form, 391 public comments via mail, and many more via weekly committee meetings, public information sessions, and public hearings. Public attendance and engagement grew throughout the process thanks to the committee's community engagement plan and key news coverage by The Spokesman Review.



Spokane County Independent Redistricting Committee

2021 Adopted Redistricting Plan – Commissioner Districts Summary Statistics Metadata

The redistricting summary statistics per Commissioner District are based upon the U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Summary Files. The files were released on August 12th, 2021 in a legacy file format and processed by FLO Analytics in order to access pertinent population characteristics. A detailed summary of the data included within the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Summary Files is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's website at the location below.

Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo/summary-files.html>

According to the 2020 decennial census, the population of Spokane County is 539,339. The ideal district population is equal to the County's total population divided by the number of commission districts; therefore, each of the five districts should have a total population of 107,868. The absolute sum of the minimum and maximum deviations of the least and most populated districts represents the overall range, which is the metric to assess the equal population criterion. The Washington State Legislature RCW 29A.76.010 states that "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." An overall range value of over 10% is presumed to be invalid, while values less than 10% are presumed to be valid, with values as near to 0% being the most optimal.

The values included in the "Total Population by Race/Ethnicity per District" table are total population values from the P2. HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE table. The race characteristics (e.g., Black or African American, Two or More Races) are non-Hispanic or Latino, while the final column "Hispanic or Latino" is the total population of all respondents of any race that identify as Hispanic or Latino. Note that these total population values by race and ethnicity are not the characteristics used to assess compliance with Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act—those characteristics are citizen voting-age population (CVAP) by race and ethnicity contained with the 2015-2019 (5-year) American Community Survey special tabulation. As denoted in the Baseline Demographic Data Assessment memorandum, FLO determine that no minority group is sufficiently large or geographically compact to constitute a majority in a prospective district. Therefore, the CVAP characteristics are not included in the 2021 Adopted Redistricting Plan Summary Statistics.

There are multiple mathematical measures of compactness; FLO Analytics uses a set of industry-standard measures including the five measures included within the "Compactness Measures per District" table. There is no standard universally-accepted set of valid values per measure to indicate compliance with the compactness criterion. In practice, compactness is often assessed via a visual test—a district in which people generally live near each other is usually more compact than one in which they do not (i.e., districts are compact when they do not bypass nearby population for people farther away.)