



# Magnolia Community Council

MAGNOLIA'S COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## STATEMENT ON SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION DRAFT MAP

September 1, 2022

The citizens of Seattle voted to create a City Council with seven districts in a Charter amendment that included guidance to a Redistricting Commission to be established with a new census. The Charter states, "District boundaries shall be drawn to produce compact and contiguous districts that are not gerrymandered. The population of the largest districts shall exceed the population of the smallest district by no more than one percent. To the extent practical, district boundaries **shall** follow existing District boundaries, recognized waterways and geographic boundaries and Seattle communities and neighborhoods."

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The four taxpayer funded consultant/Redistricting Master-produced maps that were presented to the Seattle Redistricting Commission demonstrate that it is in fact **practical**, **feasible**, and **possible** to "follow existing District boundaries, recognized waterways and geographic boundaries and Seattle communities and neighborhoods." These are those maps:

Map 1: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::043b88e8-c52b-456b-b56f-07620fbd56d3>

Map 2: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::07b3eabd-9561-4d5f-b21f-93ad7481bcf5>

Map 3: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::2074e36d-2729-437b-824d-4b86fd67eb4a>

Map 4: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::4b02b21a-0932-4778-b309-efa96fc7b5b3>

In addition to above draft maps, Commissioner Nickels' proposed map follows Article IV, Section 2, Subdivision D(3) of the Seattle City Charter, and RCW 29A.76.010(4)(e) and demonstrates that it is **practical**, **feasible**, and **possible** to "follow existing District boundaries, recognized waterways and geographic boundaries, and preserve Seattle communities and neighborhoods."

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The draft map now being considered by the Commission is in violation of the Charter amendment that was voted on by Seattle. The draft map divides the Magnolia community, commercial center, public assets and schools in half, ignoring statute and ordinance on preserving neighborhoods and following water boundaries. The draft proposal also fails to recognize the long history of cooperative efforts and shared interests between Magnolia and Queen Anne, including Interbay.

Based on [Commission Retreat Meeting Materials from August 2, 2022](#), commissioners apparently relied on criteria defining "Communities and Neighborhoods" that neither appear in Article IV, Section 2, Subdivision D(3) of the Seattle City Charter, or RCW 29A.76.010(4)(e), nor provide any rationale for dividing Magnolia. On the contrary, they support every reason to keep neighborhoods - including Magnolia - whole.

The Magnolia Community Council maintains that the Commission must follow the Charter provisions and the will of the people on drawing districts, and therefore must redraw the new District map to retain Magnolia intact as a the singular neighborhood it is within a single City Council District.

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