

Seattle Districts 7-2 Now



SeattleDistrictsNow.org

Seattle Districts Now is easy-to-understand, necessary, & sensible

No Seattle City Councilmember is currently elected by district. This means no community has a specific Councilmember to represent their interests. Nearly every US city with a population of over 500,000, the Seattle School Board, King County Council, our State Legislature, and the United States Congress all represent specific districts. Only the Seattle City Council does not!

Seattle Districts Now is easy to understand

With the Seattle Districts Now “7-2” hybrid “Charter Amendment 19” we will still have nine Seattle City Councilmembers, but seven of them will be elected from geographic districts. The other two will be elected to “at large” positions. The seven Councilmembers elected by districts have to live in their districts just like our federal and state representatives.

Seattle Districts Now is necessary

We currently elect all nine Seattle City Councilmembers “at-large”. This means ALL our Councilmembers — the legislative branch of our city’s government — are not accountable to the people in a specific area of the city. A district of 617,000 is simply too large!

Seattle Districts Now simply makes sense

Electing our officials to both district and at-large positions means your neighborhood will be specifically represented on our City Council. Seattle Districts Now is that simple: Returning city government to voters and our communities.

Many qualified grassroots candidates are beaten before they even start . . .

- With 88,000 instead of 617,000 people per district, a grassroots candidate has a chance to replace an unresponsive incumbent with good old fashion legwork and people power.
- Under the existing at-large system, a candidate needs up to \$300,000 just to match an incumbent’s war chest and get a message out to the city’s 617,000 residents.

Now government officials are too removed from their citizens . . .

- Too often, local neighborhood needs — public safety, small business concerns, infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, and bridges), parks — are ignored. District representation is needed for a more balanced distribution of benefits and costs of public actions and policies.

The city-wide decisions made by elected officials affect our communities . . .

- A 7-2 system means you’ll have someone who specifically represents your area while the two at-large councilmembers represent the whole city — the best of both worlds.

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How well can your elected City Councilmember represent your issues?

= 40,000 people

COUNTY: King County district represents ~214,500

STATE: Legislative District represents ~137,000

CITY Current: Seattle AT-LARGE represents ~616,500

CITY 7-2 Hybrid: Seattle DISTRICTS represent ~88,000

Sources: US Census Bureau - Fast Facts For Congress, WA State Redistricting Commission. http://redistricting.wa.gov/assets/Amended_Final_Plans_020112/Tables/LegDistrict.pdf, King County Districting Committee: http://your.kingcounty.gov/districting/plans/final/Data-profile-race-ethnicity-adopted_20111115_.pdf, City of Seattle: http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Research/Population_Demographics/Overview/default.asp

Plus two
"At-large"
seats



- These district boundaries were created by Dr. Richard Morrill, Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of Washington.
- 2010 Census data was used to balance population between the districts as required, just like recent redistricting at the state and federal level.
- No district differs in population from any other district by more than 1%.
- Under Charter Amendment 19, each district boundary will be adjusted after each full Census (next one: 2020) by a broadly representative commission. This "redistricting" is similar to what happens at the state and federal level after each federal Census.

Seattle
Districts
7-2 Now

When this initiative is passed, starting in 2015 you will be electing — for the first time — a Councilmember who actually lives in and represents your District!

Find your district on a more detailed map at SeattleDistrictsNow.org

How the transition will work

| Election Year | Council Position | Term |
|---------------|---|---------|
| 2015 | • Seven District Positions | 4 years |
| | • Two At-Large Positions | 2 years |
| 2017 | Two At-Large Positions (Mayor & City Attorney also elected this year) | 4 years |
| 2019 | Seven District Positions | 4 years |
| 2021 | Two At-Large Positions (Mayor & City Attorney also elected this year) | 4 years |



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scale in statute miles

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