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May 3, 2011

Dear District Official:

As you are probably aware, last year, the United States Census Bureau collected national population data. The data pertaining to Washington State has now been released to the Washington State Redistricting Commission. In no more than 45 days from receipt, the Commission will redistribute the applicable data to all local jurisdictions.

RCW 29A.76.010, in part, provides that each county and special purpose district, with a governing body comprised of internal director, council, or commissioner districts, must redistrict its governmental unit, based on population information from the most recent federal census.

The jurisdictions our office has identified as being required to redraw its internal boundaries using the recent census data include the following: Cowlitz County, Port of Longview, Port of Kalama, Port of Woodland, Cowlitz County Public Utility District, Castle Rock School District No. 401, Kalama School District No. 402, Toutle Lake School District No. 130, Woodland School District No. 404, and City of Kelso.

Each local jurisdiction must present its adopted redistricting plan, with the accompanying legal descriptions, maps, and shapefiles, to the Auditor no later than eight months after receiving the census data from the State Redistricting Commission. All redistricting plans submitted by local jurisdictions after May 6, 2011 will not be effective for the 2011 fall elections. Any plan submitted prior to May 6, 2011 will be effective for the 2011 fall elections.

The County plans to use this opportunity to bring its voting precincts into compliance with state law during the same timeframe that local jurisdictions will be preparing their redistricting plans. It is our intent to coordinate efforts to reduce voter confusion.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 577-3002 ext. 2765.

Sincerely,

Cowlitz County Elections Supervisor