Board of County Commissioners
SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE
Friday, August 12th, 2022
2:30pm to 3:30pm

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

DATE	August 12th, 2022
TIME	2:30PM to 3:30PM
PLACE	THURTSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE BUILDING 1, ROOM 280 2000 LAKERIDGE DRIVE SW OLYMPIA WA 98502
CONTACT	KATELYN JOHNSON 360-786-5440

Kick Off Redistricting Committee Meeting

I. Introduction
II. Outline Roles and Responsibilities
III. Review Resolutions
IV. Review Timelines
V. Outline of Major Objectives for Redistricting
VI. Future Meetings
VII. Next steps
VIII. Adjourn

Disability Accommodations: Room 280 is equipped with an assistive listening system and is wheelchair accessible. To request disability accommodations, call the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator at least 3 days prior to the meeting at 360-786-5440. Persons with speech or hearing disabilities may call via Washington Relay at 711 or 800-833-6388.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the Thurston County and the Port of Olympia (hereinafter the "Parties") for purpose of Implementing Joint Resolution No. 2021-11/16086 between the parties regarding drafting proposed new districts if the proposed ballot measures increasing the respective parties' Commission or Board of Commissioners from three to five.

WHEREAS, Thurston County has reached a population of over 300,000 and less than 400,000 and pursuant to RCW 36.32. has the discretionary authority to bring a ballot measure before the voters to increase the number of commissioners from three to five; and

WHEREAS, the Thurston County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) passed Resolution No. 16181 to place a ballot measure before the voters in the November 8, 2022 General Election for approval to increase the Board of County Commissioners from three to five and create five new county commissioner districts; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Olympia Commissioners (Port Commission) is also expected to pass a Resolution putting a ballot measure before the voters in the November 8, 2022 Election for approval to increase the Port of Olympia Commissioners from three to five and create five new Port commissioner districts; and

WHEREAS, the Port Commission and the BOCC adopted Joint Resolution No. 2021-11/16086, attached and incorporated herein by reference, to collaborate on drawing new boundaries, creating a three-member redistricting committee and sharing costs of these efforts in anticipation of both ballot measures being approved by the voters.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises made herein and the mutual benefits received hereunder, the Parties agree as follows:

The Parties approve and accept this MOU for the purpose of implementing the Parties' agreement set forth in Joint Resolution No. 2021-11/16086 to collaborate on efforts to draw new boundaries, and agree to form a three-member Redistricting Committee with the following members: Chair of the County Commission; President of the Port Commission, and the County Auditor, with the County Auditor serving as a non-voting member providing technical guidance.

A. The Parties and the Redistricting Committee shall achieve the following deadlines in 2022:

   - **August 3rd through September 29th** County staff from the Informational Technology Department and Elections Division, and the Redistricting Committee shall develop a proposal to create five districts for the election of commissioners;

- **September 30th** The Redistricting Committee shall submit the final draft redistricting plan of the proposed five districts to the County and the Port;
- **Weeks of October 10th and October 17th** Redistricting Committee shall schedule joint work sessions between the parties to review the final draft of the proposed five districts.
- **November 4th** Final draft agreement of the boundaries are approved by the Parties;
- **November 15th** The Parties shall set a joint Public Hearing to take place on November 29 to take comment on the final approved draft of the five new districts.
- **November 29th** The parties will hold individual Public Hearings on the final draft and adopt final new 5 member districts on December 12 (Port Commission) and December 13 (BoCC);
- **December 12th** Port Commission Approval of the final new 5 member districts;
- **December 13th** BoCC Approval final new 5 member districts;
- **December 20th** Parties submit approved boundaries to County Auditor

B. The County will take the lead in providing technical support to the redistricting committee via our GEODATA staff.

- The Port agrees to cover 50% of the actual costs up to an amount not to exceed Fifteen Thousand dollars ($15,000.)
- Approximate cost of this effort is Thirty Thousand dollars ($30,000.)

C. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this agreement which can be given effect without the invalid provisions. If such remainder conforms to the requirements of applicable law and the fundamental purpose of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement are declared severable.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this MOU to be executed by the date and signature herein under affixed. The persons signing this MOU on behalf of the Parties represent that each has authority to execute this MOU on behalf of the Party entering into this MOU.

Thurston County

Name 8/10/2022 **Date**

Port of Olympia Commission

Charles "Bob" Iyall, President 8/3/2022 **Date**

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 11/16086

A JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION AND THE THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHING MUTUAL INTENT TO COLLABORATE ON RESPECTIVE BALLOT MEASURES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS AND REDRAW DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

WHEREAS, the Port Commission intends to submit a ballot proposition asking qualified voters whether the number of Port Commissioners should be increased from the current three commissioners to five commissioners at the next district general election to be held in November 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Olympia Commission and the Thurston County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) held a joint meeting on July 21, 2021, and jointly agreed to collaborate and share in efforts to put forth ballot measures to increase the number of commissioners representing each agency, provided that Thurston County surpasses 300,000 residents after the completion of the 2021 census cycle; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Olympia Commission and the BOCC expressed that if simultaneous ballot measures are put forth, inter-agency collaboration can provide greater clarity to voters, at lower cost to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS; the Port of Olympia Commission and the BOCC agreed to establish a mechanism for collaboration, and to coordinate with the Thurston County Auditor to the fullest extent possible to achieve these common goals as well as align district boundaries and share costs associated with redrawing district boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Thurston County census data was returned to Thurston County in or around September 30, 2021, and it is anticipated that the population of Thurston County will be determined to be at least 300,000 residents by May 2, 2022 which is the deadline for adopting precinct boundary changes prior to the general election; and

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Washington, RCW 53.12.115, authorize the Port of Olympia Commission to resolve that a ballot proposition may be submitted to the qualified voters of the Port District to determine whether there should be an increase in the number of Port Commissioners from three commissioners to five commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Washington, RCW 36.32.0552 authorizes the Thurston County Board of Commissioners, of a noncharter county with a population of three hundred thousand or more, to place a ballot proposition before the voters at a general election; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the members of the Port of Olympia Commission, a majority being present and voting on this Resolution at a regular Commission meeting on November 8, 2021, as attested to by the signatures below; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the members of the Board of County Commissioners, a majority being present and voting on this Resolution at a regular Commission meeting on December 13 2021, as attested to by the signatures below.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners, and the Port of Olympia Commission resolves as follows:

Section 1. If Thurston County is determined to have at least 300,000 residents by May 2, 2022, then the Port Commission and the Thurston County Commission will collaborate on efforts to draw new boundaries, and agree to form a three-member redistricting committee with the following members: Chair of the County Commission; Chair of the Port Commission, and the County Auditor. The County Auditor would serve as a non-voting member providing technical guidance.

ADOPTED:

DATE: December 13, 2021

PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSIONERS

By: _____

Joseph Downing, President

By: E.J. Zita (Dec 17, 2021 11:59 PST)

E.J. Zita, Vice-President

By: Bill McGregor (Dec 17, 2021 14:12 PST)

Bill McGregor, Secretary

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

VaLiesha Brown
Port General Counsel

DATE: November 23, 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: _____

Tye Menser, Chair

By: _____

Gary Edwards, Vice-Chair

By: _____

Carolina Meija, Commissioner

Approved as to Form:

John Tunheim, Prosecuting Attorney

By: _____

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 16181

A RESOLUTION of the Thurston County Board of Commissioners for the submission to the voters of Thurston County at the November 8, 2022, general election, a proposition authorizing the increase of the Board of County Commissioners from three commissioners to five commissioners, setting forth the ballot proposition and directing the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners to transmit to the Thurston County Auditor a certified copy of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Thurston County, State of Washington, does resolve as follows:

Section 1. Findings and Determinations. The following recitals are hereby adopted as legislative findings and determinations made by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC):

a. Pursuant to RCW 36.32.055(1) the board of commissioners of a non-charter county with a population of three hundred thousand or more, and less than four hundred thousand, may cause a ballot proposition to be submitted at a general election to the voters of the county authorizing the board of commissioners to be increased to five members.

b. On June 30, 2022, the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OGM) released updated population numbers confirming that Thurston County has a population of three hundred thousand or more, and less than four hundred thousand.

c. The BOCC believes it is in the best interest of the citizens to submit a ballot proposition to the voters to decide whether or not to expand the BOCC from three to five members.

d. If the ballot proposition receives majority voter approval, RCW 36.32.055(1) authorizes that the size of the BOCC shall be increased to five members as follows:

(1) The two newly created positions, position four and position five, shall be filled at elections to be held in the next year, 2023.

(2) The County shall be divided into five commissioner districts, so that each district shall comprise, as nearly as possible, one-fifth of the population of the County. No two members of the existing BOCC may, at the time of the designation of such districts, permanently reside in one of the five districts.

e. The division of the County into five districts shall be accomplished as follows:

(1) The BOCC shall, by no later than March 13, 2023, adopt a resolution creating the districts.

(2) If, by March 13, 2023, the BOCC has failed to create the districts, the prosecuting attorney of the County shall petition the Thurston County Superior

Court to appoint a referee to designate the five commissioner districts. The referee shall designate such districts no later than June 1st of the year following the election. The two commissioner districts within which no existing member of the BOCC permanently resides shall be designated as districts four and five.

Section 2. Authorization of a Ballot Title to Increase the Number of County Commissioners from Three to Five. The BOCC directs the submission of a proposition to the voters of the County substantially as set forth in this Resolution, to authorize the County to increase the BOCC from three to five members and divide the County into five Commissioner Districts pursuant to RCW 36.32.055.

Section 3. Calling of Election. The BOCC requests the Thurston County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections in Thurston County, Washington, to call and conduct a general election in the County, in the manner provided by law, to be held therein on November 8, 2022, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the County, for their approval or rejection, the question of whether the members of the BOCC shall be increased from three to five Commissioners. If such proposition is approved by the requisite number of voters, the County shall be authorized to increase the number of Commissioners from three to five, divide the County into five Commissioner Districts, and call for a subsequent election to elect two additional Commissioners as authorized by this Resolution.

Section 4. Ballot Proposition.

a. The Clerk of the BOCC is authorized and directed to certify, no later than July 29, 2022, to the Thurston County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections in Thurston County, a copy of this Resolution and the proposition to be submitted at that election in the form of a ballot title prepared by the Prosecuting Attorney substantially in the form as set forth below, as required by RCW 29A.36.071, as follows:

PROPOSITION NO. 1
THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Thurston County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution No. 16181 concerning a proposition to increase the number of Thurston County Board of Commissioners. This proposition would increase the number of commissioners of the Board of County Commissioners from three (3) commissioners to five (5) commissioners who will serve in five separate newly created districts. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes ☐
No ☐

b. For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the BOCC hereby designates its County Manager as the person to whom such notice shall be provided.

Section 5. Qualified Voters. The persons entitled to vote on the above-mentioned

proposition shall be those registered voters within the boundaries of Thurston County.

Section 6. Required Affirmative Vote for Passage. If the aforementioned proposition receives majority voter approval, the size of the County Commissioners shall be increased to five members.

Section 7. General Authorization. The proper County officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to put the question of whether or not the increase of the number of Board Commissioners shall be submitted to the voters. Should the voters approve this ballot proposition, and a similar ballot proposition put forth by the Port of Olympia, the BOCC shall work collaboratively with the Port of Olympia Commission, per Joint Resolution No. 2021-11, to draw the new Commissioners boundaries by forming a three-member redistricting committee, including the Chair of the County Commission, Chair of the Port Commission and the County Auditor. Each time the three-member redistricting committee meets, a special meeting notice shall be posted in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (OMPA). Each the BOCC and the Port Commission shall take separate legislative actions to approve the newly created districts. If the Port of Olympia ballot proposition does not pass, the redistricting committee may recommend the Port Commission to abstain from approving the newly created districts.

Section 8. Authorization for Publication and Distribution of Local Voters' Pamphlet. In accord with RCW 29A.32.210, the BOCC authorizes the publication and distribution by the Thurston County Auditor of a Local Voters' Pamphlet for the foregoing ballot proposition at a general election to be conducted on November 8, 2022.

Section 9. Should the voters in Thurston County approve this Proposition, the County Manager is directed to bring forward to the BOCC, an ordinance establishing the five new county commissioner districts in consultation with the Prosecutors Office within three-months after November 8, 2022.

Section 10. Severability. If any provision of this Resolution is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be severable from the remaining provisions of this Resolution and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this Resolution.

Section 11. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage and publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED this 19 day of July, 2022.

ATTEST:

Jami Caldwell
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Thurston County, Washington

Carolina Mejia, Chair

Tye Menser, Vice Chair

Gary Edwards, Member 7-28-22

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JON TUNHEIM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

By: Elizabeth Petrich
Elizabeth Petrich
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney