



REDISTRICTING & HOW TO INFLUENCE IT!

FOR LD 23

Ted Jones (he/him), State Committee Person

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Wednesday, 6 October 2021

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Commission, Process, and Commissioners
 2. Dates
 3. LD Maps
 - State and Local LD Scorecards
 - Proposed Local LD maps and issues
 4. CD Maps
 - State and Local CD Scorecards
 - Proposed Local CD maps and issues
 5. LOWV WA Maps
 6. Actions WE Can Take
 - Sample Testimony
 - Links
 7. Other Points
 8. Questions and Answers
-

THE COMMISSION AND PROCESS

- Bipartisan WA State Redistricting Commission: Established to redraw legislative [LD] and congressional district [CD] boundaries.
- Commission has 4 voting members — 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans — picked by leaders of the House and Senate party caucuses. 5th nonvoting chair picked by voting members.
- Commission must draw district lines in conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules to create districts of relatively equal population that will provide fair representation for all.
- Commission has until Nov. 15th, 2021, to draw new political boundaries for the congressional and legislative districts using 2020 Census data. At least 3 of 4 members must agree to the maps. Legislature may make only minor changes. The governor has no role.
- Under WA law, districts must be made as equal in population as possible and aren't supposed to be gerrymandered for partisan advantage or to discriminate against any group. Also supposed to avoid splitting up cities and other political subdivisions.

COMMISSIONERS



- **Sarah Augustine, Chair.** Ex. Dir. of the Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties. Social scientist. Taught at Heritage University, Central Wash. University, and Goshen College.



- **April Sims, House Dem Caucus Appointee.** Sec-Treas of the WA State Labor Council (WSLC) AFL-CIO. 1st woman of color & 1st Black person to be elected as a WSLC executive officer and is 2nd highest ranking labor leader in the state.



- **Paul Graves, House Rep Caucus Appointee.** Former state rep. Born and raised in Maple Valley.



- **Brady Piñero Walkinshaw, Senate Dem Caucus Appointee.** CEO of Grist, a leading national enviro media organization. Served 2 terms in the WA State Legislature representing 43rd Legislative District in central Seattle.



- **Joe Fain, Senate Rep Caucus Appointee.** President and CEO of the Bellevue Chamber. Previously served 2 terms in the WA State Senate.
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KEY DATES



9/21 Each Commissioner released their proposed draft state Legislative District Maps



9/28 Each Commissioner released their proposed draft Congressional District Maps



10/5 7-10PM [on zoom] Commission took public input on draft State LD maps



10/9 10am-1PM [on zoom] Commission taking public input on State draft CD maps



10/22 **Deadline for written testimony submission to Commission**



11/15 Deadline under law for Commissioners to agree, if they can

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MAP SCORECARD

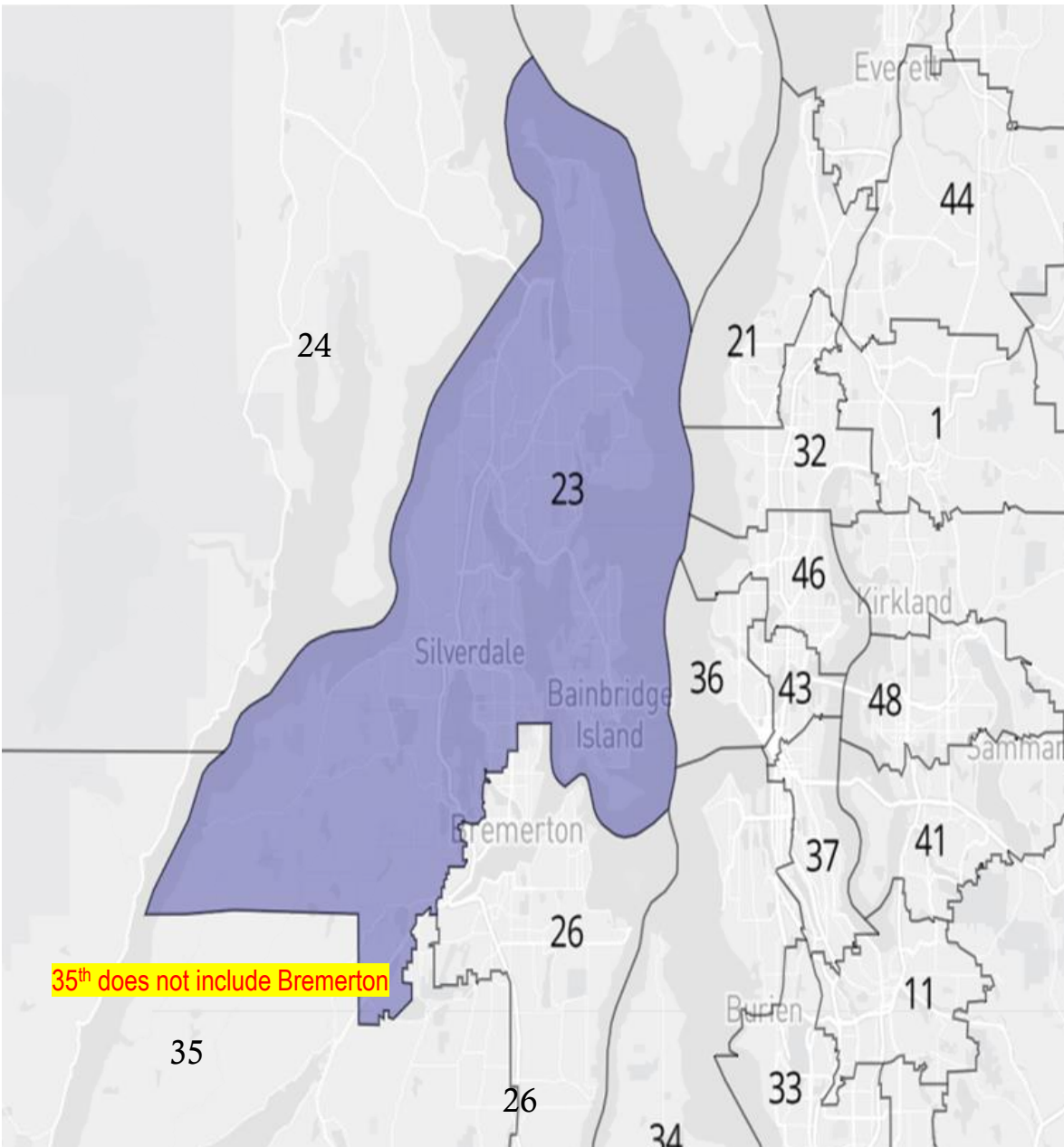
STATE Demographics by Census Data											
		Dem	Rep	White	Minority	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Native	Pacific	Total (Millions)
2010	% of Population			77.3%	22.7%	11.2%	3.6%	7.2%	1.5%	0.6%	6.725
2020	% of Population			67.4%	32.6%	11.5%	5.0%	11.7%	3.7%	1.2%	7.705

Note census categories vary slightly from each decade

LOCAL - Current 23 rd LD Demographics by Census Data											
2020	% of Population	61.0%	33.6%	74.8%	25.2%	7.2%	3.8%	9.2%	4.1%	1.6%	0.150

STATE Legislative Distict Majorities									
	Dem	Rep	White	Minority	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Native	Pacific
2010 [Existing]	29	16	43	6	1	0	0	0	0
Sims [D]	33	15	40	9	1	0	0	0	0
Walkinshaw [D]	33	15	41	8	4	0	0	0	0
Graves [R]	27	15	43	6	0	0	0	0	0
Fain [R]	26	18	42	7	0	0	0	0	0
League of Women Voters [non-partisan]	30	17	44	5	0	0	0	0	0

SIMS LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MAP

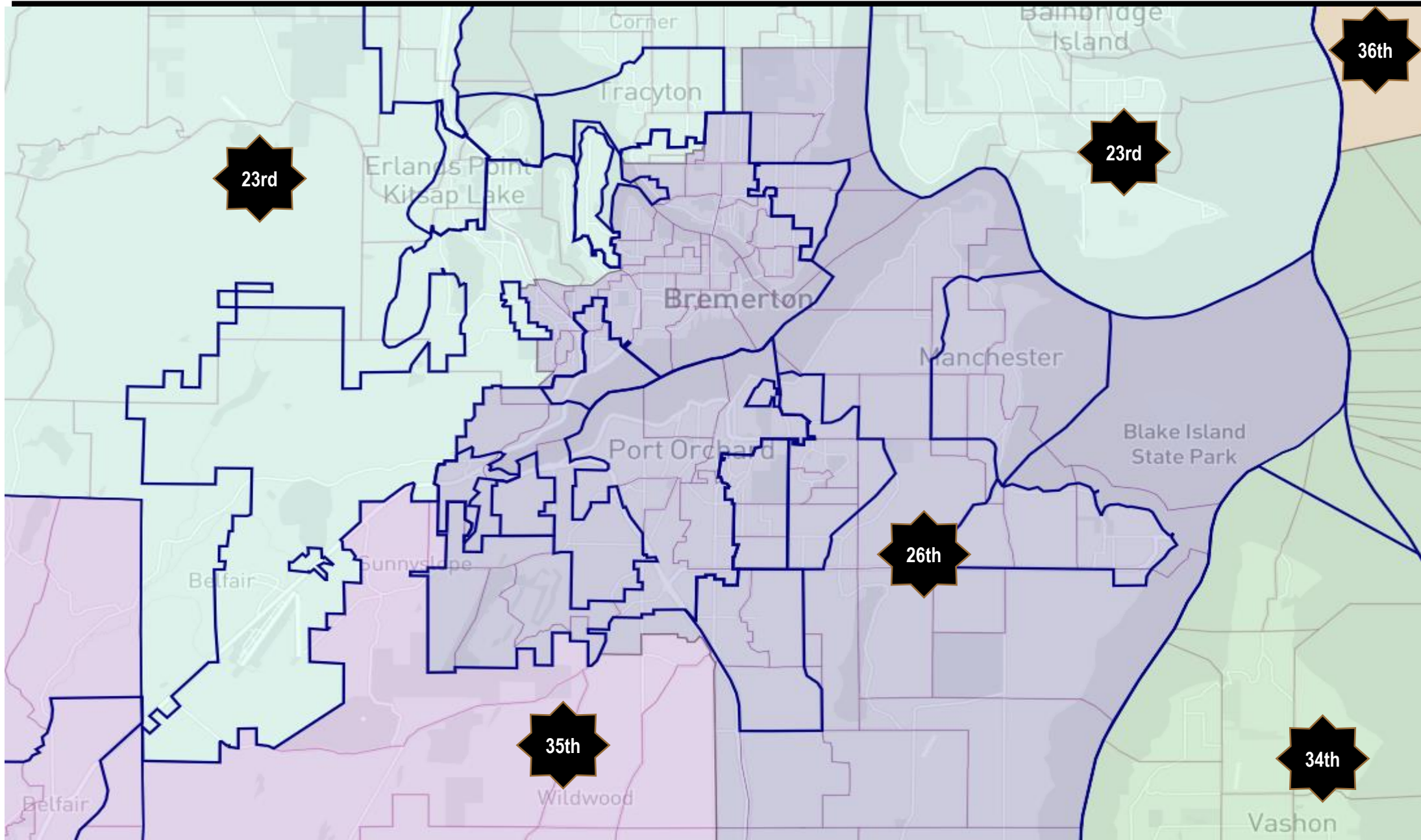


Key Issues

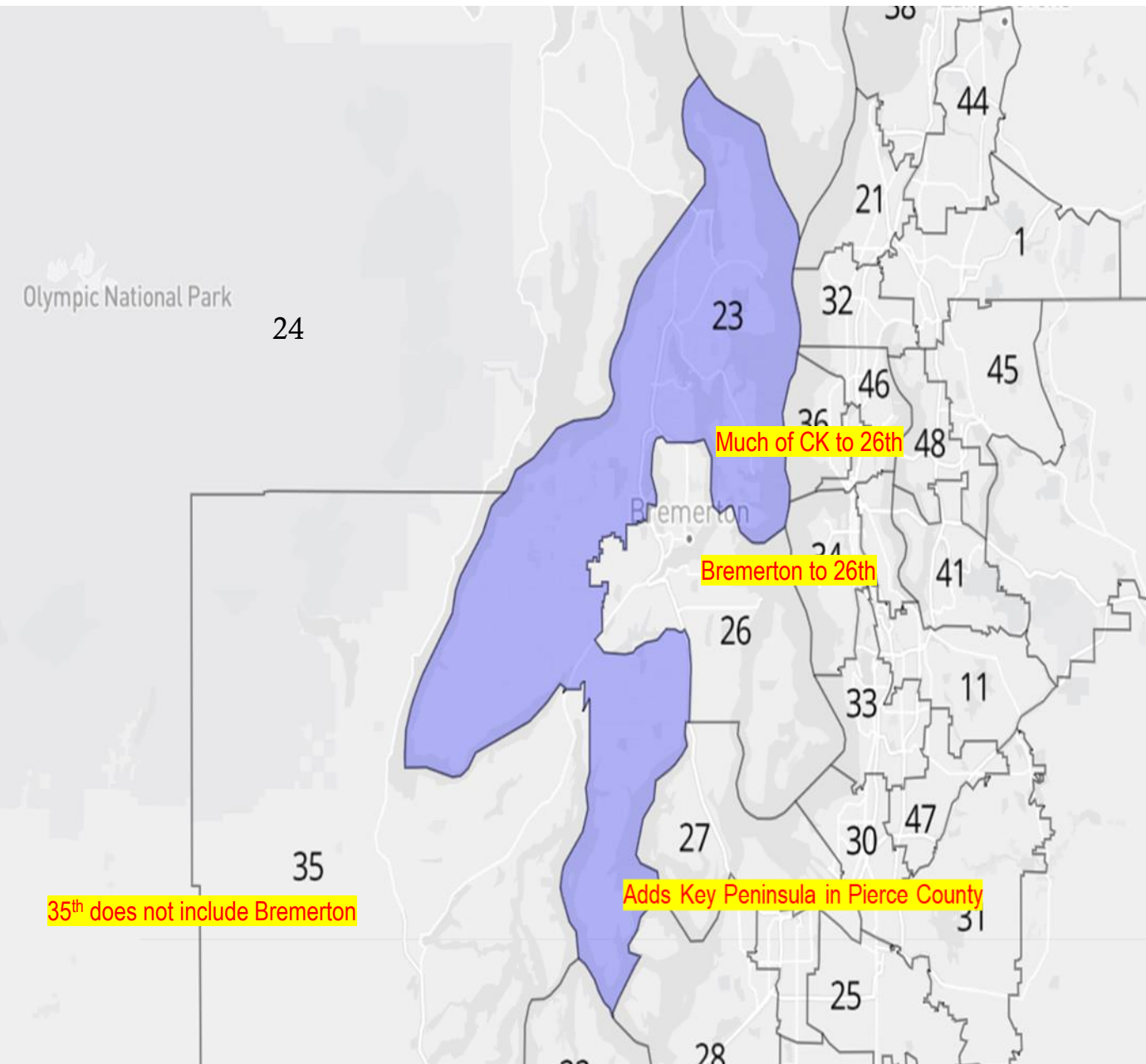
- Splits Bremerton between 23rd and 26th. No longer includes 35th.
- 26th incl. downtown, Manette, much of E. Bremerton, including Illahee, but not Tracyton.
- 23rd includes Chico, Seabeck and Holly.

Author Preference: Illahee to 23rd, Seabeck and Holly to 24th.

SIMS LD MAP OF BREM./PORT ORCH./B.I.



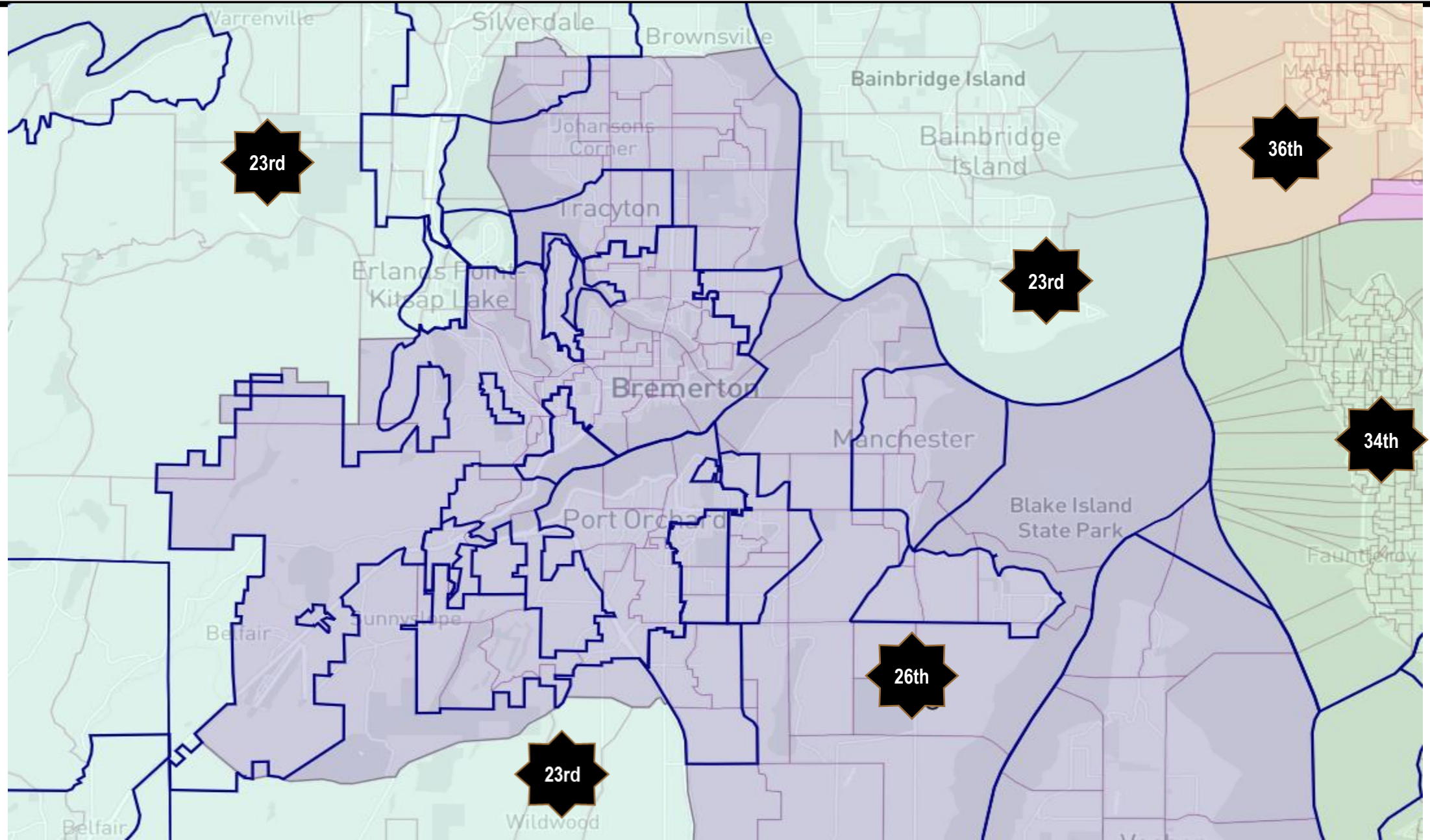
WALKINSHAW LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MAP



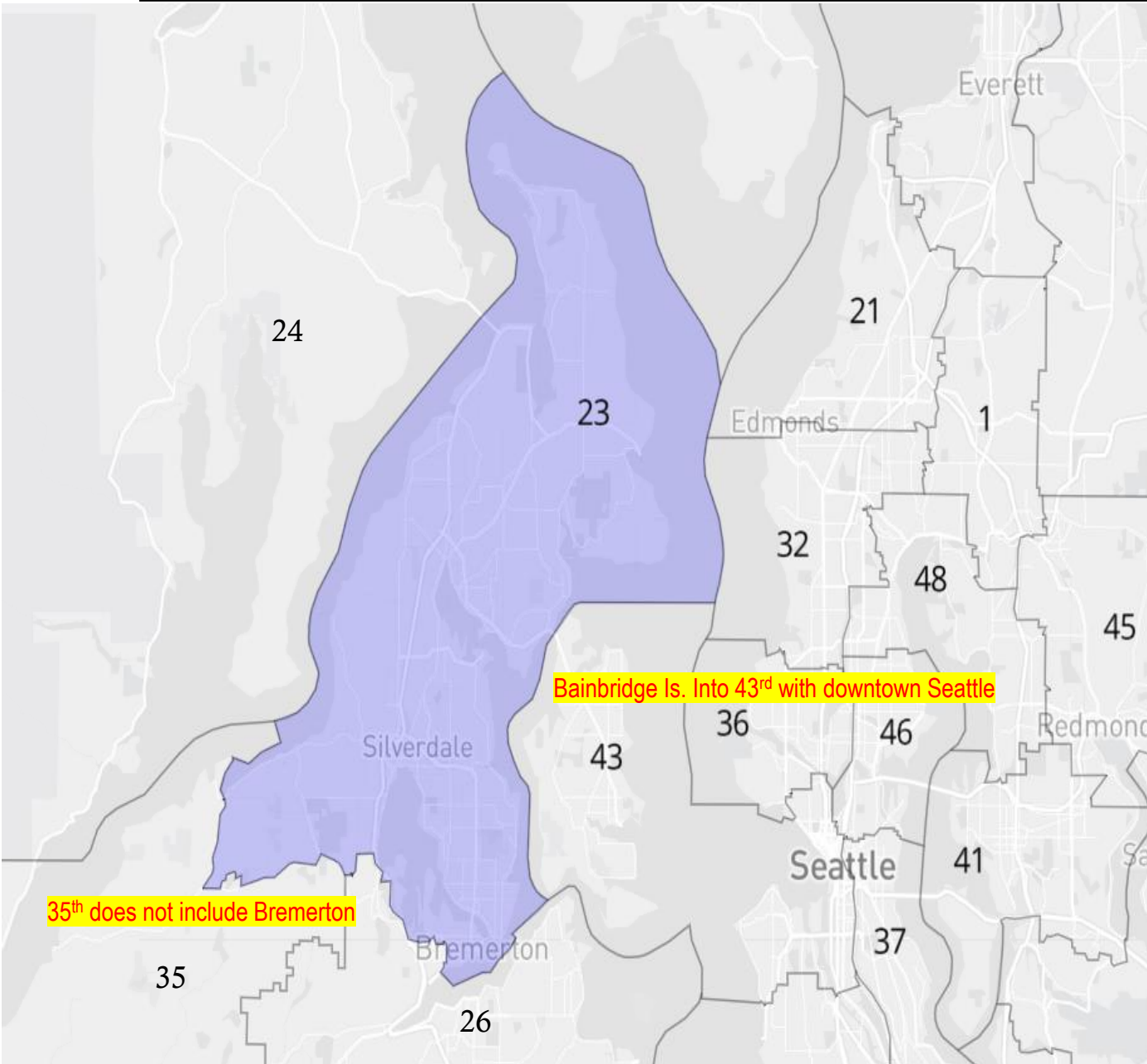
Key Issues

- Bremerton nearly all in 26th.
- Unseats Rep Simmons
- Adds Significant rural areas from Mason and Pierce
 - Big distance from Top of Kitsap to bottom of Key Peninsula

WALKINSHAW LD MAP OF BREM./PORT ORCH./B.I.



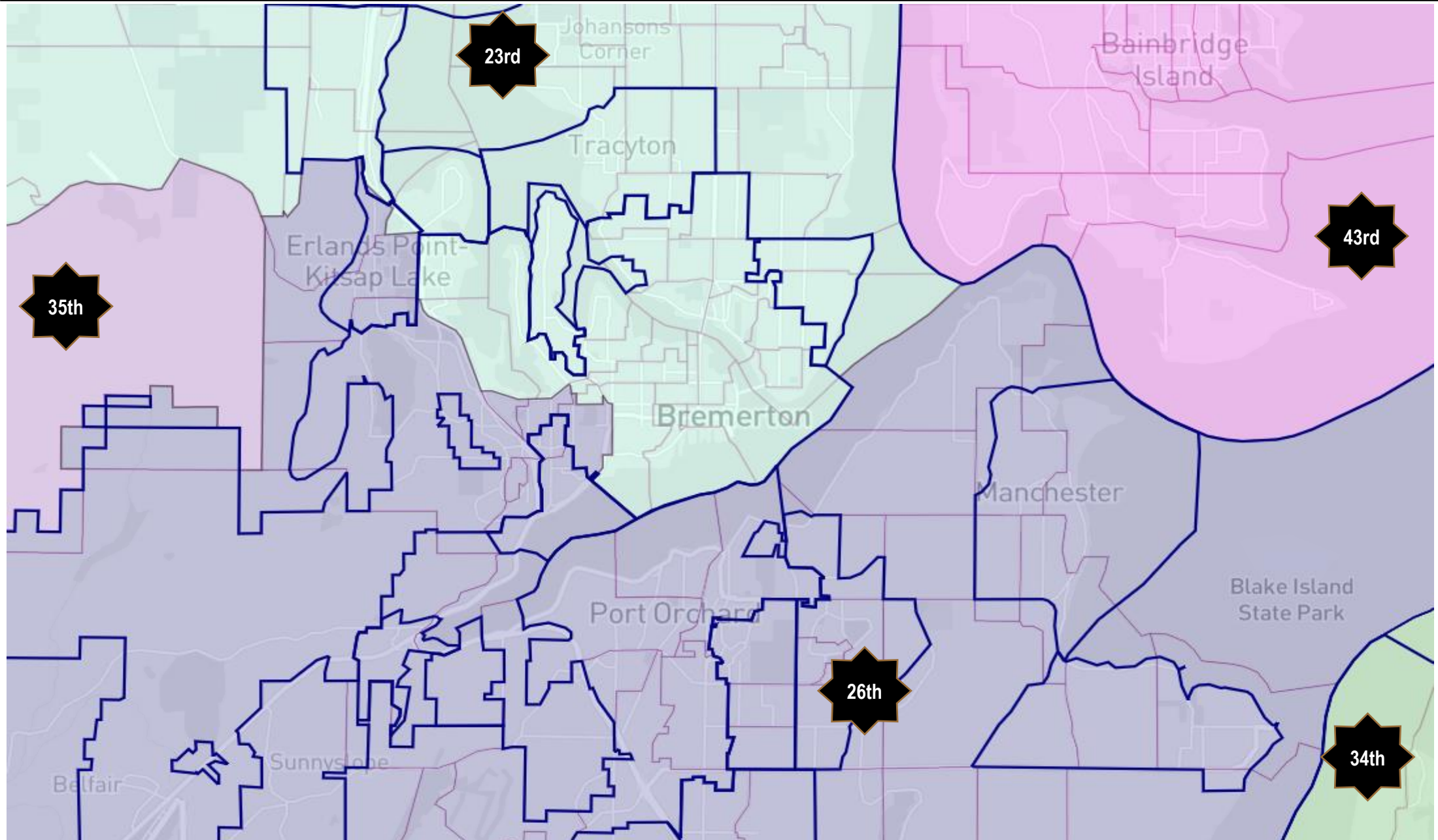
GRAVES LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MAP



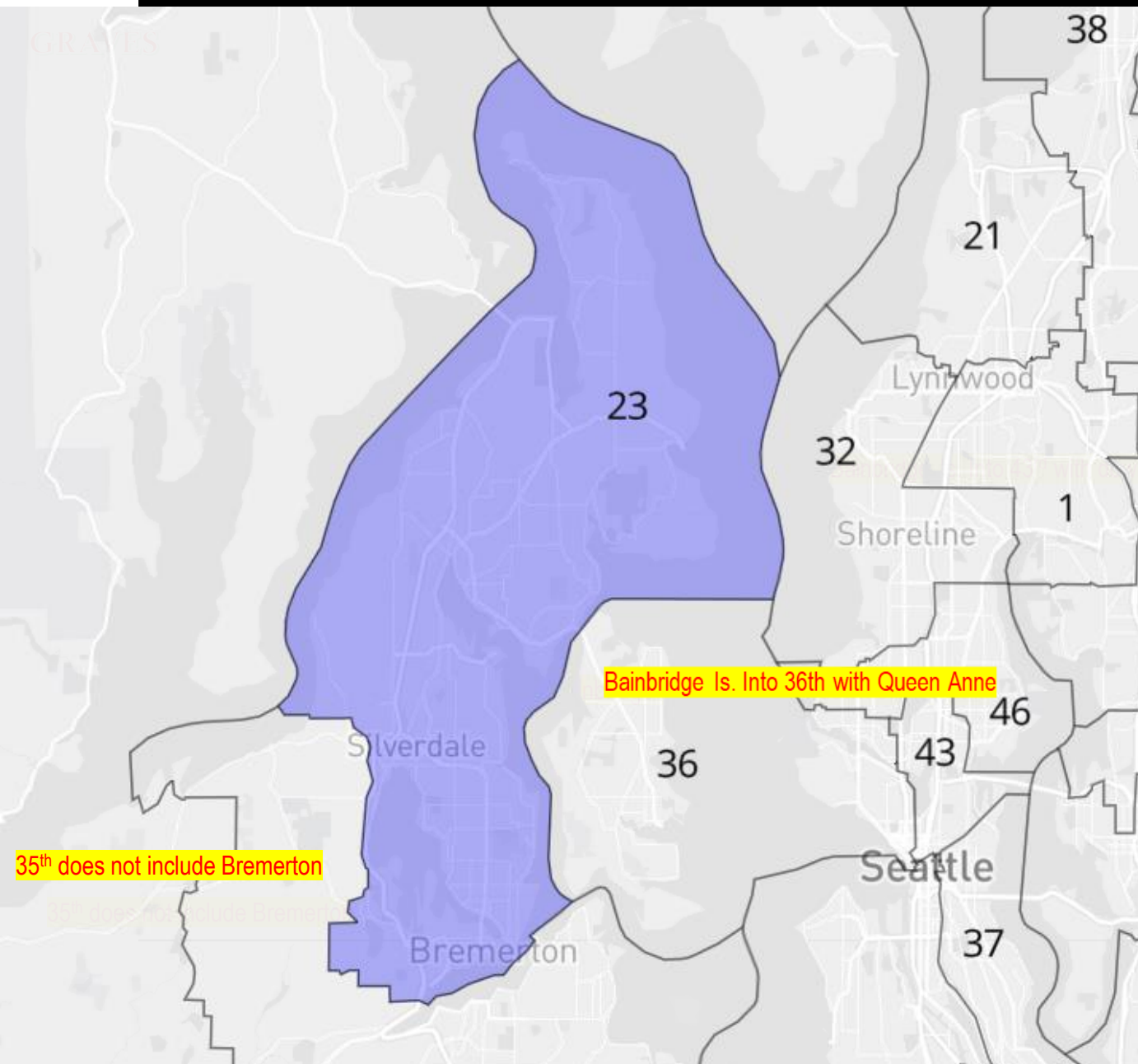
Key Issues

- Moves Bainbridge Is. Into 43rd with downtown Seattle
- Un-seats Senator Rolfes and Representative Drew Hansen
- Most of W. Bremerton in 23rd.
- His map makes 26th redder by adding more of S. Kitsap. Hurts [D] Emily Randall

GRAVES LD MAP OF BREM./PORT ORCH./B.I.



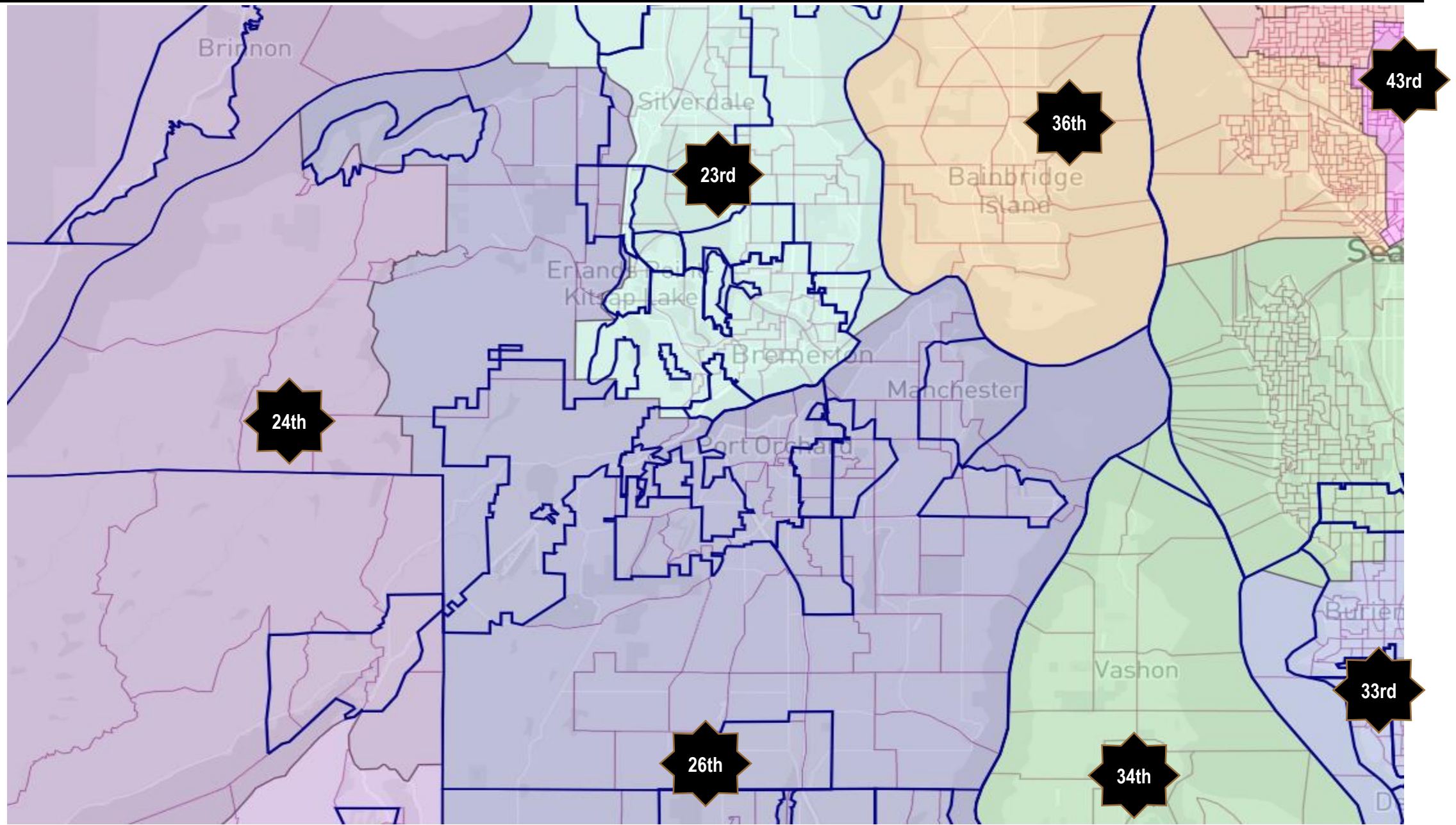
FAIN LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MAP



Key Issues

- Moves Bainbridge Is. Into 36th with downtown Seattle
 - Puget Sound separates communities with no bridge
- Un-seats Senator Rolfes and Representative Drew Hansen

FAIN LD MAP OF BREM./PORT ORCH./B.I.



PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP SCORECARD

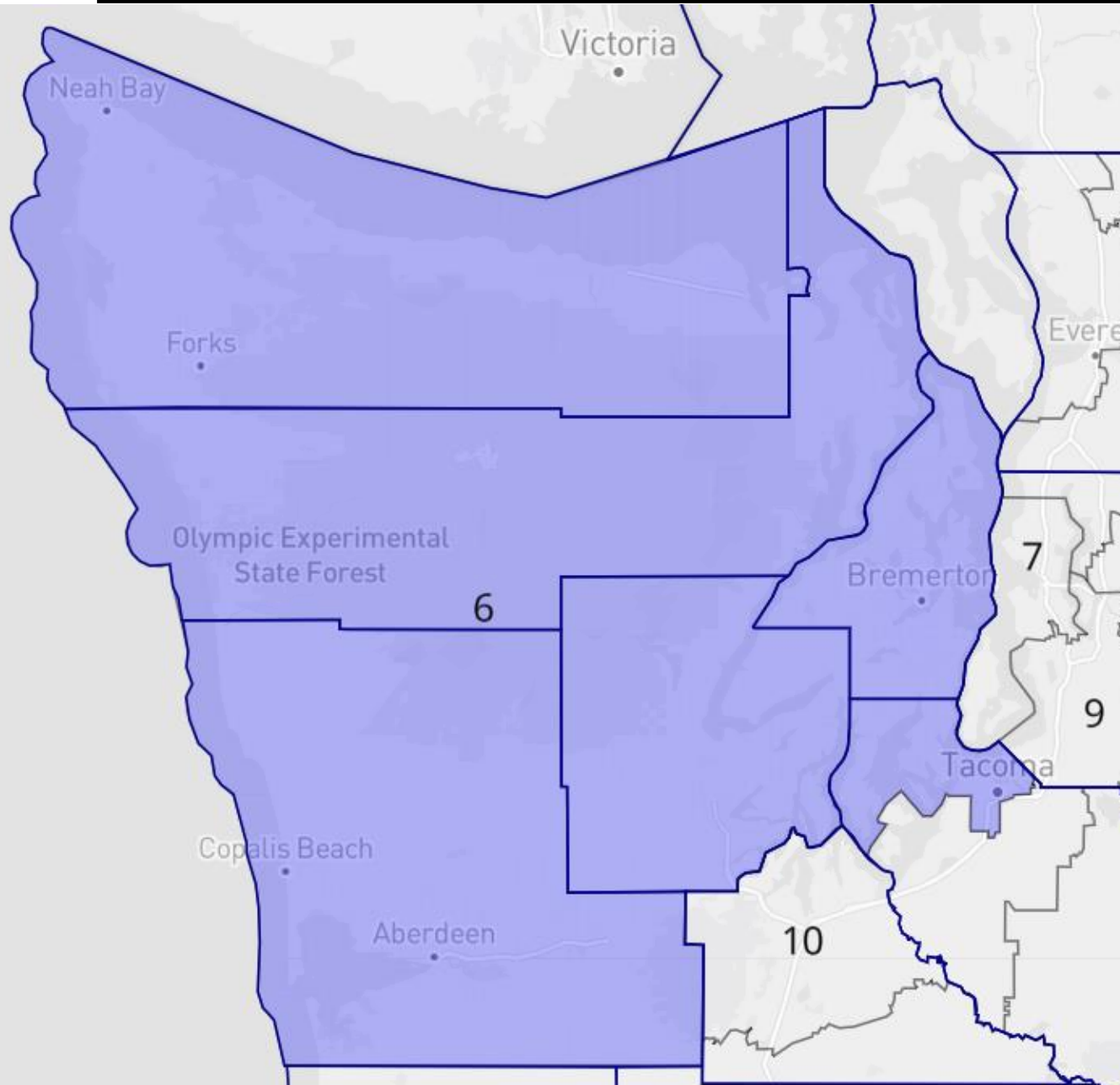
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2020	% of Population			67.4%	32.6%	11.5%	5.0%	11.7%	3.7%	1.2%	7.705

Note census categories vary slightly from each decade

LOCAL - Current 6 TH CD Demographics by Census Data											
2020	% of Population	56.0%	42.0%	75.6%	24.4%	7.1%	5.0%	6.5%	4.9%	1.4%	0.734

STATE Congressional Distict Majorities									
	Dem	Rep	White	Minority	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Native	Pacific
2010 [Existing]	7	3	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sims [D]	7	3	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
Walkinshaw [D]	7	3	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
Graves [R]	5	4	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fain [R]	6	3	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
League of Women Voters [non-partisan]	7	3	9	1	0	0	0	0	0

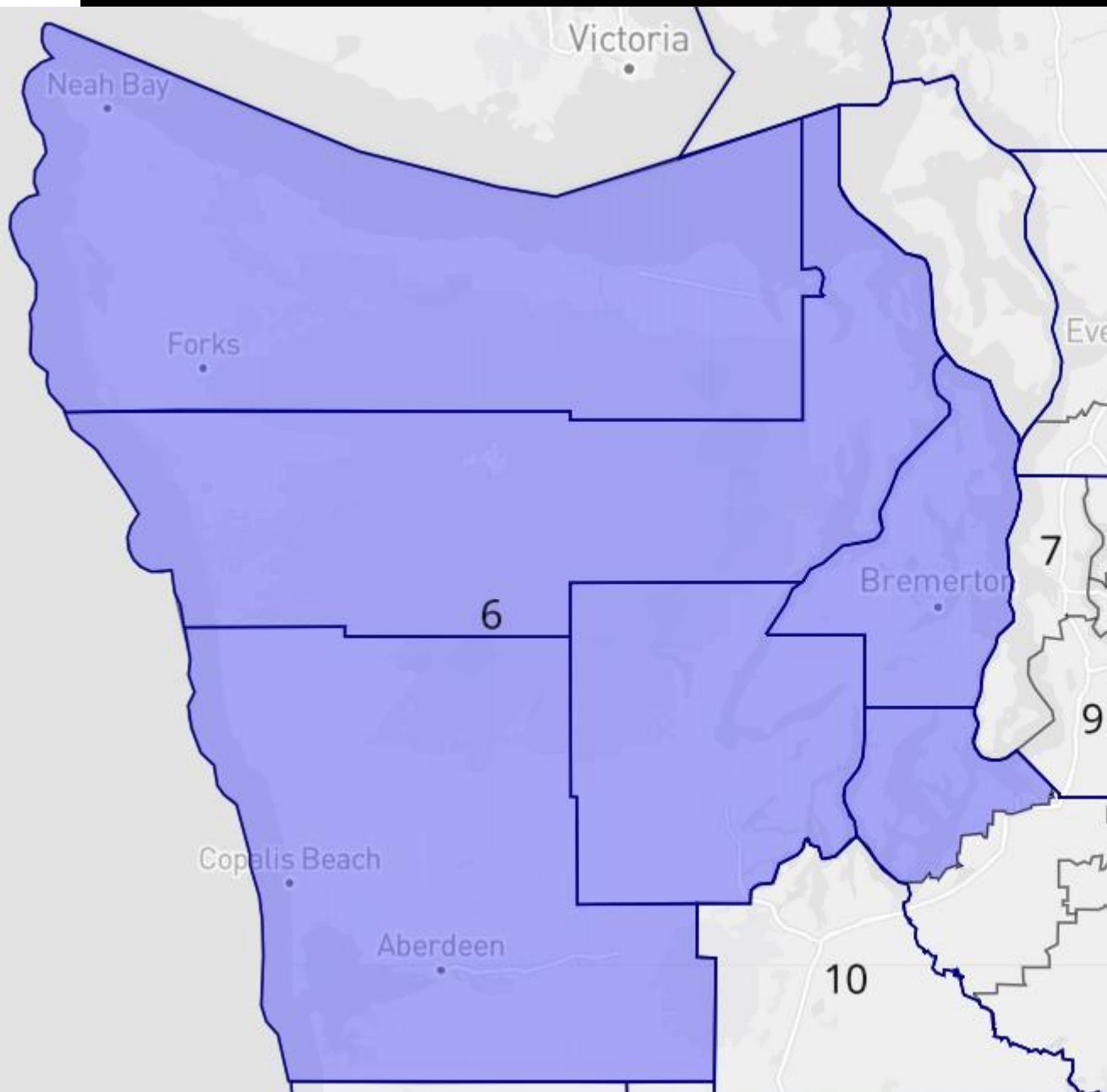
SIMS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP



Key Issues

- Keeps Congressman Kilmer in District
- Includes whole of Kitsap Co
- Includes much of Tacoma
- Excludes Olympia

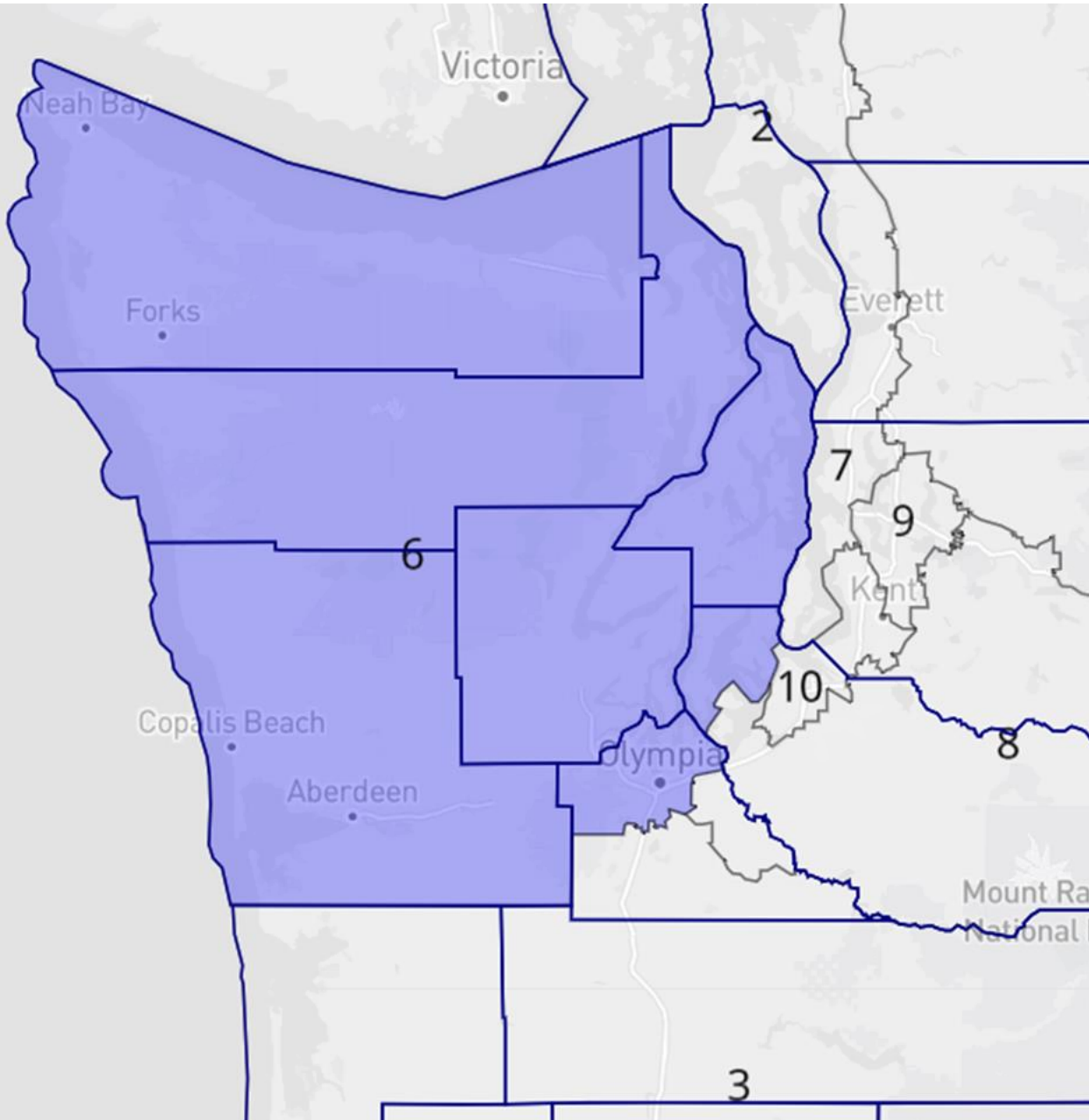
WALKINSHAW CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP



Key Issues

- Keeps Congressman Kilmer in District
- Includes whole of Kitsap Co
- Includes much of Tacoma (but different than Sims)
- Excludes Olympia

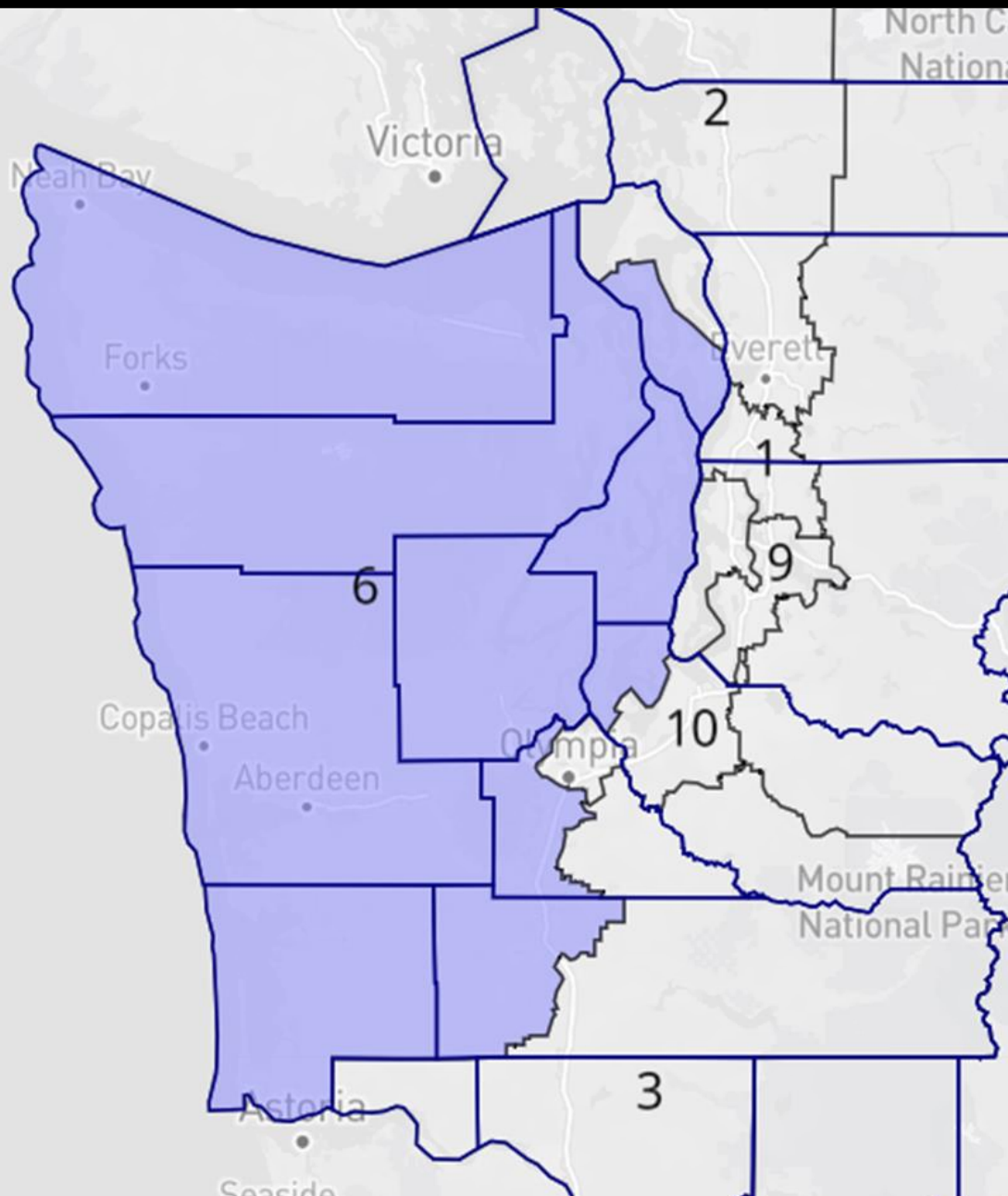
GRAVES CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP



Key Issues

- Keeps Congressman Kilmer in District
- Includes whole of Kitsap Co
- Includes Olympia

FAIN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP

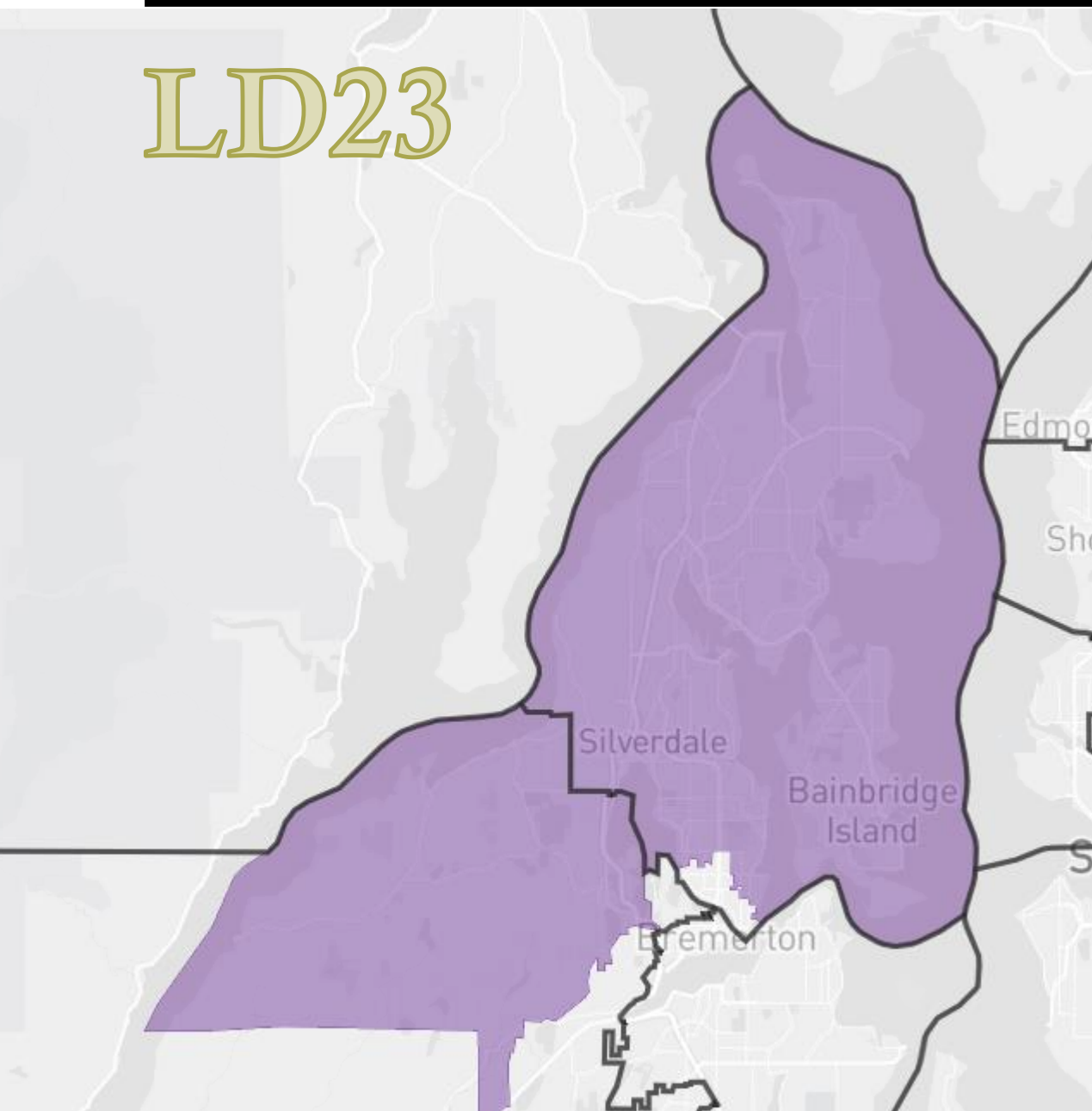


Key Issues

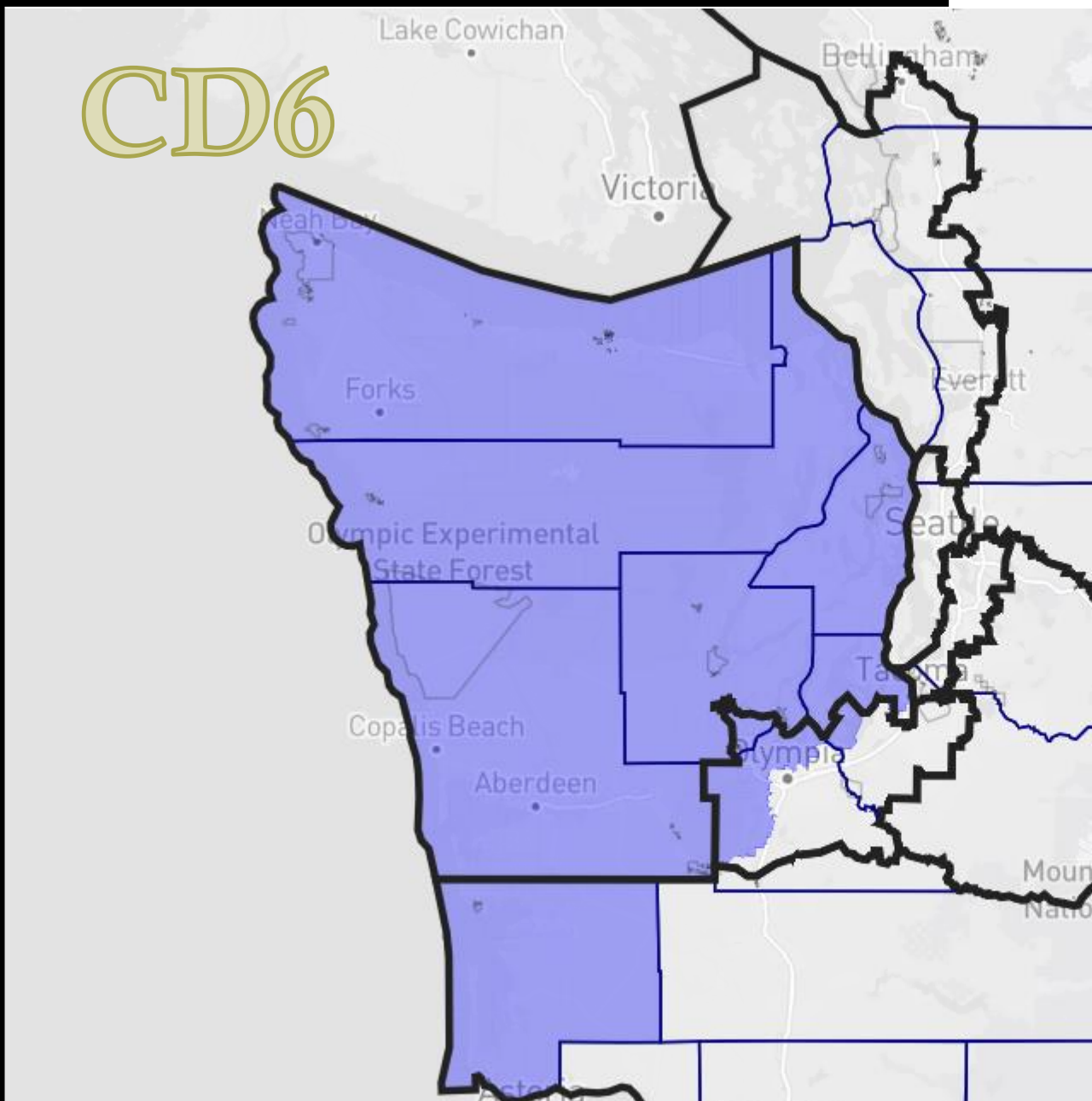
- Keeps Congressman Kilmer in District
- Includes whole of Kitsap Co.
- Excludes Olympia and Tacoma; Kilmer strongholds
- Includes bottom 2/3 of Whidbey Is.
- Goes SW all the way to Astoria

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MAPS [LD & CD]

LD23



CD6



ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Using *Draw Your WA*
 - Identify Communities of Interest for awareness of the Commissioners
 - They already have the census collected demographics to the precinct level
 - We can self identify other groups we think share interests who maybe should be grouped: Puget Sound communities, Navy/DoD, tech workers, farmers, government workers, religions, retail centers, etc.
 - Comment on shortcomings of Draft LD and CD maps as they pertain to YOUR communities
 - Draw and submit alternate maps to the Commission (not easy)
 - Attend Public Outreach Meetings hosted by the Commission
 - Sign up ASAP to give oral testimony - 90 second slots!
 - Submit written testimony
-

TESTIMONY TEMPLATE

Date

Salutation,

Introduce yourself.

Share you what you have reviewed re maps, explanations, sources of the maps, (commissioners, LWV).

State your preference(s)/recommendation(s).

- Explain why you came to that position – provide your rationale.
- Share positives of your view.
- Counter potential negatives of your view(s) as appropriate.
- Include implications/possible outcomes of choosing the wrong map, if able.
- Restate that this all supports your view.

Thank them for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Close the letter.

SUGGESTED POINTS

- Removing BI from 23rd splits the county
- Address communities of interest: ethnicity, color, faith, economic, transportation, elected representation, new coverage
- Potential to lose at least two, if not all three, currently elected representatives.

SAMPLE WRITTEN TESTIMONY [1 OF 2]

Dear Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the proposed Legislative District redistricting maps. I have reviewed each commissioner's map and the ones from the League of Women Voters.

It is clear that a lot of thought and work has gone into making these maps but only a couple really follow the intent of the legislation to keep communities of interest (whatever those communities might be) intact and not break up legal entities like counties. Of the four maps, (recommendation) Commissioner Sims' map does the best job.

(Main concern) My major concern is the splitting off Bainbridge Island from Kitsap County. (Reason for concern) Those who do not use a ferry on a routine basis like the people going from Kitsap to Seattle for work, school and/or medical care do not understand how critical it is to support the Washington State Ferries (WSF). WSF needs stable, reliable funding including capital investment in boats. Yet, it's always a fight in Olympia to get that support, if WSF gets it at all. This is a major area of community interest that cannot be ignored or discounted.

(Other concern/s) It is also unconscionable to remove two of our three elected representatives (Reason for concern) from a community that clearly supports them with over 60% of the vote in a contested election. They have also had uncontested elections. Clearly the 23rd Legislative District is very happy with the people we elect. They live in Kitsap and understand our issues and concerns. Do you know where Seabold is? Lofall? They do. They do not reside in Seattle/King County which has very little in common with Kitsap on many levels. Please adhere to the guidelines for what constitutes a properly constructed district:

keeping communities of interest together and legal entities intact. Our county and residents are counting on you to do the right thing. Thank you for listening to my views,

Val Torrens. Resident, 23rd Legislative District

SAMPLE WRITTEN TESTIMONY [2 OF 2]

My name is Ted Jones. I have lived in Kitsap County, and Bainbridge Island since 1992.

The Bainbridge Island Community belongs in the 23rd LD because of it has strong economic and cultural ties to the rest of Kitsap County and is physically, economically and culturally distant from Seattle.

While the Washington State Ferry is a link between Seattle and Bainbridge, it does not overcome the wide physical barrier of Puget Sound. Bainbridge Island does have a convenient bridge to Kitsap County. Given the long waits and unpredictable ferry service these days, its unreasonable to expect Bainbridge Islanders to go to cross the Sound to attend community meetings.

The communities east and west of Puget Sound are vastly different. Seattle's main newspaper, the Seattle Times, scarcely covers Bainbridge Island or Kitsap County in general. We are not covered at all, for example, in the Real Estate or Jobs sections. Seattle radio does not cover our traffic jams. Bainbridge is more of a weekend daytrip destination for Seattleites rather than part of their community.

Bainbridge Island has an island-wide city form of government, but it is not urbanized nearly to the extent as the communities east of us in Seattle. There is no overlap of school, parks, or transportation districts across the Sound.

Bainbridge Island has farms, extensive greenery and a small urban core. Our housing is mostly single-family residences. Multi-unit dwelling is far less common than in Seattle.

For these reasons, the Proposed Legislative District maps by the League of Women Voters WA, and Commissioners Sims and Walkinshaw represent the interests of my community well. The proposals of Commissioners Graves and Fain do not and should be rejected.

KEY LINKS

- Homepage for State Commission. Leads to drawing tools and testifying resources.
 - <https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/>
 - Hit orange banner to see maps and comment online
 - Click **Participate** then **Attend a Public Meeting** then **Outreach Meetings**. Must register ASAP if you want to speak. Can also watch without registering
 - Send written testimony to comment@redistricting.wa.gov
 - League of Women Voters WA, LOWVWA: “speak up school”
 - Email: [*speakupschool@lowvwa.org*](mailto:speakupschool@lowvwa.org)
 - Website: [*www.lwvwa.org/speakup*](http://www.lwvwa.org/speakup)
-

OTHER POINTS

- Many Dem leaders expect this Commission to end in deadlock. If that happens, nothing is sent to the legislature, and it goes to the Supreme Court of WA.
 - In providing oral or written testimony as individuals, understand that identifying as a Democrat (or a Republican) attaches a lot of baggage to your comments. The best arguments are from people who personally represent the “community” being argued for.
 - The Democratic Redistricting Committee comments are certainly partisan. They go to the State Chair Tina Podlowski who will collaborate with the two Democratic Commissioners.
 - League of Women Voters (LOVW) has been enabling this process for months. They have held many listening sessions and are on the 7th version of their maps. They include their rationale. Many of their goals align with our party. Commissioners will have considered their maps before releasing their own. We may find good arguments against some of the GOP proposals in the testimony they have already collected without the partisan taint.
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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

PLEASE POST QUESTIONS IN CHAT
