

To: Mayor Franklin and Everett City Council Members
CC Local Media

From: Everett Districts Now

Date: August 29, 2019

Dear Mayor Franklin and Everett Councilmembers,

Everett Districts Now re-formed as an ad hoc community-based committee in February 2019. **Our mission is to support fair and equitable representation for City Council Districts in Everett as approved by the voters in 2018.** Our short-term goal has been to increase citizen participation and to ensure the implementation of Propositions 1 and 2 from the 2018 election to establish districts for Everett.

We are encouraged that the 44 candidates for the Districting Commission came from 18 of the 19 neighborhoods in Everett. EDN worked to make that applicant process a success. Everett Districts Now representatives encouraged constituents to apply to the commission; we were responsible for the majority of the outreach and encouragement. We gave presentations to multiple city neighborhood meetings; we attended civic and community meetings to encourage applicants including the Casino Road Stakeholders, Communities of Color Coalition, For Everett, 38th LD and local churches. Prior to the election in 2018, we held educational events and made presentations at political and civic events.

We encourage the city administration and the Council to move forward with transparency and with a more robust plan for public outreach. We believe this would meet the goals of the Mayor's strategic plan for improving public outreach, and we share a common goal of wanting to see public hearings that are well attended and inclusive. We look forward to building support for a public process and public hearings with a high level of attendance and involvement.

We can share information on our Facebook page and website and can send announcements to an email list.

We request the following to help coordinate public participation in this important process:

1. Please include Everett Districts Now (EDN) in your announcements related to districts.
2. Please send advance notification of the districting meetings to EDN.

3. Please provide clarity for the process for selecting 'alternates' to the commission should a vacancy occur.
4. Who is the staff person assigned to the commission?
5. Please provide us with a copy of the completed application materials from all applicants.
6. Please consider rotating the location of the meetings in a setting that still allows recording but is hosted in other parts of the city. (For example-the south precinct common room, or Evergreen Middle School or a location in Delta.)
7. EDN requests that the Council and Mayor pledge to support civic education by re-establishing the Everett Essentials class or an abbreviated civic engagement course.
8. Please include chairs of all Everett neighborhoods in all official communications regarding districting.

We agree on the need for civic engagement and education. We'd like to see a successful and inclusive process and are here to support efforts at public engagement. We encourage the city to work to include EDN and all neighborhoods as districting is implemented.

Lois Wentink, Chairperson
Everett Districts Now Ad hoc Committee