WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA REVISION NOTICE
FOR MARCH 25, 2014
(DISTRIBUTED AT 2:30 P.M. ON MARCH 20, 2014)

THE FOLLOWING ITEM HAS BEEN ADDED TO COUNCIL, INTRODUCTION:

7. Ordinance repealing and replacing Whatcom County Code Section 1.14, Election Precincts, to amend certain election precinct boundaries, approve new precinct boundaries as necessary, and adopt a book of election precinct maps by reference (AB2014-130) (paperwork attached below)
WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

CLEARANCES

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Division Head:

Dept. Head: DA 3/19/14

Prosecutor: 3.20.14

Purchasing/Budget:

Executive: 3.20.14

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:
Repealing and Replacing Whatcom County Code Section 1.14, Electoral Precincts, to Amend Certain Election Precinct Boundaries, Approve New Precinct Boundaries as Necessary and Adopt a Book of Election Precinct Maps by Reference

ATTACHMENTS:
Ordinance

SEPA review required? ( ) Yes ( x ) NO
SEPA review completed? ( ) Yes ( x ) NO

Should Clerk schedule a hearing? ( x ) Yes ( ) NO
Requested Date: April 8, 2014

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

Changes are needed to correct certain precinct boundary lines in Whatcom County Code Section 1.14 due to annexations in the City of Bellingham and the City of Everson; to correct a scrivener’s error in the Congressional district boundaries; and to change boundaries to reduce the number of “splits” in designated precincts.

This replaces the entire language of WCC 1.14, with new language creating a “Book of Election Precinct Maps” adopted by reference and available through the Whatcom County Council Office, the Whatcom County Auditor’s Office, and online.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

COUNCIL ACTION:

Related County Contract #: Related File Numbers: Ordinance or Resolution Number:

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County’s website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.
ORDINANCE NO. _______

REPEALING AND REPLACING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE SECTION 1.14, ELECTORAL PRECINCTS, TO AMEND CERTAIN ELECTION PRECINCT BOUNDARIES, APPROVE NEW PRECINCT BOUNDARIES AS NECESSARY AND ADOPT A BOOK OF ELECTION PRECINCT MAPS BY REFERENCE

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.16.050(1) mandates that every voting precinct must be wholly within a single congressional district, a single legislative district, and a single district of a county legislative authority; and

WHEREAS, annexations in July, 2013 to the cities of Bellingham and Everson divided some precincts of Whatcom County requiring that they and some adjacent precinct boundaries be redrawn resulting in the creation of a new precinct (268) and a change to an existing precinct (13) in the City of Bellingham, and a change to Precincts 402 and 146, respectively, in the City of Everson; and

WHEREAS, a scrivener’s error was discovered in the district boundary between Congressional Districts One and Two resulting in the boundaries of Precincts 221, 160 and 159 being adjusted; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that many of the existing precincts included a large number of “splits” due to the number of taxing districts within the precinct boundaries and that by adjust the boundary lines of certain precincts the number of “splits” could be reduced, namely, Precincts 102, 104, 105, 107, 108, 110, 111, 113, 114, 119, 124, 126, 127, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 140, 141, 144, 145, 146, 147, 153, 154, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 163, 165, 168, 244, 250, 259, 263, 266, 610 and 611 having their boundaries adjusted and Precincts 109 and 128 being eliminated; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.16.040 requires the county legislative authority of each county in the state to divide the county into election precincts and establish the boundaries of the precincts and does not specify the format of the boundary descriptions; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is more efficient to adopt precinct boundary maps and the county shape files as the precinct boundaries instead of written boundary descriptions; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.16.040(1) further provides that no precinct boundary changes may be made starting fourteen (14) days prior to the first day candidates may file for
primary election (this year May 12, 2014) through the period ending with the general 
election, make this a timely request; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.16.070 provides the County Auditor shall transfer and notify 
any registered voters that may be affected by the change in boundaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that 
Whatcom County Code Section 1.14 is hereby repealed and replaced in its entirety as 
outlined in Exhibit A to this Ordinance.

BET IT FINALLY ORDAINED that all future amendments to election precinct 
boundary maps will be adopted by the Whatcom County Council.

ADOPTED this _____ day of __________, 2014.

ATTEST:

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Carl Weimer, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Royce Buckingham
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Jack Louws, County Executive

( ) Approved    ( ) Denied

Date Signed: ___________________________
EXHIBIT A

1.14 ELECTION PRECINCT BOUNDARIES

The Whatcom County election precinct boundaries as drawn by the Whatcom County Auditor are set forth in a Book of Election Precinct Maps dated ______________, adopted by reference and available through the Whatcom County Council Office, the Whatcom County Auditor’s Office, and online through the Election page at the Whatcom County Auditor’s homepage, http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/auditor/.