

The Honorable Robert S. Lasnik

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE**

SUSAN SOTO PALMER, et. al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STEVEN HOBBS, et. al.,

Defendants,

and

JOSE TREVINO, ISMAEL CAMPOS,
and ALEX YBARRA,

Intervenor-Defendants.

Case No.: 3:22-cv-05035-RSL

Judge: Robert S. Lasnik

**PLAINTIFFS’ NOTICE OF
FILING REMEDIAL MAP 3B
AND PROPOSED ORDER**

At the March 8, 2024 hearing, the Court requested that Plaintiffs make alterations to their proposed Remedial Map 3A to address “trapped polygon”¹ issues identified in two declarations of Nicholas Pharris—the Support Lead for the VoteWA/TotalAddress election management system in the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State—see Docs. 270 & 286, as well as to incorporate three public domain land parcels identified by the Yakama Nation that were on the border of the original version of proposed Map 3A, see Docs. 272 at 5-12; Doc. 277 at 6 n.5.

¹ A “trapped polygon” in this instance refers to a small area of land that would be in a different legislative district than the balance of its corresponding city council or county commissioner district and thus, without modifications to the legislative map, may necessitate the creation of and additional precinct.

1 Plaintiffs have addressed these issues as follows and submit Map 3B (renamed to avoid confusion)
2 reflecting these changes by email to the Court, the special master, and the parties. As Mr. Pharris’s
3 declarations note, most changes affect zero or very few people and thus the map’s characteristics—
4 and remedial performance—are unaffected.

5 **Public Domain Land Parcels.** Plaintiffs have adjusted Map 3A to include within
6 Legislative District (“LD”) 14 the three parcels identified in the Yakama Nation’s filing, Doc. 272,
7 that Dr. Oskooii identified to be resolved, Doc. 277 at 6 n.5.

8 **“Trapped Polygons” Remedied by Shifting Full Census Blocks.** Most of the “trapped
9 polygons” identified in Mr. Pharris’s declaration can be remedied by shifting entire Census Blocks
10 between districts, as Mr. Pharris suggested. Plaintiffs have adjusted Map 3A to make all of Mr.
11 Pharris’s recommended adjustments—remedying the issues described in paragraph 9-17 and 19-
12 22 of his initial declaration, Doc. 270, and the sole issue raised in his second declaration, Doc. 286.

13 **“Trapped Polygons” Requiring Census Block Splits.** Four of the “trapped polygons”
14 identified by Mr. Pharris are the result of cities annexing *portions* of Census Blocks in the time
15 since the 2020 Census was completed, such that the city boundaries do not align with Census Block
16 boundaries. It is advisable that these polygons be addressed in the remedial map as they contain a
17 handful of voters, and voter privacy is best maintained by avoiding the need to create new precincts
18 containing 1-2 voters each. Plaintiffs and the Secretary have conferred in the time since the March
19 8 hearing and have concluded that the best way to address this category² is for the Court to describe

23 ² The redistricting software available to Plaintiffs cannot readily split Census Blocks, but the
24 Secretary has confirmed he can implement a map the Court orders with split Census Blocks. As
25 Mr. Pharris’s declaration notes, only seven voters are affected so there is no effect on the
26 population deviation of the districts. Doc. 270, ¶¶ 23-26. Several other states have some split
Census Blocks in their legislative districts. *See* United States Census Bureau, State Legislative

1 the required adjustments in its remedial order, which the Secretary can then implement. Plaintiffs
2 have attached to this Notice a Proposed Order that includes suggested language—which has been
3 reviewed by the Secretary and confirmed to resolve the identified issues—that would adopt Map
4 3B with this category of “trapped polygons” remedied as suggested by Mr. Pharris’s declaration.

5 **Klickitat County/Yakama Nation Border.** Klickitat County’s Commissioner District
6 boundaries do not adhere to the Yakama Nation Reservation boundary. As a result, there are five
7 small, unpopulated areas of land where the “trapped polygon” issue arises, as noted in paragraph
8 18 of Mr. Pharris’s initial declaration, Doc. 270. There are two ways to address this issue.

9
10 First, the legislative boundary can remain as it is in Plaintiffs’ proposal. This approach will
11 respect the boundary of the Yakama Nation Reservation in the legislative map but will require
12 Klickitat County to do one of two things: (1) it can adjust the boundary between County
13 Commissioner Districts 1 and 2 to match the Yakama Nation Reservation boundary in the area
14 identified in paragraph 18 of Mr. Pharris’s declaration or (2) it can create one or more new, zero-
15 population precinct(s) to include the “trapped polygon” territory.

16
17 Second, the legislative boundary in Map 3A can be adjusted to match the boundary of
18 Klickitat County Commissioner Districts 1 and 2 in the area identified in paragraph 18 of Mr.
19 Pharris’s declaration. This would leave a small, unpopulated portion of the Yakama Nation
20 Reservation outside of LD14, but would eliminate the “trapped polygon” issue.

21
22 Plaintiffs believe the most appropriate choice is the first option, *i.e.*, to respect the Yakama
23 Nation Reservation boundary in the legislative map. Plaintiff would encourage the Klickitat
24 County Commission to make a minor adjustment to the boundaries of its county commissioner
25 _____
26 Districts, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo/state-legislative-district.html>.

1 district to conform to the Yakama Nation’s Reservation boundary in this region. Regardless of
2 how Klickitat County addresses the issue, however, the Secretary built time into the schedule for
3 these types of adjustments when he requested a remedial map be determined by March 2024. *See*
4 Doc. 179. And zero people are affected regardless of how the county chooses to respond.³

5 The attached Proposed Order adopts Map 3B, which makes all the corrections noted above,
6 and orders the implementation of that map with the minor adjustments necessary to remedy the
7 partial Census Block trapped polygons. Adopting this proposed order will ensure that zero people
8 are affected by any of the issues raised in Mr. Pharris’s declarations and minimize the need for
9 county-level changes to implement the map.
10

11
12 Dated: March 14, 2024

13 By: /s/ Mark P. Gaber

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³ If the Court disagrees and concludes that it is better to ensure that zero “trapped polygons” remain to be addressed by the county, it can add the following sentence to the list of adjustments in Plaintiffs’ Proposed Order: “Reassign Klickitat County Census Blocks 530399501012106, 530399501012105, 530399501012112, and 530399501012114 from LD14 to LD17; reassign Klickitat County Census Block 530399503022058 from LD17 to LD14.”

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that all counsel of record were served a copy of the foregoing this 13th day of March, 2024 via the Court’s CM/ECF system.

/s/ Mark P. Gaber
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Counsel for Plaintiffs

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**PLAINTIFFS' PROPOSED
ORDER ADOPTING
REMEDIAL MAP 3B**

Having concluded that the current Washington legislative district map violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. § 10301, and having (1) considered the parties' remedial briefing, expert declarations, and submissions, (2) heard the expert and lay testimony offered by Plaintiffs and Intervenors at the March 8, 2024 remedial hearing, and (3) having heard from counsel for the Yakama Nation at the March 8, 2024 remedial hearing, the Court has determined that it will order Defendants to implement Plaintiffs' proposed remedial map 3B, as submitted to the Court and provided to the parties on March 13, 2024, with the following adjustments to be made by Defendants in implementing the map:

1 (1) Reassign that portion of Census Block 530770018013012 annexed by the City of
2 Grandview (Ordinance 2022-12, effective Aug. 29, 2022) from Legislative District (“LD”) 15 to
3 LD14;

4 (2) Reassign that portion of Census Block 530770018012077 annexed by the City of
5 Grandview (Ordinance 2021-13, effective Oct. 4, 2021) from LD15 to LD14;

6 (3) Reassign that portion of Census Blocks 530770020042004 and 530770020042005
7 annexed by the City of Sunnyside (Ordinance 2020-06A, effective Aug. 10, 2020) from LD15 to
8 LD14; and
9

10 (4) Reassign that portion of Census Block 530770018011075 annexed by the City of
11 Sunnyside (Ordinance 2021-06, effective June 21, 2021) from LD15 to LD14.

12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

13 Dated this ___ day of March, 2024.
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15 _____
16 Robert S. Lasnik
17 United States District Judge
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