

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION of the Thurston County Board of Commissioners increasing the number of commissioners from three to five and creating five new County Commissioners' districts as authorized by RCW 36.32.055 and approved by majority voter approval in the Thurston County 2022 general election.

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 from three 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. On July 19, 2022 the BOCC adopted Resolution No. 16181 submitting a ballot proposition to the voters to decide whether or not to expand the BOCC from three to five members.

d. Prior to approval of Resolution No. 16181 the BOCC approved a joint resolution between Thurston County and the Port of Olympia on or about December 13, 2021, establishing the mutual intent to collaborate on respective ballot measures from each jurisdiction to increase the number of commissioners representing each agency from three (3) to five (5), to provide greater clarity to the voters, and share the costs associated with forming newly drawn districts.

e. On or about July 25, 2022, the BOCC approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Thurston County and the Port of Olympia which formed a redistricting committee consisting of the Chair of the County Commission, the Chair of the Port Commission, and the County Auditor to serve as a non-voting member, to collaborate with respect to formation of newly drawn jurisdictions.

f. The redistricting committee met several times in meetings open to the public to develop proposed new districts and a timeframe for final approval of the districts, which must occur for the Port no later than December 31, 2022.

g. Prior to final approval of the new districts, there were several opportunities for the public to provide comment, including a public hearing that was properly noticed and took place on December 7, 2022.

h. The BOCC considered the public comment and has determined that adoption of a district map which establishes five newly-drawn districts, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, is in the best interest of the County.

i. The district map will have districts number one through five, and the three incumbent Commissioners will represent their current district numbers, one, two, and three respectively.

j. The two new BOCC Commissioners who will be elected in 2023 will represent districts four and five respectively.

k. In the 2022 general election the ballot proposition increasing the board from three to five members and creating five new districts was approved by a majority of the voters.

l. 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.

Section 2. Creation of a five-member Board of County Commissioners.

a. The Thurston County Board of Commissioners is hereby increased from three to five members.

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

c. The attached map, in Exhibit "A," representing the boundaries of the five newly drawn county commissioner districts is hereby adopted and incorporated herein by reference.

d. One Commissioner will be assigned to represent each of the newly drawn districts as indicated herein.

Section 3. This resolution shall be submitted to the Thurston County Auditor on or before December 20, 2022.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption and signature.

Section 5. 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.

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Thurston County, Washington

Clerk of the Board

Carolina Mejia, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JON TUNHEIM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Tye Menser, Vice Chair

By: _____
Elizabeth Petrich
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Gary Edwards, Member