



1016 N 4th Ave
Pasco, WA 99301
509-545-3502

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For information contact: Matt Beaton, Auditor 509.545.3538, elections@co.franklin.wa.us, www.co.franklin.wa.us/auditor

Franklin County Auditor Matt Beaton Recommends delaying Re-Districting until after the 2020 Census

Pasco, WA, March 16, 2020 – Franklin County Auditor, Matt Beaton is recommending the Franklin County Commissioners delay Re-Districting of Commissioner Districts for the May filing period until after the 2020 Census is complete. The current efforts while proactive are not compelled.

Mr. Beaton’s concern is in assuring all citizens interested in participating are informed and feel safe attending. The pandemic sweeping the State has resulted in closures of our schools, businesses and cancellation of Church services. People should not be expected to be put at risk to be part of the process. The Governor, after making an emergency proclamation 2/29/20, has “prohibited” gatherings of greater than 50 participants. (See below Governors quotes and link). The challenges of completing this in time for the May filing period are detrimental to the importance of assuring public involvement.

“Additionally, all gatherings with over 50 participants are prohibited and all gatherings under 50 participants are prohibited unless previously announced criteria for public health and social distancing are met.”

“These are very difficult decisions, but hours count here and very strong measures are necessary to slow the spread of the disease. I know there will be significant economic impacts to all our communities and we are looking at steps to help address those challenges.”

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/inslee-statement-statewide-shutdown-restaurants-bars-and-limits-size-gatherings-expanded>

###