

FILED

MAR 14 2012

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN RE 2012 WASHINGTON STATE
REDISTRICTING PLAN

JOHN MILEM,

Petitioner.

NO. 86976-6

ORDER

John Milem filed an original petition in this court on February 8, 2012, challenging the 2012 Washington State Redistricting Plan adopted by the Washington State Redistricting Commission and approved by the legislature on February 7, 2012. This matter came before the en banc court on March 13, 2012, on the question of whether the court should allow the approved plan to govern the 2012 Washington State elections pending consideration of the merits of Mr. Milem's petition. At the court's direction, the parties submitted briefs on this issue on March 1 and March 8, 2012. Declarations of candidacy for the 2012 elections must be filed during the week of May 14 through 18, 2012, requiring legislative and congressional district boundaries to be set by then. And by April 30, 2012, county legislative authorities must establish voting precincts in conformance with new district boundaries. The court has considered the briefs of the parties on this issue, and in view of the approaching deadlines for the 2012 elections and the need for adequate time to perfect

the case and consider briefs and arguments of the parties on the merits of Mr. Milem's petition, the court unanimously agreed that the following order should be entered:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

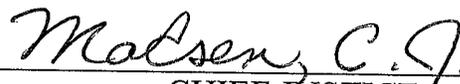
(1) The 2012 Washington State Redistricting Plan adopted by the Washington State Redistricting Commission and approved by the legislature shall govern the Washington State 2012 primary and general elections.

(2) The parties are directed to file by April 13, 2012, an agreed statement of facts or a statement that the parties cannot agree on the facts.

(3) If the parties submit a statement that they cannot agree on the facts, the matter shall be referred to Thurston County Superior Court for a factual hearing, which shall be completed and findings of facts submitted to this court by May 29, 2012.

(4) The briefing schedule and date for oral argument will be determined in due course.

For the Court


CHIEF JUSTICE

March 14, 2012