**The Evergreen State College**

**Graduate Program on the Environment**

### Thesis Prospectus

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**STUDENT AGREEMENT:**

**SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_Justin Bennett\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_12/9/2021\_\_\_\_\_**

**FACULTY READER APPROVAL:**

**SIGNATURE: \_\_Ralph Murphy\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_Dec. 7, 2021\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**MES DIRECTOR APPROVAL:**

**SIGNATURE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Provide the working title of your thesis[[1]](#endnote-1).

**Mapping Public Representation in a Political Process:**

How public mapping suggestion is represented in legislative district lines of the commission approved 2021 Washington redistricting plan. good

1. In 250 words or less, summarize the essential background information needed to understand your research problem and question.

Author Note: The 2021 Redistricting commission failed to meet its November 15th deadline and passed its authority to the State Supreme Court. However, the Commission unanimously agreed on a final plan published the following day and has urged the court to consider the map. The November 16th commission-approved legislative map for this study will be the map of interest. On December 3rd the Washington State Supreme Court made an order that gave the Commission it’s authority back. Initial Reader Comments not yet addressed 12/9/2021. Court has acted by not acting. Supreme Court= proper noun

Redistricting is the redrawing of political boundaries to balance the population represented in each district. Washington is one of 11 states that appoints a four-person voting bi-partisan redistricting commission with a non-partisan non-voting chair. Under the Washington State law, commissioners must approve a legislative district (LD) map that follows many rules. One is that district lines should coincide with the boundaries of local political subdivisions and areas recognized as communities of interest (RCW 44.05). Washington also encourages a transparent process and collects public comments, including community interests.

Public suggestions cover various topics, locations, communities, and even opinions on the redistricting process itself. Modern GIS technology has enabled the public to engage directly; geographical communities, suggested maps, and areas of public suggestion are expressed digitally to the mapping commissioners. These suggestions took the form of draft plans, point comments, and shape geography. This outreach strategy resulted in more public interaction in the redistricting process than ever before.interesting…GIS technology enabled public participation???what do you mean by public in this context?

1. State your research question(s).

 **How are the suggestions from the public response to the 2021 legislative Redistricting cycle represented in the final legislative plan? Was there a draft redistricting plan to comment on, or….?**

1. Situate your research problem within the relevant literature. What is the theoretical and practical framework of your research problem?

 My research problem is framed around the studies of political analysis, public input in political processes, and geographical information systems applied to public outreach. My preliminary literature review has identified a gap revolving around the impact of public involvement on redistricting.

Statewide redistricting happens only once every ten years, and the involvement of the public in the process is a relatively new concept in Washington (Redistricting Act, 1983). Socio-political research around public participation in redistricting focuses on opinions of redistricting and the general understanding of the process. Most works found a generally held negative view on the process, combined with little knowledge of the inner workings. Many authors cite GIS technology and increased transparency as remedies to these findings as suggestions to reform (Panagopoulos, 2013; Pirch, K. (2011)., n.d.; Šára, 2014; VanderMolen & Milyo, 2016; Winburn et al., 2017). Other researchers examined the effect of independent commissions on public confidence and redistricting fairness. The authors had mixed findings on the significant changes between independent and political-based redistricting. In the topic of redistricting reform, many authors cite GIS as a technological link between the public and politics (Altman & McDonald, 2014; Confer, 2003; Fougere et al., 2010; Kubin, 1996; McDonald, 2011; *Partisan Bias and Competition*, n.d.; Šára, 2014).

An example of closely related research to my problem is found in a 2018 paper by Peter Miller, and Bernard Grofman titled: Public Hearings and Congressional Redistricting: Evidence from the Western United States 2011–2012.Titles should be in italics The authors examined nine US states' public input in the 2011 redistricting cycle. In this work, the authors organized public comments into “feasibly mappable” suggestions and compared these suggestions to final maps. The authors removed comments based on the opinion of the process or suggestions that were outside the state and federal laws regarding redistricting. The authors found that many public recommendations included, but primarily those that concerned small geographical areas. They discovered that comment inclusion was not significantly different between the independent, court, or legislative-based redistricting. I can apply portions of this methodology to my work.

Another work is a recent paper by Wang et al. in 2021; the authors define a quantitative community of interest assessment to provide a “rigorous standard for redistricting fairness.”. My question's framework in literature is limited and nonexistent for concluding if public comment is **considered explicitly** in redistricting. I will examine further works outside of my scope to frame the value of public comment in general policymaking in current research.this last sentence is pretty vague???

1. Explain the significance of this research problem. Why is this research important? What are the potential contributions of your work? How might your work advance scholarship?

My work will examine public suggestions and their communities of interest in final legislative redistricting plans approved by the commission. A quantitative analysis of represented public mapping requests will fill a gap in the literature that examines the outcome of public outreach in redistricting research. My work will expand the field of redistricting research, informing topics from public outreach, transparency, accessibility, and reform. My analysis will advance scholarship in the field of socio-political science in redistricting, moving the paradigm from public opinion on or understanding of decennial redistricting to a direct measure of public impact on these often-misunderstood processes. Past research on redistricting reform cites GIS technology as increasing public access to the process; this could be further supported or countered by the outcome of my work.

1. Summarize your study design[[2]](#endnote-2). If applicable, identify the key variables in your study. What is their relationship to each other? For example, which variables are you considering as independent (explanatory) and dependent (response)?

The 2021 Washington State Redistricting Commission (WSRC) engaged in more public outreach than ever before. This data was collected, stored, and transcribed by indecent ???staff. This pool of public comment can be organized and analyzed to group geographical communities of interest (COI) to compare to final maps. Current research on the public’s interaction with the redistricting cycle shows a gap of evidence around how comments and suggestions are included in the final plans. This study will consist of an organizational strategy to gather public comment of the 2021 redistricting cycle into groups based on feasibility mappable communities of interest. It would be helpful if you defined these grouping. In first reference to this concept.This strategy will remove comments and suggestions from the analysis that are opinions on the process itself and make suggestions outside the legal criteria on Washington state redistricting.

Implementing related research methods (Miller & Grofman, 2018 and Wang et al., 2021), public comments from the 2021 cycle will be separated into “feasibly mappable” suggestions. Subgrouping by individual suggestions, Organized group suggestions, and Post Draft map suggestions. Further organization of comments by LD relates to a limited research scope. Feasibly mappable suggestions will be tabulated based on their geographical values and associated district.

This pre-analysis organization strategy can be accomplished by string query and tabulation in R or Excel. With cross-tabulation in R or pivot tables in excel. The resulting table will be organized into either point values with related district or geometrical communities of interest (COI).

Example Input Table



Example Output Table



In ArcPro, these values can be mapped by their point location or joined to shape geography of census-designated places, counties, voting districts, or shapes made from connecting three or more points. This process gives qualitative comment suggestions, a spatial component that can be analyzed quantitatively.

Spatial Join in arcPro

The comments will be summarized to examine trends on the content of public suggestion before analysis of inclusion.

1. Describe the data that will be the foundation of your thesis. Will you use existing data or gather new data (or both)? Describe the process of acquiring or collecting data[[3]](#endnote-3).

This study will use existing public comments received during the 2021 legislative redistricting cycle. From this data, desired communities of interest will be identified by point location of known geography to desired district (i.e., city A belongs in district X) and geographical shapes (i.e., City A B and C belong in district X) to compare to the final maps. The data is in CSV ???format and ordered by LD. Comment dates, Summary, and Raw text from the submission are outlined in the data set. The data was collected from three primary sources: external submission (Email, letter, voice mail, phone call, etc.), transcribed public testimony in a televised public outreach meeting, and through submission on the Commission’s integrated mapping tool. This data was reviewed and organized into a large CSV and Excel document by non-partisan redistricting staff in late October of 2021. Data will be received by public records request.

1. Summarize your methods of data analysis. If applicable, discuss specific techniques that you will use to understand the relationships between variables (e.g., interview coding, cost-benefit analysis, specific statistical analyses, spatial analysis) and the steps and tools (e.g., lab equipment, software) that you will take to complete your analyses.

Qualitative comment data will be limited to feasibly mappable suggestions, as found in Miller & Grofman, 2018. This data will be further grouped by legislative district (LD), county, or city by string query in R. Scope \*could\* be further reduced by normalizing these data counts by area, total feasible comment, or population to identify significant areas of public attention. The qualitative areas will be georeferenced to a map and grouped geographically to quantify a public comment into point locations or shape geometry community of interest (COI). These points and shapes will compare their geographic areas with final district lines endorsed by the 2021 redistricting commission. Points (single point with desired LD) will be analyzed via aggregation in ArcGIS Pro. Analysis by a pairwise intersection geoprocessing tool in ArcGIS Pro will produce the common areas shared between publicly defined COI and final map shapes for geometrical COI. Counts of points in their desired LD and calculation of area deviation can determine how much the public COI is represented in final maps.

Point values and polygon COI will be compared to final approved legislative district polygons. The numeric extent a suggestion is included in final plans will be found by comparing the area of one geography to another (for polygons) or the inclusion of a point within the desired geography (for points). See the analysis section of this prospectus. This analysis can be accomplished with a pairwise intersection (left) or a point with aggregation (right). The resulting output will calculate a boolean of inclusion for points and percent included for shapes.

Pairwise Intersection and Aggregation in ArcGIS Pro



Pairwise intersection: GISGeography, 2021; accessed October 21st 2021, aggregation

1. Address the ethical issues[[4]](#endnote-4) raised by your thesis work. Include issues such as risks to anyone involved in the research, as well as specific people or groups that might benefit from or be harmed by your thesis work, perhaps depending on your results. List any specific reviews you must complete first (e.g., Human Subjects Review or Animal Use Protocol Form).

Some ethical issues raised by my research include problems of accessibility and public representation in this specific process. Depending on the outcome of my work, the perceived defamation of redistricting commission and the Washington redistricting process could limit faith in Washington state democracy. With the issue of accessibility, the historic inclusion of the public in the redistricting process has left a confusion and availability gap between the processes of redistricting and the ability for public participation. Even today, with increased technology and access to reach more of the public base, the technology only allows those who have access to it to participate successfully. The outcome of this research could shine a negative light on the process if findings show that little to no impact on final maps take public concerns into account.

My employment in the commission could be an ethical issue; however, we are hired as a non-partisan independent staff. This role is in public service, and all data is publicly discoverable.ok

1. List specific research permits[[5]](#endnote-5) or permissions you need to obtain before collecting data (e.g., landowner permissions, agency permits).

All data used in my research is publicly available and discoverable in public records requests that the commission has five business days to complyLD\_split\_schoold. Completing a human subject’s review may be necessary should any interviews come up in my study- however, that is not planned.

1. Reflect on how your positionality as a researcher could affect your results and how you will account for this in the research process[[6]](#endnote-6).

As a researcher examining my question, a few factors shape my positionality. First, I am a white male studying a political institution historically put together by people like myself. Issues of accessibility in the process should also be acknowledged, as not every public member has access to the same resources to participate. Additionally, as an employee of the commission in a role of non-partisanship, I will be examining an inherently political process. My political leanings as an independent present some bias that will need to be recognized and accounted for during the process. ok

1. Provide at least a rough estimate of the costs associated with conducting your research.  Provide details about each budget item so that the breakdown of the final cost is clear.

The cost associated with my work revolves around computer processing. I will be using Evergreen software and computers to complete my analysis of public comment and spatial contiguity. My ArcPro and ArcGIS online costs for credit usage and geoprocessing power on ESRI servers and computer and energy cost- incurred by the college with R statistical software.

1. Provide a detailed working outline of your thesis.

**See exhibit 1: Outline: at the end of this prospectus**

1. Provide a specific work plan and a timeline for each of the major tasks in the work plan. Be as realistic as you can, even though you will probably need to alter this schedule as you complete the tasks. Remember that faculty readers take time to return your drafts and that the final polishing and formatting of your thesis for binding will take longer than you ever imagined.

 **November:**

* literature review started, working draft continued
* Thesis prospectus draft
* thesis reader/advisor assigned
	+ discussions on moving forward and further narrowing
	+ thesis prospectus 2nd draft submitted to reader (Nov 7)

**December:**

* Data received
	+ initial processing
	+ organization
	+ determination of useful data
* Literature review completed
* Thesis introduction and background started
* Continued data processing

**January:**

* Initial processing and organization of public comment complete
* Continued discussions on moving forward and narrowing with advisor
* Numerical count summary of public comment.
	+ Possible normalization by factors found in the literature
* Methods section started

**February:**

* Continued Methods
	+ Defining spatial area to public comment summary
	+ Narrowed major regions to be compared
	+ Comment processing methods written
	+ Analysis methods started

**March:**

* Analysis Methods complete
* Analysis
	+ Compare spatial area from public communities of interest with final map lines from 2021 redistricting cycle
	+ Format results, tables, charts, and graphs
* Begin results section

**April:**

* Discussion and results section written

**May:**

* Request to present
* Work on presentation (ArcGIS Story maps)

**June:**

* Final draft submitted
* Graduate

Very good initial plan

1. Who, beyond your MES faculty reader, will support your thesis? Indicate support both within and outside of Evergreen. Be specific about who they are and in what capacity they will support your thesis. If you are working with an outside agency or expert, be specific about their expectations for your data analysis or publication of results.

Mike Ruth:

* internal:
	+ for geoprocessing software questions
	+ other technical assistance

Others possible: Coming soon (after December 20th)

1. List the 3-5 most important references you have used to identify the specific questions and context of your topic, help with issues of research design and analysis, and/or provide a basis for interpretation. For each annotated reference, explain how your project specifically connects to the source by extending, challenging, or responding to the conclusions, methods, or implications. For any other sources cited in this document provide a complete bibliographic citation.

**See exhibit 2: References: at the end of this Prospectus**

1. You are not locked into this title; its purpose is to help you identify the main point or topic of your thesis at an early stage. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. You might discuss selection of case studies, sampling methods, experimental design, and/or specific hypotheses you will test. You should also address any specialized knowledge or skills that are necessary to complete the research. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. If you are planning to use existing data, explain the specific source, contact information, arrangement with collaborating agencies, and expectations about use of data and final products of your research. If you are planning to gather new data, describe specific methods, time, place, and equipment that will be required. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. If you’re not sure where to start, consult a ‘Code of Ethics’ or other similar document from an academic society in an applicable field of study. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. If you are collecting ANY samples or data, even observational data, on public lands (city, county, state and/or federal) it is your responsibility to find out the permit requirements BEFORE you collect data. Conducting research with tribal members/on tribal lands will have different and additional requirements. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Your *positionality as a researcher* refers to the fact that one’s “…beliefs, values systems, and moral stances are as fundamentally present and inseparable from the research process as [one]’s physical, virtual, or metaphorical presence when facilitating, participating and/or leading the research project…” (The Weingarten Blog 2017).

**List//Point Outline**

**Thesis introduction**

Title page: How public mapping suggestions are represented in legislative district lines in the 2021 Washington redistricting cycle.

Signature Page

Table of Contents

List of figures

List of tables…

Acknowledgements

	1. Funding
	2. People / plants / animals etc.**Written Introduction**

Topic introduction

	1. Broad: “redistricting in the US has had little inclusion of the public until recently..”
	2. Narrow: the 2021 “Washington redistricting cycle saw more public involvement than ever before..”
	3. What this thesis will address**How are the suggestions from public response to the 2021 legislative Redistricting cycle represented in the final legislative plan?**

Gap in research

Positionality statement:

	1. As a researcher examining my question there are a few factors that shape my positionality. First, I am a white male examining a political institution historically put together by people who are like myself. Additionally, as an employee of the commission in a role of non-partisanship I will be examining an inherently political process. My own political leanings as an independent present some bias that will need to be recognized and accounted for during the process.**Literature Review**

**Introduction this could be in the introduction to the thesis**

	1. Thesis Statement:
		1. Suggestions and Communities of interest in public response to the 2021 legislative Redistricting has been majorly represented in final legislative maps.
	2. Thesis Significance:
		1. This work will examine the inclusion of desired outcomes of the public in legislative redistricting. This research would fill the gap in the literature that compares what the public and organized groups want, versus what the public receives. This work could impact both the fields of redistricting reform research and public outreach and transparency research.
	3. Thesis Closely Related Literature/Special Mentions
		1. Methods and Framework (Miller & Grofman, 2018)
		2. Possible other members of assistance**Background**

	1. History of Redistricting:
		1. The Decennial Census
			1. (census.gov, PL 94-171, PL 94-171, US code 13)
			2. A note acknowledging the changes in the 2021 census cycle (census.gov) regarding increased differential privacy, under/overcounts, general controversy.
			3. Washington Law Review:
				1. (RCW 44.05)
	2. History of Washington Legislative Redistricting (Prich, 2011)
		* + 1. Public involvement in the process: how the 1984 redistricting act brought redistricting into a more public light and enabled the independent commission in the 1991 redistricting cycle.
				2. Problems in redistricting, redistricting and the public, the outlook in research for 2021 cycle (Altman & McDonald, 2014; Epstein & O’Halloran, 1999; Fougere et al., 2010; McDonald, 2011; Miller & Grofman, 2018; Panagopoulos, 2013)Significance, Socio-political impact of Redistricting “Many reasons for the public to care about redistricting…”

	1. Representation change Impacts of redistricting and the public tie to their decade long plus representative.
	2. Government Spending Impacts of redistricting and the public opinion on mixed urban rural districts.
	3. Political changes due to redistricting and the public reaction and involvement to start or stop political flipping of a district.Public involvement in Redistricting “the public has more impact in the process than they think…”

	1. Public Opinion on Washington Process
		1. (Panagopoulos, 2013)
		2. (VanderMolen & Milyo, 2016)
	2. Washington’s duty to the public in redistricting
	3. Growing Public involvement
		1. (Confer 2003)
		2. (McDonald, 2011; McDonald & Altman, 2018; Pirch, K. (2011)., n.d.)GIS, Technology, And accessibility “As prior research has suggested, computer technology has increased the accessibility and transparency of the public- political bridge in the redistricting process…”

	1. Trends in technology-based accessibility in Redistricting
		1. (Altman et. Al. 2014)
		2. (Epstein & O’Halloran, 1999; Freeland, 2014; Green, 2017; McDonald & Altman, 2018; Šára, 2014; Winburn et al., 2017)
	2. Political power of public involvement now and into the future
	3. Representation and raising of voices and remarks on accessibility in the 2021 process and moving forwardConclusion and transition to thesis

**Methods**

Roadmap

Site description(s)

	1. Maps (?)
	2. PicturesMethod the first: data / sample collection

	1. Rationale
	2. Description
		1. Example photographs / coding keys / interview questions etc.
	3. Benefits and limitationsMethod the second: sample analysis

	1. Rationale (Miller and Grofman, 2018)
	2. Description
	3. Benefits and limitationsMethod the third: data analysis … (and 3rd, 4th, 5th, et cetera)

Statistical analyses

	1. Test #1
		1. description & rationale
		2. This method was used to answer <question>
		3. Limitations & utility
	2. Test #2: description & rationale
		1. description & rationale
		2. This method was used to answer <question>
		3. Limitations & utility
	3. Test #3: description & rationale
		1. description & rationale
		2. This method was used to answer <question>
		3. Limitations & utility**Results**

Introduction and roadmap

Data / sample collection details

	1. What went wrong
		1. Acknowledge and
	2. What went rightSummary of all data produced

	1. Tables!
	2. Written description
	3. Basic figures (descriptive)
	4. Statistical tests and resultsTransition

**Discussion & Conclusion**

Introduction and roadmap

Summary of key results

	1. Recap of Chapter V (highlights)Interpretation of results

	1. Correlation and / or causation
	2. Figures (analytical and / or explanatory)
	3. What was expected
	4. What was unexpected
	5. Conclusions based on just this dataConnecting results to framework / context

	1. What agrees with previously published work
	2. What is different than published work
	3. Conclusions based on agreement / disagreement with published workFinal conclusions

	1. Big picture meaning & implications for broader work (Local, regional, global?)
	2. Directions for future research**References**

*13 U.S. Code § 141—Population and other census information*. (n.d.). LII / Legal Information Institute. Retrieved October 13, 2021, from <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/13/141>

Altman, M., & McDonald, M. (2018). Redistricting by Formula: An Ohio Reform Experiment. *American Politics Research*, *46*(1), 103–131. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X17700611>

Altman, M., & McDonald, M. P. (2014). Public Participation GIS: The Case of Redistricting. *2014 47th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences*, 2063–2072. <https://doi.org/10.1109/HICSS.2014.261>

This is a conference paper from 2014 that examines how technology has become central regarding public involvement and transparency in the redistricting process. This article explored case-studies of redistricting processes throughout the United States. It touches on both the positive and negative outcomes from public mapping in redistricting. This article is great jumping off- point for historic background on my subject and case studies for comparison or context material.

Bureau, U. C. (n.d.). *Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data*. Census.Gov. Retrieved October 13, 2021, from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo/summary-files.html>

Confer, C. C. (2003). To Be about the People’s Business: An Examination of the Utility of Nonpolitical/Bipartisan Legislative Redistricting Commissions. *Kansas Journal of Law & Public Policy*, *13*(2), 115–160.

Freeland, G. (2014). Community Members Draw the Line: Redistricting by a Ventura County Community Task Force. *SAGE Open*, *4*(2), 2158244014539518. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244014539518>

Epstein, D., & O’Halloran, S. (1999). A Social Science Approach to Race, Redistricting, and Representation. *American Political Science Review*, *93*(1), 187–191. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2585770>

Fougere, J., Ansolabehere, S., & Persily, N. (2010). Partisanship, Public Opinion, and Redistricting. *Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy*, *9*(4), 325–347. <https://doi.org/10.1089/elj.2010.9405>

Green, R. (2017). Redistricting Transparency 2020 Redistricting: Mapping a New Political Decade Symposium. *William & Mary Law Review*, *59*(5), 1787–1836.

This is another conference paper; it reads like an editorial but sites some papers that apply survey analysis techniques of my topic. This paper is another jumping off point, case study comparison to learn more about the definitions, and nuances of my topic through history.

*Justice Department Issues Guidance on Federal Statutes Regarding Redistricting and Methods for Electing Public Officials*. (2021, September 1). <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-issues-guidance-federal-statutes-regarding-redistricting-and-methods>

*KevinsMonoRedistricting-7-27-15.pdf*. (n.d.). Retrieved September 30, 2021, from <https://inside.ewu.edu/ippea/wp-content/uploads/sites/168/2019/05/KevinsMonoRedistricting-7-27-15.pdf>

Kubin, J. C. (1996). Case for Redistricting Commissions  Note. *Texas Law Review*, *75*(4), 837–872.

McDonald, M. P. (2011). Redistricting Developments of the Last Decade—And What’s on the Table in This One. *Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy*, *10*(3), 313–318. <https://doi.org/10.1089/elj.2011.1037>

McDonald, M. P., & Altman, M. (2018). *The Public Mapping Project: How Public Participation Can Revolutionize Redistricting*. Cornell University Press.

This recently published book could provide some insight on my topic and explore more nuance of the emerging interaction between political science and public involvement in the modern era.

Miller, P., & Grofman, B. (2018). Public Hearings and Congressional Redistricting: Evidence from the Western United States 2011–2012. *Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy*, *17*(1), 21–38. <https://doi.org/10.1089/elj.2016.0425>

This is the closet to my research I have found so far, bridges to this article past and present will help Identify methods and framework throughout the literature to my topic.

Panagopoulos, C. (2013). Public Awareness and Attitudes about Redistricting Institutions. *Journal of Politics and Law*, *6*(3), 45–54.

This is an interesting article for its methods on survey analysis, and it’s focus on independent redistricting commissions for which is the Washington model. This article is cited in others in my topic area and could lead to more works in both forward-looking and backward-looking ranges.

*Partisan Bias and Competition: The Effect of Redistricting Methods on State Legislative Elections - ProQuest*. (n.d.). Retrieved October 13, 2021, from <https://www.proquest.com/openview/ecf47a7af139d4b86eeef4c7a74fe7b2/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750>

Pirch, K. (2011). (n.d.). *The Redistricting Process in Washington State. Eastern Washington University, Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis.*

This work is an institution Monograph of Eastern Washington University. It’s a brief but informative review of our non-partisan redistricting process and its impact on the 2001 cycle. It offers some good references and forward looking into review to the 2011 cycle for which readers will have the benefit of knowing the outcome.

Šára, P. (2014). *Redistricting Bodies and Redistricting Reform in the U.S.: Where Are We Now and the Way Forward*. <https://dspace.cuni.cz/handle/20.500.11956/68264>

*Title 44 RCW: STATE GOVERNMENT—LEGISLATIVE*. (n.d.). Retrieved October 13, 2021, from <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=44>

VanderMolen, K., & Milyo, J. (2016). Public Confidence in the Redistricting Process: The Role of Independent Commissions, State Legislative Polarization, and Partisan Preferences. *State and Local Government Review*, *48*(4), 236–245. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0160323X17690884>

This paper is a good starting point on the methods and metrics of public response analysis to redistricting. It examines independent commissions, and political polarizations. This work can help me further narrow a metric to weigh my own public response analysis.

Winburn, J., Henderson, M., & Dowling, C. M. (2017). From the Constituent’s Eye: Experimental Evidence on the District Selection Preferences of Individuals. *Political Research Quarterly*, *70*(1), 32–41. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1065912916671829>

This work provides an experimental design that examines the public’s interest between their community connectiveness and co-partisan competition in legislative redistricting. They provide a novel look at not only the publics views on the process but the weight of considered variables to the citizen mappers. This can help me frame context of the public’s wants when it comes to redistricting outcomes.

Well done-an excellent thesis prospectus. I made a few comments in the text. But this is a great start to a very interesting project. I am looking forward to working with you on it. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)