

AMVOTE-PAC* - American Middle East Voters Alliance, Inc.

"POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE"

"First Arab-American PAC in Illinois History"

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August 28, 2021

To: Illinois General Assembly – Redistricting Committee

Fr: Testimony of Judge William J. Haddad, Retired
Chair, American Middle East Voters Alliance - AMVOTE PAC
Chair, MENA Governmental Advisory Council of Illinois

Re: **Objection to Exclusion of MENA Americans in
Adjustments to the General Assembly Redistricting Act**

Advisory Board

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Based upon United Supreme Court in *Gray v. Sanders*, 372 U.S. 368, and the *Voting Rights Act*, local electoral district boundaries should be drawn in accordance with Constitutional principles of "one person one vote" in order to fairly reflect the population in a way that does not dilute a fair reflection of the citizens within that district. However, the "**Trump Census Ban**" of Arab Americans ended the Census Bureau's plans to add "MENA" to the 2020 Census. This prohibition denied Arab-Americans their lawful right and opportunity to be "counted" along with other minorities in the 2020 Census.

We submit that the General Assembly need not, nor should, adopt Trump's Census Ban on Arab Americans in assessing the political rights of Arab-Americans/MENA population here in Illinois' Southwest Cook County where there is a concentration of Arab-Americans. We alternatively present an overview of other empirical census data to support our case. Also, we submit one of many drafts of maps which demonstrate the how feasibly a district can be drawn to give the Arab Americans in southwest Cook County an opportunity to be represented in Springfield.

I have attached (1) the MENA Council Resolution to the General Assembly, (2) "Overview of Demographical Evidence for Redistricting", and (3) some examples of maps and populations to guide your considerations. We stand ready to present live testimony of Prof. Louise Cankar and other experts to support our view.



Hon. William Haddad

Chairman, American Middle East Voters Alliance - AMVOTE PAC

Encls.

Political Consultants

M.K. Dawson
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[AMVOTE-Pac is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is or will be available on the Board's official website www.elections.il.gov or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, IL.]

**Overview of the Demographical Evidentiary Basis for Redistricting
for
A Middle Eastern / North African (MENA) Representative District**

Preface

This brief overview of evidentiary basis for the creation of a state legislative district in the heavily population MENA community in southwest Cook County, Illinois demonstrates the political feasibility of drawing a district which gives MENA population a fair opportunity to vote for representative candidates of the community. This is a compilation of data provided by Louise Cainkar PhD from Marquette University, and the MENA Governmental Advisory Council Committee on Redistricting.

I. What is MENA?

MENA, which stands for Middle Eastern and North African, is an ethnicity category already successfully tested by the US Census Bureau. It is a collective term for people whose origins or ancestry's lie in the Middle East and North Africa, most of whom are now subsumed under the White Race category by the US Census Bureau and the US Office of Management and Budget. Because of this categorization, MENA identified persons are at once invisible (when it comes to services, needs, health care, discrimination) while at the same time hypervisible (when it comes to stereotypes, media images, hate crimes, and policing). Arab Americans in coalition with others from the MENA region have been advocating on the federal level for a separate MENA category since the 1980s, in light of ongoing extensive documentation of the prejudice and discrimination they face and its lack of formal recognition while being subsumed under White. A wealth of studies show that a majority of MENA identified persons do not experience the privileges of whiteness.

II. Trump Administration Halts Census Bureau adoption of MENA category

As the Census Bureau moved towards final testing of the MENA category for the 2020 Census (for example, should it be a specific ethnic category placed under Race/White or a separate category like Hispanic/Latino?), the Trump Administration's Office of Management and Budget halted further progress.

III. Cook County's Large MENA Population

Illinois and the Chicago Metropolitan area are home to some of the largest MENA populations in the United States. On the state level, Illinois has the 4th largest MENA population in the United States. It is home to the second largest Palestinian, Assyrian, and Jordanian populations in the US and ranks 3rd, 4th, and 5th nationally for 5 other Arab groups. (Source: 5-year American Community Survey data, US Census Bureau)

Similarly, on the local level the Chicago *Metropolitan area* is home to the fourth largest urban concentrations of MENA populations in the United States. The Metropolitan Chicago has the largest concentrations of Palestinians and Assyrians in the US, the second largest concentrations of Jordanian and "Arab*" populations, and ranks 3rd, 4th, and 5th nationally for 6 other Arab groups. * Some persons identify as Arab without naming a nation of origin. (Source: 5-year American Community Survey data, US Census Bureau)

AMVOTE has compiled 167,000 registered MENA voters in Cook County, Illinois.

IV. 64 Precincts – The Basis of a New District

1. Looking at the electoral data from the CD 3 Congressional primary campaign, where almost the entire Southwest Suburban MENA population resides, we see that the MENA candidate performed well in the top 40 precincts listed, which were all in Worth, Palos, and Orland Townships, with several precincts in Lyons and Stickney townships near the 4-Township convergence of 87th and Harlem. The candidates received 18.3% of the Congressional primary vote in the 40 precincts colored in orange, pink, and green on the below map. **THESE 40 PRECINCTS ARE THE BASE OF A DISTRICT THAT COULD BE DRAWN TO BENEFIT A MENA CANDIDATE.**

2. **Map of 24 other Precincts to compile 64 Precincts:** We have mapped 24 other precincts which complement these 40 precincts geographically and demographically. Together they complete a geographically contiguous region comprising a total of 64 precincts in Palos, Orland, Worth, Stickney, and Lyons Townships. To complete a district, several more precincts should be drawn into the district depending on the wishes of the current neighboring incumbents.

3. Soft Impact of this plan:
 - a. The 64-precinct region includes the southern portion of Bridgeview, where Senator Landek is Mayor, but not the segment of Bridgeview where Sen. Landek lives. Over 90% of Sen. Landek's Senate district is outside of this 64-precinct region.
 - b. The 64 precinct region includes significant portions of Orland Township and small portions of the 19th Legislative District, where Senator Hastings is the Democratic Committeeman and State Senator, but does not include over 90% of Hastings' district and does not include Hastings' home township or precinct.
 - c. It is noteworthy that no current State Representative resides in the 64-precinct region drawn below. The mapped region takes small portions of districts represented by Representatives Zalewski, Slaughter, Rita, Flowers, Thapedi, Hurley, Burke, and McDermed (R). We also minimized the portions of Worth Township and Orland Township that comprise decent segments (but not electoral bases) of Rep. Hurley and Rep. Burke's electoral support.

¹ IL State Board of Elections Committee Filings: Friends for Rashid

² IL State Board of Elections Committee Filings: Rashid for Cook

³ Federal Election Commission Committee Filings: The People for Rush Darwish

V. Example of a Map and Precinct Breakdown



| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Top Tier | Over 20% |
| Top 20 | Over 17% |
| Top 40 | 13-17% |
| Other 10 | >12% |
| Map Fillers (5) | 9-10.5% |

| Precinct | Registered Voters | Ballots Cast | RD | RD% | %Turnout | Total Votes |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|-----|-------|----------|-------------|
| Palos 25 | 1079 | 314 | 125 | 41.0% | 29.1% | 305 |
| Palos 32 | 592 | 105 | 36 | 34.6% | 17.7% | 104 |
| Worth 4 | 1848 | 335 | 81 | 24.7% | 18.1% | 328 |
| Palos 7 | 1169 | 243 | 59 | 24.7% | 20.8% | 239 |
| Lyons 34 | 436 | 94 | 21 | 23.1% | 21.6% | 91 |
| Palos 8 | 479 | 80 | 17 | 21.8% | 16.7% | 78 |
| Orland 16 | 1021 | 198 | 41 | 21.4% | 19.4% | 192 |
| Palos 23 | 787 | 144 | 30 | 21.3% | 18.3% | 141 |
| Orland 29 | 1579 | 311 | 60 | 19.9% | 19.7% | 301 |
| Lyons 38 | 665 | 114 | 22 | 19.8% | 17.1% | 111 |
| Worth 76 | 574 | 141 | 27 | 19.6% | 24.6% | 138 |
| Orland 15 | 1385 | 264 | 48 | 19.1% | 19.1% | 251 |
| Worth 1 | 630 | 142 | 26 | 19.1% | 22.5% | 136 |
| Orland 68 | 784 | 159 | 28 | 19.0% | 20.3% | 147 |
| Palos 21 | 738 | 144 | 27 | 19.0% | 19.5% | 142 |
| Palos 5 | 741 | 177 | 33 | 19.0% | 23.9% | 174 |
| Lyons 77 | 1005 | 157 | 28 | 18.9% | 15.6% | 148 |
| Palos 39 | 1091 | 281 | 50 | 18.5% | 25.8% | 270 |
| Orland 1 | 1524 | 328 | 55 | 17.9% | 21.5% | 307 |
| Orland 36 | 1324 | 299 | 51 | 17.8% | 22.6% | 287 |
| Worth 83 | 524 | 109 | 18 | 17.6% | 20.8% | 102 |
| Palos 34 | 685 | 157 | 26 | 17.0% | 22.9% | 153 |
| Palos 18 | 1231 | 247 | 40 | 16.8% | 20.1% | 238 |
| Orland 64 | 1355 | 276 | 45 | 16.7% | 20.4% | 269 |
| Orland 75 | 1150 | 220 | 34 | 16.3% | 19.1% | 209 |
| Palos 31 | 1115 | 246 | 38 | 15.9% | 22.1% | 239 |
| Orland 70 | 1241 | 286 | 42 | 15.3% | 23.0% | 274 |
| Orland 43 | 882 | 210 | 31 | 15.2% | 23.8% | 204 |
| Palos 35 | 1310 | 283 | 42 | 15.2% | 21.6% | 277 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|-----|----|-------|-------|-----|
| Orland 8 | 931 | 181 | 26 | 14.7% | 19.4% | 177 |
| Worth 90 | 1327 | 261 | 37 | 14.7% | 19.7% | 252 |
| Worth 26 | 887 | 206 | 28 | 14.5% | 23.2% | 193 |
| Orland 47 | 1380 | 255 | 36 | 14.5% | 18.5% | 249 |
| Worth 44 | 742 | 127 | 18 | 14.3% | 17.1% | 126 |
| Orland 59 | 975 | 227 | 31 | 14.2% | 23.3% | 218 |
| Stickney 4 | 1285 | 255 | 34 | 13.7% | 19.8% | 249 |
| Orland 66 | 849 | 202 | 26 | 13.3% | 23.8% | 195 |
| Stickney 6 | 1567 | 374 | 48 | 13.2% | 23.9% | 363 |
| Orland 18 | 1209 | 299 | 37 | 13.1% | 24.7% | 282 |
| Orland 9 | 1210 | 227 | 29 | 12.9% | 18.8% | 224 |
| Stickney 5 | 1508 | 344 | 43 | 12.9% | 22.8% | 334 |
| Worth 28 | 774 | 190 | 24 | 12.8% | 24.5% | 187 |
| Lyons 8 | 694 | 147 | 17 | 12.8% | 21.2% | 133 |
| Worth 98 | 1106 | 307 | 38 | 12.8% | 27.8% | 298 |
| Worth 21 | 1638 | 327 | 41 | 12.7% | 20.0% | 322 |
| Orland 65 | 911 | 202 | 24 | 12.5% | 22.2% | 192 |
| Worth 33 | 1105 | 212 | 26 | 12.5% | 19.2% | 208 |
| Stickney 12 | 1283 | 260 | 31 | 12.4% | 20.3% | 250 |
| Stickney 18 | 700 | 143 | 17 | 12.3% | 20.4% | 138 |
| Palos 11 | 954 | 212 | 25 | 12.3% | 22.2% | 204 |
| Lyons 58 | 1139 | 141 | 17 | 12.2% | 12.4% | 139 |
| Orland 57 | 954 | 208 | 24 | 12.1% | 21.8% | 198 |
| Palos 13 | 935 | 191 | 22 | 12.1% | 20.4% | 182 |
| Stickney 14 | 1360 | 305 | 36 | 12.1% | 22.4% | 298 |
| Orland 56 | 835 | 150 | 17 | 12.1% | 18.0% | 141 |
| Worth 99 | 717 | 153 | 18 | 12.0% | 21.3% | 150 |
| Stickney 9 | 1032 | 255 | 30 | 12.0% | 24.7% | 251 |
| Worth 30 | 1206 | 267 | 31 | 11.8% | 22.1% | 262 |
| Worth 66 | 855 | 199 | 23 | 11.7% | 23.3% | 196 |
| Worth 70 | 1229 | 298 | 34 | 11.7% | 24.2% | 290 |
| Worth 82 | 1025 | 216 | 24 | 11.6% | 21.1% | 207 |
| Orland 41 | 909 | 182 | 19 | 11.5% | 20.0% | 165 |
| Palos 38 | 1107 | 189 | 21 | 11.5% | 17.1% | 183 |
| Orland 26 | 902 | 172 | 19 | 11.4% | 19.1% | 167 |
| Worth 74 | 607 | 135 | 15 | 11.4% | 22.2% | 132 |
| Worth 94 | 1240 | 279 | 31 | 11.3% | 22.5% | 274 |
| Worth 78 | 1396 | 268 | 30 | 11.3% | 19.2% | 266 |
| Orland 22 | 932 | 241 | 26 | 11.2% | 25.9% | 233 |
| Worth 86 | 1103 | 254 | 28 | 11.1% | 23.0% | 252 |
| Orland 20 | 599 | 100 | 10 | 10.8% | 16.7% | 93 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Worth 25 | 1219 | 341 | 35 | 10.6% | 28.0% | 329 |
| Orland 23 | 754 | 187 | 19 | 10.6% | 24.8% | 180 |
| Worth 71 | 886 | 139 | 14 | 10.5% | 15.7% | 133 |
| Lyons 75 | 834 | 154 | 16 | 10.5% | 18.5% | 153 |
| Worth 6 | 1339 | 205 | 21 | 10.4% | 15.3% | 202 |
| Worth 51 | 799 | 150 | 15 | 10.3% | 18.8% | 146 |
| Palos 14 | 603 | 169 | 17 | 10.2% | 28.0% | 166 |
| Lyons 70 | 852 | 188 | 17 | 10.1% | 22.1% | 168 |
| Stickney 15 | 1282 | 319 | 32 | 10.1% | 24.9% | 318 |
| Worth 61 | 905 | 195 | 19 | 9.9% | 21.5% | 191 |
| Orland 60 | 643 | 157 | 15 | 9.9% | 24.4% | 151 |
| Palos 36 | 1177 | 209 | 20 | 9.9% | 17.8% | 202 |
| Palos 12 | 1128 | 200 | 19 | 9.7% | 17.7% | 195 |
| Palos 26 | 696 | 118 | 11 | 9.7% | 17.0% | 113 |
| Stickney 8 | 1093 | 236 | 22 | 9.5% | 21.6% | 232 |
| Palos 17 | 1341 | 272 | 25 | 9.5% | 20.3% | 264 |
| Worth 81 | 759 | 53 | 5 | 9.4% | 7.0% | 53 |
| Worth 67 | 732 | 121 | 11 | 9.4% | 16.5% | 117 |
| Orland 39 | 750 | 177 | 16 | 9.3% | 23.6% | 172 |
| Stickney 13 | 998 | 248 | 22 | 9.3% | 24.8% | 237 |
| Orland 74 | 639 | 136 | 12 | 9.2% | 21.3% | 130 |
| Worth 2 | 1262 | 267 | 24 | 9.1% | 21.2% | 264 |
| Palos 27 | 1070 | 239 | 21 | 8.9% | 22.3% | 236 |
| Orland 42 | 1089 | 237 | 20 | 8.8% | 21.8% | 227 |
| Worth 58 | 1085 | 288 | 24 | 8.7% | 26.5% | 275 |
| Worth 27 | 816 | 214 | 18 | 8.7% | 26.2% | 208 |
| Orland 45 | 886 | 199 | 16 | 8.5% | 22.5% | 188 |
| Palos 19 | 1179 | 293 | 24 | 8.5% | 24.9% | 284 |
| Orland 61 | 777 | 194 | 16 | 8.3% | 25.0% | 192 |
| Berwyn Township Results | 4804 | 1366 | 71 | 5.4% | 28.4% | 1304 |
| Cicero Township Results | 4634 | 1322 | 31 | 2.4% | 28.5% | 1275 |
| Lemont Township Results | 15859 | 3469 | 148 | 4.5% | 21.9% | 3318 |
| Lyons Township Results | 64,988 | 18,403 | 637 | 3.6% | 28.3% | 17,855 |
| Orland Township Results | 41,099 | 8,557 | 993 | 12.1% | 20.8% | 8,206 |
| Palos Township Results | 34,017 | 7,439 | 905 | 12.5% | 21.9% | 7,224 |
| Stickney Township Results | 21,846 | 5,043 | 438 | 8.9% | 23.1% | 4,926 |
| Worth Township Results | 55,253 | 12,641 | 1,130 | 9.2% | 22.9% | 12,295 |
| TOP 40 Precincts | 41,306 | 8,678 | 1,531 | 18.3% | 21.0% | 8,383 |

The 55 precinct region currently has 57,206 registered voters

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