

From the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago to Joliet, Illinois 3rd Congressional District is filled with people from a variety of backgrounds who share common dreams and burdens. The people of the district share an entrepreneurial spirit, which inspires us to start businesses, create jobs, and raise families here. Though the 3rd district is a veritable cornucopia of faiths, colors, and creeds, our values are shared and that diversity serves as our strength.

As a father, small businessman, and the son of an immigrant from India, my background may be unique where I live in Bridgeport, but I share a common plight with everyone along the I-55 corridor. We work hard to educate our children, grow our businesses, and enjoy the diversity of the neighborhoods and municipalities we live in. As people and as the transportation capital of the Midwest, our ties bind us together, and we deserve common representation.

The 3rd Congressional District has historically represented constituents on the southwest side of Chicago and the southwest suburbs. For nearly three decades, the district has represented constituents from Bridgeport and Canaryville to Beverly, south through the suburbs of Stickney, Lyons, Palos, Worth and Orland Townships. This district has a history as a strong Chicago and Cook County Democratic, working class stronghold.

As a resident of the 11th Ward, Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood, and the southwest side, I am asking the committee to allow my community to remain in the 3rd Congressional District.

Thank you,

Abe Matthew

**Abraham T. Matthew**

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