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Written Testimony submitted on behalf of League of Women Voters of Illinois To House Redistricting Committee May 25, 6 pm

Oppose Illinois Communities and the proposed boundaries of Illinois Districts.

630-232-1891 issues@lwvil.org

The League of Women Voters of Illinois (LWVIL) is concerned that the proposed legislative maps use American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year sampling data which undercounts Illinoisans by almost 42,000 people. This undercount puts communities of color at greater risk of having been missed or excluded.

Illinois spent more than \$47.8 Million to ensure a complete count. It enlisted trusted voices from the community in more than 400 organizations in helping people fill out their census forms. This effort for a complete Census count was necessary for Illinois to accurately count communities of color and to have exceeded the projected population loss that occurred in the ACS data.

The standards on which a redistricting plan is based must require substantially equal population, geographic contiguity and effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities. Using ACS population estimates does not ensure having legislative maps with substantially equal population or effective representation of minorities.

The Illinois General Assembly must request that the Illinois Supreme Court set aside the redistricting deadlines and pass legislation to delay the spring 2022 primary so that complete Census data can be used instead of ACS data to draw legislative district maps. Redistricting must be based on real numbers so that all voices are heard at the ballot box for the next decade.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Allyson Haut, Ph.D. President League of Women Voters of Illinois