

To: Chair Elizabeth Hernandez and Members of the Illinois House Redistricting Committee,

I am submitting comments and offering a perspective to be considered by the redistricting committee at its meeting on Sunday, April 11 at 2 pm.

As a member of the League of Women Voters of Glencoe/Glenview (LWV-GG), I am sharing that the LWV-GG believes the responsibility for redistricting should be vested in an independent commission. Regardless of who is responsible for redistricting, the League believes there should be a high level of transparency and allowance for public input included in the process.

I believe that the IL General Assembly (ILGA) should pass legislation to require: 35 public redistricting hearings be held to surpass the number held in 2011.

Public hearings be held between when the final map is introduced and when votes are taken in the General Assembly or by a backup commission. Those hearings on proposed maps should allow the public to provide feedback to which lawmakers respond.

A website be maintained with all records from the General Assembly's work relevant to remap and all submissions from the public about the remap.

A compliance report be required about the final proposed map, detailing how it meets the mandates of the Federal Voting Rights Act, the Illinois Voting Rights Act, and "fairness standards."

Fairness standards be followed that prioritize minority community voting rights and communities of interest.

Complete census data will not be available until well past the date by which the IL General Assembly is constitutionally required to draw maps. The ILGA should consider seeking a court order to suspend the redistricting deadlines in the IL constitution in conjunction with moving the 2022 primary election to allow the Legislature to draw maps using census rather than alternative data.

Thank you for your work and for the opportunity to testify.

Elisa Helford