

Written Testimony from Sann Knipple, Voter Registration Chair, League of Women Voters Arlington Heights-Mount Prospect-Buffalo Grove Areas

The responsibility for redistricting should be vested in an independent special commission. This commission should have membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.

A high level of transparency and allowance for public input should be included in the redistricting process.

The IL General Assembly should pass legislation to require:

- 35 public redistricting hearings to surpass the number held in 2011.
- That a public hearing or hearings be held between when a final map is introduced and when votes are taken in the General Assembly or by a back-up commission.
- That 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.
- That 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."
- That fairness standards be followed that prioritize minority community voting rights and communities of interest.

This year, complete census data will not be available until well past the date by which the IL General Assembly, or a backup commission, 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. That would allow the Legislature to fulfill its duty to draw maps using census rather than alternative data.

If the state moves forward with alternative data, there needs to either be a statutory or court-issued mandate that lawmakers must reconvene to re-adopt a map with the census data to comply with the "one person, one vote" standard and ensure that communities of color are fully represented. Adjustments to the maps should be subjected to the same public input and transparency described above.