

GENERAL IL REDISTRICTING TALKING POINTS

- NAACP welcomes the opportunity to participate in this hearing on redistricting in Illinois because the process is about more than political outcomes; more significantly, it is about the communities of people who are affected by the process.
- NAACP is well aware that redistricting has a major impact on who wins elections and by extension on all types of legislative decisions including passage of laws, funding decisions and investment in communities.
- Because the revised redistricting boundaries are in effect for 10 years, it is imperative that these new boundaries provide for fair electoral opportunities for all voters.
- It is important that citizens feel welcome to participate in their state and local redistricting processes. Therefore, the NAACP will be monitoring the process closely and looks forward to opportunities to engage meaningfully in the process as plans are introduced.
- Mindful of the history that communities of color have faced numerous obstacles to their meaningful participation in the political process; the NAACP expects that the redistricting process on every level, both statewide and local, will comply with the state and federal Voting Rights Acts.
- There appear to be a number of districts where the provisions of the Illinois VRA of 2011 will come into play and we look forward to working toward redistricting plans that will provide fair and effective representation.
- NAACP expects that the process will be responsive and accountable to communities of color and that their interests will be reflected in the new plans.

*Jusua Haley
President of
NAACP Springfield, IL
Branch*