Senator Omar Aquino
Chair, Redistricting Committee
627 Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

August 26, 2021

Chairman Aquino:

Attached is my presentation concerning the redistricting of Cook County judicial subcircuits, pursuant to Public Act 101-0477, as well as a proposed revision to the Cook County Board of Review map. My proposed maps are endorsed by the Chicago City Council Latino Caucus. My maps have equal population, keep communities whole, and enhance minority representation. I am also attaching GEOJSON files of my maps to this email.

Truly yours,

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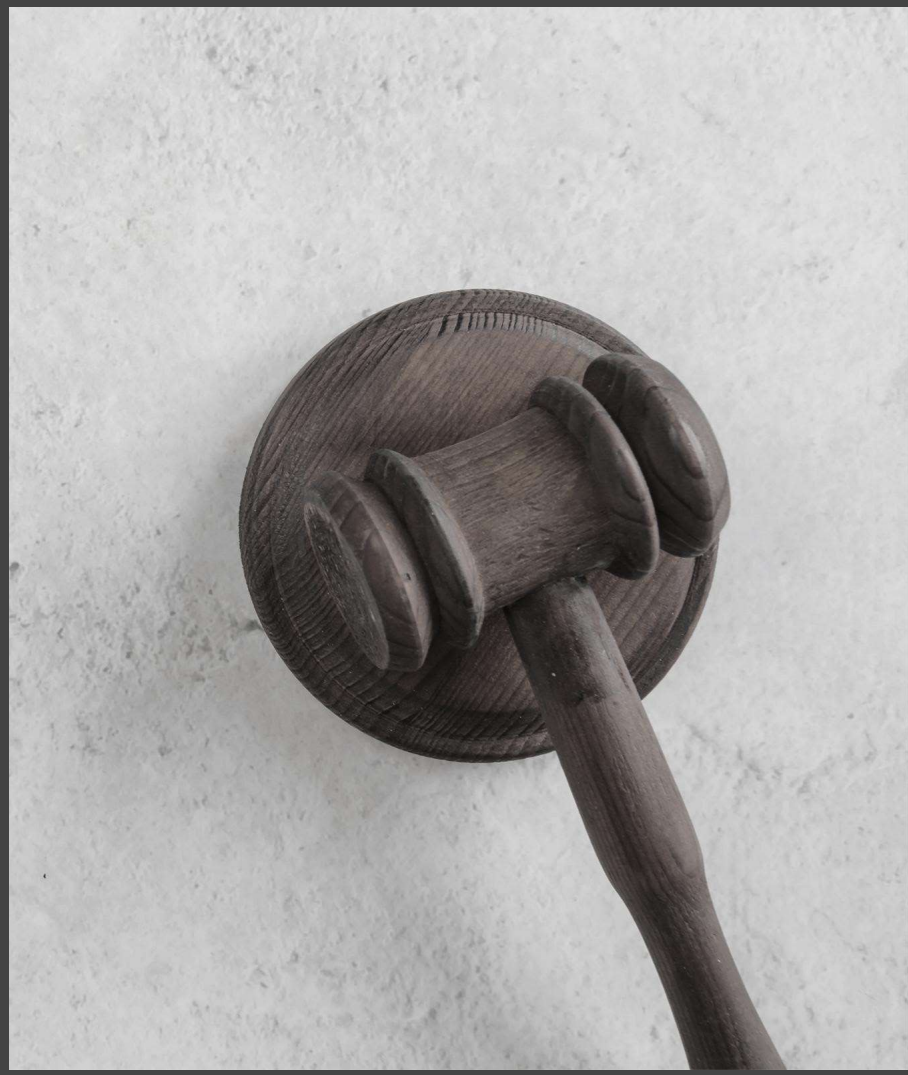
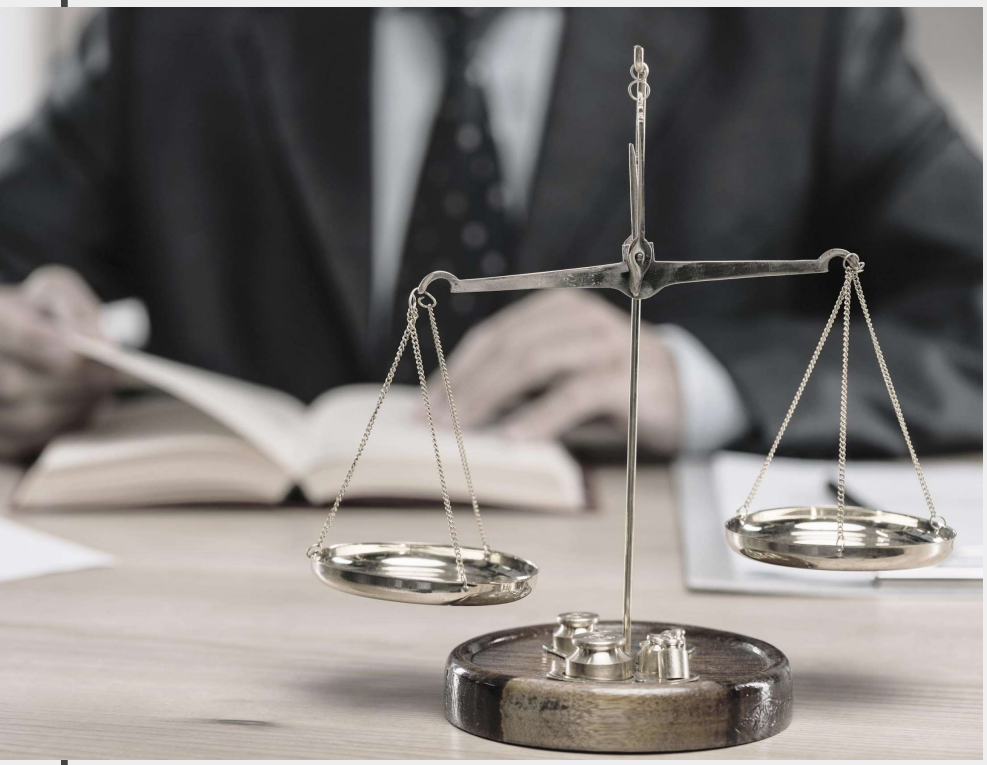
Apartment 37ES
Chicago, Illinois 60654
312 985 6529

PROPOSED NEW COOK COUNTY JUDICIAL SUBCIRCUITS MAP

Mapping a court system for the next generation

By Frank Calabrese





Public Act 101-0477, signed into law last year, requires the General Assembly to “redraw the boundaries of the (Cook County) subcircuits to reflect the results of the 2020 federal decennial census.”

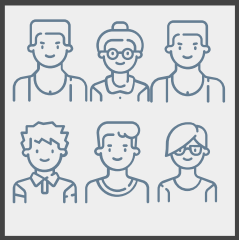
This is the first time the Cook County judicial subcircuits will be redistricted since they were created.

The 15 judicial subcircuit districts of Cook County were created by law in 1991, and the population patterns of Cook County have changed significantly since 1991.

PROBLEMS WITH CURRENT SUBCIRCUIT MAP

POPULATION

The population of the current subcircuits are greatly unbalanced



DIVERSITY

Only 4 of 15 subcircuits are majority minority

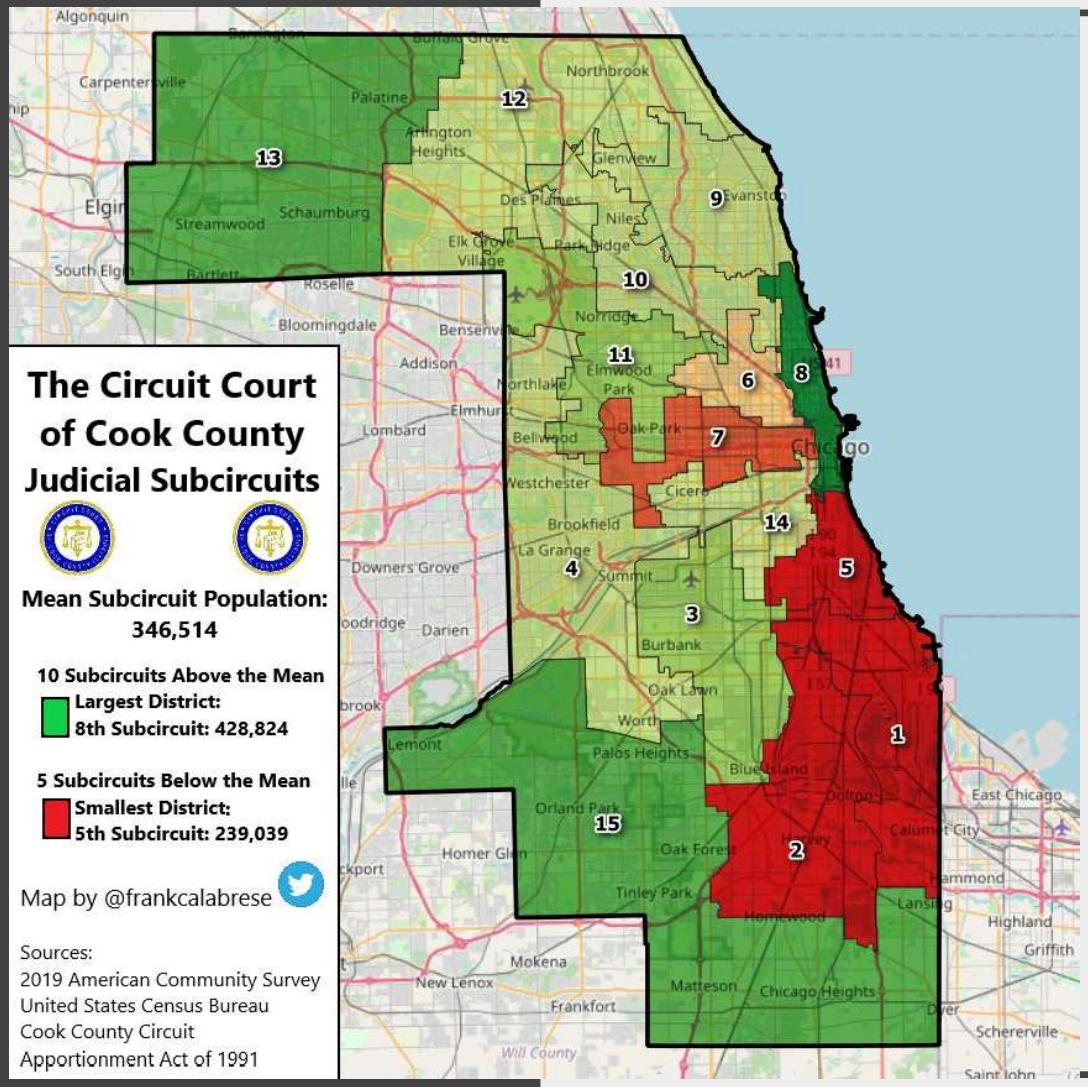
COMMUNITY

The subcircuits do not reflect cohesive communities

POPULATION PROBLEM

Public Act 101-0477 requires that "the subcircuits shall be compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population."

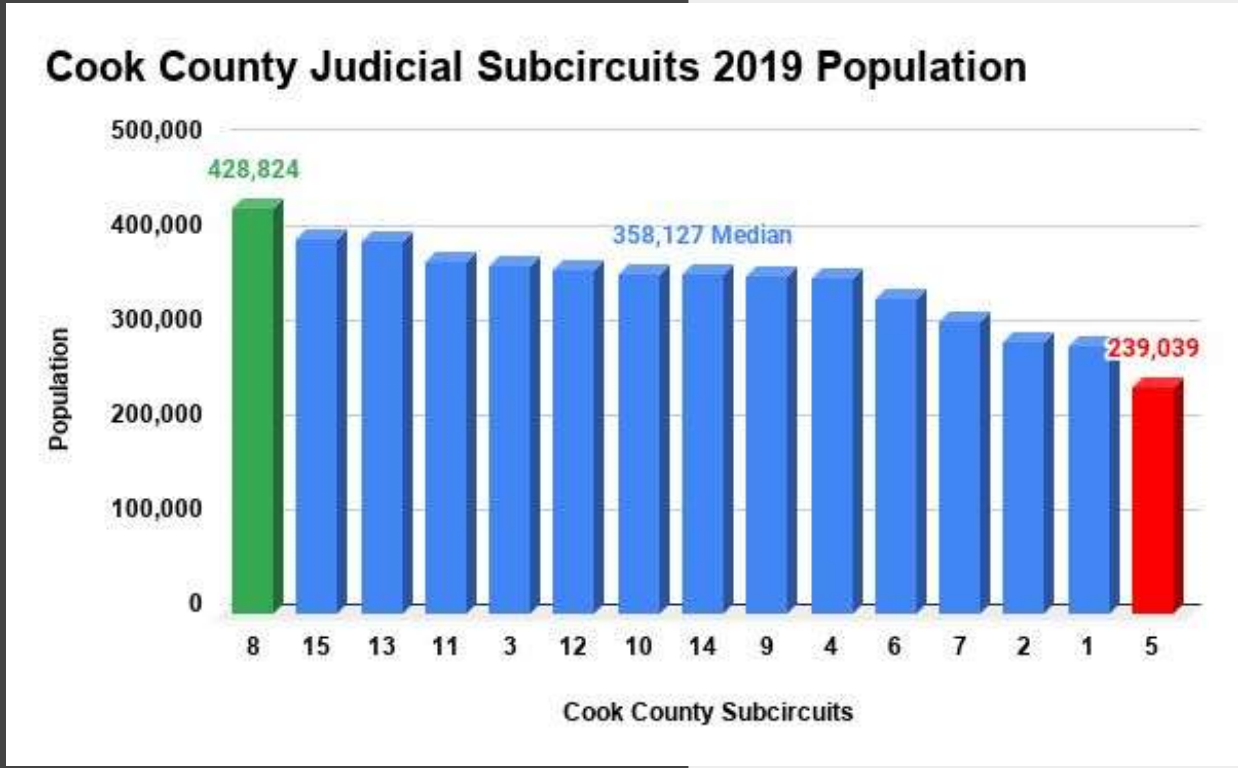
Currently, the subcircuits do not substantially have equal population. The current population range is 428,824 to 239,039, a difference of 189,87 people.



POPULATION PROBLEM

The 8th Subcircuit has the most people with 428,824 and the 5th Subcircuit has the least with 239,039 people. The population mean of the 15 subcircuits is 346,514 and the median subcircuit is the 14th Subcircuit with 358,127 people.

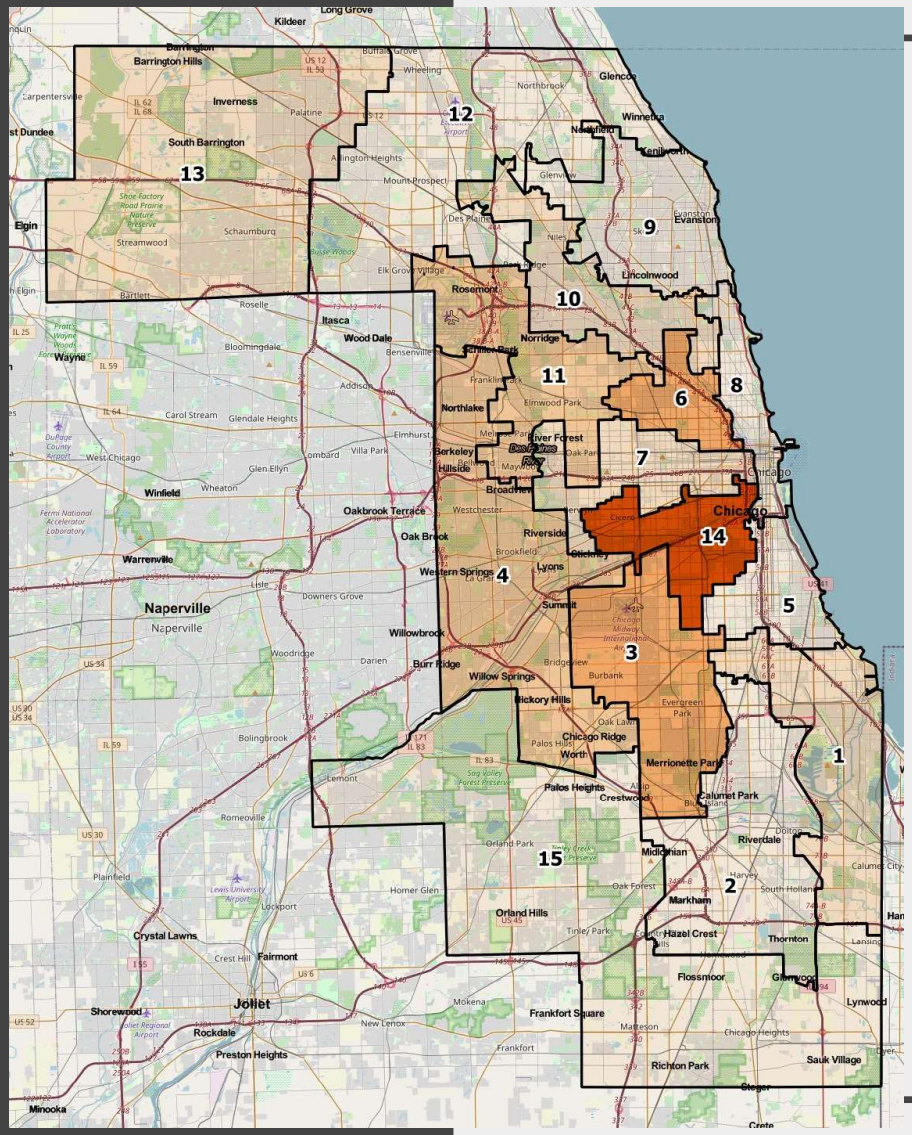
The 5th Subcircuit is over 44% smaller than the 8th Subcircuit, much higher than the 10% population deviation tolerated by federal courts. Karcher v. Daggett, 462 U.S. 725, 730-31 (1983); White v. Regester, 412 U.S. 755 (1973).



DIVERSITY PROBLEM

The current subcircuits only have one majority Latino subcircuit, even though the overall population of Cook County is over a quarter Latino.

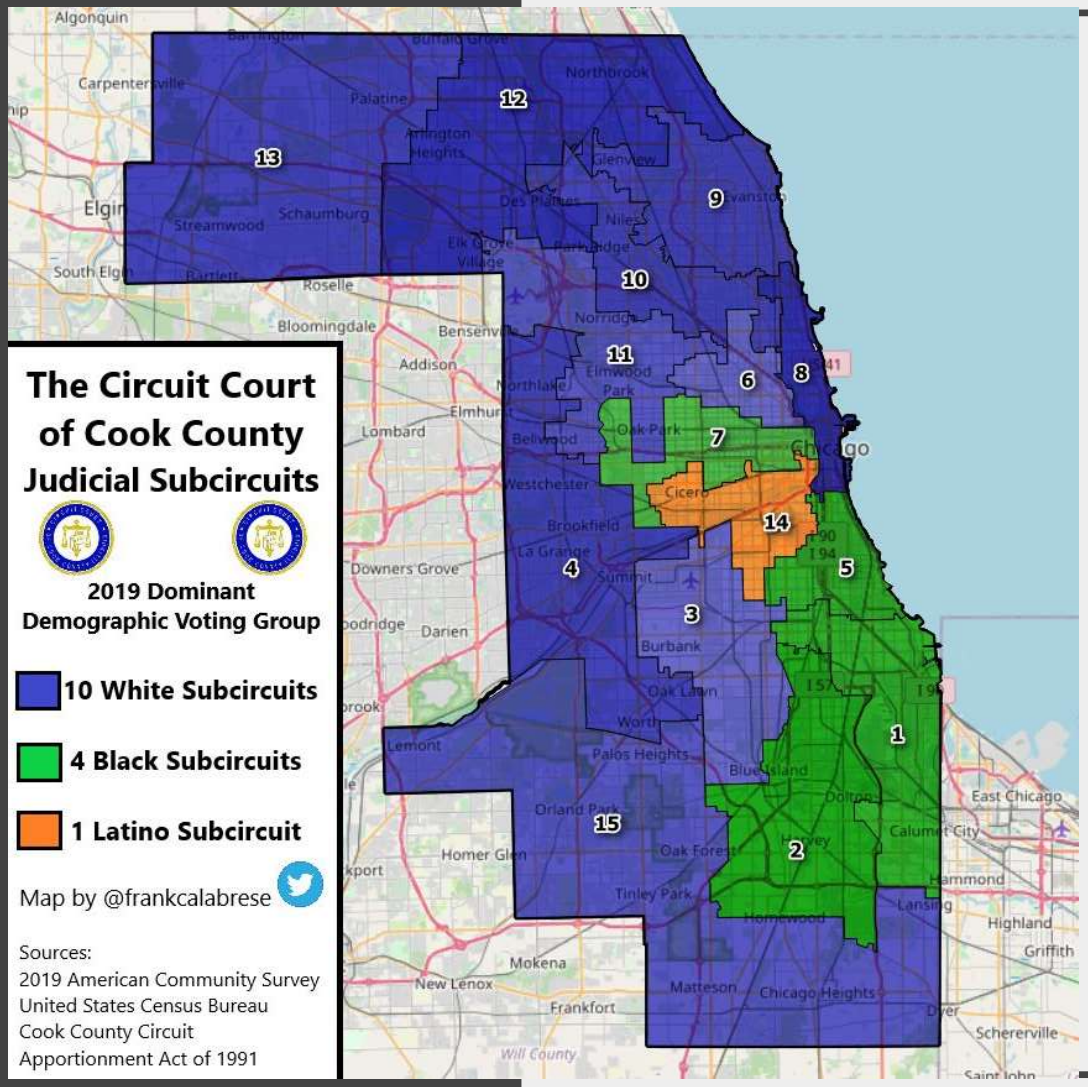
The 6th Subcircuit was drawn to be a Latino district, but it is now a majority white district by voting population. The current voting population of the 6th Subcircuit is 37% Latino and 50% white.



DIVERSITY PROBLEM

Of the 15 subcircuits, 10 subcircuits have whites as the largest voting blocks, with nine subcircuits being majority white and the 3rd Subcircuit being plurality white. There are four majority Black subcircuits.

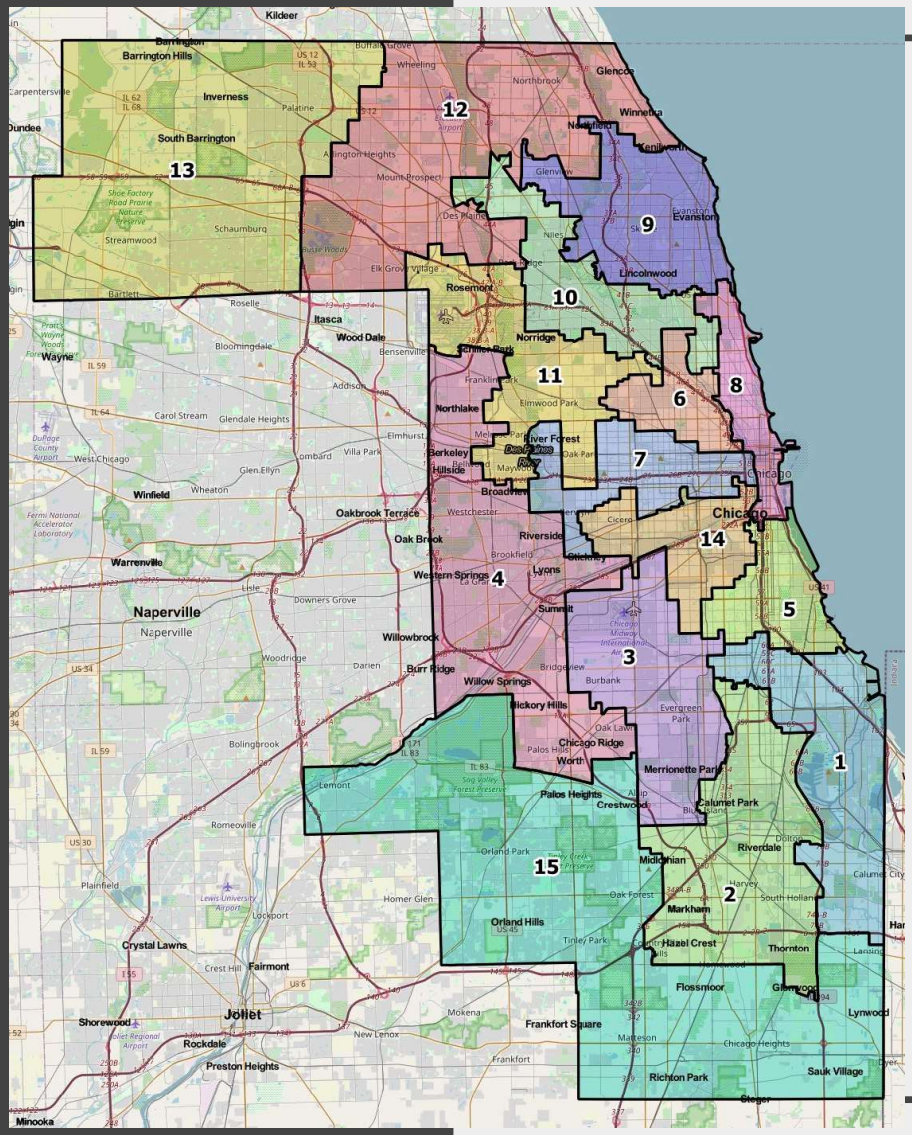
The 7th Subcircuit has seen its Black voting population diluted, but it is still a 57% Black district by voting population. There is only one majority Latino subcircuit, the 14th Subcircuit, which is 62% Latino.



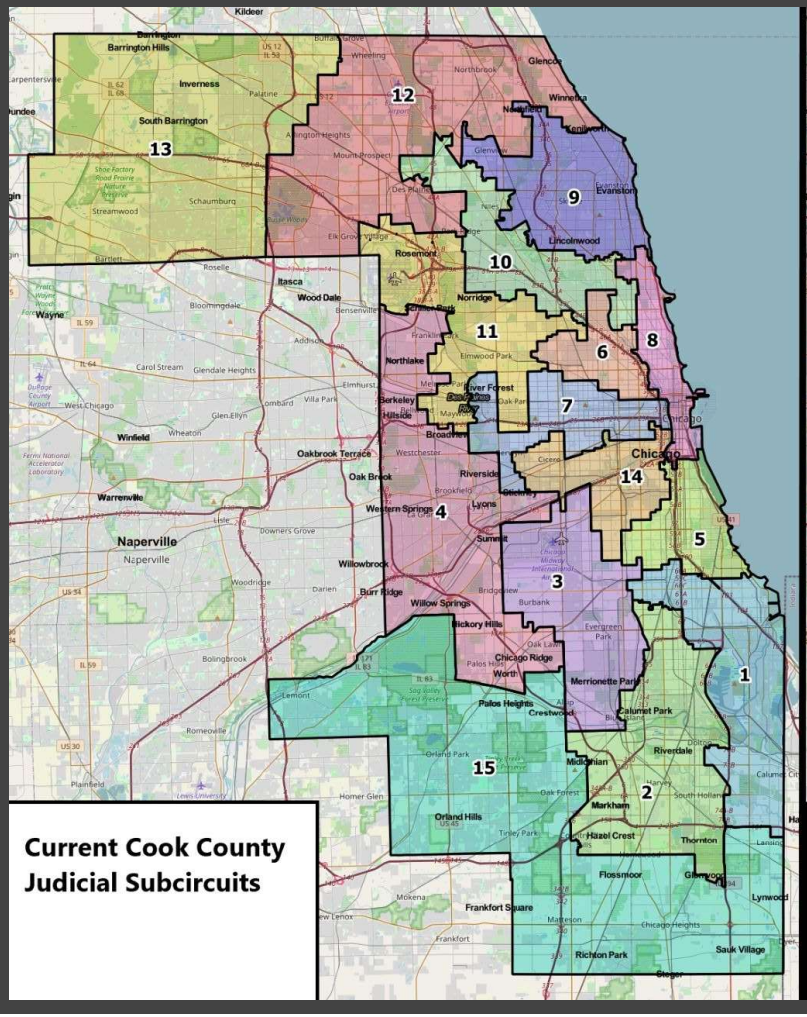
COMMUNITY PROBLEM

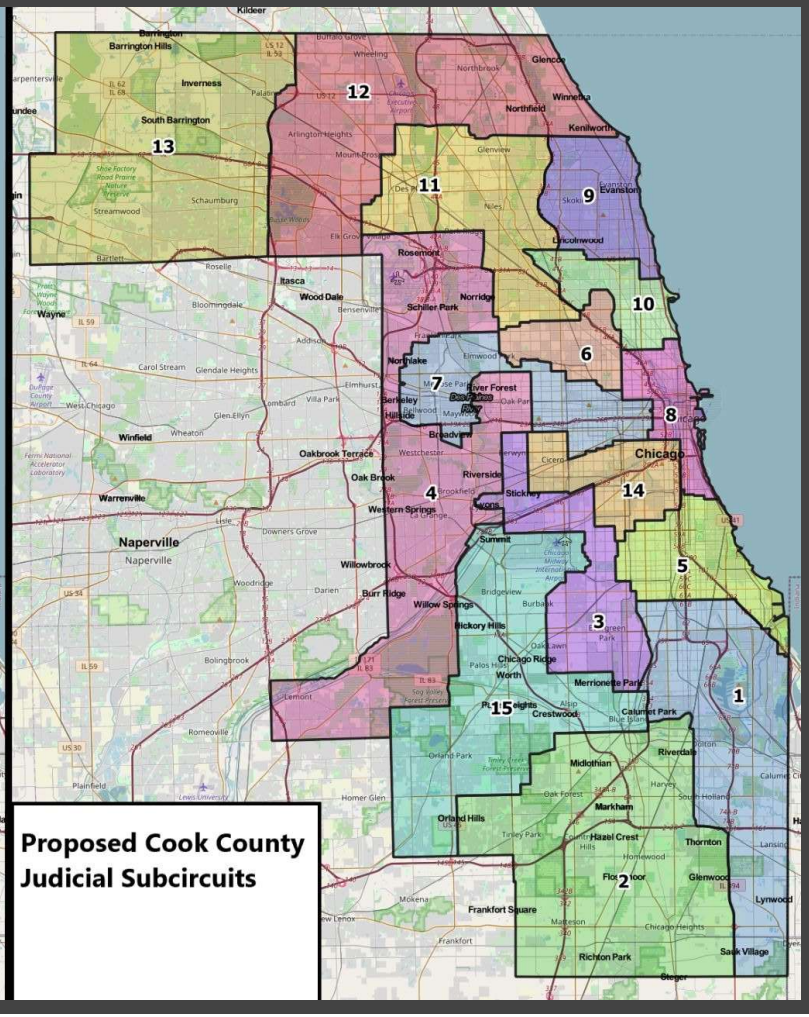
The current judicial subcircuits of Cook County have jagged edges and make little sense in terms of keeping communities together. Wealthy suburbs and neighborhoods are in the same districts as poor suburbs and neighborhoods.

For example, why is Berwyn, a Latino working class suburb, in the same subcircuit as River Forest, a wealthy white suburb, and the west side of Chicago, a largely poor African American area.

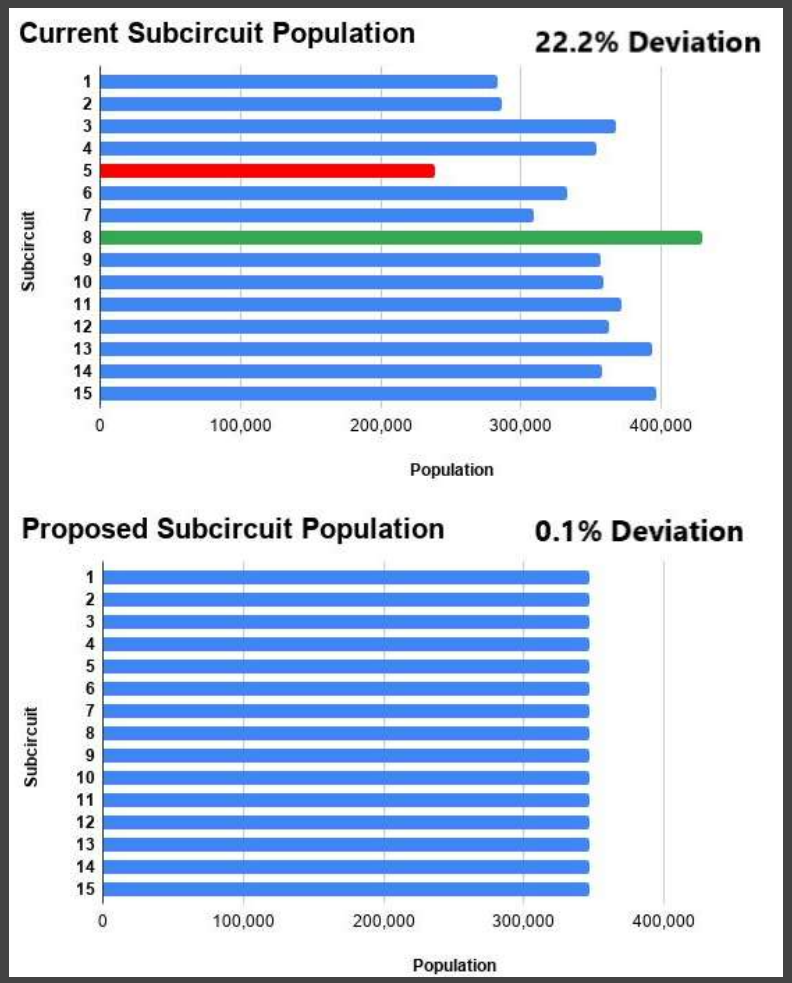


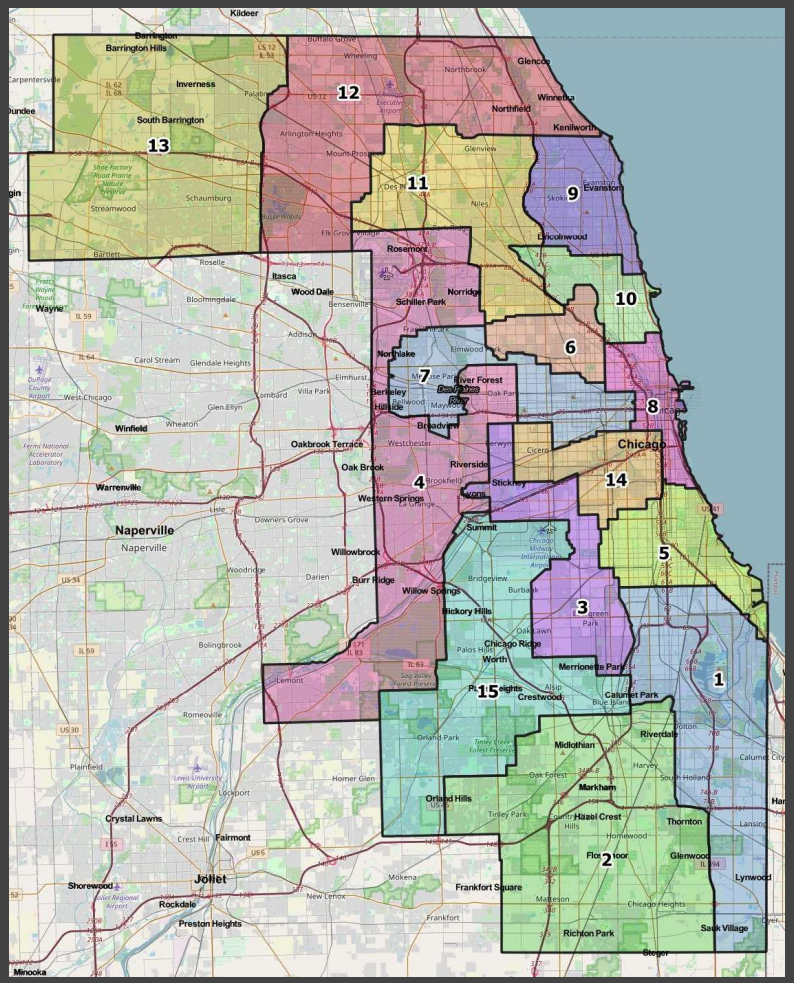
THE PROPOSED NEW COOK COUNTY JUDICIAL SUBCIRCUIT SOLVES ALL THREE PROBLEMS!





POPULATION PROBLEM SOLVED!



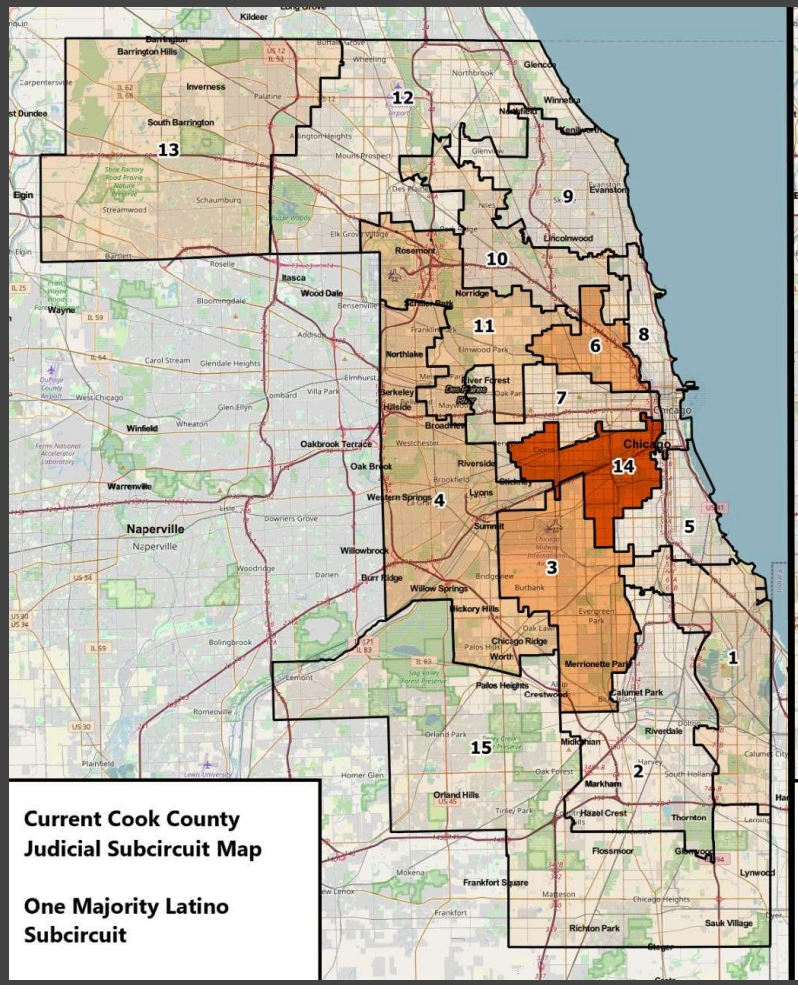


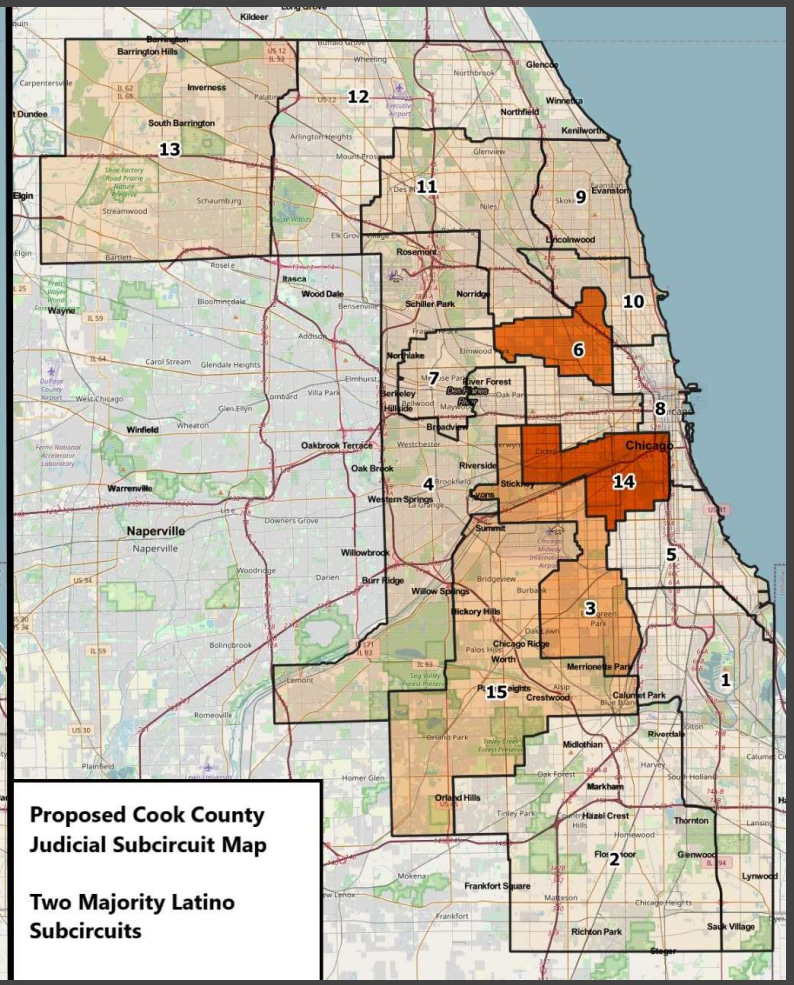
The proposed new Cook County Judicial Subcircuits have equal population, according to the 2019 American Community Survey

Each of the 15 subcircuits will have about 346,500 residents, with a 0.1% deviation

This is a significant improve upon the current 22.2% population deviation

DIVERSITY PROBLEM SOLVED!



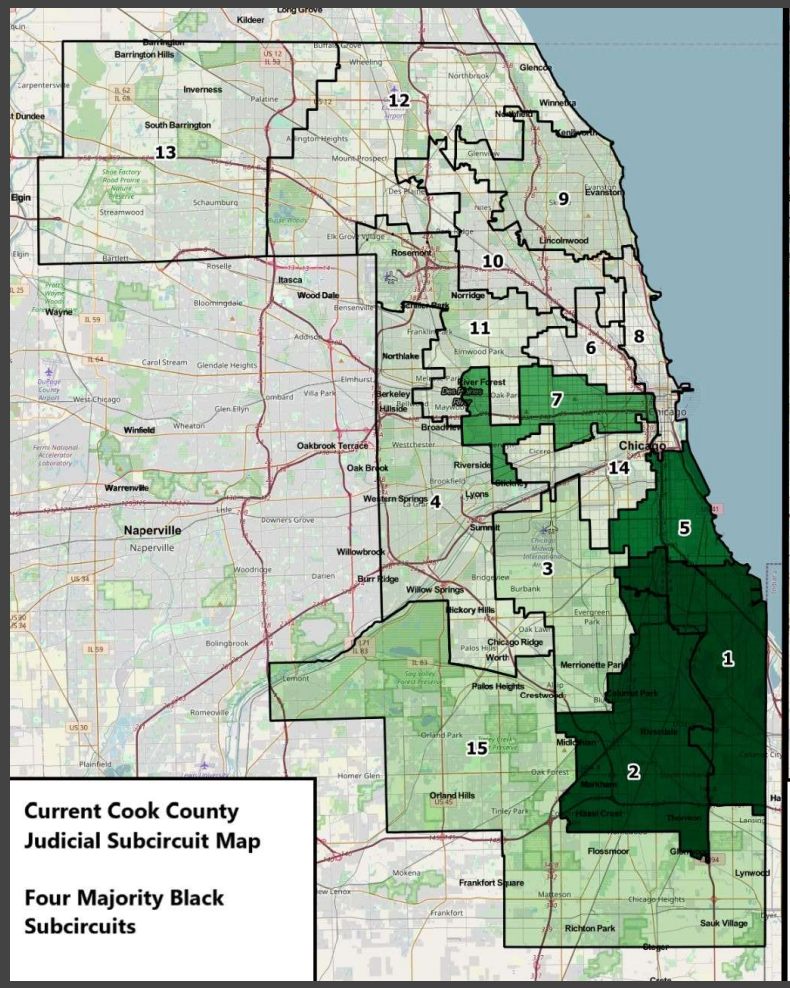


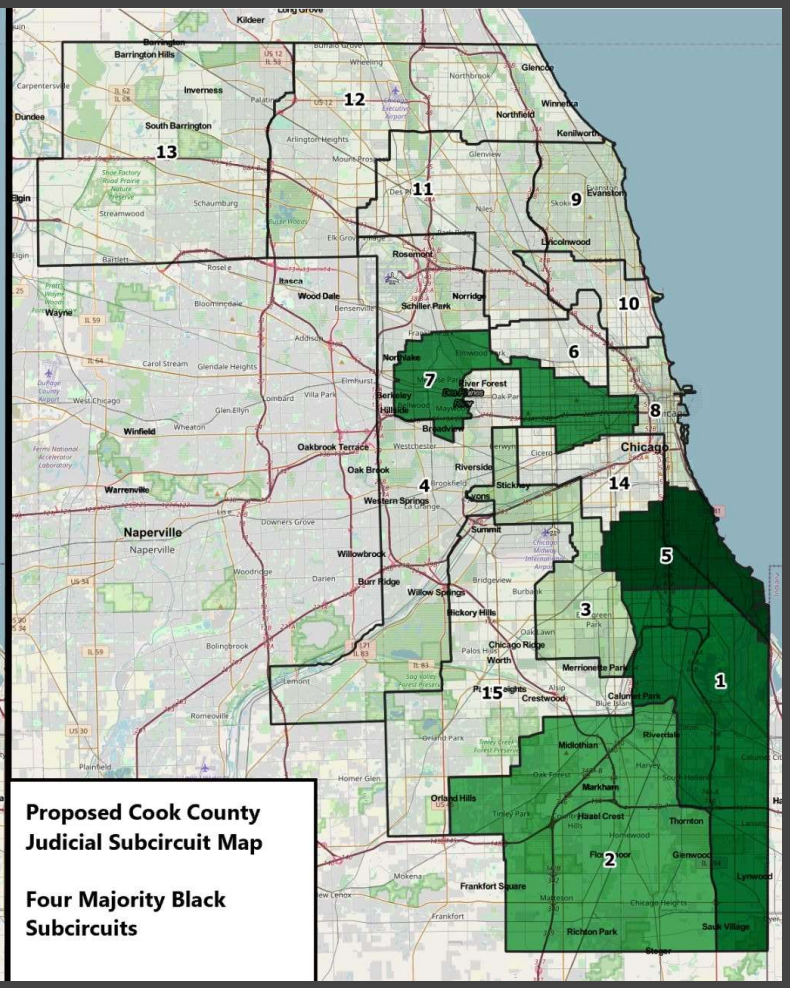
The proposed new Cook County subcircuits creates an addition Latino subcircuit

Currently, only the 14th subcircuit on the southwest side of Chicago is majority Latino.

In the proposed new map, the 6th subcircuit on the northwest side will also be majority Latino

DIVERSITY PROBLEM SOLVED!



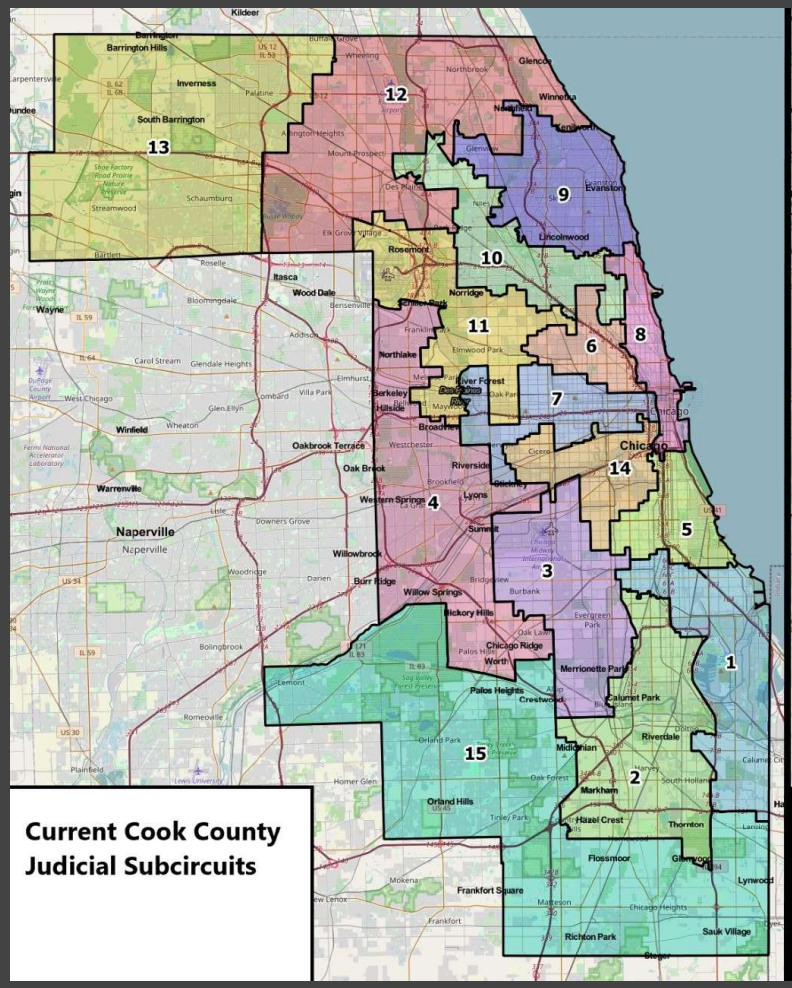


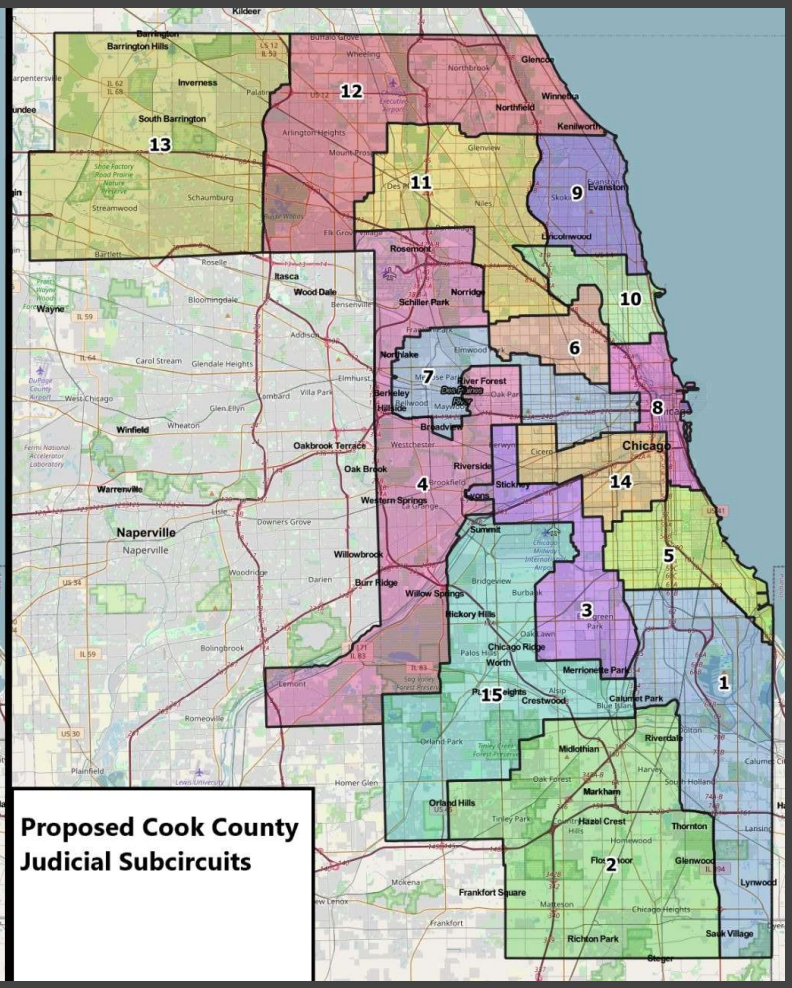
The proposed new Cook County subcircuits keeps four majority Black subcircuits.

In the new proposed map, Black suburbs in the western suburbs, such as Maywood, are incorporated into the 7th subcircuit.

Further, Black suburbs in the south suburbs, such as Matteson, as incorporated into the 2nd subcircuit

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVED!

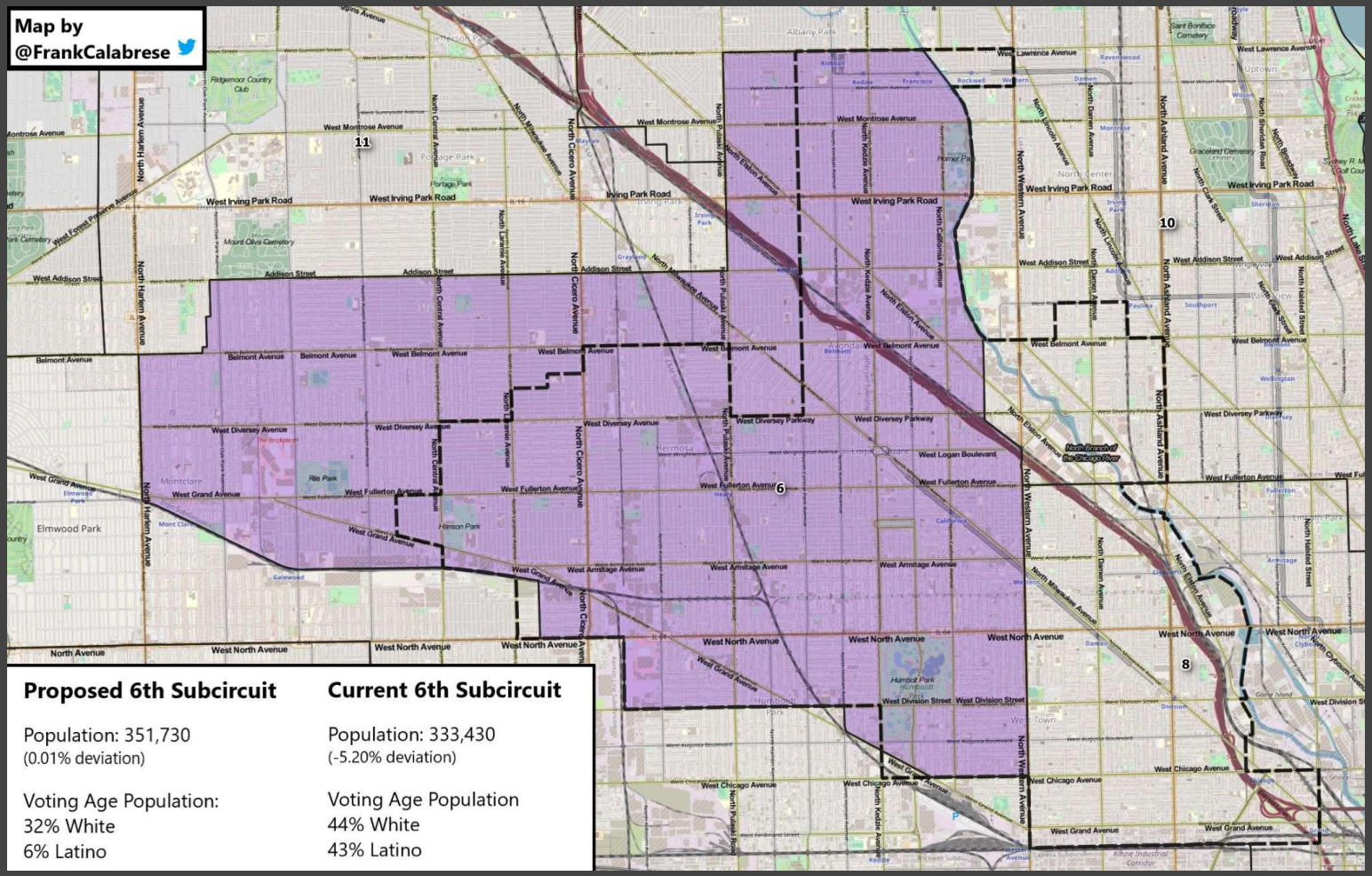




The proposed new Cook County subcircuits have easily understood boundaries so that the public can understand the district boundaries. Also the districts keep communities whole and cohesive.

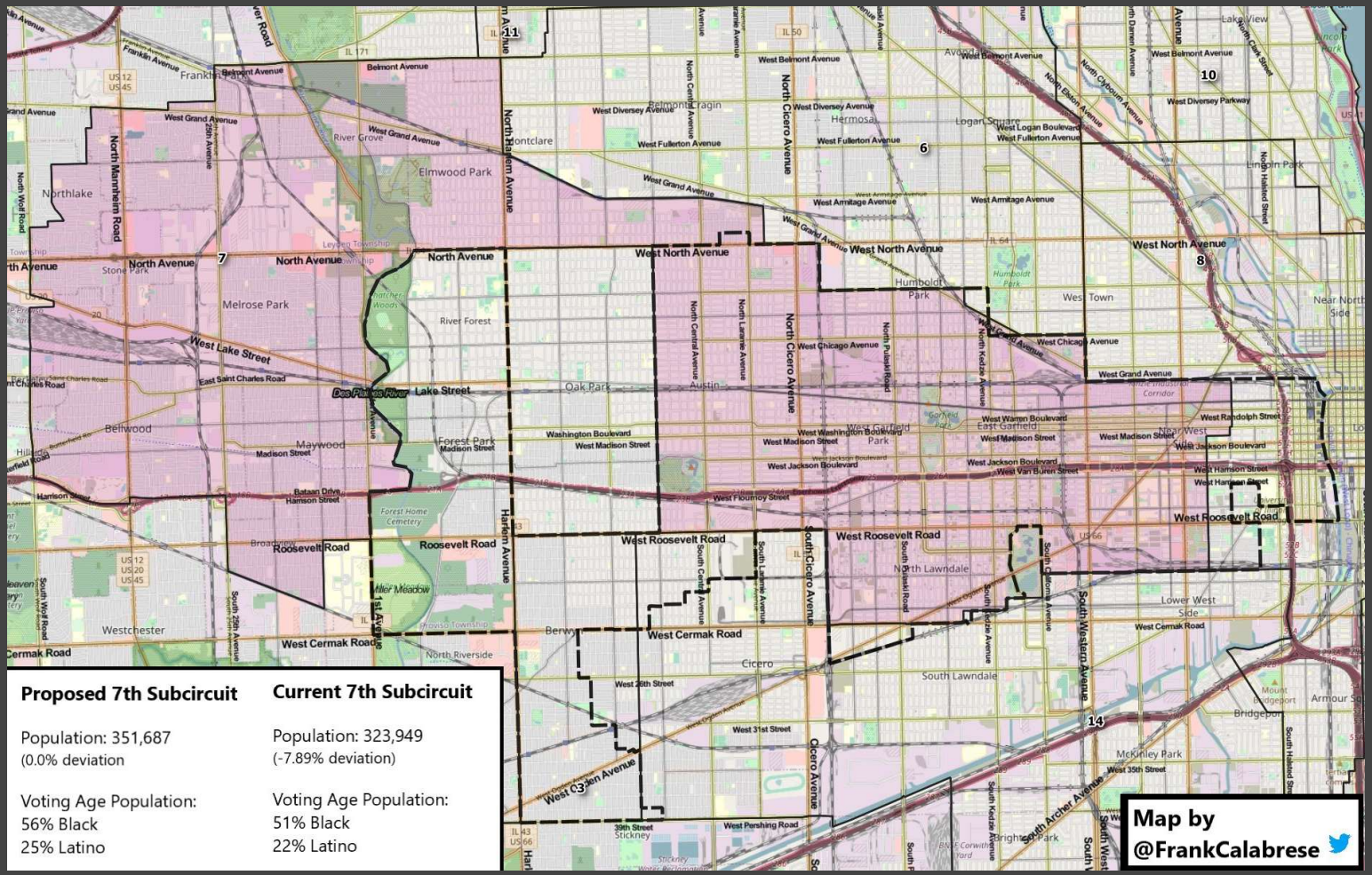
Similar communities, such as River Forest and Oak Park, are now in the same subcircuit

6th Subcircuit

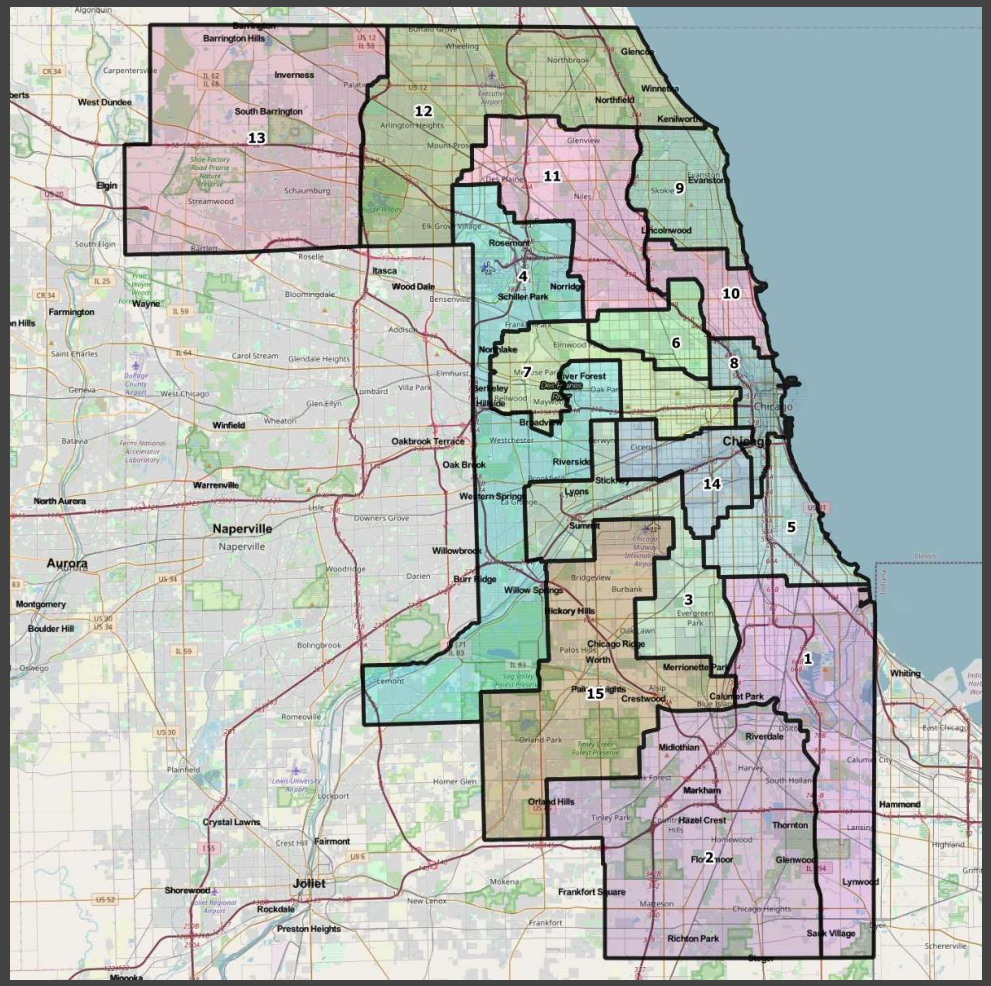


Proposed 6th Subcircuit	Current 6th Subcircuit
Population: 351,730 (0.01% deviation)	Population: 333,430 (-5.20% deviation)
Voting Age Population: 32% White 6% Latino	Voting Age Population 44% White 43% Latino

7th Subcircuit

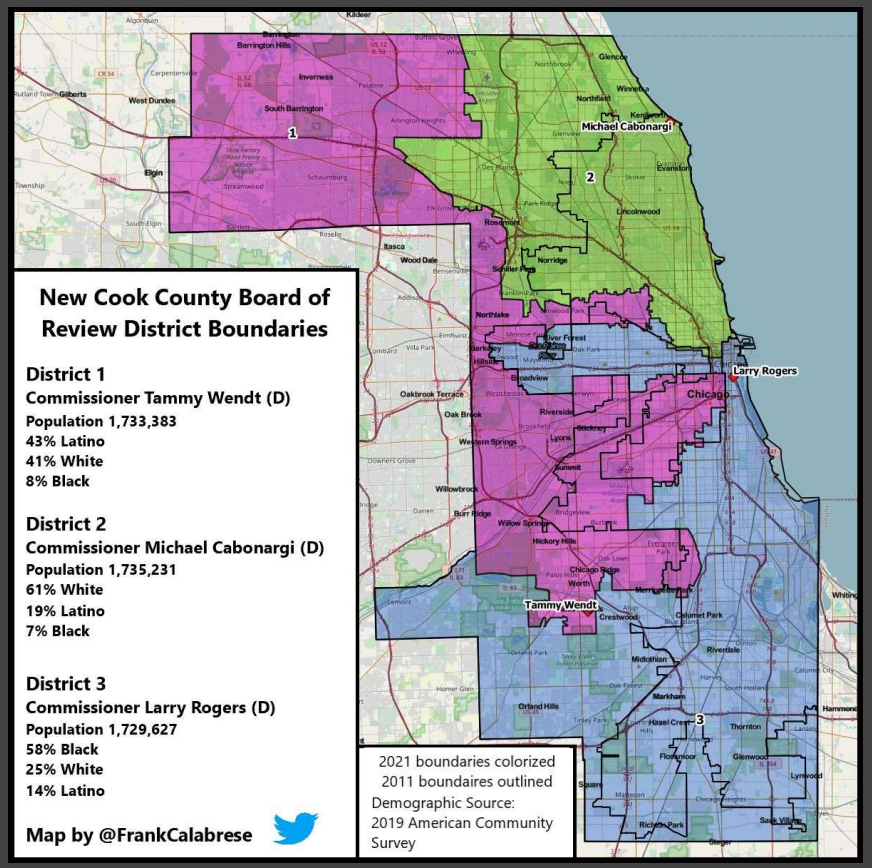


Adjusted for 2020 Census



Board of Review Revision

Increases the 1st Board of Review district from 43% Latino to 49% Latino with simple revisions



New Cook County Board of Review District Boundaries

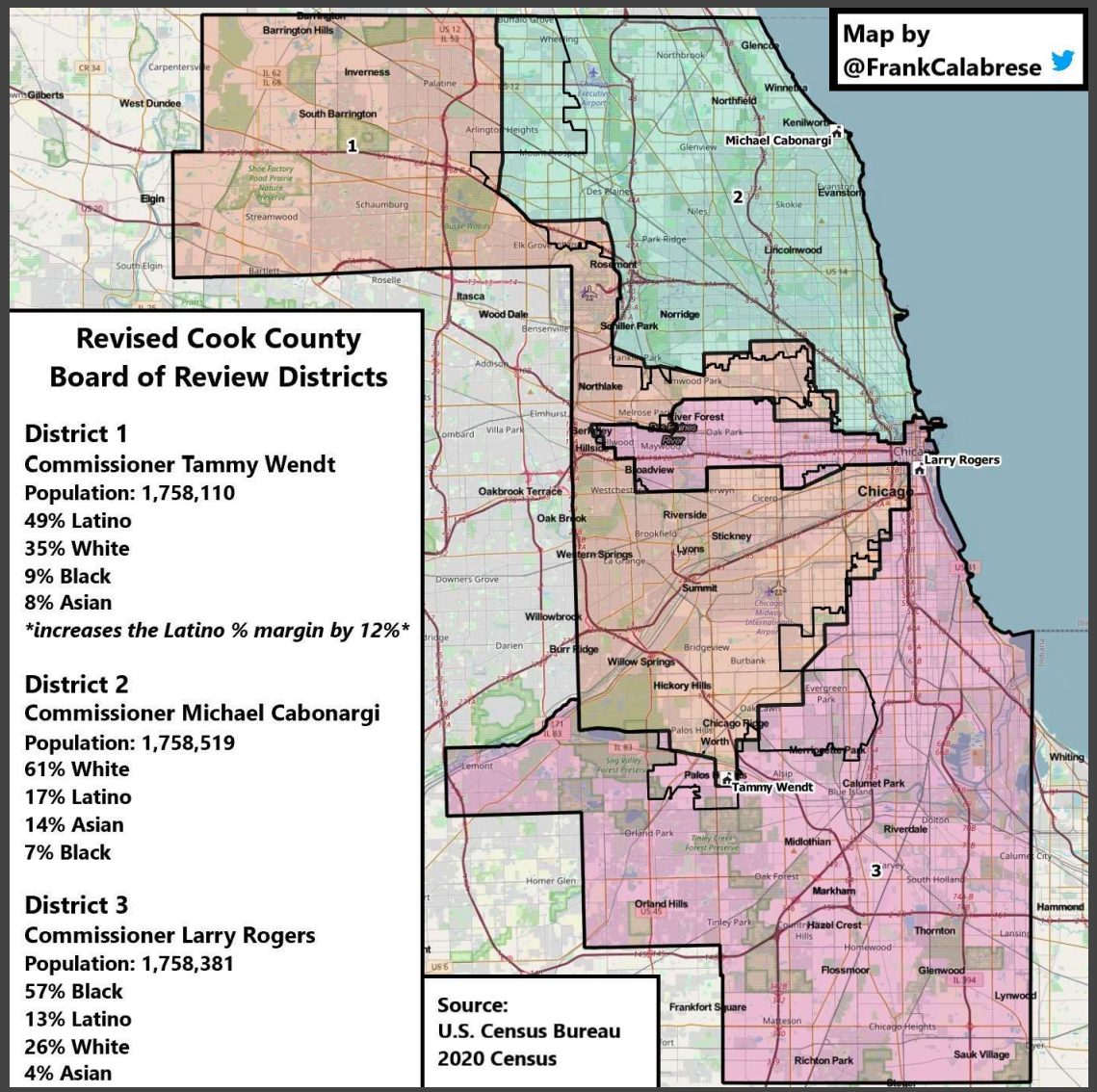
District 1
Commissioner Tammy Wendt (D)
Population 1,733,383
43% Latino
41% White
8% Black

District 2
Commissioner Michael Cabonargi (D)
Population 1,735,231
61% White
19% Latino
7% Black

District 3
Commissioner Larry Rogers (D)
Population 1,729,627
58% Black
25% White
14% Latino

Map by @FrankCalabrese

2021 boundaries colorized
2011 boundaires outlined
Demographic Source:
2019 American Community Survey



Map by @FrankCalabrese

Revised Cook County Board of Review Districts

District 1
Commissioner Tammy Wendt
Population: 1,758,110
49% Latino
35% White
9% Black
8% Asian
increases the Latino % margin by 12%

District 2
Commissioner Michael Cabonargi
Population: 1,758,519
61% White
17% Latino
14% Asian
7% Black

District 3
Commissioner Larry Rogers
Population: 1,758,381
57% Black
13% Latino
26% White
4% Asian

Source:
U.S. Census Bureau
2020 Census