



**Minnesota
Redistricting
Update:
Opportunities for
Action to Represent
Community Voices**

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FAIR MAPS™

LWV Minnesota Non-Partisan Policy



The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

Where Are We Today?



2021 – 2022

Redistricting Timeline



- House Committee: Hearings Complete; submit written testimony through 9/30
- Senate Committee: CD8 Hearing TBD
- Special Redistricting Panel:
 - Hearings October 11- 21, 2021; CD8 in Duluth 10/19
 - Submit written testimony by 10/29
- October 2021 – January 2022: City/County Governments decide on local redistricting process; draft maps
- **2/15/22: Court Issues Final Redistricting Order**
- February – April 2022: Local Redistricting Hearings
- 3/29/22: City redistricting complete
- 4/26/22: Other local redistricting complete

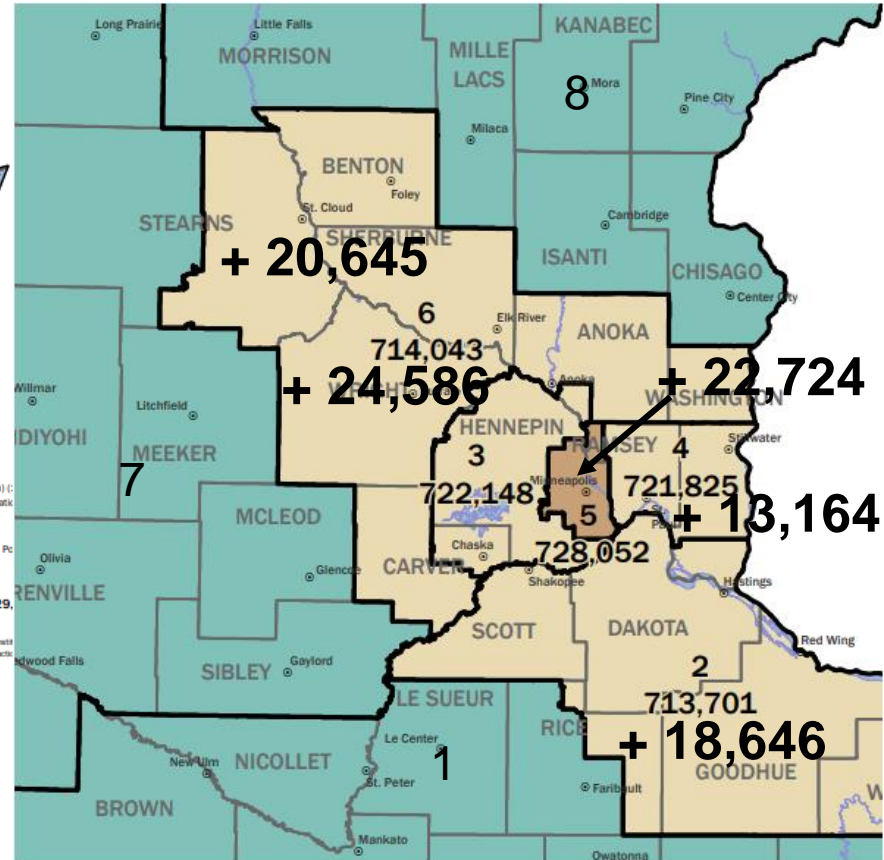
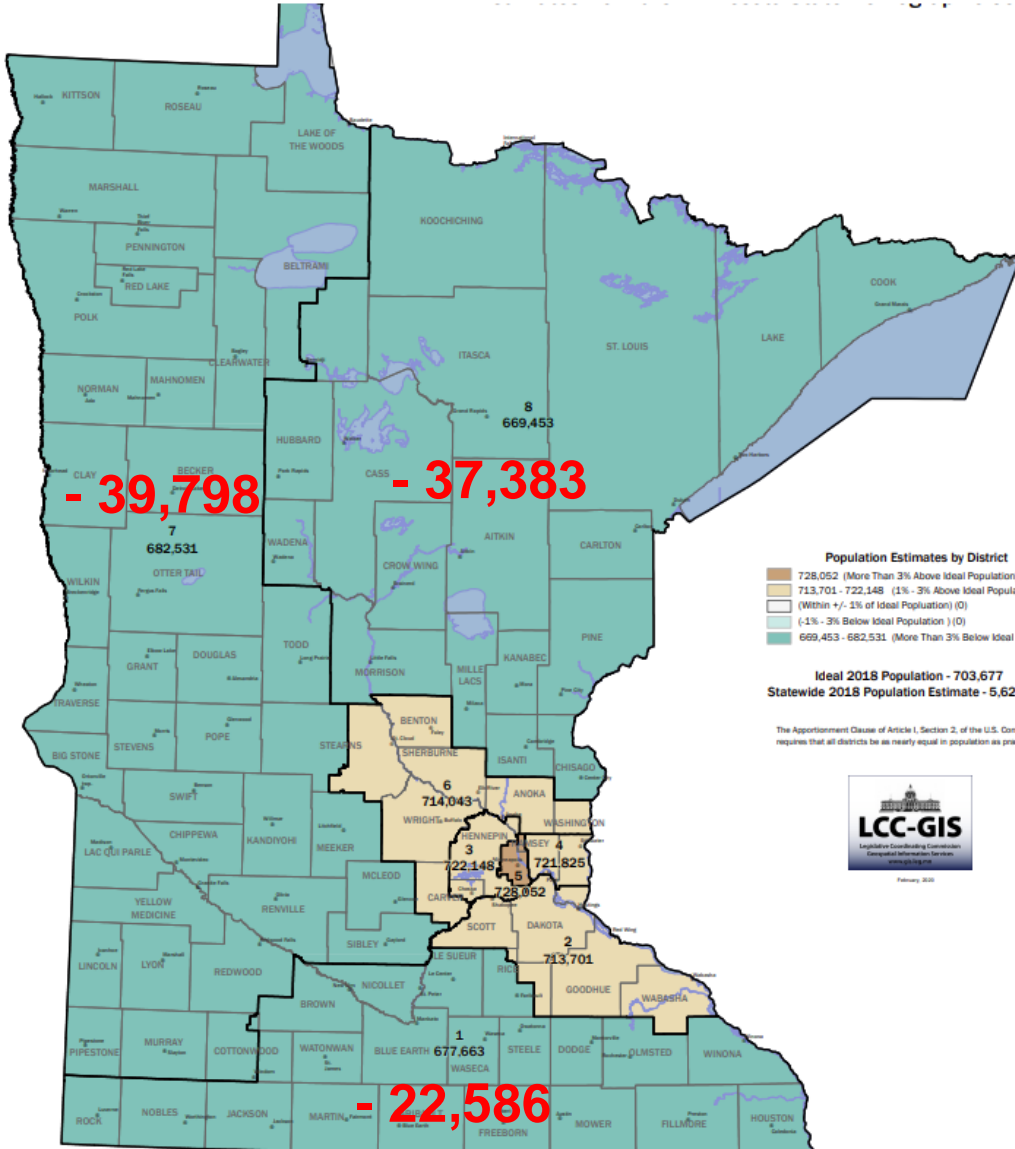


Special Redistricting Panel Composition



Judge	Assignment	Appointed by	When Appointed	Demographics
Louise D. Bjorkman	MN Court of Appeals	Tim Pawlenty	2nd District (Ramsey County) 1988 - 2005 (Carlson) Court of Appeals 2008	White Woman
Diane B. Bratvold	MN Court of Appeals	Mark Dayton	Hennepin County District Court 2014 Court of Appeals 2016	White Woman
Jay D. Carlson	7th Judicial District Central and West MN CD7; Todd County	Tim Pawlenty	August 2006	White Man
Juanita C. Freeman	10th Judicial District E Central MN; North/East metro CD2/4/6/8; Washington County	Mark Dayton	November 2018	Black Woman
Jodi L. Williamson	3rd Judicial District SE MN CD1; Dodge County	Jesse Ventura	January 2000	White Woman

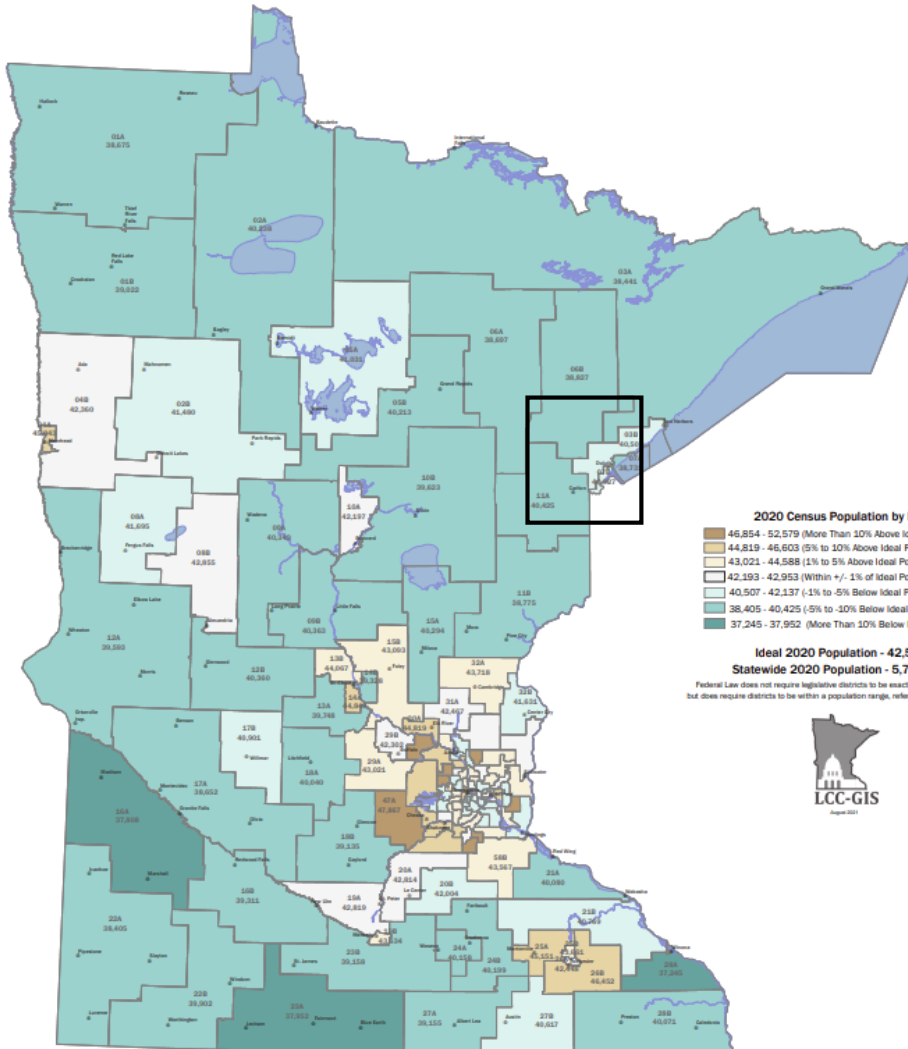
Minnesota Congressional Districts



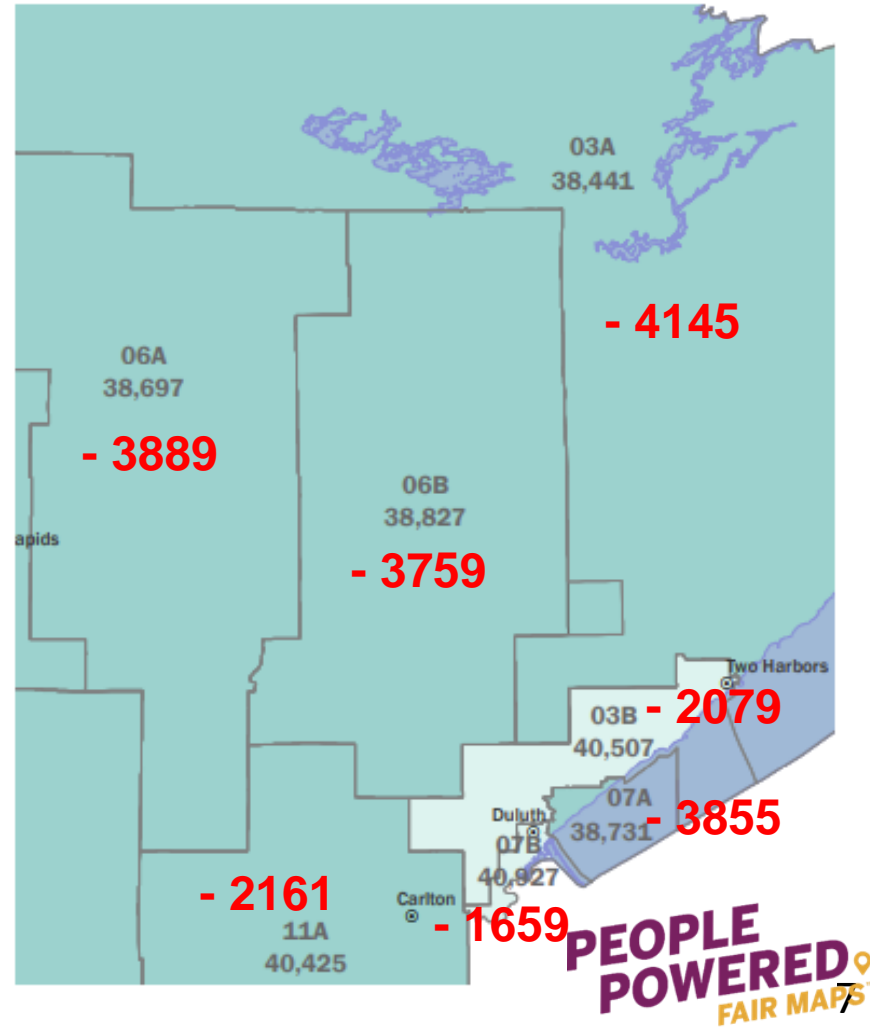
Minnesota Legislature



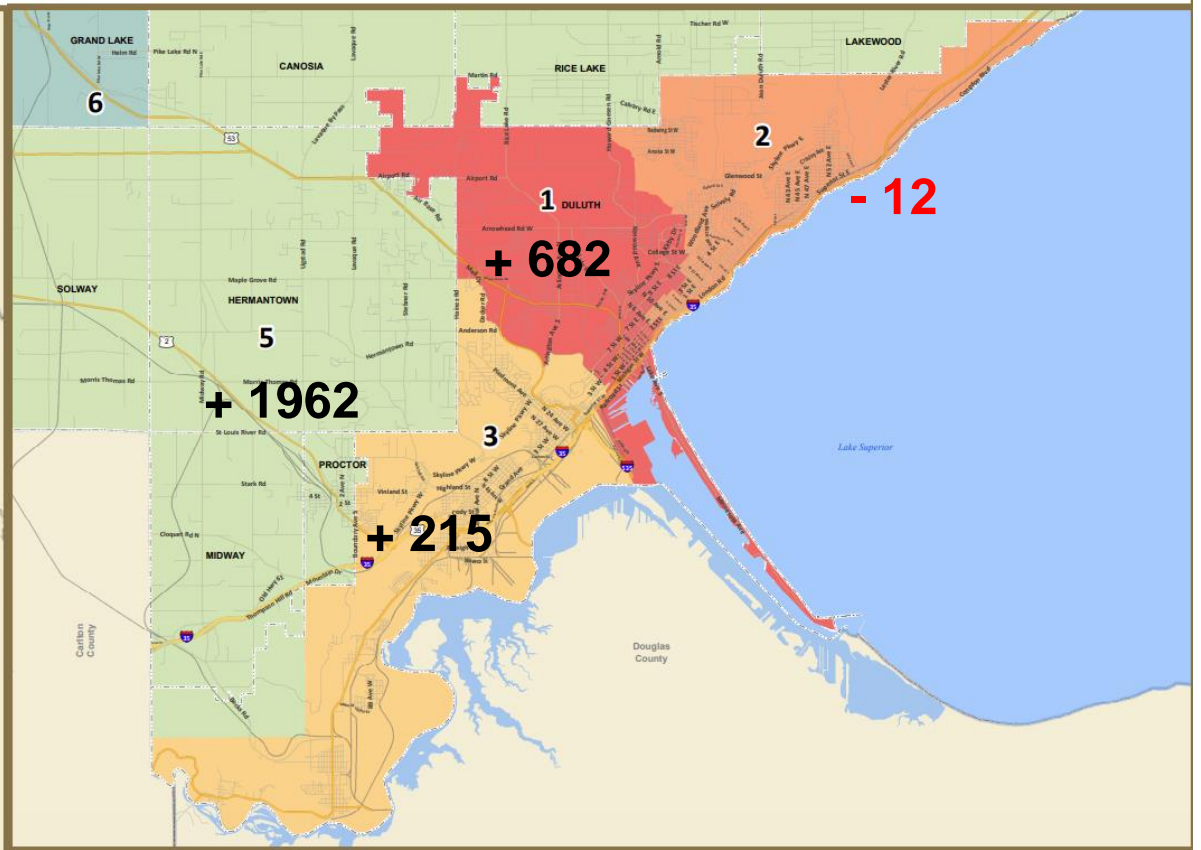
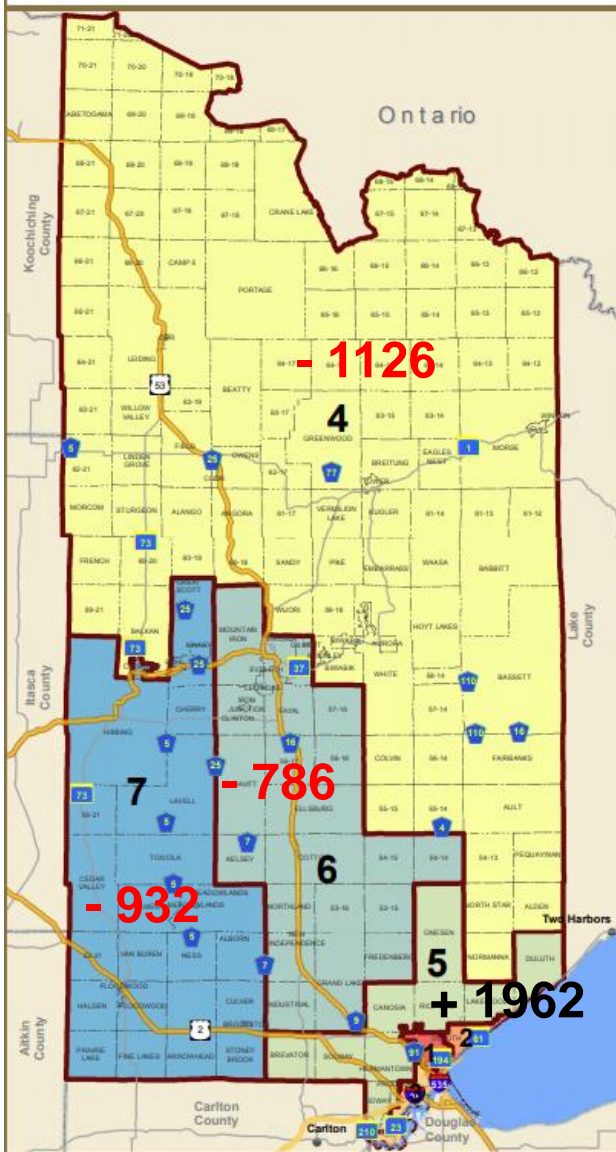
2020 MN House District Population



2020 MN House District Population – NE Minnesota



St Louis County Redistricting Map



St Louis County Pop: 200,231
 Duluth Population: 86,697

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St Louis County Redistricting



County	County Commissioner District	2020 District Population	Deviation from Average
Saint Louis	1	29,286	2.38%
Saint Louis	2	28,592	-0.04%
Saint Louis	3	28,819	0.75%
Saint Louis	4	27,478	-3.94%
Saint Louis	5	30,566	6.86%
Saint Louis	6	27,818	-2.75%
Saint Louis	7	27,672	-3.26%

Ideal District Population: 28,604
Duluth Population: 86,697



What Can You Do Now?



Options for Action - State



- **State:** Provide testimony (verbal or written) to legislative redistricting committees
- **Courts:** Provide testimony (verbal or written) to Special Redistricting Panel (court of currently serving judges) regarding interests on current and potential maps

Tips for Effective Testimony



- Provide **effective** and **feasible** instructions to people drawing maps (legislature or courts)
- Think Small – Focus on smaller areas to make it easier to adopt your request
- Define your **community** and talk about its need for **representation**
- Online mapping programs can help persuade
- Be prepared for limited time to speak
- Build neighborhood coalitions

Local Redistricting Opportunities



- County: Saint Louis County
- City: Duluth
- School District: Duluth School Board election boundaries

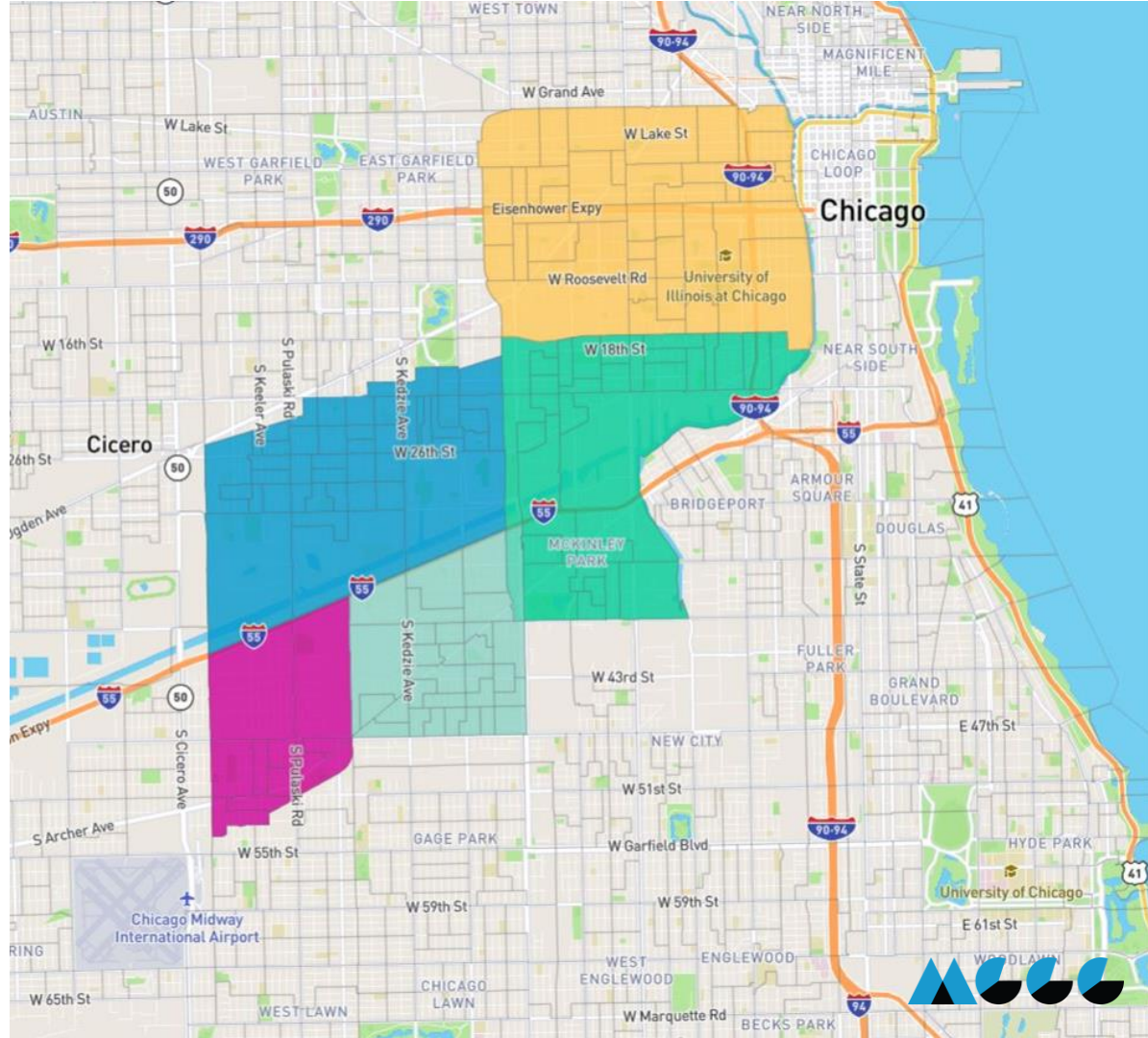
Options for Action - Local



- Postcard/letter/email campaign to **local elected officials** responsible for redistricting (counties and cities with wards)
 - Ask what plans are for conducting redistricting
 - Advocate for **transparency** and public participation including **input** before maps are drawn and public **review and comment** of draft maps
 - Suggest defining redistricting principles that place priority on minority representation and communities of interest above political boundaries
 - Make suggestions consistent with “good practices
 - ***Be polite and persistent***
- Partner with other community organizations to prepare to provide comments on existing and proposed maps before and at meetings



Mapping Communities with Districtr

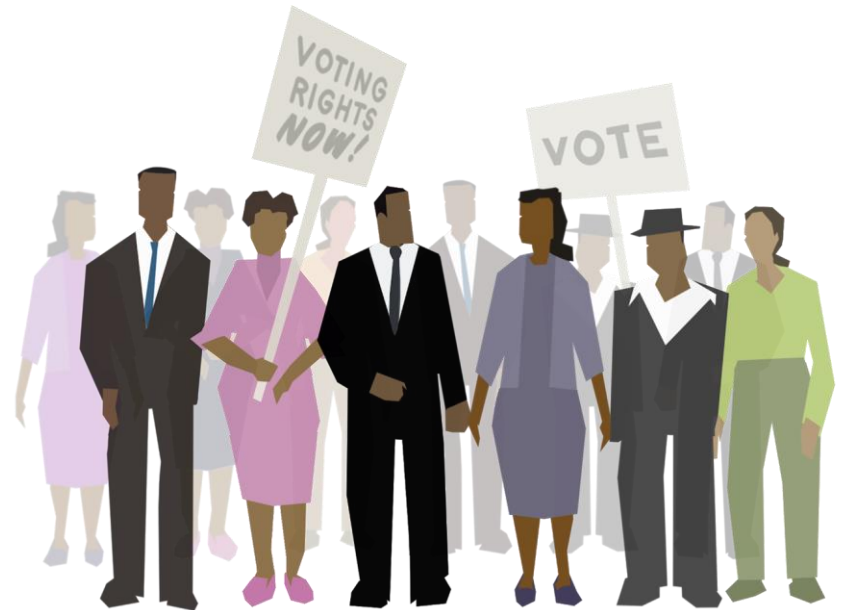


I. Redistricting and COIs



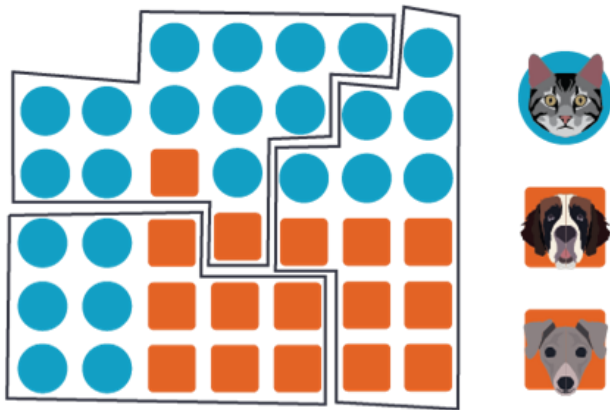
Why does redistricting matter?

- Impacts **who has a voice**, who can run for office, and who is elected
- Many communities are well served by being **kept whole** to have a louder voice with their representative
- Some communities are better served by being **split** between districts to avoid packing

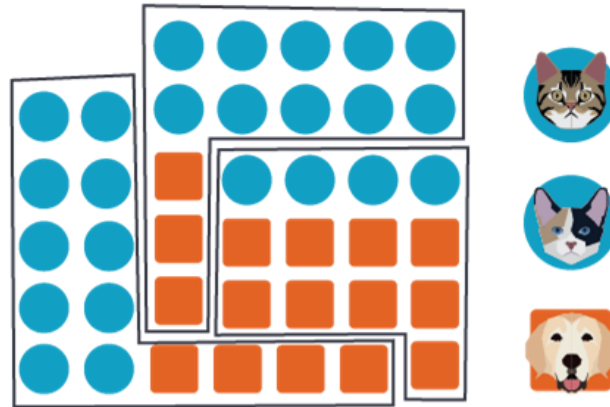


Drawing the lines

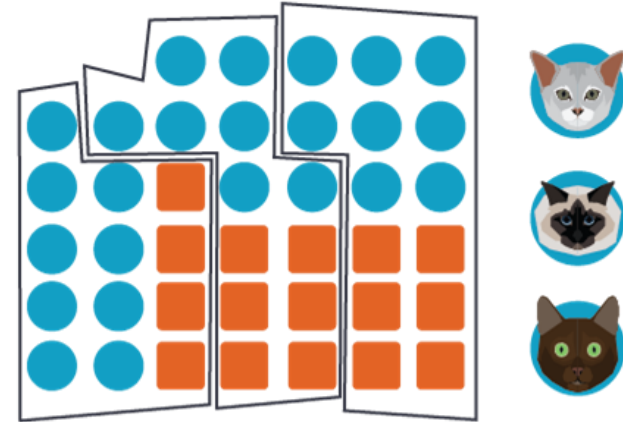
In most states, **legislators redraw their own lines**, allowing the government to choose its voters instead of the voters choosing their government!



Scenario 1



Scenario 2



Scenario 3

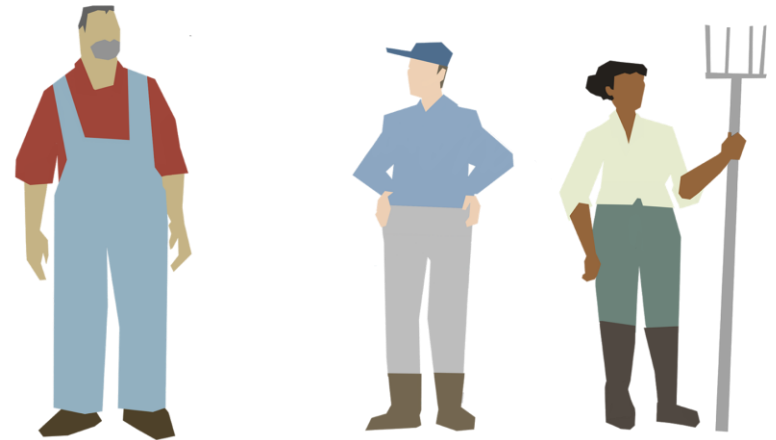
Which plan would **cats** choose?



What is a Community of Interest (COI)?

A group with **significant shared interests** that should be **given careful consideration by the line drawers**, such as...

- Small family farmers
- Residents of mountainous regions with unique environmental concerns
- Commuters who rely on the same public transit
- Residents of tourist-centric beach towns
- People who work in the same industrial sector
- Families that rely on the same public school system



Can be **rural, urban, suburban**, etc.



Community Mapping Components



- Community “story” on who they are, what’s important to them, and where their community lives, works, obtains services, gathers, and plays
- The Map: Physical representation of where the community is located so it can be considered in redistricting

II. Introduction to Districtr



What is Districtr?

A **free, public mapping tool** for state legislatures, commissions, and community organizers

Developed by a team of mathematicians, data scientists, software developers, geographers, and volunteers committed to a **fair and open redistricting** process

Built **in partnership with civil rights and community groups** to customize the tool

At [Districtr.org](https://districtr.org)



What can you do with Districtr?

The screenshot shows the Districtr website for Virginia. The browser address bar displays <https://districtr.org/virginia>. The navigation menu includes **DRAW**, **WHY?**, **RULES**, **EXAMPLES**, and **DATA**. The main content area features the word **Virginia** at the top. Below it are two buttons: **Draw Districts** (highlighted in purple) and **Draw Communities** (grey). A dashed blue arrow points from the **Draw Districts** button to the text **Districing mode**. To the left, a grey box contains the text **Draw a plan from scratch**, with **Statewide** (purple) and **Cities** (grey) buttons below it. At the bottom, three purple boxes list existing plans for Virginia:

- Virginia**
11 Congressional Districts
Built out of precincts
- Virginia**
40 State Senate Districts
Built out of precincts
- Virginia**
100 House of Delegates Districts
Built out of precincts

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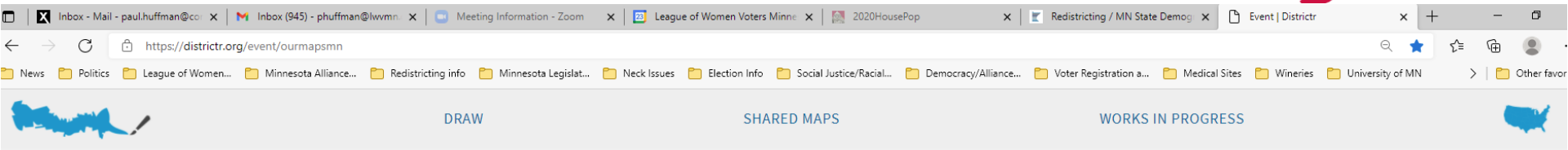
What can you do with Districtr?

The screenshot shows the Districtr website interface for Virginia. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for DRAW, WHY?, RULES, EXAMPLES, and DATA. Below this, the word "Virginia" is prominently displayed. Underneath, there are two main buttons: "Draw Districts" (grey) and "Draw Communities" (red). To the left, a "Draw your community" button is shown with sub-options for "Statewide" (red) and "Cities" (grey). At the bottom, two red boxes describe the "Community mode" process: "Virginia Identify a community Built out of block groups" and "Virginia Identify a community Built out of precincts". A dashed blue arrow points from these boxes towards the text "Community mode" on the right.

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Our Maps MN District Mapping Page



Map Your Community ourmapsmn

Welcome to the Our Maps Minnesota Redistricting Campaign Mapping page! The Our Maps MN Campaign is committed to a community-focused, accessible, and transparent redistricting process in Minnesota. Through this campaign we aim to:

- Empower historically under-represented BIPOC communities and other stakeholders across the state to engage in the redistricting process to ensure they are seen and visible in our political boundaries, increasing their ability to elect officials that truly represent and listen to the community; and
- Achieve fair Congressional and state legislative district maps that reflect input from communities of interest, particularly BIPOC communities

As part of this we work to empower historically under-represented BIPOC communities and other stakeholders across Minnesota to participate in the redistricting process to ensure they are seen and visible in our political boundaries, increasing their ability to elect officials that truly represent and listen to the community.

A community-focused, accessible, and transparent redistricting process is critical to ensuring that our communities have equitable representation and influence in our democracy so we too can thrive. This page is both the starting point and the home for creation of community maps developed through the Our Maps Minnesota Campaign. Through this campaign we work with communities to define themselves through the connections, issues and policies that are most important to them, and then enable them to create maps showing



Questions?