

# SUPPORT: The Fair Maps Amdt

[HJRCA43/SJRCA26]

*Constitutional Amendment to ensure a non-partisan, transparent process to draw fair maps.*

Sponsored by: Rep. Ryan Spain (R-Peoria) & Sen. Julie Morrison (D-Deerfield)

District boundaries are redrawn every 10 years to ensure that Congress and state legislatures are representative of the Census results. An independent, transparent redistricting process that ensures communities are fully and fairly represented in the legislature, would protect the integrity of the democratic process and restore citizens' faith that their votes--and voices--matter.

The 2018 Fair Maps Amendment is modeled after former-Rep. Jack Franks' 2016 proposal HJRCA58, which received 105 "yes" votes in the House. Additions to the amendment were made to strengthen transparency and public accountability language as well as explicitly protect the constitutional rights of communities of color.

## **This amendment would:**

1. Prohibit politicians and sitting legislators from drawing their own districts
2. Establish an independent redistricting commission that is demographically, politically, and geographically representative of our state to draw our Congressional and General Assembly maps
3. Protect the constitutional rights of communities of color to elect a representative of their choosing
4. Add transparency by requiring the release of all communications made by the Commission as well as any data used to create and propose any and all maps
5. Give the public the opportunity to participate in the process by requiring at least 30 public hearings on the maps before a final vote is taken. Public will have the ability to comment on proposed maps and submit their own.

## **Make up of the independent redistricting commission:**

- 16-member citizen commission appointed by two most-senior IL Supreme Court justices who were elected from opposite parties.
- Demographic requirements: "The commission must reflect the ethnic, gender, and racial demographics of [the state]."
- Geographic requirements: Minimum of 2 commissioners from each judicial district
- Political party requirement: 7 Democrats 7 Republicans, and 2 Independents (Tiebreaker commissioner would also have to be an Independent).
- Ineligibility: To keep the commission truly "independent" and remove conflicts of interest, several parameters were added to prevent a manipulation of the process including: if the applicant (or a member of their immediate family) was appointed/elected to a position in state, federal, or local government, is a lobbyist or contractor, or has a position within a specific political party.

**Criteria for drawing Congressional, Legislative, & Representative districts in order of priority:**

1. Fully comply with the U.S. Constitution and federal laws, such as the federal Voting Rights Act
2. Be substantially equal in population
3. Provide racial and language minorities with the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice
4. Provide racial and language minorities who constitute less than a voting-age majority of a Legislative, Representative, or Congressional District with an opportunity to substantially influence the outcome of an election
5. Be contiguous
6. Be compact
7. Respect geographic integrity of units of local government to the extent practical
8. Respect communities sharing common social or economic interests to the extent practical
9. Not discriminate against or in favor of any political party or individual

**The Fair Maps Amendment has been endorsed by:**

Better Government Association

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest

Campaign Legal Center

CHANGE Illinois

Citizen Advocacy Center

Common Cause Illinois

Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

Illinois Chamber of Commerce

Illinois Farm Bureau

League of Women Voters Illinois

NAACP Chicago – South Side Branch

Small Business Advocacy Council

Union League Club of Chicago

Unite America - Chicago Chapter

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