



## **OFFICE OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois 61802-4581

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**Darlene A. Kloepfel, County Executive**

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### **Champaign County Redistricting Advisory Group MEETING NOTES FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021, 6:30PM**

**Members Present via Zoom:** Emily Bluhm, Leanne Brehob-Riley, Nicole Darby, Brian Gaines, Chuck Lansford, Gabe Lewis, Debbie Sweat, Shree Thaker and Lin Warfel

**County Staff via Zoom:** Darlene Kloepfel (County Executive) and Mary Ward (Administrative Assistant)

**Others Present:** Wayne Williams

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County Executive Kloepfel started the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The Census data has been released for the state level. It has not been released at the county level or block level yet. The state numbers do show that we will lose one seat in the House of Representatives. A comparison was done between the *ESRI* data and state level Census data and they look comparable, within .3%. Mr. Lewis is waiting on the other Census data that are still scheduled to come out in September. Checking with the U of I on the actual numbers they gave to the Census as to the group housing to see how close that is to the *ESRI* data.

Wayne Williams has submitted a map. He was present to explain his map. He drew this using the *Dave's Redistricting* tool. He was trying to compare how the *Dave's* population and demographics compared to *ESRI*. Discussion was held on how the data compared between the two platforms and minority-majority districts. His preference would be to have two minority-influenced districts.

Next discussion was held on the Plan 5 Community of Interest Map. Ms. Sweat made a request to tweak the lines so Thomasboro became part of District 3 and District 2 would then go all the way across the northern part of the County. She and Chris Milliken, Urban Planner in Rantoul, will make another attempt and submit and will try to make lines cleaner. We should try as much as possible to keep the small towns whole and not split them between districts.

Mr. Gaines submitted two maps. Map 1 – Mr. Gaines had a similar experience to Wayne Williams. Differences between *ESRI* and *Dave's Redistricting* at the block level can be substantial. Tried to keep this one simple and not break that many boundaries while improving minority majorities.

Gaines Map 2 – Mr. Gaines said this was an effort to create more competitive districts. How would this affect compactness, crossing boundaries, splitting townships, etc. The shapes are a little less simple. It does show three competitive districts, one more than the other maps. This map had two minority influence districts.

Ms. Darby has been asked to do a pie shape map, which is difficult to do without cutting through a lot of jurisdictions. It's been brought up several times by individuals and thought we should try it. Will it make things more competitive or less competitive? Mr. Warfel suggested that a pie-shape will probably destroy communities of interest.

Next time we should have another map from Wayne Williams, Debra Sweat is working on a map and we should have the pie-shaped map.

We need maps by Tuesday noon to have time to draw them and get the statistics laid out. When asked about other concerns or if anyone knew of any other maps, Mr. Warfel asked about reaching out to the African American Community/NAACP. We have reached out to them several times. They are aware that we are working on the map but have not submitted anything so far.

Ms. Kloeppel has started writing the memo to the County Board and will send the group the draft for comment.

Mr. Gaines asked if on the Comparison spreadsheet if the Diversity columns could be taken out.

There was discussion about keeping the University/students together as a community of interest. Mr. Williams view is to split them up and not keep together due to the transient nature of students. The argument can be made the other way to keep them together as there will always be students as some move out others move in. Breaking up the student vote dilutes their influence. It would be good to have someone to represent their concerns. Others on the committee like seeing the students as a community of interest. Ms. Thaker asked if it was possible to use a combination of data from the University to help determine the number of students locally.

There is one more meeting, Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.