



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

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois 61802-4581

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**Darlene A. Kloeppe, County Executive**

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

FROM: Darlene Kloeppe, County Executive

DATE: May 21, 2021

RE: COUNTY EXECUTIVE VETO OF ORDINANCE 2021-7

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The County Executive form of government provides for checks and balances in the IL Counties Code for decisions regarding county business through the use of Executive veto and County Board override authority. Pursuant to 55 ILCS 5/2-5010, I have decided to veto the County Board's decision to approve Ordinance No. 2021-7 Establishing the Champaign County 2021 Apportionment Map Plan.

In reviewing my criteria for concurrence or veto of a County Board decision, my veto is based on the following reasons:

- 1) Public input was solicited and incorporated by the Executive as maps were being developed through:
  - the formation of the Executive's Advisory Group from a cross section of the county's population
  - outreach to both major political central committees
  - reminders at county board meetings
  - outreach to groups with known past interest in county maps - NAACP, Farm Bureau, Progressive Democrats
  - social media postings
  - offering a community mapping tool
  - media articles and interviews

The County Board offered one opportunity for public input, which was scheduled at the same meeting the vote was scheduled. It is unlikely that the board had time to adequately consider comments made at the public hearing before voting on the ordinance and evidently did not consider the public input guiding the Executive's recommendation to be a priority as none of the three recommended maps were chosen. It is concerning that the board appeared not to value public input in this process.

- 2) I have concern that starting with large population variances using estimates may lead to more significant population variances when Census data are released, putting the county at risk for legal challenges to the plan.

I also want to use this opportunity to clarify some information arising during discussion with regard to populations and communities of interest. This table compares the racial minority demographics of maps that were discussed at the meeting and the current map put forward by NAACP and adopted in 2011 as an “equity” map:

Plan	Population % variance between districts	Majority/Minority Districts (>50% minority)	Minority influenced districts (30%-49%)	Highest Black percentages over 20%	Highest Asian percentages over 20%
Plan 1	1.43%	1	6	]32.2% 29.9%	27.64% 27.31%
Plan 3	1.05%	1	7	42.4% 20.59%	24.8% 22.3%
Plan 5A	1.58%	1	6	46.6%	25.8%
Plan 8	10.99%	2	5	30.22% 29.6%	24.7% 22.7%
Plan 11	17.33%	2	5	35.9% 30.2%	27.59% 23.16%
Current Map	10.96%	1	6	31.4% 29.4%	27.19% 27.17%

- 3) I have previously mentioned that there is no perfect map, however it was clear from the board’s discussion that no effort had been made toward board members reaching a compromise on a map prior to voting.

I view a veto of a County Board decision as a last resort to unsuccessful compromise and am optimistic that given the inclination, board members can work through some of their differences with further negotiation prior to voting on this ordinance, which will have an impact on county elections for the coming 10 years. I am returning Ordinance No. 2021-7 to the Board for reconsideration at its next regular meeting on June 24, 2021.