



OFFICE OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Darlene A. Kloepfel, County Executive

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY REDISTRICTING ADVISORY GROUP

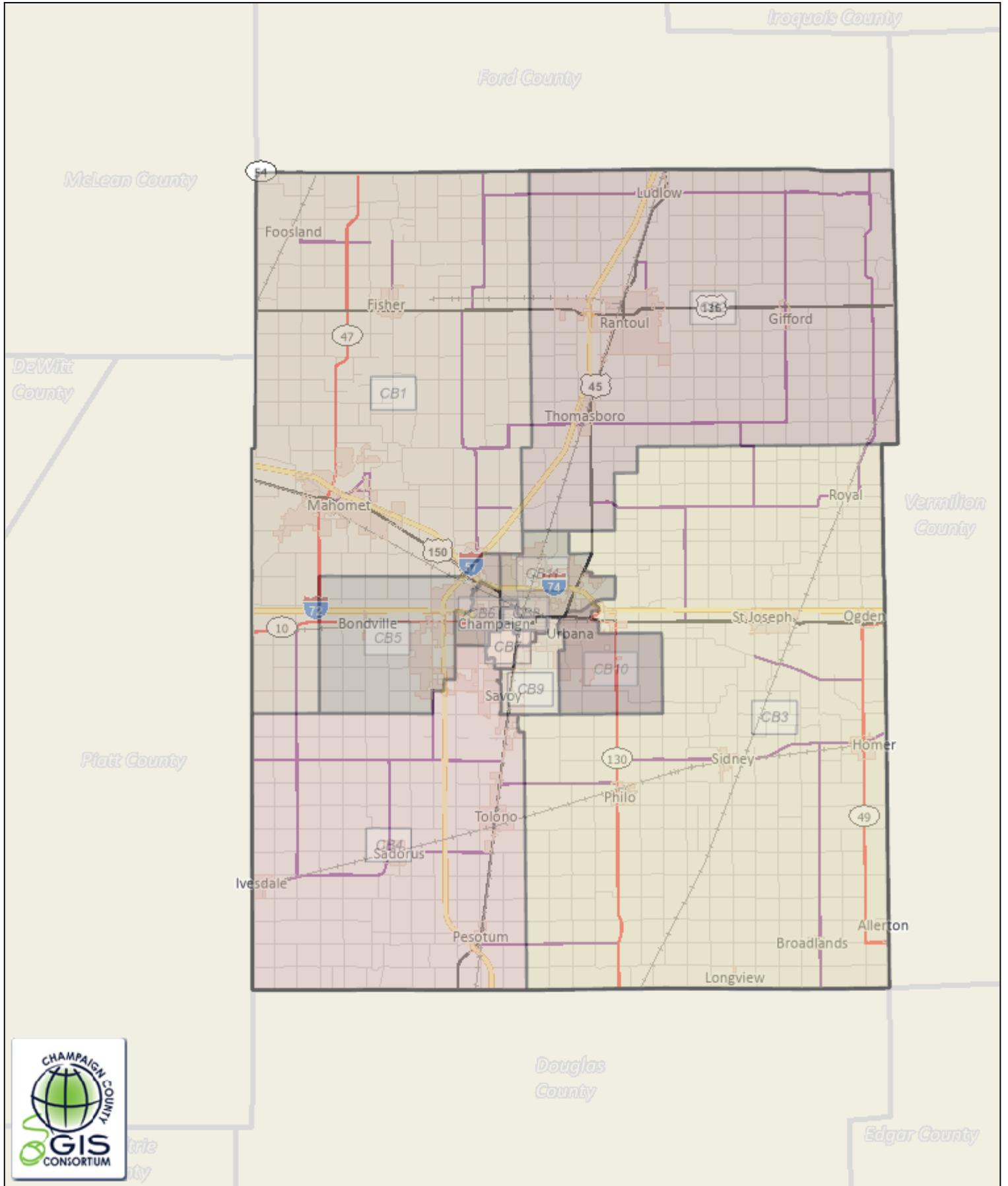
Thursday, January 14, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

- I. Advisory Group Introductions**
- II. Meeting Organization and Schedule**
- III. Presentations on redistricting rules and things to consider**
 - a. Leanne Brehob-Riley, CCGISC
 - b. Wayne Williams, Cunningham Township Assessor & Treasurer of CC Democrats
 - c. Patti Petrie, former County Board Chair
 - d. Brian Gaines, U of I Political Science Professor
- IV. Next Topics**
- V. Reading on related topics (attached)**

County Board Districts



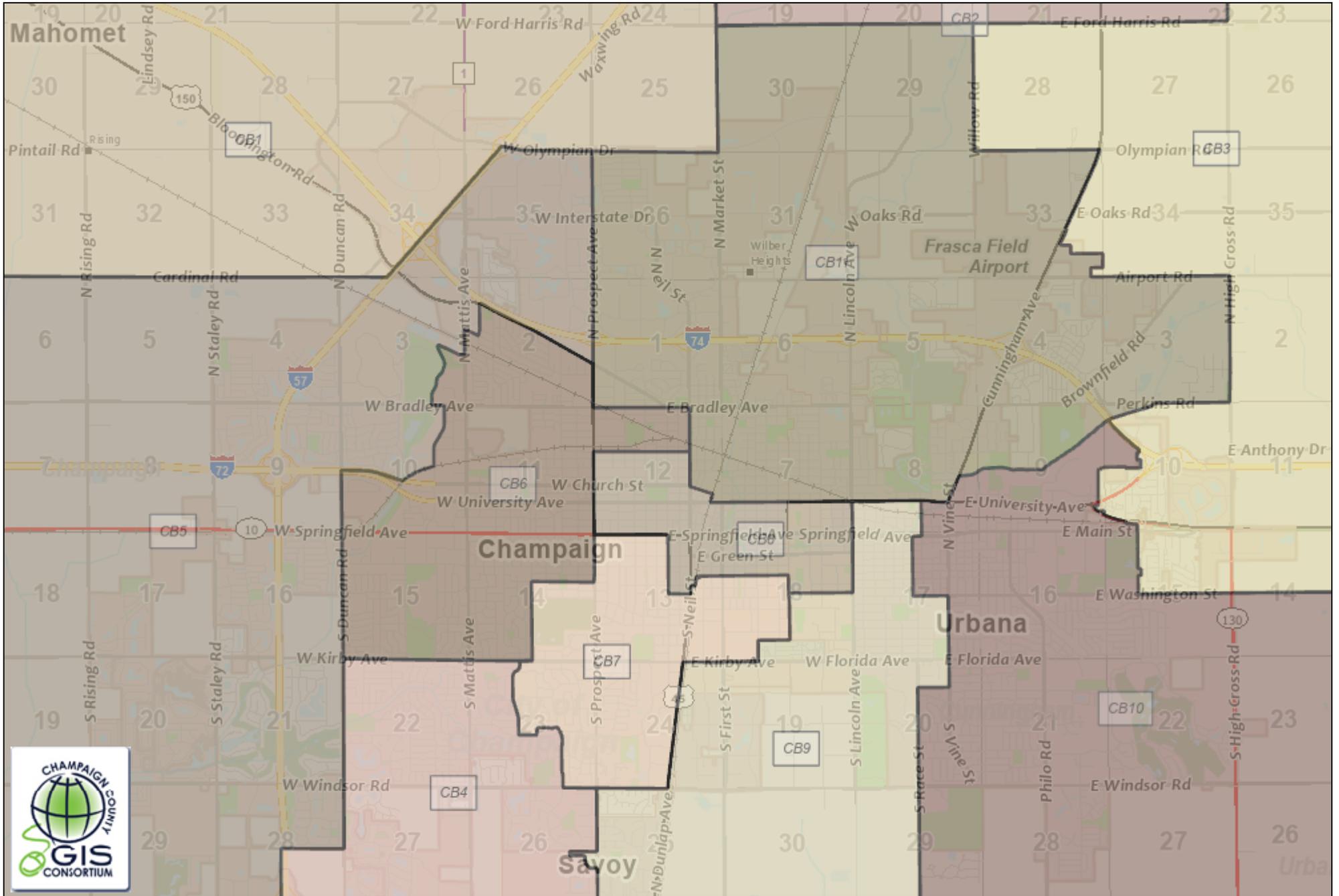
21,000

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County Board Districts



3,750
Feet

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Nov. 30, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Madeleine Doubek, mdoubek@changeil.org

As Illinois House members react to the latest federal corruption indictments, several representatives have raised concerns about the fact that next year is a redistricting year as they weigh whether they will support Michael Madigan as House Speaker.

Indeed, next year is a redistricting year and Speaker and Democratic Party of Illinois Chairman Madigan long has opposed meaningful remap reform. The ongoing federal investigation should only underscore that the need is paramount for ethical and transparent redistricting that prioritizes the people of Illinois over political interests.

The decisions made in redistricting frequently determine the fate of elected officials. Those who draw maps have inordinate power over the members, not only when it comes to drawing districts, but also on myriad policy votes like energy and utility regulation.

One of those who was indicted last week is former ComEd lobbyist John Hooker. Hooker played a leading role in preventing an independent redistricting commission option from being presented to Illinois voters several years ago. Hooker worked closely with longtime Madigan lawyer Michael Kasper to block an amendment to allow independent redistricting. Furthermore, Hooker went to great lengths to suggest that ending gerrymandering would somehow diminish the creation of Black and Brown districts. In fact, as it should, federal and state law already prioritizes and protects the creation of minority districts, no matter who draws them.

The Better Government Association recently [published maps](#), produced independently, using 2019 population figures and nonpartisan redistricting principles, and the mapmakers were able to keep the same number of districts expected to elect Black officials as currently exist. Those mapmakers also were able to draw a majority Latino congressional district and a second congressional district with enough Latino voters to strongly influence the outcome of elections.

Time and again, Illinoisans have made clear they want independent redistricting, not a process tainted by insider politics. Earlier this year, CHANGE Illinois commissioned a scientific survey conducted by Fako & Associates that found 75 percent of Illinois voters want an end to gerrymandering. Even more significant, 82 percent of Democrats surveyed statewide said they wanted an end to gerrymandering.

The ongoing corruption investigation reaching Madigan's inner circle and the indictment of Hooker emphasize the need for ethical, transparent redistricting next year. Any approval of tainted, partisan maps likely will prompt costly and lengthy lawsuits.

CHANGE Illinois asks all those serving in both the Illinois House and Senate to support ethical, transparent redistricting to start to restore Illinoisans' trust in their state government.

Watchdog group pushes Illinois lawmakers to create fair legislative districts



December 2, 2020 12/02/2020 1:51 pm

CHICAGO (WBBM NEWSRADIO) -- A government reform group said now is the time for Illinois to adopt an independent—and transparent—way to redraw legislative districts. Michael Madigan's legal troubles are the reason for that.

Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan and his attorney Michael Kasper have long fought to block independent redistricting; so partisan politicians draw the districts, now often protecting themselves.

But Madeleine Doubek, Executive Director of CHANGE Illinois noted that Madigan was implicated—though not charged—in the ComEd bribery case, and he's facing challenges from fellow Democrats.

"At the moment it appears that we may have a new Speaker of the House for the first time in many decades, and this is an extraordinary opportunity to give the people of Illinois what they have long clamored for, which is transparent, independent redistricting," she said.

Madigan and his allies have successfully blocked any changes in the partisan remapping that lets politicians select their voters, instead of the other way around. Doubek admits, the state constitution requires lawmakers to draw the maps, but they could create an advisory commission.

"I think if we involved regular residents in the process that there is a great deal of hope that things would be done differently. In fact, our friends at the Better Government Association recently commissioned some maps to be published," she said.

Madigan and his allies have argued that so-called "fair maps" would lead to fewer African American and LatinX lawmakers, but Doubek said that is categorically false.

Illinois must fix this fundamental injustice

Two states, New York and Maryland, ended so-called prison gerrymandering prior to redistricting in 2011. The Land of Lincoln should make following suit a top priority before redistricting begins next year. Here's why.

By Madeleine Doubek November 23, 2020

I'm going to bet most everyone reading this knows what gerrymandering is, but not very many of us have thought much about prison gerrymandering.

Prison gerrymandering occurs when people who are incarcerated are counted at a temporary prison address rather than at their permanent address for purposes of the census and redistricting.

Several states have ended this practice, fixing a fundamental injustice, and Illinois ought to join them before redistricting gets underway next year.

Think about it. As we're continuing to grapple with combating systemic racism, this is one of the key things we need to make right. The people in our prison system, and in those throughout the country, tend to be Black and Brown people from urban areas. They are convicted of crimes and shipped away to rural areas where they mostly are ignored or forgotten, except by those who love them or the incredible advocates who fight for them and their rights.

Those people, who are incarcerated for short periods, end up being counted as permanent residents of rural prison communities for a decade. They lose out and their home communities lose out. Prison gerrymandering unfairly skews representation toward prisons and away from the communities where people who are incarcerated actually live. It steals representation not just from them, but also from their relatives, friends and neighbors in their home communities.

So, who is losing out? According to the most recent data available from the [Prison Policy Initiative](#), [70 percent of the prison population in Illinois](#) is made up of Black and Brown residents. Black Illinoisans make up the single largest demographic group of those incarcerated, by far.

To put a finer point on it, [a large portion of people who are incarcerated](#) serve less than 2½ years, but they're counted and their representation is tied to that prison address for a decade. When they return home, they will have much less representation than the rest of us.

Some who are reading this might spend more time at a vacation home over the next decade than many of those who are convicted of crimes will spend in prison. Some

people reading this might have children in boarding schools who will spend more time away from home over 10 years than some of those who are incarcerated will spend in prison.

And I don't know about you, but I can't recall ever hearing about any lawmaker holding a town hall at a prison. I can't recall ever hearing about a lawmaker holding a job fair or constituent service day at a prison.

Now, I know some lawmakers whose districts include prisons have expressed concerns about ending prison gerrymandering because they fear losing some of the funding that is tied to the census. That fear is misguided because money from the census really is not tied to specific individuals.

Consider that two states, [New York](#) and [Maryland](#), ended prison gerrymandering prior to redistricting in 2011. According to research by the Prison Policy Initiative, there was no revenue loss to municipalities that included prisons in those states as a result of the change in how people who were incarcerated were counted.

[Ten states](#) already have passed laws to end the practice of prison gerrymandering. Illinois lawmakers ought to meet as soon as possible and make our state the 11th.

It's about equity. It's about fixing a systemic injustice that predominantly has harmed people of color.

Prison gerrymandering robs people and their communities of their voices and representation. It's that simple. We have an opportunity to act before redistricting begins next year. Let's put this at the top of the agenda when lawmakers get to work in January. Let's get done what is the absolute right thing to do.

This column was originally published by [Crain's Chicago Business](#).

Census officials discovered data issues that could delay its completion, internal documents show

By [Gregory Wallace](#) and [Caroline Kelly](#), CNN

Updated 10:33 PM ET, Wed December 2, 2020

(CNN)Census Bureau officials discovered data issues while working through 2020 Census responses, which include several "high complexity" problems and [threaten to delay completion of a key tally](#) until February, according to a new set of internal Census documents shared by House Democrats on Wednesday.

That delay would mean the Trump administration would be unable to implement its plan to exclude undocumented immigrants when dividing seats in the US House of Representatives, as President Donald Trump leaves office on January 20. Several federal courts have blocked this policy, and on Monday the Supreme Court heard arguments over the matter.

Several of the issues are of "high complexity" and incorrect handling would skew the count smaller or larger in some areas, the documents say. The issues include the ways the Census Bureau accounts for multiple responses and responses that are not linked to a specific address.

The documents do not specify the precise extent of the largest issues. But the documents estimate an additional 20 days are needed for data processing, putting completion in late January or early February.

The Census Bureau issued a statement later Wednesday asserting that "these kinds of anomalies and issues are expected and are similar to the Census Bureau's experience in prior decennial censuses."

"Internal tracking documents would not convey the uncertainty around projected dates and may fail to reflect the additional resources employed to correct data anomalies," the statement said. "The anomalies affect less than seven-tenths of one percent of records and are being resolved as expeditiously as possible."

The bureau also said it "is working to thoroughly correct and address all issues and anomalies as a part of its mission to deliver accurate 2020 Census data products as close to the statutory deadline as possible."

In a letter to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Wednesday, House Oversight and Reform Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney said that the documents did not come from Ross despite committee requests for them last month. She threatened to subpoena him if he did not provide additional documents.

"Despite the Trump Administration's obstruction, the Committee has now obtained several internal Census Bureau documents from another source that not only confirm these press reports, but indicate that unresolved errors may be more extensive than first reported," Maloney wrote. "I write to urge you to end your obstruction of the Committee's inquiry on this critical issue and produce a full and unredacted set of the documents requested by the Committee. If you refuse, the Committee will have no choice but to issue a subpoena."

Census Bureau Director Steve Dillingham had acknowledged census issues in a November statement.

"During post-collection processing, certain processing anomalies have been discovered," he said at the time. "These types of processing anomalies have occurred in past censuses."

Officials did anticipate some issues, like two different responses for a single household, and had plans to address those, but Dillingham and other Census officials did not explain the nature of the problem in November.

That count was on track to be finished by "the first or second week of January," Al Fontenot, the career official leading the 2020 census, said in late October.

But meeting that target "assumes that a reasonably smooth series of processing events will occur," Fontenot said at the time. "If they are not reasonably smooth, that will require us to take additional time."

This story has been updated with a statement from the Census Bureau.

“We Draw the Lines”—Community mapping by Illinoisans for Illinois



The process of redrawing legislative districts has long been shrouded in secrecy, with back-room deals determining the fate of Illinois’ political representation before voters even get to cast their ballots. This year, Illinoisans can empower themselves by participating in the “We Draw the Lines” campaign centered around mapping communities of interest.

The “We Draw the Lines” campaign is powered by [Representable.org](https://representable.org) and gives power back to people. Too often, communities are split and fractured, leaving them without a unified voice in state government. By using the Representable.org tool, you can advocate for your community during the upcoming 2021 remap at a federal, state, and local level.

[Individuals can join the campaign online and submit their own community of interest map here.](#)

If your organization is interested in joining the campaign, contact our Policy Director Ryan Tolley at rtolley@changeil.org.