

# Illinois Redistricting Collaborative 2018 General Assembly Gerrymandering Survey

Please return this survey response no later than 11:59pm on:  
Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

## Candidate Name:

**Full Name of Campaign Committee:**

Candidate Name: Joan McCarthy Lasonde  
Campaign Committee: Joan for Illinois

**Office Sought/District:**

Illinois State Senate, 9<sup>th</sup> District

**Party Affiliation:**

Republican

**Candidate Current Occupation:**

Community volunteer and leader, Former Marketing Director

**Previous Elected Positions Held:**

None

**Campaign Contact Person:**

Joan McCarthy Lasonde

**Campaign Address:**

622 Central Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091

**Campaign Phone:**

(847) 975-0302

**Website:**

[www.joanforillinois.com](http://www.joanforillinois.com)

**Campaign Email:**

[joanforillinois@gmail.com](mailto:joanforillinois@gmail.com)

**Campaign Facebook:**

@JoanForIllinois

<b>Campaign Twitter:</b>	@Save_Illinois
--------------------------	----------------

## **2018 Gerrymandering Survey Questions:**

**1. Do you believe we need to end gerrymandering and change the way Illinois draws its legislative and Congressional maps?**

**Yes** or No

Please explain:

We need to end gerrymandering in Illinois. Voters should pick their representatives, not the other way around. As referenced in the Illinois Redistricting Collaborative cover letter, 72% of Illinois residents support a constitutional amendment for an independent redistricting commission. Changing the way Illinois draws its maps would increase electoral competitiveness, increase public participation, and help hold our elected officials accountable.

**2. Do you support an amendment to the Illinois Constitution to end gerrymandering by changing the redistricting process to create an independent commission tasked with drawing Illinois legislative and Congressional maps?**

**Yes** or No

Please explain:

Yes. By amending the Illinois Constitution, we can ensure a fairer process of drawing legislative and Congressional maps. This will result in more competitive elections and more candidates on the ballot.

In 2016, the Illinois Supreme Court stopped the Independent Map Amendment from being placed on the ballot, despite the fact that the

Independent Maps Coalition collected 563,000 signatures.

The attorney fighting against the Independent Map Amendment was none other than Mike Kasper, Mike Madigan's lawyer and Treasurer of the Illinois Democratic Party and the Illinois House Democratic Majority. My opponent, current State Representative Laura Fine, has taken \$131,336 in campaign contributions from these two funds. (Source: IL State Board of Elections)

**3. As a member of the Illinois General Assembly, would you cosponsor a constitutional amendment for redistricting reform (HJRCA43/SJRCA26) to establish an independent commission to draw the lines? As a member, would you vote for HJRCA43/SJRCA26?**

Yes or No

Please explain:

Yes. As a State Senator, I would both co-sponsor and vote for a constitutional amendment for redistricting reform.

**4. Do you support changes to the current redistricting process that would allow more time for citizens to provide feedback on proposed legislative maps?**

Yes or No

Please explain:

I support any changes to the redistricting process that increase public input and transparency. The current mapmaking process is not transparent and is done without any public involvement.

As I'm out talking to voters, people tell me they feel a disconnect with their elected officials. Increased public participation is a necessary step towards getting Illinois back on track and restoring confidence in our elected representatives.

**5. Do you support changes to the current redistricting process that would provide resources for citizens and community organizations to analyze proposed legislative maps? And submit their own?**

**Yes** or No

Please explain:

Yes. I support allowing citizens and community organizations to analyze and submit their own legislative maps. I favor any proposal that puts more power in the hands of citizens and community organizations and less in the hands of the powerful politicians who have run Illinois into the ground.

**6. Do you support prison gerrymandering reform bill HB205, which requires the Secretary of State to prepare redistricting data to reflect the incarcerated persons at their residential address, rather than the address of the facility in which the person is incarcerated?**

**Yes** or No

Please explain:

I support HB 205. Incarcerated persons should be counted at their residential address, not at the address of the facility where the person is incarcerated.

**7. Would you support additional redistricting reform measures for county, municipal, and special units of government?**

**Yes** or No

Please explain:

I support redistricting reform at all levels of government.

**8. Do you support instituting the following principles to guide Illinois' next redistricting process? Please circle your position and explain the principles you don't agree with:**

**I. COMPLY WITH THE U.S. CONSTITUTION** The process must be in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Constitution. All persons -- regardless of age, citizenship, immigration status, ability, or eligibility to vote – should be accurately counted through the Census. In accordance with the U.S. Constitution, districts should be populated equally, as nearly as is practicable.

Yes or No

Please explain:

I agree that the process must be in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Constitution.

**II. COMPLY WITH FEDERAL AND STATE VOTING RIGHTS ACT** The process must emphasize representation and be fully compliant with both the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) and all state voting rights laws, including the Illinois Voting Rights Act. The letter and the spirit of the VRA should be reflected in redistricting to protect the rights of voters of color. To advance these foundational goals, redistricting decision-makers should exercise their latitude under the law to create majority-minority, coalition, and influence districts.

Yes or No

Please explain:

The rights of voters of color should be represented in redistricting. No group of people should be underrepresented or disenfranchised by the mapmaking process in Illinois.

**III. COMPRISE AND UPHOLD A NON-PARTISANSHIP PROCESS** The process should be independent of partisan political considerations. Mapmaking must include provisions and resources ensuring independence from political parties and legislative leaders. The process must include diverse decision-makers who reflect a broad range of viewpoints and who prioritize people and communities. Mapping

consultants and software contracts, paid for with public resources, should be awarded on merit rather than partisan affiliation.

**Yes** or **No**

Please explain:

The mapmaking process should be independent of partisan political biases. The commission should be made up of individuals from a diverse group of communities, viewpoints, and backgrounds. All individuals involved with the mapmaking process should be vetted for potential biases and selections should be merit-based.

#### **IV. MAXIMIZE VOTER CHOICE, ELECTORAL CANDIDACY AND COMPETITIVENESS**

**The process should result in maximizing voter choice, encouraging electoral candidacy, and enhancing electoral competitiveness.**

**Yes** or **No**

Please explain:

As stated above, I support measures to increase voter choice and electoral competitiveness.

**V. RECOGNIZE AND PRESERVE COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST** **The process should give consideration to true communities of interest.** To the extent possible, but secondary to the protection of voting rights, populations with common social, ethnic or economic interests, and/or shared political and geographic boundaries should have unified representation.

**Yes** or **No**

Please explain:

I support unified representation for populations with shared interests and boundaries. This will help ensure adequate representation for all social,

ethnic, and economic interests.

## **VI. ACCURATELY INCLUDE PERMANENT RESIDENCE OF ALL ILLINOISANS**

**The process must accurately represent the permanent residence of all Illinoisans.** All persons residing away from their permanent residence, such as students, incarcerated individuals, and missionaries, should be counted at their home address regardless of Census counting rules. The Census should be encouraged to expand its exceptions to the usual residence rule to include incarcerated individuals, as well as students, missionaries, and overseas Americans.

**Yes** or No

Please explain:

All persons residing away from their permanent address should be counted at their home address. These individuals are part of the community and should be counted at their permanent address, regardless of where they currently reside.

## **VII. COMPRISE AND UPHOLD A TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE PROCESS**

**The process must be transparent and accountable.** Meetings of decision-makers and their legal, political, and mapping consultants must be open and accessible to the public to the greatest extent possible. The criteria used to draw maps must be objective, clear and justifiable, and districts must be drawn to offer voter choice. Communications related to the redistricting process should be subject to the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. Clear conflict-of-interest rules must be adopted and applied.

**Yes** or No

Please explain:

Meetings, criteria, and communications should be transparent and available for public input and participation. There should be no conflicts of interest. All decision-makers and members of any independent commission should be vetted to eliminate possible conflicts of interest or partisan biases.

## **VIII. PROVIDE FOR OPEN, FULL, AND MEANINGFUL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**The process must allow for meaningful public participation and have the confidence of the public.** Opportunities for public education and engagement must be provided, including opportunities to offer comment and amend draft maps. Redistricting bodies must provide data, tools, and ways for the public to have direct input into and impact on the specific plans under consideration.

**Yes** or No

Please explain:

Public participation should be allowed and encouraged in the redistricting process. The current maps are drawn behind closed doors and without public input.

**Any final thoughts or points you would like to make on the subjects of gerrymandering and redistricting reform?**

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of this important issue. As an Illinois State Senator, I will vote and advocate for redistricting reform.

**Please return this survey response no later than 11:59pm on: Wednesday, April 18, 2018** to Jeff Raines at CHANGE Illinois via email: [jeff@changeil.org](mailto:jeff@changeil.org) or mail to:

CHANGE Illinois c/o Jeff Raines 205 W. Randolph St. Suite 510  
Chicago, IL 60606