

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:	Citizens for Jill Blair
Office Sought/District:	Illinois House, 88 th District
Party Affiliation:	Democratic
Candidate Current Occupation:	Communications Analyst
Previous Elected Positions Held:	None
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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 Please explain: **I support an independent commission.**

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 Please explain:

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 Please explain:

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 Please explain:

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?

Maybe Please explain: **I definitely support citizen input. I would need to know more the resources required. I also would want to know more about submission of maps to ensure the process was efficient and effective.**

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 Please explain: **Absolutely! We need to end the disenfranchisement of communities affected by high rates of incarceration.**

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

Yes Please explain:

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 Please explain:

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 Please explain: **We need to be careful not to assume that "funny looking" districts are gerrymandered. In some cases, funny looking districts ensure that underrepresented communities have a voice in government.**

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 Please explain: **Voters choose representatives, not the other way around.**

IV. MAXIMIZE VOTER CHOICE, ELECTORAL CANDIDACY AND COMPETITIVENESS

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

Yes Please explain:

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 Please explain:

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.

Partial yes Please explain: **Students often make their residence in their college home. We need to be careful to ensure college students have a voice in their college hometown.**

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 Please explain:

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 Please explain:

Any final thoughts or points you would like to make on the subjects of gerrymandering and 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 or mail to:

CHANGE Illinois c/o
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