

# Improvements to the Fair Maps Amendment

Through meetings with collaborative members and lawmakers the following recommendations have been adopted into the Fair Maps Amendment. The changes are reflective of our guiding principles and our effort to create a process that is **equitable, transparent, representative, and provides meaningful participation.**

## Equitable representation for those incarcerated

- Adopted Changes
  - For redistricting purposes, people who are incarcerated during the census count would be counted at the person's last home address, not a temporary one.
- Purpose of Changes
  - To bring justice and equity to people temporarily relocated in another region of the state. Ending prison gerrymandering has always been a part of our redistricting principles, however, last year's draft did not include a fix to this problem. People should be counted at their permanent addresses.

## Illinois Voting Rights Act

- Adopted Changes
  - Add language that mirrors the Illinois Voting Rights Act, which recognizes and creates "crossover districts," "coalition districts," and "influence districts."
  - A coalition district means a district where multiple minority or language groups in a single district can form a coalition to elect a candidate of their choosing.
  - A crossover district means a district where a minority group may not have a majority but can receive crossover from the majority to elect a candidate of their choice.
  - An influence district means a district where a minority or language group has enough power to influence the outcome of the election even if the preferred candidate cannot be elected outright by a minority or language group.
- Purpose of Changes
  - The Illinois Voting Rights Act was passed in 2011 to add in additional protections, in addition to the Federal Voting Rights Act, for communities of interest and to recognize language communities.
  - These changes will help strengthen our principle of equal representation.

## Commission's Geographic Representation

- Adopted Changes
  - Nearly all commissioners would have to be from different congressional districts, rather than judicial districts. If the number of congressional districts drop below 17, an at-large commissioner would be appointed with the caveat that no more than two commissioners can be from the same congressional district.
- Purpose of Changes
  - The geographic representation of the commission is currently based on judicial districts with each having two commissioners. Judicial districts have not been reapportioned for quite some time. Illinois Senate President John Cullerton raised concerns about that. Shifting to congressional districts, which are regularly reapportioned, is a better option to equitably represent the population of Illinois.

## Who can serve on the commission

- Adopted Changes
  - Remove stipulation that public employees cannot serve on the commission and make changes so that only public employees who report directly to an elected or appointed official cannot serve on the commission.
- Purpose of Changes
  - We need a balanced approach to barring people from serving on the commission so that the process itself does not become politicized, without making the application process overly burdensome.
  - For example, in the amendment's current form, a person who is a relative of a Chicago Public School teacher would not be allowed to serve on the commission.
  - We have heard from concerns from lawmakers that we would be disqualifying too many people in the amendment's current form. By banning those who directly report to an elected or appointed official, and their immediate family members, we have a measured approach to keep the commission from becoming politicized.

## Commission size

- Adopted Changes
  - Change the size of the commission from 16 to 17 members. (7 Republicans, 7 Democrats, **3 Independents**)
  - 11 out of 17 commissioners have to agree to a map, requiring a minimum level of cooperation between the two major parties.
- Purpose of Changes
  - Deadline changes pushed the tie-breaker appointment into September, which is when candidates start collecting signatures for a ballot petition. By having a 17-member commission, we would avoid this overlap and lessen the chance for a deadlocked commission.