

LWV of Cook County Testimony for Public Hearing on June 21, 2021 Held by the Cook County Board's 2020 Census Redistricting Committee

My name is Karin Hribar. I am Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Cook County.

The League appreciates that the Redistricting Committee and its consultants plan to utilize U.S. 2020 Census Data for drawing the final maps of the 17 Commissioner Districts. The League considers utilizing this data critical to the process for determining districts that will be in effect for the next 3 elections for Commissioners. Further, we applaud that the consultants, their data, and their mapping programs are being made available to assist the public in drawing their own maps.

However, given the June 28, 2022 date of the primary, we are not clear as to why the plan continues to be to utilize other data to draw draft "framework" maps prior to receiving the U.S. Census Data. Won't this require unnecessary work by the consultants, the Commissioners, and the public to draw and consider maps that may have to be revised? Further, having only 4 days to review these framework maps and provide comments at the public hearing is clearly not sufficient time.

The League is also concerned that the new schedule will not provide the public a reasonable amount of time to draw and submit their own maps and review the maps that are drawn by the Commissioners and their consultants after the Census Data is released. There is less than a week from the posting of these maps and the proposed public hearing.

Critical to being able to review the maps properly is that these maps show municipal boundaries so that it can be determined whether any municipalities are split between two or more Commissioner districts. Similarly, sufficient street detail needs to be shown on the maps for the City of Chicago so that it can be determined whether neighborhoods are being split among two or more Commissioner districts.

The League supports keeping each municipality and Chicago neighborhood in a single district, unless the affected people prefer otherwise.

Mr. Creticos has been very responsive to our questions regarding the detail that will be available on the maps posted online, and he is hopeful, but not sure, as to what will be shown. We understand that if this detail cannot be shown for the posted maps, we and others will be able to go into the Redistricting office where this detail can be shown. But that means that sufficient time must be given to allow for appointments to be made to review the maps and then prepare and submit comments before the final maps are approved.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.