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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois Congressional Redistricting Plaintiffs Release Alternative Map Showing Fair District Lines As Part of Motion for Preliminary Injunction

CHICAGO, IL – Plaintiffs in the federal complaint challenging Illinois’ congressional redistricting scheme today unveiled their own version of a congressional map for Illinois (“Fair Map”) that demonstrates the viability of fair, compact, and representative districts which do not violate basic tenets of the Constitution, relevant case law, or the Voting Rights Act of 1965. To the contrary, the map passed by Democrats dilutes Latino voting strength; creates meandering, illogically shaped districts; purposely divides communities of interest which have historically been served by a common district; and impermissibly results in partisan gerrymandering designed to harm targeted incumbents.

For example, the Fair Map provides for two distinct Latino congressional districts, by unpacking the old 4th District, commonly referred to as the “Ear Muff”, to further encourage Latino voters to seek more representation for their community in recognition of dramatic population growth. This is consistent with past court-approved efforts by Republicans to empower Latino voters. In 1991, it was Republican plaintiffs who successfully advocated in federal court for the creation of the state’s first Latino district, despite the Democrats’ proposal at the time which did not include a Latino district.

In addition, the Fair Map divides far fewer counties and towns than the Democratic version and creates district lines which are compact and contiguous as required by federal case law.

The Fair Map was released as part of the plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction asking the court to enjoin the Illinois State Board of Elections from taking any immediate action to enforce or implement PA 97-14, the law which enacted the Democrat’s map, and specifically enforcing Illinois statutes related to the creation, circulation, and acceptance of petitions for nomination to serve in the United States House of Representatives.

Under Illinois law, candidates for Congress may begin circulating nominating petitions on September 6, 2011 and may begin filing those petitions with the Board of Elections on November 28, 2011. However, only qualified voters in respective

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districts may sign congressional petitions, making it impossible for petition signers to determine their districts of residency given an uncertain congressional map.

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Plaintiffs in the suit include the Committee for a Fair and Balanced Map, Republican members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation and other concerned citizens troubled by both the unfair and undemocratic process which produced the Democrats' seriously flawed map and , as well as the map itself.

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The Committee for a Fair and Balanced Map

Fact Sheet:

Democrats' Proposal v. The Fair Congressional Map

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History of the Earmuff

- The Republicans first proposed the “earmuff” (District 4) in 1991. At the time, it was the only way to draw a majority-Latino congressional district.
- At the time, the Democrats proposed a map that did not include a majority Latino district. The Republican map prevailed with a three-judge federal panel endorsing the creation of the first majority Latino district in state history.
- In 1991, the earmuff was 65.0% Latino by total population, 59.2% Latino by voting-age population. For the last 20 years, the earmuff has effectively afforded Latino voters the opportunity to elect the candidate of their choice.

The Democrats' Proposal

- Latinos have grown to become the largest minority community in both Cook County and statewide. In Cook County, Latinos have grown from 13.6% of population in 1990, to 24.0% in 2010.
- Despite that growth, the Democrats' Proposal packs Latino voters into a single district. The packed earmuff would be a staggering 71.1% Latino by total population, 65.9% Latino by voting-age population.
- The Democrats' Proposal dilutes Latino voters in the two neighboring white districts (Districts 3 (Lipinski) and 5 (Quigley)), depriving Latino voters of any chance to elect a second candidate of their choice *for at least the next decade*.
- The Democrats' Proposal intentionally discriminates against Latino voters, by drawing district boundaries in Cook County for which race is the predominant factor in a way that is not narrowly tailored to meet any compelling state interest. This violates the “strict scrutiny” constitutional test that federal courts have long used to evaluate governmental actions based on race.
- The Democrats' Proposal is not compact. Using three measures of compactness, the Democrats' Proposal has a compactness score, on a scale of 0 to 1, of only 0.39—less than even the current congressional map, which has a compactness score of 0.43.

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- The Democrats' Proposal unnecessarily splits a significant number of prominent and populous communities, including Bloomington, Champaign, DeKalb, Peoria, Rockford, and Urbana. It also divides significant Chicago suburbs, including Algonquin, Carol Stream, Carpentersville, Cicero, Crystal Lake, Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Glenview, Gurnee, Hanover Park, Lake in the Hills, Melrose Park, Mundelein, Oswego, Streamwood, Waukegan, Wheaton, and Woodridge, as well as Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood.
- The Democrats' Proposal targets Republican voters and incumbents. The Democrats' proposal would elect 6 Republicans and 12 Democrats—directly contrary to the will of the people, who just last year elected 11 Republicans and 8 Democrats.
- DuPage County is divided into *six* districts, while the influence of large Republican communities like Wheaton are diluted. The current 13th District, which has consistently elected Rep. Judy Biggert with large majorities, is dismantled. The Hinsdale home of Rep. Biggert, the only Republican woman in the Illinois Congressional delegation, is thrown into the Chicago district of Democrat Mike Quigley, in which only 1.4% of the voters would be current constituents of Rep. Biggert.
- Democrat incumbents would reside in districts having, on average, 77.5% of their current constituents, while Republican incumbents would reside in districts having just 34.2% of their current constituents.
- The Democrats' Proposal would throw several Republican representatives (Reps. Biggert, Kinzinger, and Dold) into strong Democrat districts and force Reps. Hultgren and Walsh to run against one another, while preserving strong Democrat seats for current Democrat incumbents and creating two open Democrat districts in the Chicago suburbs (proposed Districts 8 and 11).

The Fair Congressional Map

- The Fair Congressional Map proves that it is possible to draw **two** compact districts that will afford Latino voters the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice in the coming decade. The Fair Congressional Map's Districts 3 and 4 are the natural consequences of unpacking the earmuff.
- The Fair Congressional Map's District 4, located on the southwest side of Chicago, is 65.0% Latino by total population, 59.5% Latino by voting age population. This district mirrors the total and voting age population of the first Latino majority district from 20 years ago. It is a compact

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community of interest (with an average compactness score of 0.58) that would perform just as effectively as the earmuff has for the past 20 years.

- The Fair Congressional Map's District 3, located on the northwest side of Chicago, is 51.8% Latino by total population, 46.5% Latino by voting age population. As a growing Latino region, it would offer Latino voters the opportunity to elect a second candidate of choice over the next decade. This district is also home to the 20 year incumbent member of Congress.
- The Fair Congressional Map is compact, boasting an average compactness score of 0.59.
- The Fair Congressional Map respects and preserves counties and municipalities wherever possible—a key factor required by federal case law. Only 13 counties are split. And all of the major communities cited above are preserved in a single district.
- The Fair Congressional Map is fair to Democrat and Republican incumbents alike. The Fair Congressional Map would respect the will of the people and the bipartisan history of the state, by electing 10 Republicans and 8 Democrats.
- Democrat incumbents would reside in districts having, on average, 51.9% of their current constituents, and Republican incumbents would reside in districts having 56.6% of their current constituents.

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Democrats' Proposal

Latino Majority Districts

Just one packed district, which is neither natural nor compact.

No opportunity for Latino voters to elect a second candidate for at least the next decade.

Compactness

The Democrats' Proposal is not compact. The Democrats' Proposal has a compactness score, on a scale of 0 to 1, of only 0.39—less than even the current congressional map, which has a compactness score of 0.43.

Communities of Interest

The Democrats' Proposal splits 18 counties.

The Democrats' Proposal unnecessarily splits Algonquin, Bloomington, Carol Stream, Carpentersville, Champaign, Cicero, Crystal Lake, DeKalb, Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Glenview, Gurnee, Hanover Park, Lake in the Hills, Melrose Park, Mundelein, Oswego, Peoria, Rockford, Streamwood, Urbana, Waukegan, Wheaton, and Woodridge, as well as Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood.

Partisan Fairness

The Democrats' Proposal would elect 6 Republicans (compared to 11 currently) and 12 Democrats (compared to 8 currently), contrary to the will of the voters.

Democrat incumbents would reside in districts having, on average, 77.5% of their current

The Fair Congressional Map

Two compact, natural districts that afford Latino voters the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

The southern district, District 4, would perform just as effectively as the earmuff has for the past 20 years.

The northern district, District 3, is centered on a growing Latino area and would afford Latino voters the opportunity to elect a second candidate over the next decade.

The Fair Congressional Map is compact, boasting an average compactness score of 0.59.

The Fair Congressional Map splits only 13 counties.

The Fair Congressional Map preserves all of these municipalities.

The Fair Congressional Map would elect 10 Republicans and 8 Democrats, consistent with the most recent election.

Democrat incumbents would reside in districts having, on average, 51.9% of their current

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constituents, while Republican incumbents would reside in districts having just 34.2% of their current constituents.

constituents, and Republican incumbents would reside in districts having 56.6% of their current constituents.

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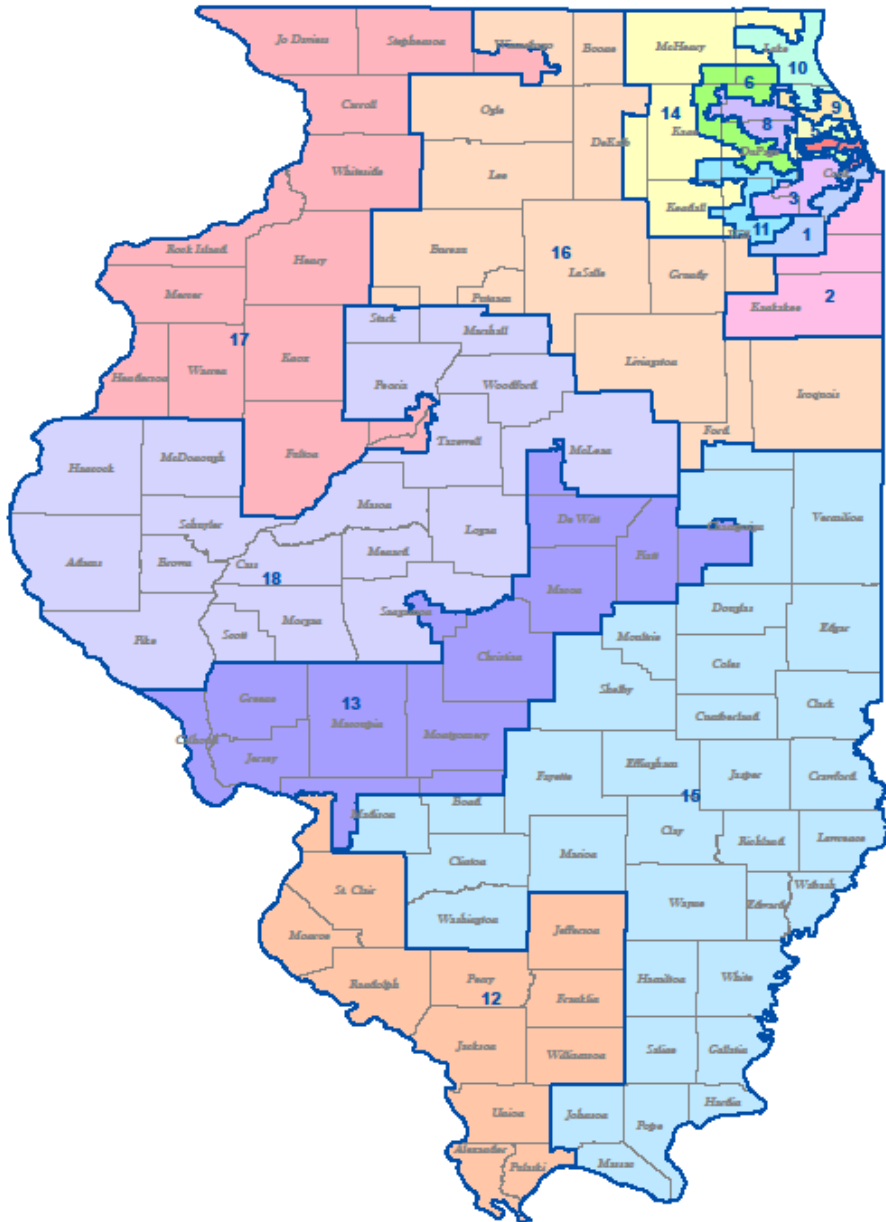
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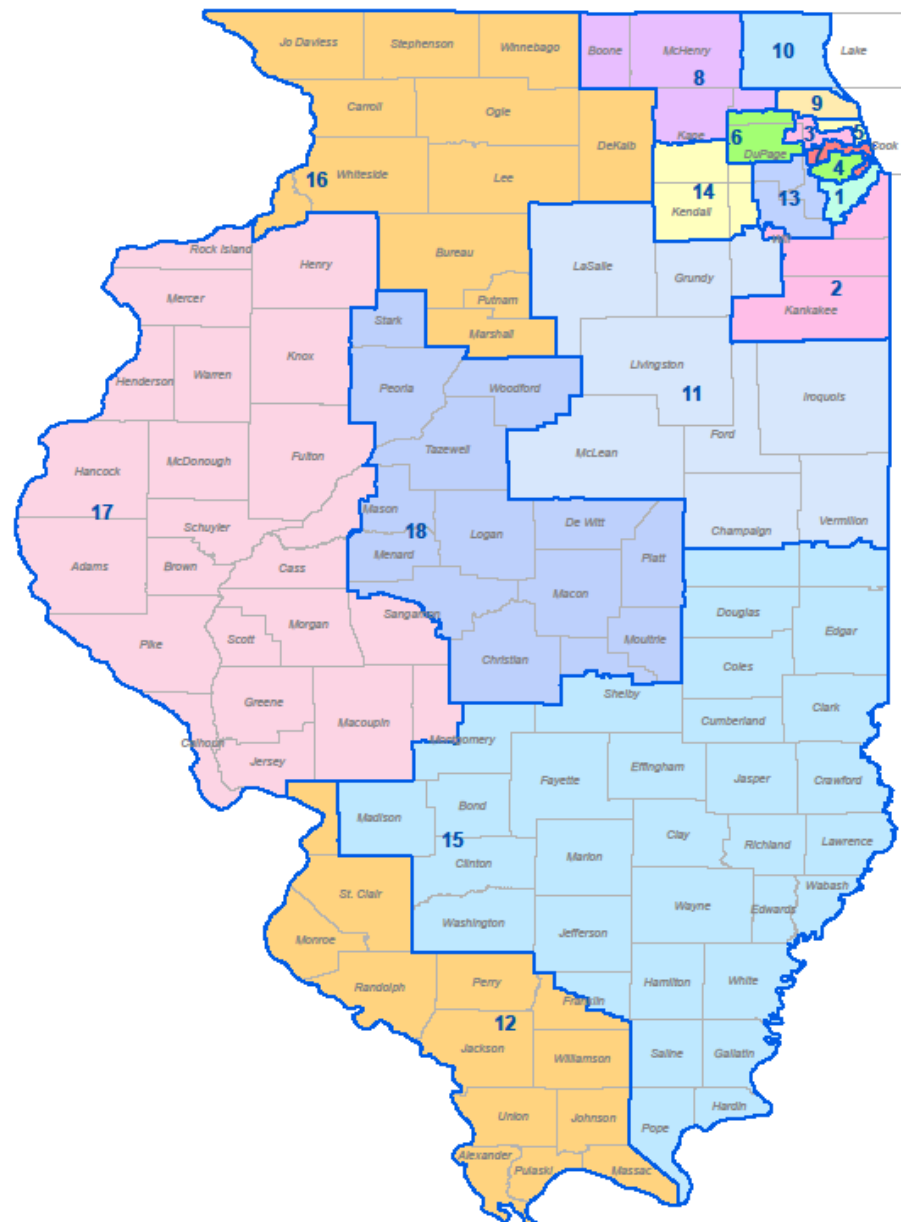
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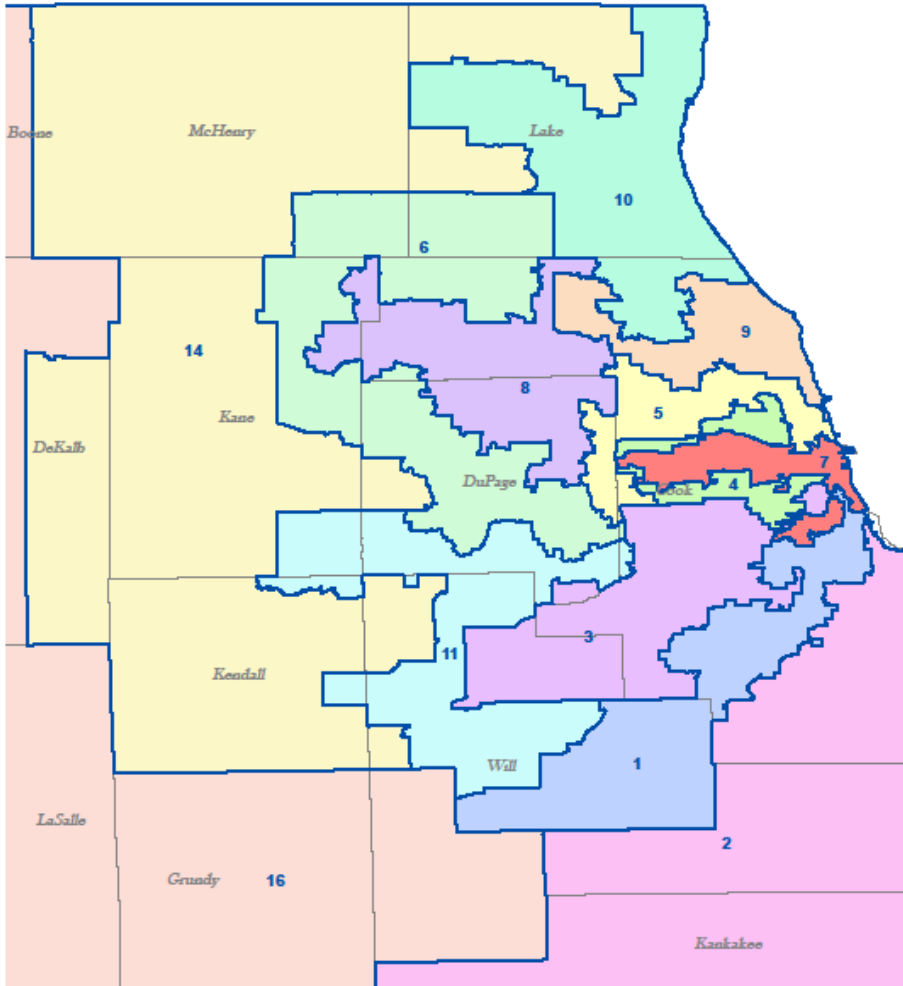
Democrats' Proposal (P.A. 97-14)



The Fair Congressional Map



Democrats' Proposal (P.A. 97-14)



The Fair Congressional Map

