

# ILLINOIS FAIR MAP AMENDMENT

## Independent Commission Will Draw Maps:

Establishes a Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission (TRAC).

- Each legislative leader appoints two people.
- In choosing, diversity of our State must be considered.
- Significant limitations on who may be appointed to TRAC.
  - No current or former lobbyists (within last four years).
  - No current or former State employees (within last four years).
  - No partisan political officeholder, party officeholder or family member of a legislator.
  - TRAC members may not run for the General Assembly for duration of map – ten years.
  - Ninth member - chairperson - chosen by original eight.

## TRAC Process is Transparent and Open:

- TRAC meetings open to the public with at least 24 hours notice.
- TRAC must make their census data available to the public.
- Members of the public may submit maps to TRAC.
- TRAC shall hold at least five public hearings around the State prior to voting on any maps.
- Any maps approved by TRAC shall be released to the public.
- TRAC must hold at least three additional hearings around the State after its preliminary approval of maps to be considered by the legislature.

## TRAC Will Be Guided by Stringent, Established Criteria, in order of importance:

1. Echoing the Voting Rights Act, “Districts must comply with all federal laws, and shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice.”
2. Districts shall be contiguous.
3. Districts shall be substantially equal in population.
4. Districts shall be compact.
5. District boundaries shall follow visible geographic and municipal boundaries, to the extent practical.
6. The map shall not be drawn to favor one political party or another.
  - Party registration, voting history or incumbency cannot be used to draw the maps except to ensure minority voting rights and that the plan doesn’t significantly favor or discriminate against a party.
  - Allows “de-nesting” -- Representative districts need not be contained within a single Senate district

## Super-majority vote in House or Senate – or TRAC-approved map becomes law

- TRAC may approve maps to be considered by the legislature by simple majority vote.
- TRAC provides a map to *each* chamber by the third Monday in May.
  - A House map to the House – two-thirds vote required to become law
  - A Senate map to the Senate – two-thirds vote required to become law
- If first map is not approved, TRAC provides an alternative by the third Monday in June.
- If the alternative map is not approved by the first Monday in July, TRAC will approve one of the two previously provided maps by the third Monday in July, and it will become law.

## Fail-safe provision: No draw from a hat

If, for any reason, TRAC fails to meet a deadline:

- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Justice of the opposite party shall appoint a Special Master to draw the applicable map or maps.
  - Special Master bound by same restrictions and criteria as TRAC members
  - Special Master must file maps by September 30.