

STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION REQUEST

Monday, August 17, 2015

Illinois Farm Bureau®
Governmental Affairs and Commodities

Contact:	Gather Petition Signatures
Form of Contact:	Petition
Number of Contacts:	200 Per County Farm Bureau
End of Action Request	Tuesday, December 15, 2015
Issue Summary	Petition for Amending the Illinois State Constitution on Redistricting.
Staff Support	Kevin Semlow (309-557-2308) email: semlow@iffb.org

ACTION MESSAGE

Gather Signatures on the petition seeking to amend the Illinois Constitution Legislative Redistricting process. Each County Farm Bureau will be asked to get 200 registered voters to sign the petition between now and December 15, 2015.

Illinois Farm Bureau supports the amendment and will be working for its passage because it creates an independent redistricting commission to draw Illinois legislative redistricts by an unbiased third party, will not be based on political affiliation and prior election results, and districts will be compact, contiguous, and impartial to party or incumbency. It also sets out guidelines that districts should follow county, township, and municipal boundaries as much as possible.

Petition Instructions

Printing Petitions

We have provided you with a set of petitions to start your support of this petition drive. If you need additional copies you can contact us at statelegislation@iffb.org or by calling 309-557-2308. If you would like to make your own copies, please perform the following procedures for making more. It is IMPERATIVE that we follow these instructions or any signature will be ruled invalid!

To make more copies of the petition it must be printed on 8.5" x 11" letter size paper and printed on **BOTH** sides. One side will have blank spaces for the voter's signature, printed name, and address. The other side will have the printed text of the proposed amendment. The petitions that you download and print yourself **MUST** be printed or photocopied on both sides or the signatures you collect **WILL NOT** count!

Who can circulate a petition?

U.S. citizens age 18 and over can circulate petitions.

Who can sign a petition?

Any Illinois registered voter is eligible to sign.

Please do NOT limit your signatures or signature gathering opportunities to Farm Bureau members. Any legally registered voter in Illinois is eligible. If you have questions on where or how the petition can be signed, please call Kevin Semlow (email semlow@ilfb.org or phone 309-557-2308)

Tips for accurate collection of signatures:

Make sure that the people who sign the petition use their full address without abbreviations. The address they use should be where they are registered to vote. Also, please make sure they fill in all the information and that they clearly print their name in the space provided.

What do I do when I'm finished circulating the petition?

You have the petition sheet notarized, with your signature. Your notarized signature at the bottom of each page you circulate is proof that you were the person who circulated them. If your County Farm Bureau does not have a Notary Public, most banks provide notary service. Take your petitions with you to a notary public, fill out the circulator's affidavit at the bottom of each sheet, and sign each sheet in front of the notary. The notary public will sign and stamp the petitions you have circulated.

Please Send Petitions that are Completed!

Please send to us on an ongoing basis completed petitions, for processing and validation. In working with the Independent Map Amendment coalition they are reviewing signatures for compliance with the strict rules for a petition. This allows them to know which signatures will meet the petition rules validation process and to build momentum for the coalition for all the hard work that petitions signature gathers are accomplishing.

We will use the signatures on the petition for the tracking of the contacts made by County Farm Bureau.

REPORTING CONTACTS

Contact reporting will be conducted through the submission of the *ORIGINAL* petition that has been legally *SIGNED* and *NOTRORIZED* to Andrew Larson of the Governmental Affairs and Commodities division. Please mail to:

Andrew Larson
Illinois Farm Bureau, GAC
PO Box 2901
Bloomington, IL 61702-2901

Once we have logged the necessary information for tracking of the Action Request we will forward them expeditiously to the Illinois Map Amendment coalition for them to collate the signatures as needed.

ACTION DETAIL

Illinois Farm Bureau Policy

Policy 115. Legislative Bodies states:

“We will support:

4. A restructuring of the Illinois legislative redistricting process that will be conducted by an unbiased third party, will not be based on political affiliation and prior election results, and districts will be compact, contiguous, and impartial to party or incumbency. Districts should follow county, township, and municipal boundaries as much as possible.”
(Page 88, Lines 1 - 4)

Illinois Map Amendment Coalition



The coalition working together to make up the Independent Map Amendment individuals and organizations who want to see the Illinois State Redistricting process change. The coalition is organized as a not-for-profit ballot initiative campaign committee whose purpose is to win voter approval of a state constitutional amendment creating a non-partisan independent commission responsible for drawing Illinois General Assembly districts. The coalition is lead by a group of civic minded leaders that make up its Board which includes:

Chair: Dennis FitzSimons, Chairman of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and a former Chairman and CEO of Tribune Company

- Peter Bensinger, CEO of Bensinger, DuPont & Associates
- Reverend Dr. Byron T. Brazier, Senior Pastor, Apostolic Church of God
- Lester Crown, Chairman, Henry Crown & Company
- William Daley, Managing Partner and Head of U.S. Operations, Argentiere Capital
- Hon. Jim Edgar, former Governor of Illinois
- Ruth Greenwood, Staff Attorney, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Deborah Harrington, former President, Woods Fund of Chicago
- Christie Hefner, a Director, Center for American Progress Fund
- Cheryle Jackson, Vice President of Government Affairs and Corporate Development, AAR CORP
- Mary Kubasak, President, League of Women Voters of Illinois
- Charles Ashby Lewis, Chairman, Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation, and former Vice Chairman, Investment Banking, Merrill Lynch & Co.
- Brad McMillan, Executive Director, Institute for Principled Leadership in Public Service, Bradley University
- Steven N. Miller, Partner, Origin Ventures
- Sylvia Puente, Executive Director, Latino Policy Forum
- Jesse H. Ruiz, Partner, Drinker Biddle & Reath
- Manuel "Manny" Sanchez, Managing Partner, Sanchez, Daniels & Hoffman LLP
- Samuel Scott, former Chairman, President and CEO, Corn Products International
- Gordon Segal, Founder and former CEO, Crate & Barrel
- Hon. Sheila Simon, former Lieutenant Governor of Illinois
- Harrison I. Steans, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Financial Investments Corporation and President and CEO of the Steans Family Foundation
- Tyronne Stoudemire, Vice President, Global Diversity and Inclusion, Hyatt Corporation
- Don Thompson, Retired CEO, McDonald's Corporation

George A. Ranney, former President and CEO, Metropolis Strategies and Chicago Metropolis 2020, will serve as a senior advisor.

Cynthia Canary, Executive Director.

As of July 30, 2015 the coalition raised \$935,000 and expended \$637,694.29.

Goal of Independent Map Amendment Coalition

The coalition to be legally submitted as a ballot question for the November 8, 2016 election needs 290,216 valid registered voter signatures. The petitions need to be filed with the Secretary of State by May 8, 2016.

The Independent Map Amendment coalition has set a goal 600,000 valid and verified signatures of registered voters. As of the date of this Action Request, the coalition has already compiled slightly over 200,000 valid signatures. A goal of April 30, 2016 has been set as the date to have all petitions submitted to the coalition for their compiling of the signatures.

Once the petitions have been submitted and verified as meeting the necessary signatures, the coalition is expected to work to defend the constitutionality of the language through the courts and then to successfully campaign directly to the voters for its passage on November 8, 2016.

A full whitepaper has been compiled, and is attached to this email, with the full actual constitutional amendment language, a summary of the current redistricting process, process for amending the Illinois Constitution, a listing of past constitutional amendment attempts, and a historical view of the actual redistricting process since 1970.

Amendment Summary

The Independent Map Amendment would establish a non-partisan, independent commission responsible for drawing state legislative districts in a way that is transparent and open to the public. It would end the current redistricting process controlled by legislators with little public involvement.

The 11 members of the Independent Redistricting Commission would be selected in the year of each federal decennial census. The first commission would be appointed in 2021.

STEPS TO SELECTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Anyone interested in serving on the Commission could submit an application to the Illinois Auditor General.
- Applications to serve on the Commission would be reviewed by the Applicant Review Panel.
- Anyone interested in serving on the Applicant Review Panel could submit an application to the Illinois Auditor General. The three-member panel would be chosen at random from a pool of registered voters who have a “demonstrated understanding of and adherence to standards of ethical conduct.”
- The Applicant Review Panel would select a pool of 100 potential Commissioners, who would be diverse and free from conflicts of interest. Each potential Commissioner would be reviewed to determine prior political experience, relevant analytical skills, ability to contribute to a fair redistricting process and ability to represent the demographic and geographic diversity of Illinois.

- The names of the 100 potential Commissioners and information about their backgrounds would be made available to the public.
- The four leaders of the Illinois House and Senate - two Democrats and two Republicans - each would be allowed to remove up to five of the potential Commissioners in the pool of 100.
- The Applicant Review Panel would select seven Commissioners in a public and random drawing. No more than two of the seven Commissioners could be affiliated with the same political party. The four legislative leaders would select the final four Commissioners from the remaining pool and make the selections based on the appointee's contribution to the demographic and geographic diversity of the Commission.

COMMISSION TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public would be notified of Commission meetings at least seven days in advance. All meetings and records, including communications between members about Commission work, would be public. The only exception would be meetings and records that qualify under attorney-client privilege.

The Commission would hold public hearings throughout Illinois before and after releasing the initial proposed redistricting plan.

THE COMMISSION'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR DRAWING LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

The Commission would be required to draw legislative district maps that comply with federal law and are contiguous and equal in population.

In drawing the maps, the Commission must use the following criteria:

1. The redistricting plan shall not dilute or diminish the ability of a racial or language minority community to elect the candidates of its choice, including when voting in concert with other persons;
2. The redistricting plan shall respect the geographic integrity of units of local government; and
3. The redistricting plan shall respect the geographic integrity of communities sharing common social and economic interests, which do not include relationships with political parties or candidates for office.

The redistricting plan shall not either intentionally or unduly discriminate against or intentionally or unduly favor any political party, political group or particular person. In designing the redistricting plan, the Commission shall consider party registration and voting history data only to assess compliance with the above requirements.

Illinois Map Amendment Coalition Website



You can visit the Independent Map Amendment website at:
<http://www.mapamendment.org/index.html> .