



**DUPAGE
COUNTY**

Daniel J. Cronin
Chairman

District 1

Donald Puchalski
Ashley Selmon
Sam Tornatore

District 2

Elizabeth Chaplin
Peter DiCianni
Paula Deacon Garcia

District 3

Greg Hart
Brian Krajewski
Julie Renehan

District 4

Grant Eckhoff
Lynn LaPlante
Mary FitzGerald Ozog

District 5

Amy Chavez
Sadie Covert
Dawn DeSart

District 6

Sheila Rutledge
Greg Schwarze
James Zay

DANIEL J. CRONIN
County Board Chairman

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April 8, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Hernandez and Members of the House Redistricting Committee,

My name is James Zay and I serve as a DuPage County Board Member for District #6 and Chair of the County's Redistricting Committee. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the U.S. Census to delay the delivery of critical data (until the end of September) that is necessary to appropriately redraw county board districts, thus preventing counties from adhering to current statutory deadlines.

Currently, county board chairmen and county board executives are required by statute to present their own reapportionment plans to county boards for approval by the third Wednesday of May in apportionment years and for County Boards to approve a final reapportionment map by July 1. Unless the U.S. Census Bureau delivers census data earlier than the projected date, county leaders will be unable to meet their statutory requirement to ensure substantially equal representation among all districts. Clearly, the General Assembly needs to enact legislation to alter current statutory deadlines for approval of reapportionment maps to align with the delivery of U.S. Census data.

The second major problem with the delay in decennial data is that it makes it nearly impossible for individuals seeking to be on the ballot for the 2022 Primary Elections to know which district they reside in. Currently, candidates can begin circulating petitions to be placed on the ballot in mid-September, which is before data will even be available for reapportionment. I would encourage the Committee to consider whether or not we can move forward with a March 2022 Primary Election based on the absence of Census data.

We appreciate that the House is having a dialogue on this issue and would encourage all parties to work together to develop a realistic, sensible timeline for the reapportionment of all legislative and county board districts and the 2022 election timelines.

Respectfully,

James Zay

DuPage County Board Member - District 6
Chair, DuPage County Redistricting Committee