



TO: Honorable Members of the House Redistricting Committee
FROM: Rabbi Shlomo Soroka
RE: Redistricting
DATE: Tuesday, April 20, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Agudath Israel of Illinois is an umbrella grassroots organization that represents the interests of the Orthodox Jewish community, serving as its voice through advocacy and engagement.

The green area in the two maps being shared here represent where most of the Orthodox Jewish community is concentrated. This green area was not drawn as a proposed district by itself, as the area does not contain a population large enough to be a district. The intent is to illustrate the geographic area that we would like to be included in a single House and Senate District.

The second map is the same as the first with colored lines that represent current district boundaries.

On the southern side of the map, there's a purple and brown line that runs right through the heart of the community in the Peterson Park neighborhood. It runs from west to east across Devon, bending southeast diagonally on Lincoln, then south down Drake, then turning east on Peterson. This boundary splits off a very significant portion of the community from the 16th House District, putting it in the 15th House District. There are hundreds of families in this small area that should not be separated from the rest of the community.

The red and purple line running from west to east along Main street (then turning up north on Lawndale, then east on Greenleaf, then south down St. Louis and finally turning east along Lee St. until reaching the North Shore Channel) is the border that divides the community between the 8th and 9th Senate districts, as well as the 16th and 17th House districts. These district lines separate most of the Orthodox Skokie residents from the rest of the community.

As a "community of interest," the objective is simply to be kept together. Please refer to my testimony for further details or simply reach out to me.

We would really appreciate the opportunity to review any proposed maps before they are formerly filed. While we would like the entire indicated area included in a single district, if that proves impossible, we would like to be part of the conversation and process to find the best solution possible. If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Shlomo

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