

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Comm - Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** house map  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:32:55 AM

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Hi,

This is Jim Walsh again. I was going to try to use your software to draw a legislative map by eyeballing the Senate map. Unfortunately, I cannot see the GROUP or UNGROUP options that are shown in the video, so I cannot make one. If you like, I can make one on districtr, but the same problems will happen with getting the data to you. Alternately, I would like to suggest going in together with surrounding states on software to do the districting for you. There has to be something out there that will do the heavy lifting. You should be able to upload the census data, what metrics you want to achieve and a priority for each metric. Then the machine will spit out a map. You can even vary the priority while keeping within limits set by the IL Constitution and the Fair Voting Act. An example of what this would look like using the Congressional seats for IL from 538 is here: <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-maps/illinois/#Proportional> . Finally, after looking at your map of Senate districts, I have to ask why you are grouping rural with urban when there are ways to minimize that. If you look at my map, you will see that I found a way to make sure Latinx are the majority or minority-majority in 5 districts, African-Americans are majority or minority-majority in 4 districts and keep urban and rural pretty separate. I have no idea what my map does for parties. Districtr doesn't track it. I am pretty sure that is because neither the IL Constitution nor the Fair Voting Act require it. Looking at the two maps, mine also seems to be more compact, but I don't have any way to quantify it.

All that being said, redistricting is darn hard. So, thank you for trying. However, given the 538 maps, the fact that it still seems like there is Gerrymandering in the process and the fact that we are well past June 30, I am asking you to turn everything over to the Commission the IL Constitution requires. They should have ample time to sift through the data and come up with competitive districts that work within the boundaries of the IL Constitution and Fair Voting Act by November. This will mean adjusting the veto session dates or having a special session. However, I think we can agree that after promising fair boundaries that the legislature needs to deliver those fair boundaries.

Thank you for listening,

Jim Walsh