

Indivisible Naperville

Redistricting DuPage Hearing, March 18, 2021 3172021 3 PM

Support

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Indivisible Naperville represents progressive, thoughtful, engaged voters. While the political world went into a firestorm in 2015-16, we tried to keep our heads and those of our members by working locally to educate residents on local, state, and national issues and encouraged residents to get engaged. And, they did! There was remarkable turnout not only for our meetings, but at the local/state/ and national elections. The continuing support for progressive ideas and thinkers in what used to be thought of as a more conservative DuPage county was a testament to how deeply people felt the issues were relevant to their lives.

As the state begins the process of redistricting, which has enormous impacts on our elections and voter participation, we should do so with the intent of making our elections more open, more accessible, and more truly democratic. That way we can insure we have a representative democracy. What we witnessed in the last year, in the efforts to stifle and reduce participation in elections, should give us pause. We must redouble our efforts to insure we are doing our best to provide that all residents are part of a true participatory democracy. That their voices all can be heard. Their votes counted. We should be very careful not to pre-determine districts, but work to make sure that every person in that district can fully engage in the local, state and national elections.

With regard to our specific community of Naperville, demographic information indicates that we have a significant Asian population (15%-20%), whose elected representation is sparse to non-existent. So pleased to see State Representative Janet Yang Rohr elected in 2020, but more needs to be done.

Naperville has been leaning more and more Democratically over the last 15 years and is decidedly so now with the 2020 election results. Every single precinct in both Naperville and Lisle Townships had majority votes for Biden. In general, I believe the residents of Naperville hold moderate to liberal views on most social issues and are willing to pay significant property taxes to keep their public schools and public safety in the top tier. Indivisible Naperville draws their support, for the most part, from college-educated, middle-aged women who want their voices heard, sanity to prevail, and are willing to actively get involved.

Concerns with the current district boundaries include the following:

- Supreme Court Judicial Third District
- Congressional Districts 11, 6, and 14th: logistically and organizationally challenging to cover such convoluted districts; perhaps consider making them more cohesive districts.
- House District 47: Hinsdale area...perhaps a new configuration.

Thank you for considering our input.

Dianne McGuire and Nancy Turner, Co-Chairs, Indivisible Naperville