

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Comm - Redistricting](#)
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I saw Senator Koehler on WMBD-TV seeking input on redistricting & thought I would email. American life is often one of an urban center, surrounded by suburbs, surrounded by rural areas. We see this in local TV & radio station markets, in commuting patterns, shopping patterns, & likely in migration patterns. Because of this getting a map that reflects American life may mean having suburban districts encircling urban districts & rural districts encircling suburban or urban districts.

For example, Peoria & Springfield have enough people to have a state house district entirely in the city, but in Springfield's case, it would be difficult to not include Grandview, Jerome, & Leland Grove. For the state senate, the Peoria Urban Area has enough people to have a state senate district entirely within the urban area, likely resulting in the mostly suburban house district encircling the urban house district or coming close to doing so.

It would likely look gerrymandering if you created districts for urban clusters (population centers from 2,500 to 50,000) with minimal amounts of rural area in those districts even if they were not gerrymandered. Urban clusters usually may not have suburbs, but they are urban like Peoria & Springfield, just on a smaller scale. Also a portion of urban areas & urban clusters are unincorporated, so making such districts would not be just following city limit lines. Urban clusters may deserve districts that seek to reflect them, though I know you would not be able to draw a district with for example, Canton & Macomb urban clusters without including the rural area in between. This would suggest treating urban clusters distinct from each urban area center municipalities, suburbs, & rural areas.

Since the 2020 census urban area reference maps are not online yet as best I can tell, here are links to the 2010 maps

2010 Urban Area reference

maps: https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/UAUC_RefMap/ua/

2010 Urban Cluster reference

maps: https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/UAUC_RefMap/uc/