

August 28, 2021

Good morning, I am Phyllis Logan 1st VP for the NAACP IL State Conference of Branches and the 1st VP of the Chicago Westside Branch.

I want to start with a quote from one of our NAACP National leaders;

“From the time of Reconstruction and beforehand, opponents of a true democracy have attempted to silence and suppress Black political power, and each time we’ve stood strong and fought back – today is one of those times,” said **Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, NAACP North Carolina State President.** **“We are committed to this fight of making democracy real for all of us and stand ready to do battle against those who seek to shrink this ideal.”**

The National NAACP Redistricting Project is actively involved with state conferences, regional offices, and local units to assist in the formal presentation of redistricting plans that will yield for African-American voters their fair share of electoral power and realistic opportunities to elect their candidates of choice. T

Illinois’ Congressional Districts 1,2 &7 are minority/majority congressional districts, we are looking to retain these 3 districts

Our hope is that redrawing these maps will demonstrate the level of African-American voting empowerment that is possible in the jurisdiction and that should be found in a fair and equitable election district plan.

The NAACP IL Conference of Branches is committed and needs to be assured that communities of color have a full opportunity to elect representatives who will protect their interests in state legislatures throughout the state of Illinois.

Our concerns are that the African-American vote will be “cracked” – that is splintered between districts so neither has a majority – or packed – over concentrating blacks in a few districts thereby limiting their influence in other areas. The Illinois Constitution provides that redistricting plans must be amended if they are found to be drawn in a manner that violates the Illinois Voting Rights Act or State Code. The current Legislature’s map, signed by the Governor this year, violates the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by neglecting to draw majority Black districts when the data permits. Census 2020 population data should be used.

Respectfully, Phyllis Logan