

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-08-05
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

For the purposes of this topic, I choose to introduce myself as a Lincoln Republican. My great great grandfather named a son after President Lincoln. My great great uncle "Lin" chose to live out his life on the farm on which he was born. My father was named after them both. My extended family and I enjoy being able to visit that farm, soak up its history, smell and hear some cows, and occasionally help pull out a calf. I have been a Republican primary voter my entire life. I will claim the mantel of generations of Republicans in opposition to this redistricting scam and its likely harms. For clear emphasis: I oppose this redistricting and urge you to declare it un-justified and un-needed based on the facts at hand.

If the governor's call must produce an action, I hope you might attach a laudable purpose to the activity. I have two suggestions. One purpose might be to reduce perceived partisan gerrymandering and make a new statewide map that is demonstrably better in regards to this aspect than the current one. Districts should be visibly more compact under casual visual comparison.

More ambitiously, instead of creating a new controversial map that will start another round of litigation, use this call as an opportunity to define a process to be readied for the next census driven redistricting effort. Establish a process that takes advantage of our computational prowess, not to hone and sharpen political party divisiveness, but instead strive for transparency and objectivity. Apply fixed rules, albethey politically motivated rules, to aggregate precincts and other geographic data inputs into district boundaries.

Procedurally:

1. Establish an ordered rule set (majority party). For example:
 - a. Equal number of voters in each district (+- 1 percent)
 - b. County precincts are not to be subdivided
 - c. When aggregating precincts into legislative districts, crossing of major geographic features is to be resisted in this order of preference, when selecting neighboring precincts for inclusion:
 - i. Add largest contingent precincts first
 - ii. Boundary order, resist crossing:
 1. County boundaries
 2. City boundaries
 3. Rivers

4. 4+ lane highways
 5. Bridges remove a river impediment, at the bridge site
 6. ...etc. ≤ 10 definitional rules.
- iii. Establish a compactness goal and its priority relative to above rules.
 2. Select seed precincts (defines nominal centroid of a district)
 3. Data input sets selected and fixed for purposes of a cycle of map making
 4. Any map proposed must be validated by competing maps as being compliant with the rule set and proper rule order application.

The objective is to remove controversy from the map boundaries and district membership and instead focus attention on the rules and their application order. If the district map resulting from the process is controversial for some reason, while the rules or their order of application are not, then an inherent circumstantial inequity might be better tolerated or explicitly addressed in rule making.

