



April 9, 2022

Anoka County Commissioners
Administrator Sivarajah
Elections Manager Linnell via email

League of Women Voters ABC is pleased to present two potential redistricting maps for the Anoka County Board's consideration as it looks at best ways to meet goals the board set for redistricting following the 2020 census. Map A and Map B, along with precinct totals are attached.

Each map provides a new outlook recognizing the differences in communities and combines **communities of interest**. Please note the following features:

- In each map, one commissioner would be guaranteed to reside in either of our largest cities, Blaine and Coon Rapids.
- Our unique rural north region would have a commissioner. However, the rural area would never produce multiple commissioners creating a future county board with more rural commissioners than the population warrants.
- Cities with strong river city identities such as Anoka and Fridley, have representation that is not overly divided and thus diluted.
- Andover as the third largest city is not overly divided to dilute representation.
- Anoka's southeast cities would have a commissioner. Cities in this area were developed at similar times and share many natural amenities and transportation corridors.

A new plan is superior to modifying the current plan at its edges. Decades of slightly modifying districts have overly divided cities and eroded communities of interest.

Last year, Chair Schulte spoke at our annual meeting and was asked about providing an opportunity for public input on the redistricting maps. Our League was encouraged to provide such input. We engaged in a rigorous process with strong membership support. Our members reside in all areas of the county. Public input is only valuable if it is allowed and considered **before** decisions are made. We think our thoughtful, sensible plan serves our county residents well, whether they reside in a large city, river city or rural area. Please review our proposal.

League members will be attending your workshop on Tuesday afternoon, April 12th when redistricting is on the agenda. If Commissioners choose to engage us with any questions, we will be happy to assist.

Gretchen Sabel
President
League of Women Voters ABC