

November 9, 2011

INDIANA ELECTION DIVISION

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Indiana Election Commission, Daniel A. Dumezich, Chairman  
Lake County Redistricting Commission  
Indiana Election Division  
302 West Washington Street, Room E204  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2767

Lake County Redistricting Commission Members:

On behalf of the Lake County Democratic Central Committee the enclosed plan is submitted for consideration by the Commission pursuant to I.C. 36-2-2-4 et seq. and pursuant to the procedures implemented by the Election Commission for the Redistricting Commission. Along with this correspondence, electronic and paper versions of the proposed Commissioner and Council districts are being submitted. Further, the 2010 census data (both population and demographic) inherent therein, is incorporated.

The plan submitted was done through a careful and thorough process, which importantly, took into consideration, a) current district lines, b) historical district lines, c) population shifts based upon the most recent census data and d) an attempt to keep together "communities of interest" and avoiding as chairman Dumezich pointed out at the Commission hearing of September 29, 2011, "coffee cups around houses and that sort of stuff." Conversely, we have not taken into consideration specific demographic data regarding race, ethnicity, wealth/poverty or other such information when drawing the districts as we believe that these issues produce "exclusive" rather than "inclusive" representation and polarize areas instead of providing diverse representation. Lake County as a "region" is an area that we believe is better when it works together not against one another. Promoting a certain district as one of a certain demographic, racial or ethnic area runs against this idea. We believe that in the plan submitted we have accomplished the above stated goals.

I would like to specifically thank Michelle Fajman, vice-chairman of the Lake County Central Committee for her leadership and work on this plan along with Democratic members of the Lake County Election Board and county elected officials for their assistance and input. This was truly a joint effort and we look forward to discussion of this plan.

County Commissioner Districts:

Dividing Lake County (with a population of 496,005) into three (3) districts would result in a population, if able to do so equally, of 165,335. The requirements of compactness, equal population as nearly as possible, and not cross precinct lines, as required by statute, are respected in the plan submitted.

The maps submitted include populations as follows:

District 1: 166,120 (785 more than average)

District 2: 165,766 (431 more than average)

District 3: 164,119 (1,216 less the average)

Unlike past submissions, and under the plan proposed, keeping communities whole was more important than getting an exact split. Even so, the biggest district away from the equal split number of 165,335 (the 3rd district at 1,216 off of the equal split), still is less than 1% from that number. The only split of any community is East Chicago, which, is split along historic lines that have existed under current and past Commissioner Districts. St. John township precincts 1 and 9 remain with Commissioner District 3 due to their geographic position and current representation. All other cities and towns are intact. This provides representation of whole towns and cities throughout Lake County by each commissioner.

#### County Council Districts:

The construction of seven (7) council districts for Lake County follows the same requirements as Commissioner Districts under the Lake County redistricting statute (compact, equal population as nearly as possible, and to not cross precinct lines). As with the commissioner districts the precinct boundaries are respected as they currently exist. The equal allocation number between the seven (7) districts with the county population of 496,005 is rounded at 70,858. Again, as with the Commissioner districts, the aim the proposed plan was to respect community boundaries (and in some instances city councilmanic districts in Hammond and Gary) first while attempting to get as close to the average allocation number as possible. This creates an inherent problem as it is not possible to do so without being somewhat more over or under than desired (from a percentage basis) from the average of 70,858 because one is working with fixed census numbers on a community basis.

The submission for the councilmanic districts is as follows:

District 1: 70,134 (724 or 1.02% below average)

- Hammond 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Districts
- Current Munster precincts

District 2: 71,062 (204 .2%, above average)

- Gary 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Districts
- Griffith

District 3: 64,962 (5,896 8.3% below average)

- Gary 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts
- Calumet Township precincts
- Merrillville (all but precincts 12, 24 and 33)

District 4: 72,526 (1,398 or 2.3% above average)

- Dyer
- Highland
- Schererville

- St. John Twp. 3,6,8

District 5: 68,994 (1,564 or 2.2% below average)

- Whiting
- East Chicago
- Hammond 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts
- Current Munster Precincts

District 6: 75,890 (5,032 or 7.1% over average)

- Lake Station
- Hobart
- New Chicago
- Crown Point
- Ross Township precinct
- Merrillville 12, 24, 33
- Center Township 2

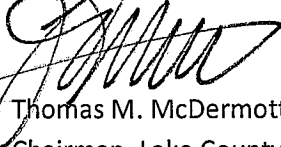
District 7: 72,437 (1,579 or 2.2% above average)

- Cedar Creek Township
- Eagle Creek Township
- West Creek Township
- Winfield
- Cedar Lake
- Hanover Township
- St. John
- St. John Township (except 3, 6, 8)

The Councilmanic districts as proposed again, as the Commissioner districts, create county council districts along community lines in almost every situation, the exception being Munster (split along current representation, Merrillville (3 precincts) and St. John Township (3 precincts due to geographical constraints).

Thank you for your acceptance of this proposal. We look forward to seeing and discussing this and other issues before the Commission at the public hearing on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Very Truly Yours,



Thomas M. McDermott, Jr.

Chairman, Lake County Democratic Central Committee