



Independent Map Amendment: Our Message

The non-profit, non-partisan Independent Maps coalition has been formed for one reason – to improve Illinois state government by making our legislators more accountable to voters.

Instead of putting the people's interests first, state legislative district boundaries are drawn intentionally to preserve and to strengthen the power of those already in office.

The impact of gerrymandering:

Historically, both major political parties have used map-making to win as many legislative elections as possible. That discourages competition and leaves many voters without any choice of candidates. In the 2014 general election, there was only one candidate on the ballot in 82 of 137 legislative races... 60% of races were uncontested!

The solution:

If we remove partisan consideration from map-making and make map-making public, and transparent to all, election outcomes will not be determined in advance, and many Illinoisans will be interested in becoming candidates. Consequently, voters will have more choices on the ballot and more incentive to vote.

How we will change the system:

The Illinois Constitution allows citizens to propose an amendment to change the way legislative districts are drawn. If approved by voters, the ***Independent Map Amendment*** will establish a non-partisan, independent commission responsible for drawing state legislative districts in a way that is transparent and open to the public.

What will be different:

1. All legislative districts will be drawn without regard to incumbency or political party.
2. More people will run for the General Assembly, resulting in more discussion of issues important to voters.
3. The voting rights of racial and ethnic minorities will be protected and maps will not be drawn in a way that dilutes or diminishes the ability of racial or language minority communities to elect the candidates of their choice.
4. District boundary lines will respect communities with shared interests and avoid breaking through political and geographic boundaries.
5. The public will be able to view and participate in the map-making process.

How government will be improved:

Our state government will work best when legislators represent and are accountable to the people who elect them and not the politicians who draw the maps.

The bottom line:

Illinoisans deserve legislative elections where issues are debated, candidates listen to their constituents and voters have choices. The ***Independent Map Amendment*** will create a system where the voters choose their representatives instead of the representatives choosing their voters.

For more information, please visit www.mapamendment.org.