

STATE OF MINNESOTA
SPECIAL REDISTRICTING PANEL

A21-0243
A21-0546

FILED

September 13, 2021

**OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS**

Peter S. Wattson, Joseph Mansky,
Nancy B. Greenwood, Mary E. Kupper,
Douglas W. Backstrom, and James E. Hougas, III,
individually and on behalf of all citizens and
voting residents of Minnesota similarly situated,
and League of Women Voters Minnesota,

Plaintiffs,

and

Paul Anderson, Ida Lano, Chuck Brusven,
Karen Lane, Joel Hineman, Carol Wegner,
and Daniel Schonhardt,

Plaintiff-Intervenors,

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota;
and Kendra Olson, Carver County Elections and
Licensing Manager, individually and on behalf of all
Minnesota county chief election officers,

Defendants,

and

Frank Sachs, Dagny Heimisdottir, Michael Arulfo,
Tanwi Prigge, Jennifer Guertin, Garrison O'Keith
McMurtrey, Mara Lee Glubka, Jeffrey Strand,
Danielle Main, and Wayne Grimmer,

Plaintiffs,

and

Dr. Bruce Corrie, Shelly Diaz,
Alberder Gillespie, Xiongpaoo Lee,
Abdirazak Mahboub, Aida Simon,
Beatriz Winters, Common Cause,
OneMinnesota.org, and Voices for
Racial Justice,

Plaintiff-Intervenors,

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota,

Defendant.

ORDER

As noted in the first scheduling order, dated July 22, 2021, the panel wishes to gather information about Minnesota communities from Minnesota citizens. To that end, the panel seeks written statements from members of the public and intends to hold public hearings throughout the state to afford the opportunity to share facts, opinions, or concerns related to the redistricting process. These written statements and oral presentations, together with other publicly available information, will aid the panel in evaluating the redistricting principles and plans that the parties propose.¹ And it will aid the panel in establishing new redistricting plans if the legislative and executive branches have not reached an agreement to do so by February 15, 2022, as required by Minn. Stat. § 204B.14, subd. 1a (2020).

¹ The parties to this action will have the opportunity to submit proposed redistricting principles and proposed redistricting plans.

One traditional aspect of the redistricting process is preserving “communities of interest.” *See Ala. Legis. Black Caucus v. Alabama*, 575 U.S. 254, 272 (2015) (describing respect for “communities defined by actual shared interests” as a “traditional” redistricting principle (quotation omitted)); *see also Hippert v. Ritchie*, No. A11-0152 (Minn. Special Redistricting Panel Nov. 4, 2011) (Order Stating Redistricting Principles and Requirements for Plan Submissions); *Zachman v. Kiffmeyer*, No. C0-01-160 (Minn. Special Redistricting Panel Dec. 11, 2001) (Order Stating Redistricting Principles and Requirements for Plan Submissions). Communities of interest have been defined to include, but are not limited to, groups of Minnesotans “with clearly recognizable similarities of social, geographic, political, cultural, ethnic, economic, or other interests.” *Hippert*, No. A11-0152 (Minn. Special Redistricting Panel Nov. 4, 2011) (Order Stating Redistricting Principles and Requirements for Plan Submissions). Receiving information from members of the public is vital to identifying these communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that city, county, and other local officials, representatives of local community groups, and all interested members of the public residing anywhere in the State of Minnesota, are invited to comment on how they want their communities to be viewed during redistricting. The hearings will take place as follows:

Monday, October 11, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Woodbury City Council Chamber
Woodbury City Hall
8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, Minnesota 55125

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Minneapolis Park Board Room
Minneapolis Park Board Headquarters
2117 West River Road North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Shakopee City Council Chamber
Shakopee City Hall
485 Gorman Street
Shakopee, Minnesota 55379

Thursday, October 14, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Stearns County Board Room
Stearns County Service Center
3301 County Road 138
Waite Park, Minnesota 56387

Friday, October 15, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Conference Room 230
Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Monday, October 18, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. City Council Chamber
Hjemkomst Center
202 1st Avenue North
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. St. Louis County Board Room
St. Louis County Courthouse
100 North 5th Avenue West
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Worthington Event Center
1447 Prairie Drive
Worthington, Minnesota 56187

Thursday, October 21, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Olmsted County Courtroom 1, Fifth Floor
Olmsted County Government Center
151 4th Street SE
Rochester, Minnesota 55904

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Virtual via Zoom

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

1. At this time, the public hearings scheduled for the weeks of October 11 and October 18 will take place in person. The panel is authorized to establish procedures for all of its proceedings. *Wattson v. Simon*, No. A21-0243 (Minn. June 30, 2021) (Order of Chief Justice). To provide for the safety of those who elect to attend in-person hearings, the panel will require everyone in attendance to wear a face covering² and may limit attendance. The panel will continue to monitor public-health guidance related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and, if conditions warrant, may convert any or all public hearings to a virtual format. All in-person public hearings will be remotely viewable via Zoom and the final public hearing will be held via Zoom. For Zoom links and details, see the panel's webpage, www.mncourts.gov/2021RedistrictingPanel.

² Depending on local conditions at the time of the hearing, the panel may give attendees the option to remove a face covering while presenting to the panel or if adequate physical distancing can be maintained.

2. To maximize speaking opportunities, each presenter may make a single oral presentation of no more than five minutes. The panel will provide maps of the existing congressional and state legislative districts at each in-person hearing.³ Presenters are encouraged to provide any other maps or visual aids that may enhance the panel's understanding and may also submit written statements and proposed redistricting plans, as outlined below.

3. Any person who wants to make an oral presentation must submit a request in one of two ways: (1) by completing the form on the panel's webpage, www.mncourts.gov/2021RedistrictingPanel; or (2) by sending an email to StateRedistrictingPanel@courts.state.mn.us with (a) the presenter's name; (b) the group that the presenter represents, if any; (c) the hearing location at which the presenter would like to speak; and (c) any requests for foreign-language or sign-language interpreting services or hearing-assistive technology. Requests must be submitted no later than Friday, September 24, 2021.

4. The panel will grant requests in the order it receives them, not to exceed the amount of time allocated for the hearing. To determine whether a request to make an oral presentation has been granted, please visit the panel's webpage, <http://www.mncourts.gov/2021RedistrictingPanel>, on or after Wednesday, September 29, 2021. Any person whose request is not granted may instead submit a written statement.

³ The existing districts may be viewed online at www.gis.leg.mn/cngmapdata.htm.

5. Any person who wishes to provide a written statement may do so in one of three ways: (1) by delivering the written statement to a public hearing; (2) by sending the written statement by United States Mail to Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel, c/o Christa Rutherford, Clerk of Appellate Courts, 305 Minnesota Judicial Center, 25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155; or (3) by emailing the written statement to StateRedistrictingPanel@courts.state.mn.us. Written statements must be received no later than Friday, October 29, 2021.

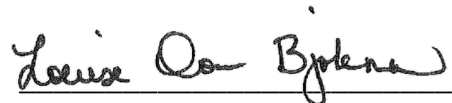
6. The panel will give full consideration to both oral presentations and written statements.

7. In addition to any oral presentation or written statement, a person may submit proposed redistricting plans to the panel. Each person may submit no more than one redistricting plan for the United States House of Representatives (numbered 1 through 8), one plan for the Minnesota Senate (numbered 1 through 67), and one plan for the Minnesota House of Representatives (numbered 1A through 67B). Each electronic redistricting plan must be in the form of a separate block-equivalency file. Each file must be in comma-delimited format (.csv) and include one field that identifies all census blocks in the state and another field for the district to which each census block has been assigned; file-compression applications shall not be used. Email attachments shall not exceed 40 megabytes per message. Proposed redistricting plans must be received no later than November 30, 2021.

8. More information about the public hearings is available on the panel's webpage, located at <http://www.mncourts.gov/2021RedistrictingPanel>.

Dated: September 13, 2021

BY THE PANEL:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Dovre Bjorkman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Louise Dovre Bjorkman
Presiding Judge

Judge Diane B. Bratvold
Judge Jay D. Carlson
Judge Juanita C. Freeman
Judge Jodi L. Williamson