



**PRINCETON  
GERRYMANDERING  
PROJECT**

Fixing bugs in democracy

April 23, 2020

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph, 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

The Honorable Don Harmon  
6941-B W. North Ave.  
Oak Park, IL 60302

The Honorable Michael D. Madigan  
6500 South Pulaski Road  
Chicago, IL 60629

Governor Pritzker, Senate President Harmon, and Speaker Madigan:

We are a coalition of national and state-level organizations working for redistricting reform around the country and within the Great Lakes region. We write to bring your attention to the Fair Maps Amendment, SJRCA18/HJRCA41, which seeks to reform the redistricting process in Illinois. Even in the midst of our country's current public health emergency, Illinois cannot lose this chance to draw fair maps in 2021. To that end, we urge you to bring the Fair Maps Amendment to a vote before the constitutionally-imposed deadline of May 3, 2020.

Under the state constitution, a constitutional amendment must pass through the General Assembly six months in advance of a general election. Thus, the Fair Maps Amendment has until May 3 to pass with a supermajority vote in both chambers. Despite the urgency of the COVID-19 crisis, Illinois should not let this opportunity slip away. Failure to act will mean that Illinois residents live under unrepresentative maps for another decade. If the amendment does not pass by its mandated May 3 deadline, the clock for reform will reset, and another decade-long fight will begin.

Given the time constraint and long-standing effects of redistricting, the Fair Maps Amendment should be treated as essential legislation and brought to a vote before the constitutional deadline. Just as expanded vote-by-mail is important to safeguard Illinois' general election in 2020, so too is redistricting reform to safeguard its elections for the next decade. And just as vote-by-mail expansion is time-sensitive, so too is the Fair Maps Amendment.

According to two recent polls, a supermajority of Illinoisans support redistricting reform. Due to the limitations placed upon Illinois' ballot initiative procedure, however, the only means by which to enact effective redistricting reform provisions is through a legislature-initiated constitutional amendment. As such, Illinoisans can only be heard on this issue ahead of the next redistricting cycle if the Fair Maps

Amendment is introduced and passed by May 3. In doing so, Illinois can join the reforms seen in states like Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio and help push further reforms in Indiana and Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

CHANGE Illinois  
Common Cause Illinois  
Dayton NAACP Youth Council  
Fair Elections Project  
League of Women Voters of Iowa  
Ohio Voter Rights Coalition  
The People  
Princeton Gerrymandering Project  
RepresentUs  
RepresentUs Wisconsin  
Voters Not Politicians  
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign