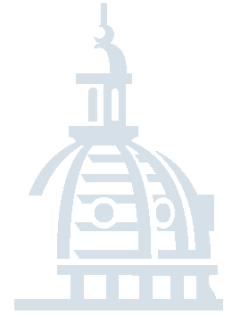


**REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY REDISTRICTING  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
TO THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
September 27, 2021**



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Pursuant to section 42.6 of the 2021 Code of Iowa, the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission submits this report to the General Assembly regarding the plan for Congressional and Legislative redistricting submitted by the Legislative Services Agency to the General Assembly on September 16, 2021.

**HEARINGS**

The Commission held three virtual public hearings on the plan on September 20, 21, and 22. As required by law, summaries of testimony and information presented at the hearings are attached to and by this reference made a part of this report.

**REDISTRICTING STANDARDS**

Section 42.4 of the 2021 Code of Iowa states that the following redistricting standards must be met in establishing new Congressional and Legislative district boundaries:

1. Districts shall be established on the basis of population and shall each have a population as nearly equal as practicable to the ideal population.
  2. For Congressional districts, each district shall be composed of whole counties. For Legislative districts, the number of counties and cities divided into more than one district shall be as small as possible.
  3. Districts shall be composed of convenient contiguous territory.
  4. Districts shall be reasonably compact in form, to the extent consistent with the first three standards. In general, reasonably compact districts are those which are square, rectangular, or hexagonal in shape, and not irregularly shaped, to the extent permitted by natural or political boundaries.
  5. A district shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent legislator or member of Congress, political party, or other person or group.
  6. Each state representative district shall be wholly included within a single state senatorial district. To the extent possible and consistent with the first five standards, each Senate and House district shall be wholly included within a single Congressional district.
  7. A new districting plan shall not be used prior to the primary election of 2022.
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8. Each bill embodying a plan shall include provisions for election of senators to the general assemblies which take office in 2023 and 2025, which shall be in conformity with Article III, section 6, of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.

## **COMMENTS, CONCLUSIONS, AND COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Legislative Services Agency staff has presented a proposed Congressional and Legislative redistricting plan to the General Assembly and the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission has listened to and received testimony presented at three public hearings and via electronic submission.

The Commission hereby unanimously makes the following comments concerning Congressional and Legislative redistricting:

1. For historical purposes, the Commission notes that the years 2020 and 2021 were unique from multiple perspectives and had a significant impact on the conduct of redistricting in Iowa during 2021. A worldwide pandemic impacted census data collection in all 50 states for the 2020 decennial census and resulted in the release of redistricting data to all states on August 12, 2021, several months after the statutory deadline. As a result, a plan of legislative apportionment was not enacted by September 15, 2021, as required by the Iowa Constitution. Pursuant to the Iowa Constitution, the Iowa Supreme Court is granted the authority to cause the apportionment of legislative districts by December 31, 2021, if the September deadline is missed, and the Supreme Court exercised this authority by issuing an order on September 14, 2021. The Supreme Court order, a copy of which is attached to this report, allowed the redistricting process provided in Iowa Code chapter 42 (2021) to continue subject to a deadline for preparation of an apportionment plan under this process by December 1, 2021. As a result, the Legislative Services Agency delivered a first plan of redistricting to the General Assembly on September 16, 2021, the Commission has conducted three public hearings and has issued this report, and the Governor has called a special session of the General Assembly to consider the first proposed redistricting plan on October 5, 2021.
2. The Commission acknowledges that a majority of Iowans who expressed an opinion to the Commission are in favor of Iowa's redistricting process and the first proposed redistricting plan.
3. Videos of the public hearings can be accessed at the following Internet site: [Public Hearing Videos](#). In addition, the plan report submitted by the Legislative Services Agency provides additional information about the first proposed redistricting plan and can be found at the following Internet site: [LSA Plan 1 Report](#).

## **SUBMISSION OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

MS. SUSAN LERDAL, CHAIRPERSON

MR. DAVID ROEDERER

MR. CHRIS HAGENOW

MR. IAN RUSSELL

MS. JAZMIN NEWTON

DOC ID 1,230,542

**SUMMARY OF THE VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING  
ON THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, IOWA REDISTRICTING PLAN**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

The first virtual hearing of the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 20, 2021, by Ms. Susan Lerdal, Chairperson. Other members of the Commission present were:

Mr. Chris Hagenow  
Ms. Jazmin Newton  
Mr. David Roederer  
Mr. Ian Russell

Also present were:

Mr. Timothy McDermott, Interim Director, Legislative Services Agency  
Mr. Gary Rudicil, Senior Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency  
Ms. Valerie VanVlair, Senior Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency  
Mr. Dalton Barnabo, Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency

Chairperson Lerdal introduced the Commission members and explained that the Commission's purpose is to conduct public hearings to gather input regarding the proposed redistricting plan and then issue a report to the Iowa Legislature. Chairperson Lerdal also noted that more information regarding Iowa's redistricting process is available on the Iowa Legislature's website ([www.legis.iowa.gov](http://www.legis.iowa.gov)) and in Iowa Code chapter 42.

The following testimony was received at the virtual public hearing:

<b>NAME/ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Ryan Crane, West Des Moines, IA/General Public	The Iowa redistricting process is fair, nonpartisan, and not political.
Michael Tallman, Des Moines, IA/General Public	Noted the interconnections between Polk and Dallas counties and thanked the legislature for its work on redistricting.
Marie Gleason/General Public	Questioned whether maps are available that overlay new districts on top of old districts to better show district boundary changes.
Nancy Porter, Iowa City, IA/General Public	Proud of Iowa setting the standard for nonpartisan redistricting and believes it is the fair and correct way to handle the process. Noted that a Grinnell College graduate student created a Congressional district plan with a very low average deviation and wondered if that was looked at. Chairperson Lerdal

	stated that multiple criteria are used to select redistricting plans and those criteria are on the Iowa Legislature's website and will be reviewed at the Commission's September 23, 2021, meeting.
Elizabeth Ahrens, West Branch, IA/General Public	Wants to keep politics out of the redistricting process as in the past.

Chairperson Lerdal stated that the public may also sign up to speak at the hearings to be held on September 21, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. and September 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. There being no additional public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. by Chairperson Lerdal.

**SUMMARY OF THE VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING  
ON THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, IOWA REDISTRICTING PLAN**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

The second virtual hearing of the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission was called to order at 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 21, 2021, by Ms. Susan Lerdal, Chairperson. Other members of the Commission present were:

Mr. Chris Hagenow  
Ms. Jazmin Newton  
Mr. David Roederer  
Mr. Ian Russell

Also present were:

Mr. Timothy McDermott, Interim Director, Legislative Services Agency  
Mr. Gary Rudicil, Senior Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency  
Ms. Valerie VanVlair, Senior Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency  
Mr. Dalton Barnabo, Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency

Chairperson Lerdal introduced the Commission members and explained that the Commission's purpose is to conduct public hearings to gather input regarding the proposed redistricting plan and then issue a report to the Iowa Legislature. Chairperson Lerdal also noted that more information regarding Iowa's redistricting process is available on the Iowa Legislature's website ([www.legis.iowa.gov](http://www.legis.iowa.gov)) and in Iowa Code chapter 42.

The following testimony was received at the virtual public hearing:

<b>NAME/ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
John Hale, Ankeny, IA/General Public	Appreciates the nonpartisan work of the legislature in the redistricting process. Noted the proposed districts are fair and not radical, indicate population shifts, and keeping Polk and Dallas counties in the same district makes sense.
Terese Grant, Grinnell, IA/League of Women Voters	Proud of nonpartisan redistricting process in Iowa and noted League of Women Voters historical involvement in Iowa's redistricting. Suggested the Iowa Legislature should adopt the proposed plan and appreciates the Iowa redistricting process.
Elinor Levin, Iowa City, IA/General Public	Wants Iowa to follow the existing redistricting process based upon where people live. The proposed districts do not have strange shapes.

Pam Mackey Taylor, Marion, IA/Sierra Club	The Sierra Club supports the proposed redistricting plan that follows the law. It is expected that some legislators will be paired in proposed districts and the plan should be adopted.
Shannon Patrick, Iowa City, IA/General Public	Thanked LSA and the Commission for its work. The redistricting plan indicates the changes in population and supports the Iowa redistricting process and the proposed plan. Approves that Johnson and Linn counties and Polk and Dallas counties are in the same congressional districts in the proposed plan.
Amy Campbell, Johnston, IA/Lobbyist	Trusts the legislature to look at the overall fairness of the proposed districts. Was surprised that many Senate districts are compact and approves that numerous counties are kept whole in legislative districts.

Chairperson Lerdal stated that the public may also sign up to speak at the hearing to be held on September 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. There being no additional public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 12:31 p.m. by Chairperson Lerdal.

**SUMMARY OF THE VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING  
ON THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, IOWA REDISTRICTING PLAN**

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

The third virtual hearing of the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission was called to order at 6:02 p.m., Wednesday, September 22, 2021, by Ms. Susan Lerdal, Chairperson. Other members of the Commission present were:

Mr. Chris Hagenow  
Ms. Jazmin Newton  
Mr. David Roederer  
Mr. Ian Russell

Also present were:

Mr. Timothy McDermott, Interim Director, Legislative Services Agency  
Mr. Gary Rudicil, Senior Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency  
Ms. Valerie VanVlair, Senior Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency  
Mr. Dalton Barnabo, Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency

Chairperson Lerdal introduced the Commission members and explained that the Commission's purpose is to conduct public hearings to gather input regarding the proposed redistricting plan and then issue a report to the Iowa Legislature. Chairperson Lerdal also noted that more information regarding Iowa's redistricting process is available on the Iowa Legislature's website ([www.legis.iowa.gov](http://www.legis.iowa.gov)) and in Iowa Code chapter 42.

The following testimony was received at the virtual public hearing:

<b>NAME/ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
MacKenzie Bills, Altoona, IA/General Public	Commends the legislature for completing the redistricting plan. Noted it is fair to have the proposed districts reflect the changing population in Iowa. Encourages the legislature to pass the proposed redistricting plan.
Paul Uzel, Dubuque, IA/General Public	In favor of the proposed plan, but district 2 shape appears a bit ragged. Appreciates the nonpartisan way the redistricting plan was created. Would prefer Dubuque be contained in the same district as Linn and Johnson counties.
Paula Connolly, Des Moines, IA/General Public	Supports the nonpartisan approach to redistricting in Iowa. Believe districts are well-balanced and supports compact districts in the proposed plan.



Jenny Turner, West Des Moines, IA/General Public	Believes it is common sense to include Dallas and Polk counties in the same district. Continue Iowa's nonpartisan tradition.
Keenan Crow, Des Moines, IA/One Iowa	Proposed districts are fair and urges the legislature to support the proposed redistricting plan.
Chad Brewbaker, West Des Moines, IA/Dallas County Libertarians	Believes map is unequal in Council Bluffs and western Iowa area. LSA should show how it created the proposed redistricting plan.
Garrett Arbuckle, Sioux City, IA/General Public	Concerned that the proposed districts will affect voting on the college campus in Woodbury County. Noted one residence hall is in a different district than others on the college campus that may dissuade student voting.
Christian Leonard, Logan, IA/General Public	Proposed districts hinder ability for Morningside College students to vote due to split in campus by proposed district lines. Also noted Harrison County is split into multiple legislative districts in the proposed plan and would be better aligned with Monona County.
Valerie Hennings, Sioux City, IA/General Public	Thanked LSA and Commission for the nonpartisan way redistricting is done in Iowa. Noted proposed Senate district 1 and House district 2 split the Morningside College campus which can be a challenge to student voting.
Jim Trepka, Iowa City, IA/General Public	Appreciates the work done and hopes the proposed districts are approved.
Steve Woodhouse, Reasnor, IA/General Public	Proposed Senate district 17 looks gerrymandered and there are 24 districts in the metro area. It is not in Iowa's best interest to have so many representatives in that area. Also thought congressional district 4 is too large and believes there needs to be more rural-urban balance in the districts.
Nick Battles/General Public	Supports the nonpartisan process that Iowa uses for redistricting and urges the legislature to accept the proposed plan.
Evan Burger, Slater, IA/General Public	Noted more draft plans have been created using online software now available to the public. The proposed plans are not the most equal and compact, but balances all considerations found in the Iowa Constitution and Iowa Code pertaining to redistricting.

Kim Hagemann, Polk City, IA/General Public	Urges the legislature to accept the proposed plan, and stated that no redistricting plan will be perfect.
Marilyn & Elaine Hagedorn, Des Moines, IA/General Public	Commended Iowa's fair redistricting process. Supports the proposed redistricting plan and urges the legislature to approve the plan.
Judah Richardson, Davenport, IA/General Public	Believes the proposed plan meets the standards and approves of the plan.
Thomas O'Donnell, Keosauqua, IA/General Public	Noted that rural population in Iowa is declining so it's natural that rural legislators will be sometimes paired in new districts. The process and proposed plan is fair and reflects Iowa's current population. Metro areas will get more representation and the proposed plan should be accepted.
Patricia Bowen, Iowa City, IA/General Public	Believes the plan should be approved. The process is nonpartisan and believes population equality has been achieved.
Ellen Johnsen, Ames, IA/General Public	Proposed plan meets the requirements.
Brenda Brink, Huxley, IA/General Public	Is proud of nonpartisan process of redistricting in Iowa and encourages approval of the plan. Process works well, proposed districts are not gerrymandered, and the proposed plan is fair. Encourages legislature to accept the plan.
Prakash Kopparapu, Johnston, IA/Indo American PAC-IA	Thanked LSA for the proposed plan and supports the plan. Commends the nonpartisan process used in Iowa for redistricting.
Trent Rinderknecht/General Public	The proposed congressional districts disenfranchise farmers in rural areas. Some districts are too large in size. Noted that proposed Senate district 17 meanders and should be made more compact.

Mr. Russell encouraged the public to contact their legislators regarding the proposed plan. Mr. Hagenow appreciated the written and virtual public comments. Mr. Roederer thanked the public hearing participants. Ms. Newton also commended Iowa's redistricting process. There being no additional public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson Lerdal.

# Public Hearing Comments

Redistricting- Monday

Sponsored by the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission Committee - Susan L. Lerdal, chairperson

Monday, September 20, 2021

7:00 PM (introductions begin)

After introductions, the hearing will be for 3 hours in the Virtual

<b>Signup Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
09-16-2021 12:55 PM	Marie Herring	
<b>Comments:</b>	Map 1 had been drafted in accordance to Iowa law, by the nonpartisan experts working in the LSA. This process has already been delayed due to Covid 19 and delays in the U.S. census. I respectfully ask the legislature to approve this map when convening October 5th.Thank you.	
09-16-2021 7:11 PM	Anonymous	
<b>Comments:</b>	As a Dallas County resident, Im interested in how the increase in population is going to be represented in the House and Senate	
09-16-2021 7:55 PM	Nancy Porter	
<b>Comments:</b>	I wonder if you even considered the map drawn by the young man who graduated from Grinnell but is currently enrolled at in a graduate program? His population deviation was 5. Cory McCartan NE 797,590SE 797, 595W: 797,594Central: 797,590Thank you for continuing this democratic process of fair maps, and working so hard to make it possible.	
09-16-2021 9:51 PM	Gaylen Wobeter	
<b>Comments:</b>	The Legislative Service Commission has done its job, following the guidelines that made our redistricting process very fair. We need to adapt the new maps, and keep the process that has earned Iowa the deserved reputation for being one of the best in the nation.	
09-16-2021 10:17 PM	Cynthia Niebuhr-Hartley	
<b>Comments:</b>	I want the new maps to be drawn up by nonpartisan experts. Iowans like me deserve fair maps.	
09-16-2021 10:34 PM	Mitchel Keller	General Public
<b>Comments:</b>	Please consider moving the northern boundary of senate district 9/house district 17 from Peters Avenue to Vine Avenue. By using Peters Avenue, one of Morningside Universitys residence halls, which is located between Peters Avenue and Vine Avenue, is placed in a different district from the remainder of the oncampus student housing. This also means that students who live in Dimmitt Hall have to vote in a different location from the remainder of the students who live on campus. (The rest of campus has previously been placed in Woodbury Countys Precinct 25, which normally votes in Morningside Universitys Eppley Auditorium. For 2020 and 2021 elections, this precinct has voted at Morningside Elementary School, which is still closer to campus than the polling place for students whose oncampus residence is north of Peters Avenue.)Iowas redistricting process places great	

value on keeping recognizable communities together within a precinct or district as much as possible. The Morningside University oncampus student population should be considered a recognizable community for this purpose, and I am confident that the redistricting process can find a way to adjust the balance of district sizes after moving all of Morningside University's campus housing into a single district.

09-17-2021 12:38 AM

Jerry Uhlman CWA retired

**Comments:**

Iowan's want and expect fair bipartisan districting.

09-17-2021 8:27 AM

Stephen Ringlee General Public

**Comments:**

We strongly support the nonpartisan redistricting process in Iowa. Unless the proposed 2021 maps are shown to be demographically unbalanced, there are no other reasons to reject them. In particular, the Legislature should not reject them for the partisan reason that they may favor one party or the other in this Census cycle. Since this process was implemented over 40 years ago, the results have ended up fairly even and over time have validated the Legislative authors' intentions of removing biased partisanship from redistricting considerations. They should continue to be solely determined by population changes and the desire for uncomplicated legislative boundaries. Let's continue that in 2021.

09-17-2021 8:36 AM

Pam Giles

**Comments:**

People in other states around the country have experienced the devastating effects caused by partisan redistricting. One party makes sure that they will always be in power even though they are in the minority of that area. This disenfranchises the voters that are the victims of partisan redistricting. One would assume the majority voters in an area would win an election, but they are unable to because districts have been shaped to ensure that the majority party cannot win. Our democracy was founded on the basis that everyone has equal rights, and that includes the equal right to vote. Fair, nonpartisan redistricting is crucial to ensuring that everyone DOES have the equal right to vote. Our country has always done better when people with differing ideas work together and make compromises. Fair, nonpartisan redistricting enables people to have more of an equal chance for both parties to be involved and to work together. Elected legislators must represent ALL of their constituents, not just the ones in their party. As you are considering the new maps, please remember that we ALL have the equal right to vote and to have our legislators represent us and protect our rights. We ALL should have an equal say in our democracy and not have rights taken away because only one party is always in power. Please ensure that the maps are fair and nonpartisan so that ALL voters have a chance to shape the future of our democracy and for Iowa to continue to be an example for the rest of the country.

09-17-2021 8:43 AM

Diana L. Wright General Public

**Comments:**

I have looked at the redistricting maps and applaud the job the LSA has done. These districts are fair and were drawn on a non-partisan basis. I would like to see them stand as drawn. Keep partisan politics out of our redistricting!! Thank you.

09-17-2021 9:57 AM

Linda Simonton General Public

**Comments:**

Continue Iowa's tradition of fair, nonpartisan maps drawn by independent experts.

09-17-2021 12:05 PM

stephen tews citizen of iowa

**Comments:**

the geography looks odd, but the concept of one man one vote via equally populated districts, make this a very good choice. I would accept this formation of state house districts, etc.

09-17-2021 2:47 PM

Anonymous

**Comments:**

Hi my name is Hannah Bonner and I live in Iowa City. I appreciate that Iowa uses a nonpartisan process for redistricting and I support this politically unbiased map. I encourage the legislature to approve this map and reject any efforts to inject partisanship into the redistricting process. Voting for a politically neutral map will keep our elections fair for years to come and ensure that every Iowan gets the representation they deserve.

09-17-2021 4:27 PM

Donovan Bosold

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

**Comments:**

Please conduct congressional redistricting following the map released by the Legislative Services Agency on September 16th! All Iowans deserve to be represented. This map will ensure that every district will have the people it needs to be heard, no more and no less

09-17-2021 7:05 PM

timothy James Kautza      General public

**Comments:**

I'm so proud of Iowa's redistricting process. It's so fair to have the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency (LSA) lead the process instead of politicians drawing the lines using partisan criteria to decide where the districts go. What LSA has recently proposed has resulted in what seems to me to be extremely fair and unpartisan distribution of voters within districts. The districts are compact and equal in population as they can be. The LSA proposed map measures up well against the standards laid out in Iowa Code. I hope politicians of both parties approve the proposed maps without political tampering.

09-17-2021 9:11 PM

Tony Wobeter

General Public

**Comments:**

I am asking all Iowa Legislators to without any partisan leaning to maintain our State's fairest redistricting process and vote yes on the Plan 1 fair redistricting plan. THANK YOU.

09-18-2021 11:05 AM

Brooke Fischels

**Comments:**

I urge legislators to support fair and impartial legislative districts. Our state is lauded for our best practices in fair district maps, and it provides us stability and trust which is hard to find in politics.

09-18-2021 2:35 PM

Dee Hoke

**Comments:**

I fully support the approval of the proposed redistricting map. It was created in a fair and nonpartisan manner, as it should be. It should not be opposed due to hyperpartisanship.

09-19-2021 7:55 AM

Ann Pollet

General Public

**Comments:**

Please approve the Plan 1 redistricted maps drawn by the LSA. I believe them to be fair and nonpartisan. These maps signal to the rest of the country that Iowa continues to be a leader when it comes to the redistricting process.

09-19-2021 9:14 AM

Anonymous

General Public

**Comments:**

I am proud of Iowa's redistricting process. I respectfully ask our legislators to continue to follow our fair, nonpartisan process.

09-19-2021 10:00 AM

Marian Kuper

General public

**Comments:**

Thanks to Iowa law and the adherence of Iowa's Legislative Services Agency (LSA) to longstanding high standards of nonpartisanship, Iowa enjoys a stellar reputation for at least to date drawing new Congressional Districts (based on each new decade's U.S. Census data) that are as equally populous, contiguous and compact as possible without regard to political

considerations. This process is as it should be, and it deserves the acrossthenation applause it has received in the past. I want to see those accolades continue, because I take great pride in my state, and especially in these times of so much partisan rancor, I'm pleased that we continue to have this great opportunity to show the rest of the U.S. how to do this right. It's for this reason that I already know I will be satisfied with ANY of the maps the LSA produces. This first one is just fine. I urge the legislature to adopt it. What I pray DOESN'T take place is that the Legislature rejects ANY LSAgenerated map and proceeds to fashion something different, because that action would only be seen as taking a partisan axe to Iowa's todote stellar reputation of nonpartisanship in this everydecade endeavor. So do the right thing, Iowa legislators, and in the process, make your fellow Iowans proud. Adopt an LSA map. In fact, save us all a lot of time & trouble by just adopting this first one. Then we can move on, quickly, which is something a whole lot of Iowans would like to do, given the alreadydelayed dissemination of U.S. Census data.

09-19-2021 12:04 PM

Jim Trepka

**Comments:**

The nonpartisan commission has done its job. Now the legislature needs to do its job and approve them without any additional delays. The citizens of Iowa need the continuance of our fair redistricting process.

09-19-2021 12:12 PM

Jeanne Bancroft                      General Public

**Comments:**

I support the newly drawn congressional district map as it has been presented. It is fair and non=partisan.

09-19-2021 12:30 PM

Cathryn Varga

**Comments:**

I am so pleased that Iowa has a nonpartisan process for redistricting and I support the proposed map. I encourage the legislature to approve this map and reject any efforts to inject partisanship into the process. A politically neutral map will ensures that our elections represent the voice of all Iowans. Thank you.

09-19-2021 12:48 PM

Jane Downs

**Comments:**

I believe the redistributing needs to remain non political and the lines should be drawn in a logical manner. I dont want to see these crazy shapes we see in other states trying to keep a political party in power in that district.

09-19-2021 3:24 PM

Anonymous

**Comments:**

The redistricting plan looks very fair.

09-19-2021 9:33 PM

Philip Goldfarb Styrt              General Public

**Comments:**

These maps are geographically compact and reasonably drawn. There is no good reason not to accept them.

09-19-2021 10:17 PM

Andrew Puetz

**Comments:**

Following the guidelines, to create balanced districts based on population changes, is the key to making Iowa's elections as fair and as balanced as is possible. This iterations of legislative districts does this, by and large, for the betterment of Iowans.

09-19-2021 11:39 PM

Marisue Hartung

**Comments:**

I am proud that Iowa has in place a fair and logical method of redistricting. It makes sense to have an impartial body redistrict the state. It makes the process fair and open. It is my hope that the elected representatives will continue in this fashion and accept one the current or the second draft submitted by the LSB

- 09-20-2021 7:43 AM Harry Moote
- Comments:** Although I am not completely pleased by the results I support accepting the new maps, as is. In these politically polarized times, at least this exercise of redrawing legislative maps continues, as it has historically, as a non-political process that best serves democracy in Iowa. Thank you for considering my opinion.
- 09-20-2021 7:59 AM Polly Horton General public
- Comments:** It's important that the process focuses on voting rights and fair representation. I'm watching to be sure that Iowa's nonpartisan process is followed.
- 09-20-2021 8:10 AM Jason Agne General Public
- Comments:** I simply wish to encourage the speedy approval of the LSA's proposed map, ensuring Iowa continues to enjoy some modicum of our remaining reputation for nonpartisanship, as we have at least kept to that when it comes to redistricting.
- 09-20-2021 10:51 AM Thomas Carsner Retired
- Comments:** Map #1 meets the regulatory requirements for population, compactness, contiguity, and others. It is a fair map. It is judged by the LSA to be the best map. Iowa deserves the best. A second or third map would be less than best. Why would we want less than the best? This map essentially maintains the status quo for Congressional districts: one Democratic registration significant advantage; one Republican significant advantage; one Democratic marginal advantage; one Republican marginal advantage. Competitive contests for Congress are good for Iowa, good for America, and good for democracy. I urge approval of Map #1.
- 09-20-2021 12:07 PM VaLinda J Parsons
- Comments:** It should be expected that Iowa would maintain its fair, bipartisan and equitable redistricting procedure; one that is lauded nationwide for its lack of gerrymandering by either political party, particularly the party currently in power. I and other Iowans expect this newly drawn map to be maintained for the good of all in this state. Thank you.
- 09-20-2021 12:17 PM Seeta Mangra-Stubbs General Public
- Comments:** I'd like to voice my support for the first proposed map for redistricting. We should trust a nonpartisan group rather than letting it shift into the hands of any one party. Please support the initial map to combat gerrymandering and to uphold fair elections.
- 09-20-2021 12:30 PM Anonymous
- Comments:** These maps appear very fair and I would be inclined to support them.
- 09-20-2021 12:49 PM Anne Spencer
- Comments:** It is essential that redistricting remain nonpartisan, especially in a state that has traditionally been held up as an example of thoughtful, fair and nonpartisan practices when looking at redistricting. We cannot continue to allow nonpartisan issues to be undermined by politics.
- 09-20-2021 1:38 PM Kathleen Foster-Wendel General Public
- Comments:** Iowa for the last 40 years, had had an independent nonpartisan redistricting method that has been a model of fairness for all the citizens of Iowa and devoid of partisan gerrymandering. This country had become so divided and partisan. Please don't further contribute to this divide and preserve the fairness of the independent and nonpartisan drawing of congressional districts. Thank you

for listening.

09-20-2021 2:26 PM

Brena Schwartz-Corona

**Comments:**

It is extremely important that THERE IS NO PARTISAN REDISTRICTING of any of Iowa's political districts. Otherwise, we might as well stay home instead of voting considering ourselves inhabitants of the "Russian State of Iowa" where voter "choice" is not an option. ! The most recent first proposal by the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency appears to be neutral. Therefore, it should be accepted.

09-20-2021 3:16 PM

Frizell

General Public

**Comments:**

Go with the first map. My family has more faith in the LSA than the legislators. Iowa absolutely does NOT need to be gerrymandered, regardless of the political party!

09-20-2021 3:37 PM

Mary Mason

General Public

**Comments:**

The redistricting map drawn up by the LSA appears to be fair. I fully support the map they have provided.

09-20-2021 3:38 PM

Jordan Murphy

**Comments:**

This redistricting map is imperfect, but is the fairest allowed by our process. Please approve the current map as is to give citizens time to acclimate to the new boundaries. If this map is rejected, please approve the second fair map. Under no circumstances do your constituents want a biased, gerrymandered map handdrawn by this legislature. Please participate in our neutral redistricting process before disregarding the process for partisan gains.

09-20-2021 3:47 PM

Arnold Shileny

**Comments:**

I appreciate all the work by the LSA in preparing this first redistricting plan. It looks to be very fair numbers wise and I urge the Iowa legislature to accept this plan.

09-20-2021 4:10 PM

Anonymous

General Public

**Comments:**

Following along, and want to here the comments, if any. In reviewing the information, the group did outstanding at meeting the redistricting goal for IOWA.

09-20-2021 4:31 PM

Peter Hird

Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

**Comments:**

Our organization trusts the current LSA to draw a map in a nonpartisan manner and we support any map that is drawn by the agency without legislative amendments or political agendas. Thank you for providing the opportunity for public input.

09-20-2021 4:35 PM

Kiran Patel

**Comments:**

The Iowa Redistricting process is the national gold standard, and the results of the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission should be accepted by the Legislature.

09-20-2021 4:53 PM

Charles Hodges

Public

**Comments:**

The map should be approved. The entire country is watching to see if Iowa can actually follow our nonpartisan tradition in these times most think we cannot. Just because GOP strategists do not like it, if you create the maps according to population, not politics, as was tasked, this map's deviation of under 100 ppl across four districts is extremely fair. Just bc the GOP doesn't like the direction of demographic shifts to urban does not mean they should be allowed to decimate yet another Iowa tradition when it doesn't suit them politically. Approve the map.



09-20-2021 5:01 PM

ElizabethAhrens

**Comments:**

Iowa has always had fair redistricting. It should stay that way

09-20-2021 6:04 PM

Shannon Patrick

**Comments:**

These maps make sense with the way Iowa's population had changed in the last decade, and I'm glad to see Iowa City and Cedar Rapids together, since so many commute between the two. These are sensible maps, and I support them.

09-20-2021 6:44 PM

Laura Amsler

General Public

**Comments:**

I support the proposed redistricting maps. The process was completed in a nonpartisan manner based on population changes since the last redistricting. I believe districts and legislators need to adapt and adjust to the new maps and not try to fight them. Many states in the nation look to the fair and nonpartisan process Iowa uses as a model. Let's show them that the process works to make representation fair for all people of our great state!

# Public Hearing Comments

Redistricting- Tuesday

Sponsored by the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission Committee - Susan L. Lerdal, chairperson

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

12:00 PM (introductions begin)

After introductions, the hearing will be for 3 hours in the Virtual

<b>Signup Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
09-17-2021 10:10 AM	Scott Foens	
<b>Comments:</b>	Support current redistricting plan.	
09-17-2021 11:52 AM	Jane Robinette	General Public
<b>Comments:</b>	Having read the LSA First Redistricting Plan report and looked at the maps, it appears that LSA's plan has met all of the statutory standards for redistricting, including population equality, contiguity, compactness, etc. Please keep Iowa's fair and nonpartisan process of drawing maps secure by accepting this first plan. This is the best way to keep unfair and prohibited purposes out of legislative mapping. Vote yes on the First Redistricting Plan.	
09-18-2021 11:37 AM	Anonymous	
<b>Comments:</b>	It appears that the independent committee put together a fair map for the state. I hope it will be approved as such.	
09-18-2021 3:05 PM	Terese GrantL	League of Women Voters of Iowa
<b>Comments:</b>	The Legislative Services Agency has drawn maps that are as equal in population as possible and adhere to the standard, One Person One Vote. This year the Legislative Services Bureau accomplished this task after receiving the data much later than in normal years. They did an incredible job in drawing Congressional and Legislative maps that represent a population that is very equal in number from one district to the next. We need to encourage our Legislators to vote to adopt this plan drawn by the LSA when they convene in Special Session on October 5. Iowa needs to continue to be the Gold Standard for the rest of the country.	
09-19-2021 10:32 AM	Kate Cowles	General public
<b>Comments:</b>	LSA's plan appears to have met all of the statutory standards for redistricting. Please vote for this first plan, and keep Iowa's redistricting process nonpartisan.	
09-19-2021 3:50 PM	Elinor A. Levin	
<b>Comments:</b>	Iowa's redistricting process is nationally recognized as nonpartisan and fair. Please, PLEASE let us live up to that recognition.	
09-20-2021 11:17 AM	Mike Schluckebier	
<b>Comments:</b>	I support Iowa's nonpartisan redistricting process and the first maps the LSA has produced. I urge you to approve them.	
09-20-2021 12:47 PM	Erin Pederson	General Public

- Comments:** Please support Proposed Plan 1 Iowa Congressional and Legislative Districts. This redistricting plan is nonpartisan, as it should be.
- 09-20-2021 5:43 PM Anonymous
- Comments:** Iowa's fair and nonpartisan redistricting procedure is something our state can be proud of. Please accept the recommendation resulting from that laudably fair procedure.
- 09-20-2021 5:59 PM Susan Judkins Clive City Council Member
- Comments:** Thank you for moving the comment period along very quickly upon release of the maps. I just learned of the public input sessions on 9/20, 9/21 and 9/22 and am already too late to submit comments for 9/20. The new maps demonstrate the impact of population declines in rural parts of the state, which results in many incumbent legislators being put into the district as another incumbent. The nonpartisan LSA has done their usual good job of balancing the population of each district, without regard to the address of sitting elected officials. Therefore, the maps should be retained
- 09-20-2021 6:14 PM Anonymous
- Comments:** I am in favor of redistricting, but only if it also aligns with school districts. To me, it doesn't make sense to split up representation for schools. For example, current proposal splits up ADM school district and DCG, which are just two examples in the central IA area. I would also prefer to see a county under the same representation. I understand in the metro area it may not be a possibility, but in other cases of rural areas, it may make sense (for example, Patterson, IA split off from majority of Madison County, and also being a part of Winterset School District and being separated from that current proposed legislative district).
- 09-20-2021 7:02 PM Pam Mackey Taylor Sierra Club
- Comments:** The Sierra Club supports the first plan. We believe that it complies with the US Constitution, Iowa Constitution, and Iowa laws. We encourage the legislators to pass this plan and its maps.
- 09-20-2021 7:22 PM Ron Millsap
- Comments:** My wife and I live one quarter mile from the north edge of the Ottumwa city limits. Yet, our state representative and state senator are chosen from the Oskaloosa/Centerville district. We've been told our road (Sycamore Rd.) is the dividing line. We live on the west side of Sycamore. Please move the line determining the district to the west as far as possible so those of us who are more interested in Ottumwa area issues are able to vote for people who truly represent us. Thank you for this consideration, Ron Millsap 12332 Sycamore Rd. Ottumwa, Ia. 52501 641.799.3627
- 09-20-2021 7:34 PM MacKenzie Bills
- Comments:** I want to thank LSA for their outstanding job at providing the state of Iowa with fair and equal maps in such a short span of time, only 35 days! Iowa is the gold standard for redistricting in the country and this first map illustrates the movement of populations within Iowa from more rural to urban areas like Polk, Linn, and Johnson counties. Although it might cause some representatives to move, retire, or compete against each other, that is the beauty of redistricting. This will keep our races competitive, which they should be. Every vote, every constituent matters, and the maps should represent that. These maps do. I hope that the House, Senate, and Governor accepts these maps as they are because it will show the rest of the country that we continue to uphold our gold standard and advocates for fair redistricting and therefore, a strong and transparent democratic system.

09-20-2021 7:37 PM	Anonymous	General Public
<b>Comments:</b>	Please disclose the party affiliation of all on the committee. Does not appear nonpartisan to me. Any time district lines are going all over the place, something funky is happening. I do not support these maps.	
09-20-2021 7:53 PM	Anonymous	General Public
<b>Comments:</b>	Many thanks for the diligent work of the LSA for the work it has done to produce these updated district maps. Please approve the first iteration of the maps. The process is neutral and was developed to provide for fair representation of Iowans. Iowans deserve fairness. The new district maps were produced by a neutral redistricting process. Failure to approve the maps reflects putting politics above fairness. This process has served us well for four decades and prioritizes the interests of Iowa's voting public. Please approve the first iteration of the maps.	
09-20-2021 8:20 PM	Andrew Puetz	General Public
<b>Comments:</b>	Following the guidelines, to create balanced districts based on population changes, is the key to making Iowa's elections as fair and as balanced as is possible. This iterations of legislative districts does this, by and large, for the betterment of Iowans.	
09-21-2021 12:26 AM	1954	
<b>Comments:</b>	Greetings, I want to publicly support the non partisan redistricting plan as presented. It is refreshing to see this plan and not worry that partisan politics have entered into the discussion. We have seen so much division in Iowa and the US over the past several years that it refreshing and gives us hope that at least Iowa can lead the nation again with this non partisan effort. Compromise in government is what we are about. Accepting this plan will show that government can work and that compromise is acceptable. Too often one side or the other has to win at all costs and that is hurting our Sate and country. We have to get back to the idea that we can have a win/win attitude. Please accept this plan and get on with the business of governing.	
09-21-2021 7:20 AM	Art Hackett	Retired
<b>Comments:</b>	This is my first experience with Iowa's redistricting system as a voter but I was aware of it because I came here as a TV Reporter to study it while living in Wisconsin. Wisconsin had a history of gerrymandering which reached its peak in 2011. In 2010 Republicans gained solid majorities in both houses. Redistricting was done in total secrecy in the office of a Milwaukee Law Firm. Lawmakers were forbidden from even telling their constituents how the system worked. It was considered legal work product controlled by the Republican caucuses of both houses even though it was paid for by the taxpayers. It was only because of a series of recall elections which temporarily gave Democrats control of the state Senate and thus custody of the documentation. Wisconsin now has split control between the legislative and executive branches and is trying to achieve fair maps but it is uncertain if they will succeed. Previous testimony has shown Iowans like the current system. Legislators know that many of the things they do will be unpopular. This is a rare chance to do something that will be popular.	
09-21-2021 8:34 AM	Kate Narveson	general public
<b>Comments:</b>	I write to express my strong support of the proposed redistricting. The new districts meet the criteria for population equality, compactness, and contiguity. In fact, they are better on those scores than those submitted in various contests and challenges. I am proud that Iowa has a fair, nonpartisan way to redistrict that doesn't use the process to score political points, and I hope that these districts gain the support they deserve.	

09-21-2021 9:54 AM

Jeanie Smith

General Public

**Comments:**

The redistricting map is fair. Iowa should be enormously proud of the process the LSA uses to draw the map without political favoritism. Approve this map!

09-21-2021 9:58 AM

Nancy Brown

General Public

**Comments:**

I am very supportive of the new maps, and hope that they will be voted in. I have zero trust in the Republican majority in Iowa right now, and am quite worried that they will gerrymander to their benefit. I hope the Advisory Commission will keep things fair. Thank you for your work.

09-21-2021 1:30 PM

Anonymous

Citizen and voter

**Comments:**

I support the NON Partisan Legislative Services Agency map.I am opposed to gerrymandering!

09-21-2021 2:55 PM

Robert Walter

**Comments:**

I believe that the proposed maps should be accepted asis because it follows Iowas required non partisan re districting process and are very balanced maps in terms of population.



**Dave Wasserman**  @Redistrict · Aug 14

...

Ready to launch my decennial Iowa redistricting challenge. Here's how it works...

- 1) in next 24 hrs, reply w/ a map of four contiguous districts built out of whole counties
- 2) the map w/ the lowest deviation between the most/least populous districts (using 2020 Census data) wins

 41

 62

 675



**Cory McCartan**  
@CoryMcCartan

...

Replying to [@Redistrict](#)

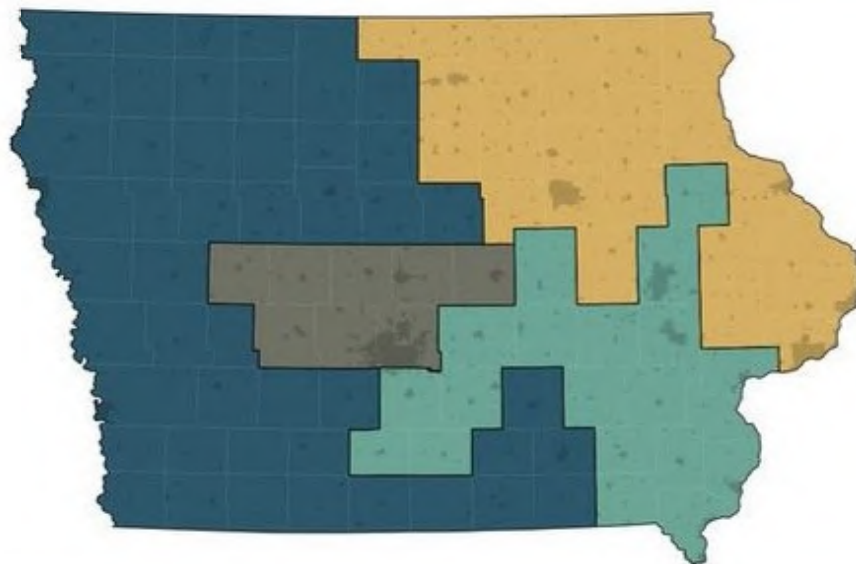
NE district: 797,590

SE district: 797,595

W district: 797,594

Central district: 797,590

Total deviation: 5 people



Iowa's non-partisan reapportionment system assures that all voters' interests are represented in an equitable demographic, geographic, and unbiased manner. The work of the Legislative Service Agency is not about the next general election, it is about shaping a strong representational democracy for the next decade. This mapping system we have used in the past has allowed elected officials, regardless of party, and ordinary Iowans to proudly boast that we are a fair state, ripe with opportunities to welcome and embrace new Iowans, new families, and new businesses.

What might new Iowans be seeking?. A beautiful blend of agriculture and technology, a state where wind power and environmental protection means something, a state where education is excellent and where children are raised to become honest and participating citizens. Harsh partisan positions do not attract families to Iowa. Manipulation of long effective rules in order to benefit one group over another does not attract new Iowans. In recent memory both major parties have held the legislative and executive branches and have had opportunities to seek change in our nationally recognized system, but have never done so. Any effort to alter a long respected methodology means bad decisions will surely lead to national attention, attention that is not helpful in establishing long term prosperity for our beloved state.

← Tweet

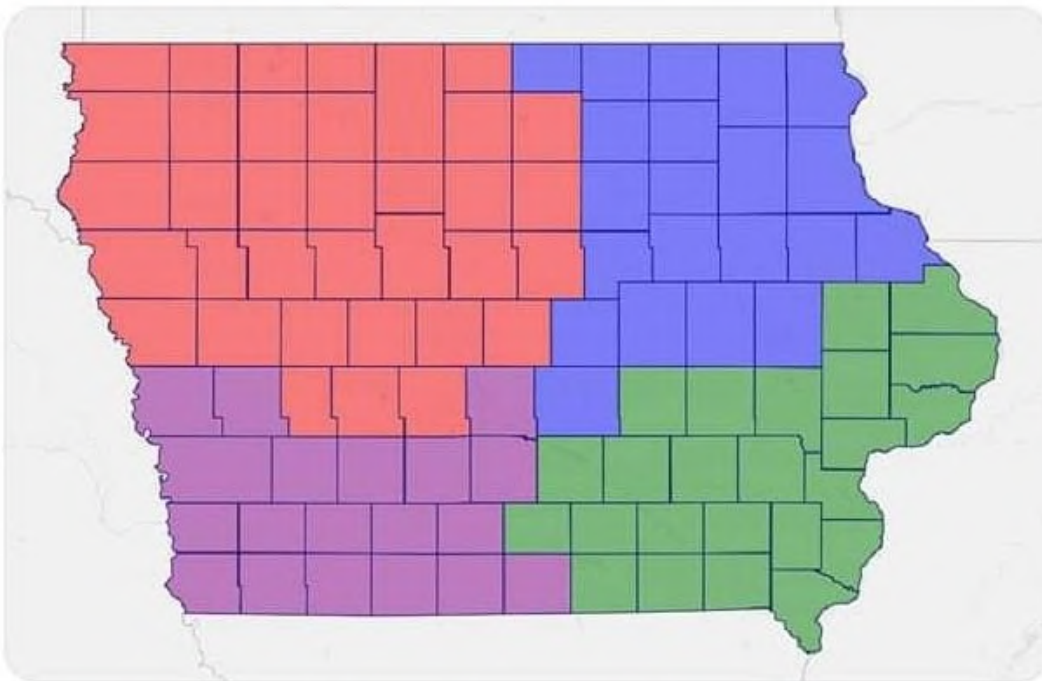
↻ You Retweeted



**Patrick Ruffini** ✓

@PatrickRuffini

This really shouldn't have been that that hard. A map like this would preserve three highly competitive seats.



11:21 AM · 16 Sep 21 · [Twitter Web App](#)

**2** Retweets **14** Likes



**Signup Date**

09-20-2021 3:39 PM

**Name**

Anonymous

**Organization****Comments:**

Compactness should mean something. One Congressional district with only 13 counties? Another with 44? C'mon. There are higher population counties you can mix in to make the districts much more balanced in terms of geographic size. For example, you could add Dallas and Story into the district in NW Iowa and that would shave a lot of geography off of it by allocating some smaller population counties into the districts that have a smaller geographic footprint. Additionally, I am concerned about the compactness of some of the legislative districts. For example, you essentially created a doughnut in Linn and Johnson Counties utilizing the rural areas. That's highly inappropriate. You've also created a sprawling snake of a district utilizing the rural areas of Polk County. While I appreciate the efforts to focus on population distribution, some other aspects of Iowa Code related to redistricting were ignored or overlooked. I trust that the Legislature will decline this map and that the LSA will provide a more balanced map for round 2.

**Signup Date**

09-17-2021 10:59 AM

**Name**

Anonymous

**Organization**

General Public

**Comments:**

With the release of the results of the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency in creating their new maps for whom will represent Iowans as a result of the 2020 Census, almost every Iowa news agency has been sure to go to great lengths that this process was done so in an extremely non partisan way. Unfortunately, in every one of those published articles explaining that, they go on to further explain that there will be a republican stronghold in two districts, one district will be a tossup, and the fourth will be a democratic stronghold. Now I don't know about you, but to me it seems like if a news organization is able to immediately see if there will be strongholds, then something seems fishy about this being nonpartisan. I want to explain that I am a cartographer, and in first looking at these new districts, I felt that it was obvious there would be strongholds for each party, but I don't think the news organizations are being very honest in their reporting. Riddle me this; the 1st district will comprise of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Quad City metro areas, there is an obvious democratic stronghold. The second district includes Ames and Cedar Falls/Waterloo metro areas, with numerous other smaller Cities like Marshalltown, Newton, Grinnell, and Ottumwa for example, and could be considered a tossup. District three including the DSM metro area is the likeliest democratic stronghold, and district 4 including most of the western half of the state being a republican stronghold. By my math, that leaves 2 likely democratic leaning districts, 1 republican, and 1 toss up. The districts being used since 2011 make a lot more sense, and I am unsure what the reasoning is for the drastic change, but when then the chairperson for Polk County Democrats and the Iowa House Democratic Leader come out immediately and state they are in full support of the new districts or will vote yes for them within the FIRST HOUR of them being released, that should spark some questions pretty quickly as to whether or not there is a benefit for a certain party going forward if they are approved. I also am not pleased with Poweshiek County being redistricted from 1 to 2. Lumping the citizens from the south central section of the state with the entire northeast corner of the state is awfully odd. The more you look at the 2011 map and compare it to the proposed new district map, all I come up with are more questions related to, why? Vote no to accept this, redraw without planning for strongholds, take a look at the map drawn by the winner of the 2021 Iowa redistricting challenge won by Cory McCartan. It had a deviation of 5 people per district and if unfamiliar with it, its possible you haven't seen what other maps could look like that make more sense, further giving reason to not accept. Ultimately, if the proposed congressional district map isn't partisan, can we see the one that is?

**Signup Date**

09-20-2021 6:55 PM

**Name**

Sarah Crane Swisher

**Organization**

5th Generation Iowan, Retired Nurse

**Comments:**

Iowa's nonpartisan reapportionment system assures that all voters' interests are represented in an equitable demographic, geographic, and unbiased manner. The work of the Legislative Service Agency is not about the next general election, it is about shaping a strong representational democracy for the next decade. This mapping system we have used in the past has allowed elected officials, regardless of party, and ordinary Iowans to proudly boast that we are a fair state, ripe with opportunities to welcome and embrace new Iowans, new families, and new businesses. What might new Iowans be seeking?. A beautiful blend of agriculture and technology, a state where wind power and environmental protection means something, a state where education is excellent and where children are raised to become honest and participating citizens. Harsh partisan positions do not attract families to Iowa. Manipulation of long effective rules in order to benefit one group over another does not attract new Iowans. In recent memory both major parties have held the legislative and executive branches and have had opportunities to seek change in our nationally recognized system, but have never done so. Any effort to alter a long respected methodology means bad decisions will surely lead to national attention, attention that is not helpful in establishing long term prosperity for our beloved state.



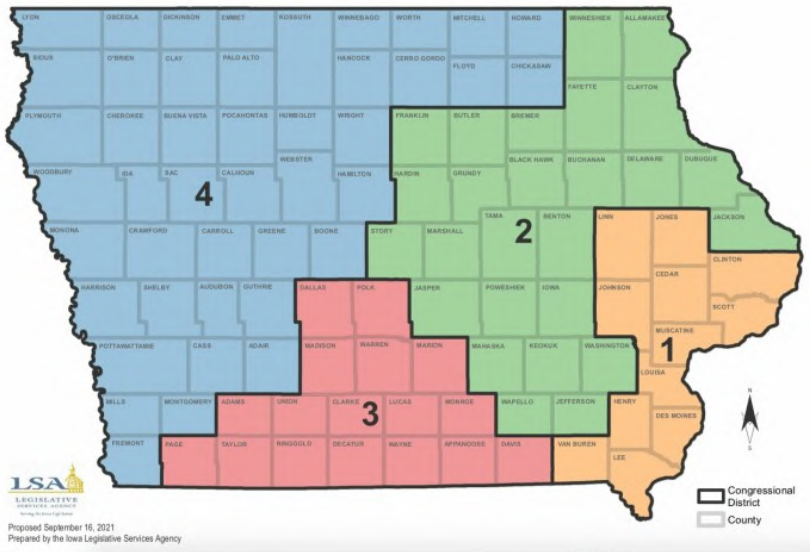
# Bleeding Heartland

A community blog about Iowa politics

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## PROPOSED PLAN 1: IOWA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

To Be Effective Beginning with the Elections in 2022 for the 118th General Assembly



### Evan Burger

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Sep 17 @ 11:51pm  
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By [Laura Belin](#) | 0 Comments

## Redistricting part 7: LSA produces a very fair map

🔗 Thursday, Sep 16 2021 | [Evan Burger](#) | [1 Comment](#) | [2 New!](#)

[Evan Burger](#) continues his [series on redistricting](#), with analysis of the newly released proposed congressional map.

This morning, the Legislative Services Agency released their first set of proposed maps, which can be found [here](#). As expected, the LSA released both congressional and legislative maps – for today I'll focus on the former, with more analysis to come on the legislative front.

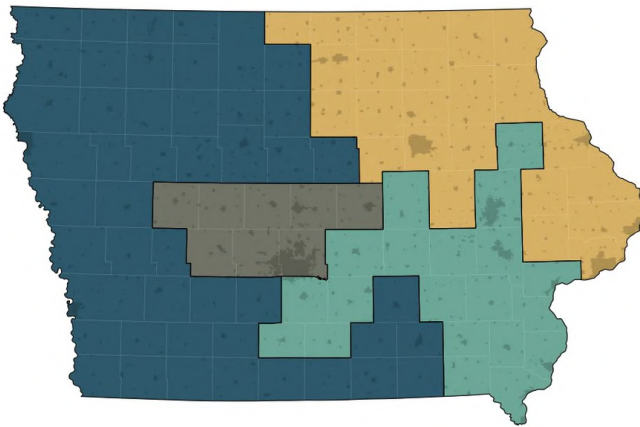
### By the numbers

As I've written [here](#) before, the three standards that the LSA considers in producing a map are contiguity, population equality, and compactness. Of the three, contiguity is an absolute standard: a congressional district must be made up of whole counties that are contiguous. The next most important standard is population equality, meaning the LSA tries to make districts as close in population as possible. However, they must also consider the compactness of a given map, both in terms of minimizing the difference between the length and width of each district, and in terms of minimizing the total perimeter length of all districts.

The LSA's proposed congressional map easily meets the contiguity requirement. Here is how it scores on population equality and the two measures of compactness:

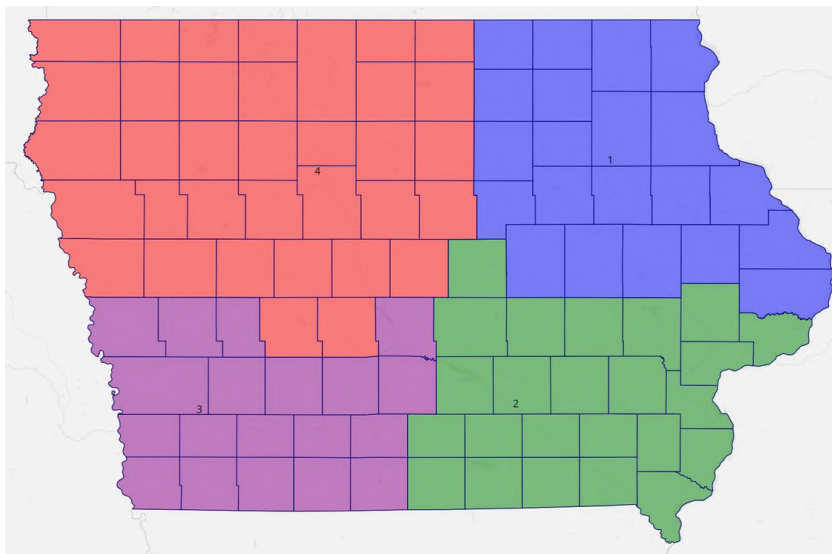
- Lowest Population: District 2 (797,556)
- Highest Population: District 1 (797,655)
- Difference between lowest and highest population: 99
- Total Perimeter Score: 2,772.02 miles
- Average Length-Width Compactness: 34.96 miles

As usual, the LSA did an excellent job balancing population equality with both measures of compactness. There are certainly maps that are more equal, but they all score much worse on both measures of compactness. For instance, here is the [winning entry](#) in Dave Wasserman's Iowa redistricting challenge:



- Difference between lowest and highest population: 5
- Total Perimeter Score: ~3200 miles
- Average Length-Width Compactness: ~40 miles

Similarly, the map that [the NRCC supposedly favors](#) does better on perimeter compactness but much worse on population equality.



- Difference between lowest and highest population: 1141
- Total Perimeter Score: ~2400 miles
- Average Length-Width Compactness: ~36 miles

As these examples show, it is very difficult to improve on the LSA's proposed map,

Sep 16 @ 2:19pm  
[Redistricting part 7: LSA produces a very fair map](#)  
 By [Evan Burger](#) | 1 Comment

Sep 15 @ 7:14pm  
[Democrat Eric Van Lancker running for secretary of state](#)  
 By [Laura Belin](#) | 0 Comments

Sep 15 @ 5:20pm  
[Iowa wildflower Wednesday: Cream gentian](#)  
 By [Katie Byerly](#) | 1 Comment

Sep 15 @ 2:49pm  
[It's time to codify Roe](#)  
 By [Glenn Hurst](#) | 0 Comments

Sep 14 @ 11:26pm  
[Four takeaways from the Iowa House district 37 special election](#)  
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- [IA-04](#)
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- [Iowa Senate races](#)

because any improvement in population equality tends to result in worse compactness, and vice versa. (As an aside, this [tweet](#) from Cory McCartan lists the only other maps that I've seen that come even close to the LSA's proposal.)

## Partisanship

The LSA is not allowed to consider partisanship or past vote results when drafting their maps, but of course the partisan implications of a given map are the reason this process is so important. Iowa's current congressional map has resulted in three competitive seats (CD1, CD2, and CD3) and one safe Republican seat (CD4). The proposed new map drastically changes that breakdown, mostly because it changes how the ten largest counties are grouped together:

- CD1: Linn, Johnson, and Scott
- CD2: Black Hawk, Story, and Dubuque
- CD3: Polk and Dallas
- CD4: Woodbury and Pottawattamie

By Dave Wasserman's [analysis](#), the proposed map has one district that went safely for Biden, two districts that went safely for Trump, and one district that was a virtual tie:

- IA01: Biden +8.7
- IA02: Trump +10.8
- IA03: Biden +0.2
- IA04: Trump +31.5

Looking at congressional voting behavior over the last three elections shows similar trends but makes CD2 look more competitive:

- IA01: 56.41%
- IA02: 47.31%
- IA03: 49.34%
- IA04: 38.32%

No matter which measure of partisanship you use, CD1 is safe Democratic, CD4 is safe Republican, CD2 is lean Republican if not safe Republican, and CD3 is a toss-up.

## What's next

The next step in the redistricting process is a public comment period on this first proposal. There will be three public hearings held virtually at the following times:

Monday, September 20: 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21: Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 22: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Online comments will also be accepted until the start of the last public hearing.

Instructions for submitting public comment will likely be posted [here](#) when they are available. All public comments will be compiled into a report that is presented to the legislature when they convene on October 5 to start debate on the proposed maps. (See [Laura's article from Tuesday](#) for more details on the October 5 special session.)

*9/16/21 update: public comment instructions can be found [here](#).*

This public comment period is a key moment for anyone who cares about redistricting here in Iowa. As I laid out above, the LSA has come up with a very fair congressional map that measures up well against the standards laid out in Iowa Code. Politicians of both parties love to praise the Iowa process — now is the time for them to put their

Both parties love to praise the Iowa process – now is the time for them to put their money where their mouth is, and approve the proposed maps.

Tags: [IA-01](#), [IA-02](#), [IA-03](#), [IA-04](#), [Redistricting](#)

### 1 Comment / 2 New

[Leave your comment below](#)

**NEW** **Very good analysis. But will public comments even be heeded?**

I'm really sorry to feel I need to ask that question. I've been sending in comments and letters on Iowa public issues for forty years. But in 2021 Iowa, and with time and energy more limited than they used to be, I'm starting to wonder what is and isn't futile. Which feels like heresy, but there it is.

By [PrairieFan](#) @ [Fri 17 Sep 7:48 PM](#)

[Reply](#)

### Write a comment

**Submit**

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**Signup Date**

09-21-2021 10:02 AM

**Name**

Evan Burger

**Organization**

General Public

**Comments:**

I will speak in favor of this map. As I wrote in the attached article, the LSA has done an excellent job of balancing population equality with both measures of compactness.



# Public Hearing Comments

Redistricting- Wednesday

Sponsored by the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission Committee - Susan L. Lerdal, chairperson

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

6:00 PM (introductions begin)

After introductions, the hearing will be for 3 hours in the Virtual

<b>Signup Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
09-16-2021 12:30 PM	Paul Uzel	General Public
<b>Comments:</b>	I in particular wish to protest the move of Dubuque County from the First Congressional District to the Second CD. Dubuque, while definitely NE of the rest of the First CD has much more in common with the First CD. This is particularly true for what Dubuque has in common with Linn and Johnson and Scott and the other Quad City counties. I see Dubuque as the north end of the central Mississippi River district rather than the south end of that area to its north. And while Blackhawk and Dubuque counties have commonness, stretching the reach from Dubuque to Story County seems a considerable 'stretch', and not even along Federal highway lines (Story on US 30 BUT also on I35, making it more of the Central Iowa scene.	
09-16-2021 7:12 PM	Anonymous	General Public
<b>Comments:</b>	Remain unbiased	
09-17-2021 7:11 AM	Nancy Profit	General public
<b>Comments:</b>	We are praised for how we redistrict. Dont make it partisan as it will backfire.Please accept the first map.	
09-17-2021 11:45 AM	KathleenBrown	CitizenofIowa
<b>Comments:</b>	I am proud of the way that IOWA does redistricting.The proposed changes are fair for all parties, and IOWANS. I am in favor of leaving the proposed changes exactly as proposed. No other changes needed.	
09-17-2021 1:08 PM	Ramona Melendy	General Public
<b>Comments:</b>	I like this map and I think that it is fair to everyone in Iowa. Of course, Republicans don't like this map as it will help the minority (Democrats) win more seats, so representation will be more fair in Iowa.	
09-17-2021 3:26 PM	Sarah J Eikleberry	Stand With Tim Kelly
<b>Comments:</b>	Greetings,I would like to express my support for honoring the timehonored and fair nonpartisan processes that set our state apart from so many others. It is my hope that you will vote to support the most recent redistricting recommendations and continue to uphold the integrity of the process should you seek revision.	

09-17-2021 3:35 PM Dan Taiber

**Comments:** This is ridiculous and everyone knows it. Just another sham by Democrats. They can't win fairly so they rig the system as usual.

09-17-2021 4:11 PM Garrett Arbuckle

**Comments:** Concerns for the divide and split of my University campus.

09-17-2021 9:27 PM Kathy McDonald General Public

**Comments:** The committees work should be approved. The committee and how it functions are a longstanding tradition in Iowa and there is no need to alter the process in any way.

09-18-2021 12:08 AM Lauren Tiffany General Public

**Comments:** As usual, Iowa's redistricting process has resulted in a congressional district map that is fair, sensible, and efficient. I hope the legislature will respect the process, which is much admired nationally, and approve this map.

09-18-2021 8:15 AM Anonymous General Public

**Comments:** I congratulate the work of this committee and it looks to be as fair as possible with the numbers being almost equal in each district. I live in the second district. I am glad this is not a political group doing the redistricting. I am really tired of that. Let's keep things fair for once.

09-18-2021 8:35 AM David G. Beeman

**Comments:** Iowa has a rich history of being fair and egalitarian in ways other states should admire. One is the nonpartisan way in which legislative maps are drawn (e.g., no undemocratic gerrymandering). Please accept the first maps in the way in which they are drawn, and leave in place Iowa's nonpartisan approach to this important issue.

09-19-2021 7:35 AM Andrea Frantz

**Comments:** This map appears to reflect a nonpartisan approach to redistricting, not favoring one party over another, but addressing population shifts, as the process was designed to do. I urge legislators to uphold Iowas reputation on this front and pass the proposal.

09-19-2021 2:49 PM Theresa Johnson

**Comments:** I have seen the redistricting map, and I think it is fair for all Iowans.

09-19-2021 4:34 PM Roberta Rosheim General Public

**Comments:** I feel these maps were drawn in a bipartisan way and should be approved.

09-19-2021 8:54 PM William Gerhard

**Comments:** I think the Legislature should approve Map #1. We have wasted enough time waiting for the incompetent Trump Administration to handle the 2020 Census. it is time to move on

09-20-2021 5:33 AM Tim Reilly

**Comments:** I believe the first map is OK and should be approved.

09-20-2021 5:42 AM Joy Smith General Public

**Comments:** I support the redistricting map. Maintaining Iowa's nonpartisan and fair process of redistricting is of utmost importance. Both Republicans and Democrats have a responsibility to fairly assure that all Iowan's are represented in the democratic process. Supporting the recommendations of the Legislative Services Agency is the only way to assure evenhanded redistricting.

09-20-2021 10:15 AM Steve Woodhouse General Public

**Comments:** If I am unable to join the phone call on Wednesday, I would like to go on record to oppose the apparent gerrymandering done for Iowa Senate District 17. I would also like to express concern over the concentration of representation in larger communities over rural areas of Iowa. Could there be a better way to ensure that rural Iowa can have a meaningful voice in our State Legislature, and not be overlooked due to low population? These areas still need state services and representation. Iowans should not be overlooked, overruled, dictated to or forced to compromise their lives to the whims of metropolitan representatives because they choose to live in rural Iowa. Thank you.

09-20-2021 1:12 PM Katarina Rich

**Comments:** I believe the process for creating this map has been done in a bipartisan manner and that the outcome is fair. I support the approval of the redistricting.

09-20-2021 1:13 PM Lindsay Maher

**Comments:** I agree with Mr. Brewbakers comments in regards to conflicts with the new elections bill requirements. I also find it a bit peculiar that so many cities are the doughnut holes in entire counties, almost appearing intentional to separate the rural voters from the city voters. Is this actually in the best interest of the process and of Iowans having their voices heard or is this showing bias for representatives/senators to only have to represent those who are like themselves?

09-20-2021 1:49 PM Nick Battles

**Comments:** The nonpartisan process by which Iowa determines its Congressional districts is something to be admired and respected. Indeed, it is a model for all those advocating for fair and equitable redistricting. I urge the Iowa Legislature to accept the proposed maps that uphold our nonpartisan and democratic process.

09-20-2021 2:14 PM Anonymous

**Comments:** Dear Colleagues:I submit this comment in support of the districting map as proposed. I urge our states legislature to approve this map as presented and without delay. Our states process is highlyregarded in the nation for its fairness. Please help us to continue earning that respect by approving the committees nonpartisan work.Sincerely,Ann M Valentine, PhDRiverside, Iow

09-20-2021 2:22 PM Lissa Holloway general public

**Comments:** The redistricting map appears fair. Democrats have already spoken in favor of this map. Please Republicans, show that this process is not a partisan affair and vote

yes on the map. Thank you.

09-20-2021 3:00 PM Pete McRoberts American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa

**Comments:** Dear Commissioners and Members of the General Assembly: On behalf of the members of the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa, I write in strong support of Iowas nonpartisan, nonpolitical redistricting process. While the delays and difficulties as a result of COVID19 could not have been anticipated, we are encouraged that in spite of those challenges, our elected and judicial leaders have promised to proceed with redistricting according to the letter and spirit of the Iowa Constitution and Iowa law. We agree that Iowa is the gold standard in terms of our redistricting process. For five decades, while many other states have dealt with redistricting problems like political considerations and gerrymandering including in this very redistricting cycle we have not. Iowans are rightly proud of that history. It is worth protecting. So, we will be watching this process closely, and we encourage citizens to engage through every step of it. We will also continue our efforts to make sure that our government leaders keep their promise to our people. That's what Iowans expect and deserve, and that's what will keep Iowas redistricting standards the best in the country. Thank you. Pete McRoberts ACLU of Iowa

09-20-2021 3:11 PM Sherry Frizell General Public

**Comments:** I trust the LSA more than any of the legislators or political party currently in power. Pass this first one!

09-20-2021 5:11 PM Michael Plantenberg public

**Comments:** Please draw fair maps

09-20-2021 5:14 PM Anonymous

**Comments:** From what I have read, I think this map the Legislative Services Agency has created seems fair based on population, contiguity, and compactness, which seem to me like reasonable standards for this process. Republicans' opposition strikes me as deeply dubious and selfinterested; this map was created by a nonpartisan group and I think that is important in keeping politicians accountable to the people they are supposed to be serving.

09-20-2021 5:41 PM Anonymous

**Comments:** Iowa's fair non partisan redistricting procedure is something our state can be proud of! Please accept the recommendation resulting from that laudably fair procedure.

09-20-2021 6:01 PM Andy Douglas

**Comments:** This latest redistricting map looks very fair. The LSA is nonpartisan and did an objective, unbiased redistricting job. Please keep it as it is!

09-20-2021 6:45 PM Martin J. Monroe Marty's Canvassing Service

**Comments:** I like the current map and believe it is well balanced, by population, as it's purpose constitutionally. Political Party lines have no place in the Constitutional Redistricting process, and anyone attempting such is trying to game the system for personal gain or advantage in elections.

09-20-2021 6:58 Robert Leonhard

PM

**Comments:** Please reject this redistricting map. Stand strong! The "nonpartisan" agency that drew up this map has a clear agenda. If the next map is unsuitable, reject that as well. Fight for a fair map that represents Iowans' best interests!

09-20-2021 7:15 PM Thomas benzoni Self

**Comments:** Adopt as proposed. Iowa reputation is on the line.

09-20-2021 7:28 PM Anonymous General public

**Comments:** I urge the legislature to approved the redistricting maps introduced on Sept 16, 2021.

09-20-2021 8:11 PM Anonymous

**Comments:** To Members of the Temporary Redistricting Committee, I am grateful for the hard work done to more fairly and accurately represent Iowans in the newly formed districts. Thank you for providing these hearings for public comment and participation. Barb Mease

09-21-2021 9:36 AM Susan Petra

**Comments:** We have seen the recent information on the continued migration of Iowans from the rural areas to the more urban areas. Because of the three guidelines in determining Iowa's districts, Iowans have had pride in our bipartisan desire and willingness to uphold our fair and nonpartisan process. The 1st map does just that, cleanly. I firmly believe that the most determining factor of the guidelines the population movement has been drawn into fair Districts, with the smallest margin of difference possible. this is a very significant feat. Because the population migration has been so significant, my fear is that state legislators will be primarily concerned with how this affects their district and their own person. While this may be human nature, I implore our representatives to, instead, uphold Iowa's fair and NONpartisan process: vote for Map #1.

09-21-2021 10:02 AM Philip W. Klein general public

**Comments:** I'm proud of Iowa's redistricting process. Instead of politicians drawing the lines, the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency (LSA) leads the process. Instead of using partisan criteria to decide where the districts go, they make the districts as compact and equal in population as they can. And this map is extremely fair. Let's keep it that way.

09-21-2021 10:12 AM Tammy Calhoun

**Comments:** I cannot attend the meetings due to my current work deadlines but I encourage the Legislature to accept the maps as presented. I am proud we have a nonpartisan process for creating the maps. I feel the maps which have been presented reflect the dynamics of the state as it exists today. Thank you for your consideration.

09-21-2021 10:17 AM Roy Birchard

**Comments:** I support the proposed legislative maps as is. Please do not change them.

09-21-2021 10:17 AM Julie Powell-Mohr General Public

**Comments:** The most important gift we can give everyone in our state is the sense that each

voice matters, and that there is equity in the redistricting. The nonpartisan process adopted by Iowa is the gold standard for redistricting. There is integrity in this first map and I support its approval. Thank you.

09-21-2021 10:20 AM Kathy R Eastman

**Comments:** Please use the first map to keep our districts and thus our election process, nonpartisan. Our process has been hailed as the best in the U.S. We don't need to drop our high standards just so one party or the other can gain an unfair advantage. And remember, today the Republicans are in power in Iowa, but that will not always be the case. Republicans should remember that when the Democrats are in power, the Republicans will want to be treated fairly, too.

09-21-2021 10:21 AM John S. Crpss General Public

**Comments:** I am very much in favor of the redistricting plan submitted. I believe it is fair to all and will keep our state's reputation for unbiased redistricting. I firmly appose any changes made by the Iowa legislature.

09-21-2021 10:32 AM Julia Rendon

**Comments:** The LSA's map looks very fair. The districts are compact and comparable in terms of population. I see no good reason to change it. If it is changed, it will be because of political bias, and Iowa should be above that.

09-21-2021 10:39 AM Anonymous

**Comments:** LSA has an enormously challenging, specific, and entirely fair mission in Iowa Code assign legislative districts without regard to demographics. This map does just that. One's feelings about the political ramifications of any map designed under these parameters reflect their feelings about the changing makeup of Iowa, not the maps themselves. It is a fact that the state gained urban residents and lost rural ones in the past decade. Any valid map will reflect that reality. I urge the Legislature to acknowledge the work of LSA by approving this map without political posturing.

09-21-2021 10:39 AM Barbara Klubal General Public

**Comments:** I support the first redistricting map and urge our legislators to do the same. This map meets the nonpartisan criteria that the LSA is charged with following such as contiguity and population balance.

09-21-2021 10:43 AM Thomas Reardon General Public

**Comments:** Iowa has once again shown that it leads the nation in producing a redistricting map that is fair, nonpartisan, and truly reflects the population distribution throughout the state. Please accept the map as drawn and do not let partisan caterwauling distract you from doing your constitutional duty to provide a fair and unbiased demarcation of districts.

09-21-2021 11:00 AM Anonymous General public

**Comments:** I sincerely hope that the redistributing plan goes through with the first draft. We should be so proud of our process as a State. Please dont make this a partisan issue!

09-21-2021 11:12 AM Anonymous None -Stictly a citizen-voter

AM

**Comments:** I do not agree that the congressional map meets the "compactness" standard, particularly for the proposed 2nd district. I realize that population equality is the primary standard, but it is difficult to believe that the only way to balance the population is to create the horseshape for the 2nd district. The proposed map yields very compact 1st and 3rd districts, but does so at the expense of the 2nd district. As a resident voter in the proposed 2nd district, I object. I also do not agree with the proposed Iowa house and senate maps for the same reason. This is particularly as a result of the oddlooking creature that House #60 and Senate #30 in Black Hawk County result in. Again, compactness is nonexistent. These proposed districts cover practically the whole county while nearly encircling the metro Waterloo Cedar Falls area. There are other similar examples in other counties, like House # 97 and House 98 and Senate 49, however even this proposed configuration is not as severe a distortion or create the odd looking snakelike design as the one proposed for Black Hawk County. As a result of the violation of the "compactness" standard in these instances, I object. Surely there is a way to balance the population of census tracts without creating such an oddshaped, snakelike district.

09-21-2021 11:23 AM Brant Kassel

**Comments:** These maps are fair and drawn in the nonpartisan way. The only party interested in muddying the waters is the Republicans who know they can only win by cheating because their ideas are awful and no one would vote for them if they didn't have an (R) next to their name. Iowa was once a proud independent minded state that has fallen. These maps provide fair representation to ALL Iowans, not just those that buy politicians for their own gain. These maps the what gives our minority and underrepresent neighborhoods a voice in the federal government. These maps are fair, drawn with representation in mind, not political gain or fortune. I ask that we approve these maps. Thank you.

09-21-2021 11:43 AM Caryl Lyons

**Comments:** I feel privileged to live in a state that has fair redistricting processes. Since those processes have been followed, I strongly support the approval of this initial redistricting map. I hope that the process doesn't get "watered down" and become less fair than it is now. Our state, our country, needs less partisanship, and Iowa's redistricting process seems to fulfill that need.

09-21-2021 11:43 AM Kim Hagemann none

**Comments:** My name is Kim Hagemann and I currently reside in state senate district 19 and state representative district 38. I urge the legislature to accept this redistricting map. I want Iowa to continue to be a leader against gerrymandering. Iowa has developed a model process that pullsout as much subjective partisanship as possible. No process will be perfect. No map will be perfect. Please move forward with the map as determined by the process. Thank you.

09-21-2021 11:46 AM Anonymous

**Comments:** The legislature should accept the LSAs district map. It is a fair map and followed a fair process. The LSA has drawn districts that are both compact and very close to equal in population. This should be a nonpartisan decision.

09-21-2021 11:47 AM Alec Johnson (he/him) Iowa Citizens for Communiity Improvement

**Comments:** I want to applaud the Legislative Services Agency's (LSA) proposed redistricting

plan. It seems eminently fair and just. As the saying goes, "Voters should select their Representatives and Representatives should not be allowed to select their voters." Gerrymandering assaults the very foundation of government of the people, by the people, and for the people. It must be completely opposed otherwise tyranny will surely follow. I add my voice to all those insisting that the LSA's proposal be accepted. Most emphatically, Alec Johnson

09-21-2021 12:05 PM Judah Richardson

**Comments:** The Legislature should approve a plan that meets Iowa's legal and constitutional requirements, including: Districts must be established based on population, and the population of all districts should be as equal as practicable. Each Congressional district must be composed of whole counties, and the number of counties and cities divided into more than one legislative district must be as small as possible. Districts must be composed of convenient contiguous territory. Districts must be reasonably compact in form (i.e., square, rectangular or hexagonal; not irregularly shaped, to the extent permitted by natural or political boundaries).

09-21-2021 12:08 PM Matthew Covington

**Comments:** given the stated objectives of the directions given to the LSA, I see no problems with the 1st draft map created for public and lawmaker consideration. It is reflective of our population, geographic diversity, and Iowa values. I urge lawmakers to accept this map

09-21-2021 12:20 PM Nathan Williams

**Comments:** While there are features of this map that could bear some discussion, i.e. the inclusion of this or that county in a given district vs. another, the map appears compact and reflects the statewide shift in population over the past 10 years. The redistricting committee should be able to substantiate its work, but the legislature should grant them a measure of deference in the interest of safeguarding the nonpartisan process.

09-21-2021 12:29 PM Jane Alderman General Public

**Comments:** The LSA has done a stellar job on redistricting and following the requirements of contiguity, population equity and compactness. The only reason to consider a new map would be if any of these could be improved while not impacting the other two criteria. Else, partisanship is entering the process, and that is not democracy. Please approve the 1st map and let's get on to dealing with other issues impacting Iowa and her citizens.

09-21-2021 12:30 PM Martha Dorow General Public

**Comments:** Thank you for allowing for the public comments. Thank you, also, to those that did all the work to put together this plan 1. It looks good, and seems like you've done your best to make it fair. I am proud that Iowa has nonpartisan means to create a redistricting plan. It is the best way to do this.

09-21-2021 12:34 PM Ivy Schuster General Public

**Comments:** Iowa's redistricting process is considered the gold standard in the nation. Gerrymandering will not be tolerated in Iowa.

09-21-2021 12:41 PM Jean Mack



**Comments:** I feel it is important that the legislature vote to approve the first plan for redistricting. It is a map that will give fair representation to all Iowans. We need to keep this process independent of partisan interference.

09-21-2021 12:51 PM Linda and Tom Armitage AAUW and General public

**Comments:** I believe the new map as drawn is fair and seemsto reflect the changes in population our state has experienced since the last census.

09-21-2021 1:09 PM

**Comments:** Dear Commission Members,I will be brief. My husband & I have called Iowa our home for about 50 years and raised two children during that time, too. This is the first redistricting process Ive participated in or even been very aware of until after the process was concluded. I think this is to Iowas credit because we havent resorted to big partisan battles. As a result, it is my understanding that Iowas process is highly regarded. Concerning the current proposed plan, I support this first redistricting map and urge that it be approved. Thank you for your service in this effort. I appreciate the chances for the public to view and/or comment in multiple meetings.

09-21-2021 1:19 PM Daniel McCue

**Comments:** Thank you to the Legislative Services Agency for honoring a nonpartisan plan to apportion legislative districts. When I look at this map, I see that rural areas like Grinnell have been clustered with some farflung townships. Could someone speak to the decision process for this?

09-21-2021 1:53 PM Maggie Tinsman Maggie Tinsman LLC

**Comments:** Dear Redistricting Committee,Thank you all for your expertise and your time in holding the Virtual Meetings on the Redistricting Map. As the past Chair of the Redistricting Committee, I just have one comment. Since this plan proposes to have 60 Legislators run against one another, and we have never had that MANY legislators having to run against a fellow Legislator, I humbly request that the Legislature ask the Service Bureau for a Second Map. Possibly, fewer than 60 incumbents would not be running against another incumbent, which I believe would tend to be more fair.Truly,Maggie Tinsman

09-21-2021 1:59 PM Jamie Nagel

**Comments:** I urge lawmakers to accept this initial set of maps proposed by LSA. I have both learned and taught about Iowas redistricting process as a national model for drafting fair maps. LSA has strict guidelines for developing districts that are geographically contiguous and well balanced in population and they have done an excellent job. Please uphold our reputation that does redistricting in a fair and nonpartisan manner and accept these maps. Thank you for the consideration.

09-21-2021 2:03 PM Pam Kostka

**Comments:** Having a nonpartisan group draft the Congressional and state legislature districts is one of the things that makes me proud to call Iowa home. Keeping partisan politics out of drafting district maps keeps the system fair and assured all voices are heard with equal weight. Please dont allow this gold standard process to be tampered with. Districts should not be drawn to please whatever party is in power at the time. Keep political views out of the district drafting process.

09-21-2021 2:09 Marilyn Jean & Elaine Hagedorn General Public

PM

**Comments:** As lifelong Iowans, we are grateful that for 40 years Iowa has had probably the best reapportionment system in the nation. Best, because it ensures fairness , using the most recent census data, and assigning to a neutral third party the drawing of new legislative and congressional boundaries. This nonpartisan process ensures ALL Iowans have a voice regardless of political affiliation. Partisan lawmakers do not draw the boundary lines, they merely vote on them. This first map for 2021 follows this goldstandard approach, reflecting the changes in Iowa's population according to the census while maintaining nonpartisanship with a goal of integrity and unity in our state. Map #1 gets our strong support! The honest work put forth by the Commission is to be applauded. We urge the Legislature to approve this first map and continue to make Iowa's reapportionment system a model for the nation.

09-21-2021 2:54 PM  
Spencer Richardson-Jones

**Comments:** The map proposed by the LSA looks extremely fair; districts are compact and close to equal in population. It makes sense to keep Polk and Dallas counties togetherwe are part of the same metropolitan area, and splitting up this area merely for partisan gain will end up hurting the whole state. Iowa has a gold standard process for redistricting. This recent map shows that the process is working and will continue to work well. Please approve this map and do not make changes to the process that will harm Iowa's reputation.

09-21-2021 3:05 PM  
Steve Gude  
General Public

**Comments:** Iowa has a decadeslong history of a fair reapportionment process following a national census. I hope you will continue this tradition by adhering to the guidelines set forth. Iowa's process is a model for the country and one that needs to be used once again this year. Please reject any political influence in the process and keep it nonpartisan as it has been for some many years. Thank you.

09-21-2021 3:10 PM  
Rosanne Staniford  
null

**Comments:** I wish to voice my approval of redistricting plan 1 as proposed:Proposed Plan 1: Iowa Congressional DistrictsProposed Plan 1: Iowa Senate DistrictsProposed Plan 1: Iowa House DistrictsI approve all of the above.

09-21-2021 4:35 PM  
Curt H Moore

**Comments:** Vote Yes on first map of redistricting

09-21-2021 4:36 PM  
Barbara Beaumont

**Comments:** For many years the LSA has done an excellent job with redistricting. This new redistricting map is excellent and should be approved.

09-21-2021 4:42 PM  
Tracy Meginnis

**Comments:** I urge our legislators to adopt a nonpartisan map as has been done for over forty years now in Iowa. This is a process that works and for which Iowa is respected. I do not support introducing amendments to the map as it lets legislators pick and choose to suit their partisan political purposes.

09-21-2021 5:14 PM  
Jill Forbes

**Comments:** I voice to preserve Iowa's nonpartisan redistricting system by adopting the first map.If that fails, legislators should adopt one of the other nonpartisan maps drawn by the LSA without amendment by the legislature. If amendments are allowed, this will mean gerrymandering, which is not the fair way of redistricting and I will be watching closely that Iowa's nonpartisan redistricting system does not fail.

09-21-2021 5:22 PM Diane Pierce General Public

**Comments:** I approve of the new redistricting map!!!

09-21-2021 5:24 PM Beverly Haas

**Comments:** It's vital that you maintain Iowa's nonpartisan redistricting system by adopting the first map. If you fail to do that, you must adopt one of the other NONPARTISAN maps drawn by the LSA without amendment by the legislature.Anything else constitutes gerrymandering, a corrupt method to steal elections. Please don't play games with our voting districts to unfairly benefit one party over the other. Iowa has been justifiably proud to be better than that.Be sure to do the right thing for all Iowans. Anything else would be a major step in destroying our democracy and in disenfranchising Iowa voters. Gerrymandering is deceitful, manipulative, corrupt, and immoral. It's cheating.Do the right thing. Protect our democracy.Thank you

09-21-2021 6:26 PM Tom Blum

**Comments:** It is incumbent upon the house and senate to simply preserve Iowa's nonpartisan redistricting system by adopting the first map, anything less is political chicanery and is obvious step towards ending our apolitical system of districting and the beginning of gerrymandering.

09-21-2021 7:15 PM Susan Reiter

**Comments:** I support the map as drawn. I agree that it maintains fair boundaries.Thank you for this opportunity to express my support.

09-21-2021 7:16 PM Nancy AntonJensen

**Comments:** Thanks for the work on Plan 1! I hope the legislature will take the advice and vote for Plan1 so we can move forward as a states rather than make things more divisive.

09-21-2021 7:38 PM Anonymous

**Comments:** Thank you to the committee for your work! I appreciate your time and talents. As a private citizen I am in favor of the first map. Thank you for reflecting the current population shifts and drawing a map that reflects this change. I am proud of the nonpartisan and transparent manner of the first map presented.I am in favor of the first map and urge our legislators to select the first map.Thank you

09-21-2021 8:13 PM Thomas R. O'Donnell

**Comments:** I would like the commission to describe the impact of declining rural population on the proposed maps.I support the current maps. Legislators who oppose them, particularly Republicans, must ask if they realistically expect they will get a better option if the maps are redrawn. Iowa politicians face a hard reality: rural population is falling. As the party in power, with the most members from rural areas, it was inevitable that many Republican senators and representatives would

find themselves lumped together in a single district. Less population means bigger districts. Bigger districts mean more legislators landing in the same ones.

09-21-2021 8:14 PM Kathy O'Harra general public

**Comments:** Even though new U. S. Rep. districts 1 Meeks and 2 Hinson are proportionately similar, Hinson will have a larger area to travel as she visits communities within her district. All 4 Representatives seem to enjoy listening to the views of those in their districts as well as visitors from other parts of the state. Thankfully, they are working together to bring a lot of Iowa's common sense to Washington. Plan 1 will work using the census numbers as determiners. Beyond that, the people of each county must feel they can contact their Rep. to discuss issues and needs and receive pertinent response in return. Considering the plan for Iowa representative districts, those who don't like the current plan will need to be sure their ideas are heard by the nonpartisan team or through their representatives. Change can be good as long as strong communication is present. i hope the process in the districts facing changes can be accomplished with the least turmoil possible. These plans must not lead to less voter turnout in years to come. thank you for your time. Kathy

09-21-2021 8:25 PM Gary Capps General Public

**Comments:** I was disappointed in reviewing the first draft for Congressional redistricting. Although numerically consistent, it fails to consider the geographic challenge for two of the Representatives in servicing their constituents adequately. I strongly feel an Iowa Representative should be able to advocate for both urban and rural interests equally, and slight modifications to the existing districts will achieve those ends, while still providing a good, if not perfect, numerical balance. I have prepared a map to reflect the modifications, and would be happy to share it as a private citizen. Thank you for your time and consideration.

09-21-2021 9:05 PM Helena Hadek

**Comments:** I would like to comment on the recent redistricting map that was recently submitted. It seems very fair and I would hope the Iowa Legislature will approve it as it seems very bipartisan. Thank you, Helena Hadek Des Moines, IA

09-21-2021 9:08 PM Anonymous

**Comments:** I support the use of nonpartisan methods to determine voting district lines. Thank you for keeping the process fair and unbiased, and free from political influence.

09-21-2021 9:18 PM Patrick D Bosold Self

**Comments:** The Congressional and Legislative maps drawn by the Legislative Services Agency are fair and reasonable, and they measure up well against the standards laid out in Iowa Code. I urge the Iowa Legislature to adopt these maps by approving them immediately.

09-21-2021 9:18 PM Ellen Johnsen

**Comments:** Theyve proposed new districts for Congress With equal populations not more or less The team hit their goal, And has done well at the role. With their first draft, I hope youll not mess. This proposed map meets each requirement. Not just the letter, but the actual intent. Contiguous and compact So its your turn to act. Keep politics out of this and give your consent. In our state, theres no room for partisan pandering Each districts border is just a bit meandering But theyre pretty

compact, And I hope you'll quickly act. So in Iowa, we can avoid gerrymandering.

09-21-2021 10:03 PM Bonnie McAreavy General Public

**Comments:** A point of pride for our state is the nonpartisan approach to redistricting following each census. This approach, relying on the Legislative Services Agency, and prohibiting the use of political data in drawing district boundaries, has resulted in fairly drawn districts for the last 40 years. I urge the legislature not to stray from these principles that have served us so well, and to vote to adopt the proposed plan put forth by the nonpartisan working group. Only by accepting the plan as submitted can our citizens be assured that there is no political agenda or attempt to put a finger on the scale by either political party, now and in the future.

09-21-2021 10:04 PM Guillermo Morales

**Comments:** I urge the legislature to reserve Iowa's nonpartisan redistricting system. This can be accomplished by adopting the first redistricting map.

09-21-2021 10:29 PM Janet Evans

**Comments:** I am in support of this first redistricting map.

09-22-2021 12:56 AM Martin Paulsen General Public

**Comments:** The proposed redistricting looks ok to me.

09-22-2021 6:03 AM Dan Grooms General Public

**Comments:** Proud of current bipartisan process. I urge legislators to accept redistricting map as is.

09-22-2021 8:01 AM Jane Nettleton general public

**Comments:** Iowa's plan for redistricting is a model for the country. Please DO NOT tinker with it by rejecting the first two proposals. That would only illustrate further how Iowa is slipping away from true democracy. This plan is a fair one, as it gives advantages to both parties in different areas. Even though incumbents will be pitted against one another in several races, it is time for a shakeup in the legislature anyway.

09-22-2021 8:15 AM Samantha Snodgrass

**Comments:** Please uphold our tradition of fair, nonpartisan redistricting. The proposed map fits with how Iowans have relocated from rural to urban areas and ensures equal representation for rural and urban voters alike. I hope this map is accepted.

09-22-2021 8:18 AM Caitlin McCleary

**Comments:** Iowa has long been a leader in our fair and nonpartisan redistricting process, and we should remain that way. Let the commission draw nonpartisan maps, and approve them as they are drawn.

09-22-2021 8:43 AM David Rust

**Comments:** I wholeheartedly support the proposed plan.

09-22-2021 8:49 Anonymous

AM

**Comments:** It is such relief to have something in Iowa that remains nonpartisan! We have a fair and unbiased redistricting process that works well and can serve as a model for the rest of the country. Let's never let it go. Many thanks to the committee members for their hard work and their commitment to keeping this a nonpartisan process.

09-22-2021 9:03 AM Sean McRoberts

**Comments:** I appreciate the work done by the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency. I have lived in Iowa my whole life, though at various times in each of the districts as currently drawn. I appreciate the way that the Iowa LSA's process attempts to redistrict according to population, without seeking political advantage for any party. Please adopt this initial proposal from the LSA. If the legislature does not adopt an LSA proposal, instead choosing to make amendments, it would be a distressing departure from a fair and nonpartisan redistricting approach. I am grateful that Iowa's districts have not been gerrymandered during my lifetime, and I hope that will continue to be the case.

09-22-2021 9:05 AM Josh Hughes n/a

**Comments:** I wish to speak in support of the first proposed map. I believe it fairly represents the current partisan and geographic balance of Iowa. As a geographic matter, the congressional map does a good job of connecting the corridor between Linn and Johnson counties, which is essentially, one metropolitan area. And the connection of Polk and Dallas with much of south central Iowa is also a good link, considering that the Des Moines metro is where many southern Iowans go (myself included) when we need to go "to town." With respect to the second district, which is admittedly unusually shaped, I think it's probably fair to say that the towns of Dubuque and Ottumwa have more in common together than Ottumwa and Iowa City, like under the current map. I think that the second district would fairly represent the interests of many eastcentral Iowans. With respect to partisanship: this is a map that was fairly and drawn in a nonpartisan manner that nevertheless favors the Republican party. At a high level, President Trump would have won three of the four districts in 2016 with a little more than 50% of the vote. In 2020, he won districts 4 and 2 handily and narrowly lost the 3rd while his vote share diminished slightly. So what we have is a map that functionally provides three Republican leaning seats compared to the state and national average. Considering Iowa's recent electoral trajectory, that's about right, and it aligns with other maps adopted in red states such as Indiana (which keeps a seat for Gary and Indianapolis) and Kentucky (which keeps a seat for Louisville). At the legislative level, the map is more favorable for Republicans. In 2020, President Trump would have won about 32 state senate seats and about 62 state house seats. That aligns pretty well with the general rule that the majority winner statewide should win their vote share + 57% more seats. So what we have is a map that pretty fairly represents the interests of Iowans. As someone who spends a lot of time drawing hypothetical legislative maps on Dave's Redistricting App, I also want to say this is a really well done map. It solves a lot of the population change problems in an effective and elegant manner, such as the excess population in many Dallas and Johnson county districts. Finally, as a matter of political legacy for legislators of both parties who may wish to roll the dice on a second map because they've been thrown in with another legislator or are unhappy with the map, I urge you to resist these instincts. I'm not the first person who logs on to wax poetic about our State's storied history of legislative redistricting. But I do wish to emphasize it because it truly is the best system in the nation. Tarnishing the reputation of Iowa itself is not worth shortterm political gain, and when the shoe is on the other foot, as it surely someday will be, we will all be thankful for the tempered, level headed, and rational precedent this Legislature set by

approving the first map. Thank you.

09-22-2021 9:13 AM  
Jean Adams

**Comments:** I expect that the first draft of redistricting map would be the Commission 's best effort and priority. The legislature should accept it. Anything less is apparently politically motivated and a big disappointment to Iowans who USED TO TRUST their elected officials.

09-22-2021 9:20 AM  
Gerene Denning  
General Public

**Comments:** It is simple. Iowa uses a nonpartisan process to redistrict. Being nonpartisan, it seeks to be fair to ALL Iowans. Because fairness is essential to a healthy democracy, partisan efforts to gerrymander a map more favorable to one party go against the values we all claim to live by. Let us not take any more steps toward a less fair, less just, less respectful state. Vote to approve the current map.

09-22-2021 10:01 AM  
Mike Maloney  
General public

**Comments:** I urge the Iowa Legislature to accept the first redistricting maps produced by the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency. It meets the established criteria for fairness and equity and should be approved.

09-22-2021 10:18 AM  
Tony Andrys  
General Public

**Comments:** Iowa is the gold standard in redistricting for a reason. In Iowa, our representatives don't use their power in the legislative process to give themselves advantages in their next elections, and that's the way it should be nationwide. Iowans know that any amendment to the third map is gerrymandering. They know that the first politician to offer one will be the person who permanently ended forty years of fair nonpartisan redistricting in Iowa. Legislators should approve the first map because it's a fair plan that adequately accounts for population shifts over the last ten years. But if our representatives vote it down, they should approve the second or third map as the LSA draws it. No self-serving changes by politicians.

09-22-2021 10:29 AM  
Anonymous

**Comments:** I support the redistricting map from 09/16 proposed by the LSA. I believe it correctly represents population density in the state and therefore fairly distributes representation within the state.

09-22-2021 10:47 AM  
Karen Manning  
General Public

**Comments:** This redistricting plan is fair and coherent. I am proud of Iowa for adopting this nonpartisan system. I hope the legislature will approve this map and again demonstrate to ourselves and to other states that we are truly dedicated to the democratic process.

09-22-2021 10:54 AM  
Caroline Dieterle  
General public

**Comments:** The map under consideration first version redistricting map appears to be very fair. Please vote to approve it.

09-22-2021 11:04 AM  
Craig WilbanksÃ¢??

**Comments:** Please accept the proposed map so that our process remains nonpartisan and fair.

09-22-2021 11:13 AM

Karene Nagel

Karene Nagel

**Comments:** It appears to me that what this nonpartisan committee has done with this current redistricting map is well and good. I go on record in support of these divisions and your decision. Furthermore, it is time that all involved need to know where these lines are at. I hope that this will be completed very soon, as we all have enough disruption in our lives already!

09-22-2021 11:18 AM

Jamie

**Comments:** Fremont and Mills County should not be tacked onto district 4. We will not be represented and our future/goals will not be heard.

09-22-2021 11:28 AM

Judy Hartzell

**Comments:** I believe in fair, nonpartisan Iowa election Districts. I agree with the League of Women Voters in approval of Iowa Redistricting Plan 1.

09-22-2021 11:50 AM

Rachelle Baier

**Comments:** The proposed redistricting maps released by the Legislative Services Agency meet the goals of Iowa's laws regarding redistricting based on new census data. The new districts are nearly equal in population count and are compact. Iowans will be fairly represented by whomever wins elections with these new political boundaries. I urge you to approve these maps. No "tweaking" is necessary. Don't make this a partisan fight. There is no objective reason to vote against these proposed maps. Any vote against the maps will be perceived as political and not in keeping with the intent of the law; ie, to keep politics out of the redistricting process. I urge the entire legislature to meet on October 5, approve the maps, and then adjourn the special session. This redistricting does not need to be a long and drawnout process.

09-22-2021 11:52 AM

Anonymous

**Comments:** I am concerned about the proposed congressional redistricting map. The proposed map shows that the most southwestern counties would now be in the same district as those in the very top of Iowa and third from the farthest east. It nearly cuts the state in half diagonally that seems like a very unnatural split to expect someone to cover all of that area.

09-22-2021 12:00 PM

Jennifer Smith

General Public

**Comments:** I am proud of the LSA work on drawing a map. However, I do not think the first proposed map is compact in the drawing of the Congressional Districts. They are to be as compact and not irregularly shaped. None of the Congressional Districts appear to be following this requirement. Rejection of the first map is not a sign of being partisan and in favor of gerrymandering. Rejection of this current map is in the best interest of Iowans having a fair representation and following the requirements which have made us the gold standard for redistricting.

09-22-2021 12:06 PM

Lisa Heineman

**Comments:** Iowas nonpartisan districting process is a model for states nationwide. Its one of the reasons Im proud to be an Iowan. Please accept the redistricting map as submitted by the commission.

09-22-2021 12:13

Anonymous

General Public



PM

**Comments:** Legislators, thank you for maintaining the democratic mapmaking system that has made Iowa a model for the rest of the nation. It is incredibly important that redistricting remains nonpartisan so that the true voice of the people can be heard in elections. I urge you to adopt this first round of maps that fulfill all legal requirements. Thank you.

09-22-2021 12:15  
PM Anonymous

**Comments:** I support Iowa's non partisan redistricting plan. Please support this process. It makes me proud to see this process as opposed to what so many states are contending. Thank you . Support the nonpartisan redistricting. Thank you.

09-22-2021 12:19  
PM Paula Balder

**Comments:** I live in the 4th district and know that our population is declining, especially in small towns. As land ownership gets bigger, towns get smaller. The towns that have increased in our area are towns that welcome immigrants, who are good workers. I agree with the redistricting map I have seen with the 4th district increasing in size. Thank you for the bipartisan committee and allowing me to send my thoughts.

09-22-2021 12:30  
PM JOHN YOUNG

**Comments:** I support the proposed redistricting map. It is nonbiased, and sound. John

09-22-2021 12:32  
PM Mickaela Saner

**Comments:** This projection of the redistricting is not in the best interest of the constituents of these counties. The larger cities will draw all the focus and attention and the small communities will get shoved aside and have to fight for even fewer resources.

09-22-2021 12:33  
PM Josephine O'Connell

**Comments:** I enthusiastically endorse this map. It evenly distributes people and creates districts that are easy to understand and not gerrymandered.

09-22-2021 1:13  
PM Kathryn Hildebrand

**Comments:** Iowa has a nonpartisan method of redistricting that should be a model for the entire country. Please pass the first maps.

09-22-2021 1:15  
PM Mary Nugent Woods

**Comments:** Yes, approving these Legislative Services' redistricting maps makes practical sense, if not nonpartisan wisdom. The Legislative services committee's technical experience with Iowa geographic and demographic components has historically been supported and accepted in Iowa's Legislature. This takes enough time, intelligent expertise and taxpayer money to fund the process. The constitutional purpose is to determine equal and fair representation and a pathway for fair and just elections. Changes would appear unjustly partisan and burden more taxpayers. Please use your nonpartisan voices and approve

09-22-2021 1:17  
PM Temple Hiatt

**Comments:** I support the approval of Iowa redistricting Plan 1. Thanks! Temple Hiatt

09-22-2021 1:18 PM Anonymous

**Comments:** Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. There has been excellent transparency of the process and access to the data used to draw the new maps. From my understanding, when it comes to redistricting, we are careful to ensure one person = one count and that the process is free from gerrymandering. I agree with this, I also see that the idea doesn't simply stop there. One person = one count. One person also has many needs and many values. I'm of the opinion that each person represents more than a simple one count. I don't know what a better solution to redistricting could be; however, that doesn't mean that I disagree with the current process. I believe that if Iowa wants to remain the golden standard, we may need to get UNCOMFORTABLE with the way redistricting has always been done. If it's not broken, should we plan to improve on it before it breaks? Iowa is looking to be Future Ready, and one of those goals is to have 70% of Iowans with education and training beyond high school by 2025. Delivering on this goal could provide value for people and the State in many ways. Is it possible to add a layer into the redistricting process that not only sees people as a count, but also seeks to align lifting support based on the State's goals and the needs of the people? (This could mean taking into account education and employment)

09-22-2021 1:18 PM Jane Alexander General Public

**Comments:** I am proud of Iowa's nonpartisan process of redistricting. The first effort of the LSA looks fair in terms of population and compactness guidelines and I encourage the legislature to accept it. I do not want to see any partisan gerrymandering.

09-22-2021 1:31 PM Anonymous General Public

**Comments:** The maps showing the redistricting appear to be fair and I think you should approve them without changes. PERFICT MAPS "no", but they appear to be fair and drawn to the specifications they are given. I think they will serve Iowa well also in the 10 year period until 2030. Please accept them as presented. Thank You.

09-22-2021 1:37 PM Anonymous

**Comments:** Let's protect a fair and impartial districting system! Let's not follow the antidemocratic practices of other states where politicians choose their voters!

09-22-2021 1:44 PM Polly Antonelli

**Comments:** If the LSA redistricting map is following the requirements of contiguity, population equity and compactness (as it appears to be doing) then it should be accepted as is. The only reason to consider a new map would be if any of these could be improved while not impacting the other two criteria. It is critical that partisanship doesn't enter the process, that it doesn't hurt our democracy. Please approve the 1st map and let's get on to dealing with other issues impacting Iowa and Iowans.

09-22-2021 1:46 PM Mary C. McCarthy Citizen who wants to understand - this is CIVICS 101

**Comments:** What is the population number factored into the design of the districts? That may be part of the discussion. Thank you very much for having these sessions be virtual Mary C. McCarthy

09-22-2021 1:59 PM Matt Trimble

**Comments:** Please accept this first set of maps for redistricting. Iowas gold standard fair redistricting process is vital to maintaining representative government in our state.

09-22-2021 2:08 PM David Davis

**Comments:** I oppose this Map. To say it was done without partisanship is far from being truthful. Why would you flip Districts 1 and 2 for any reasonable reason except to swing the voting population heavily (ie District 1) from Republican to Democrat? This virtually guarantees the defeat of Hinson and MillerMeeks. Not bipartisan! Not acceptable! Not "Iowa Proud"! Why would you take the representation of Ashley Hinson away from the people that elected her and she has represented so well?! And take MillerMeeks away from her hometown and the folks that have enjoyed the benefit of electing her?! Iowa needs diverse and fair representation in Congress. We have had that. No need to stack the deck in favor of Democrats.

09-22-2021 2:25 PM Peggy Stover General Public

**Comments:** The new map is equitable, very fair and free of political shenanigans. I applaud the group that worked on it. This is why Iowa is the gold standard for redistricting. Thank you!

09-22-2021 3:03 PM Tambi Heiter

**Comments:** All Iowans deserve fair maps and I encourage lawmakers to keep our redistricting free from partisan influence.

09-22-2021 3:10 PM Anonymous NA

**Comments:** Approve Plan 1

09-22-2021 3:59 PM Madalyn Anderson

**Comments:** Please continue Iowas tradition of nonpartisan redistricting. I urge you to approve this proposed map.

09-22-2021 4:38 PM Richard Gilmore Richard Gilmore

**Comments:** Please support the first map. The numbers are great in all districts. It shows the movement of the population.

09-22-2021 4:43 PM Joey Norris

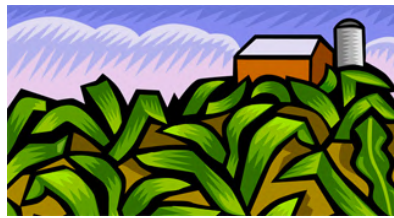
**Comments:** Montgomery, Mills, and Fremont counties should remain in District 3. District 4 is unreasonably large, almost certainly resulting in poor representation to the extremities, such as SW Iowa.

09-22-2021 5:36 PM Robin E Martin General Public

**Comments:** Please adopt this map. It is apolitical and fair, a true reflection of our state's dedication to insuring that all Iowans' votes count equally. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support. Robin Martin

<b>Signup Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
09-21-2021 10:05 AM	Evan Burger	General Public

**Comments:** I will speak in favor of the proposed maps. As I wrote in the attached article, the LSA has done an excellent job of balancing population equality with both statutory measures of compactness.



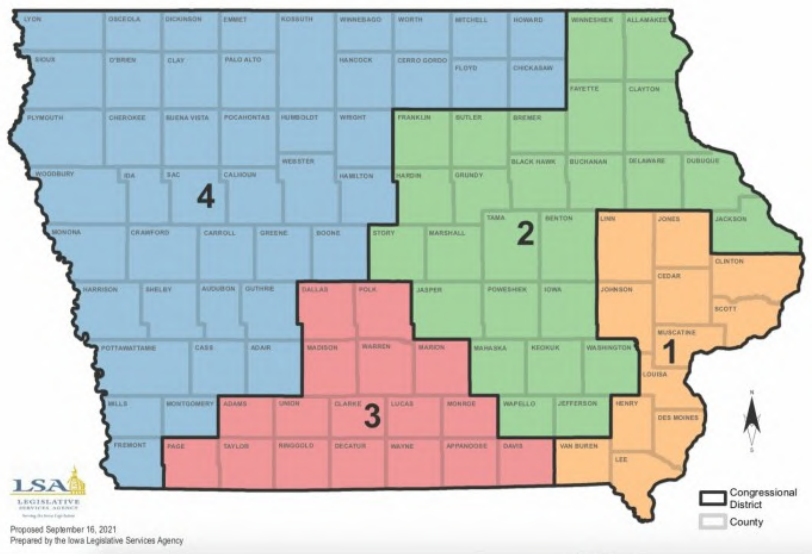
# Bleeding Heartland

A community blog about Iowa politics

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## PROPOSED PLAN 1: IOWA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

To Be Effective Beginning with the Elections in 2022 for the 118th General Assembly



## Redistricting part 7: LSA produces a very fair map

🔗 Thursday, Sep 16 2021 | [Evan Burger](#) | [1 Comment](#) | 2 New!

[Evan Burger](#) continues his [series on redistricting](#), with analysis of the newly released proposed congressional map.

This morning, the Legislative Services Agency released their first set of proposed maps, which can be found [here](#). As expected, the LSA released both congressional and legislative maps – for today I'll focus on the former, with more analysis to come on the legislative front.

### By the numbers

As I've written [here](#) before, the three standards that the LSA considers in producing a map are contiguity, population equality, and compactness. Of the three, contiguity is an absolute standard: a congressional district must be made up of whole counties that are contiguous. The next most important standard is population equality, meaning the LSA tries to make districts as close in population as possible. However, they must also consider the compactness of a given map, both in terms of minimizing the difference between the length and width of each district, and in terms of minimizing the total perimeter length of all districts.

### Evan Burger

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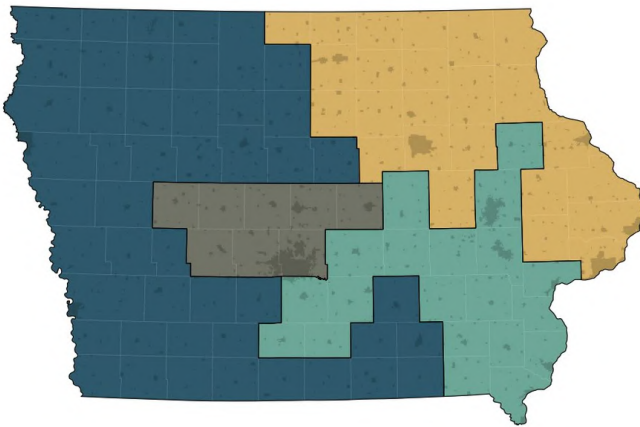
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Sep 17 @ 11:51pm  
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By [Laura Belin](#) | 0 Comments

The LSA's proposed congressional map easily meets the contiguity requirement. Here is how it scores on population equality and the two measures of compactness:

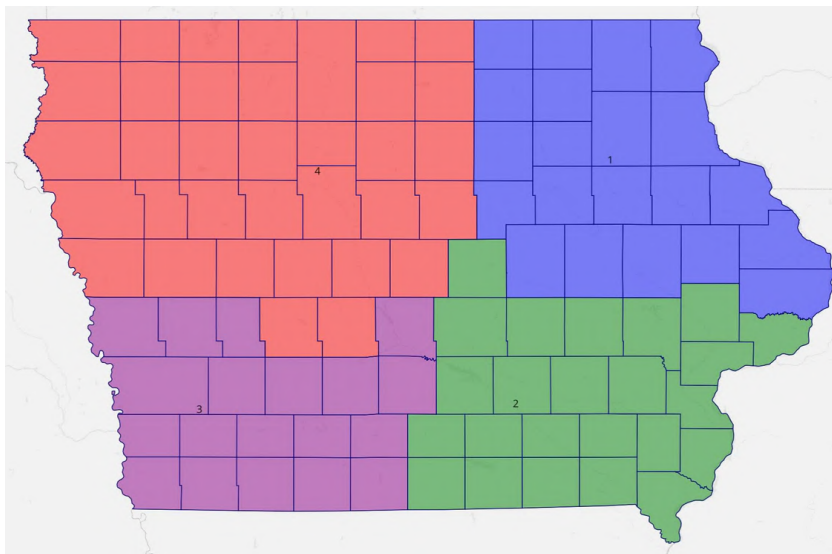
- Lowest Population: District 2 (797,556)
- Highest Population: District 1 (797,655)
- Difference between lowest and highest population: 99
- Total Perimeter Score: 2,772.02 miles
- Average Length-Width Compactness: 34.96 miles

As usual, the LSA did an excellent job balancing population equality with both measures of compactness. There are certainly maps that are more equal, but they all score much worse on both measures of compactness. For instance, here is the [winning entry](#) in Dave Wasserman's Iowa redistricting challenge:



- Difference between lowest and highest population: 5
- Total Perimeter Score: ~3200 miles
- Average Length-Width Compactness: ~40 miles

Similarly, the map that [the NRCC supposedly favors](#) does better on perimeter compactness but much worse on population equality.



- Difference between lowest and highest population: 1141
- Total Perimeter Score: ~2400 miles
- Average Length-Width Compactness: ~36 miles

As these examples show, it is very difficult to improve on the LSA's proposed map,

Sep 16 @ 2:19pm  
[Redistricting part 7: LSA produces a very fair map](#)  
 By [Evan Burger](#) | 1 Comment

Sep 15 @ 7:14pm  
[Democrat Eric Van Lancker running for secretary of state](#)  
 By [Laura Belin](#) | 0 Comments

Sep 15 @ 5:20pm  
[Iowa wildflower Wednesday: Cream gentian](#)  
 By [Katie Byerly](#) | 1 Comment

Sep 15 @ 2:49pm  
[It's time to codify Roe](#)  
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Sep 14 @ 11:26pm  
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## Election Coverage

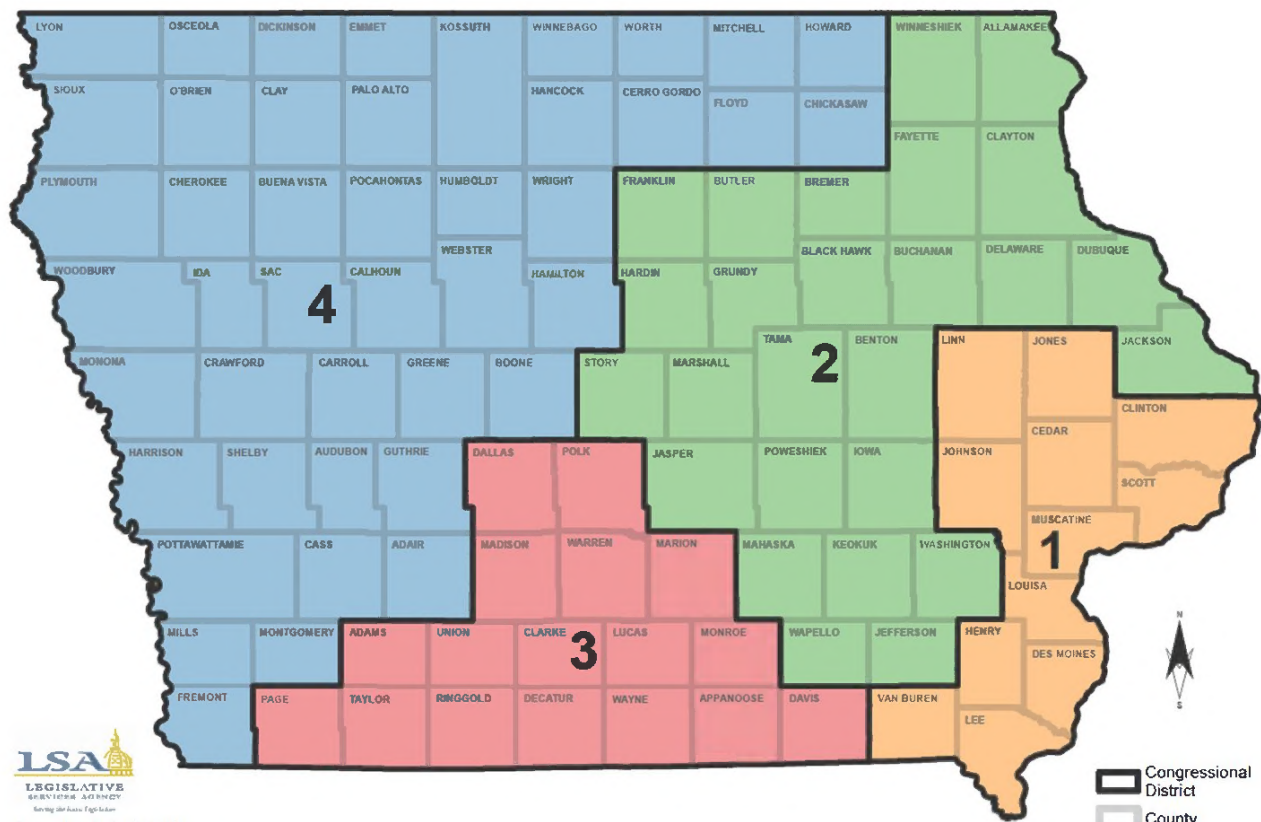
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<b>Signup Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
09-17-2021 3:32 PM	Chad Brewbaker	Dallas County Libertarians
<b>Comments:</b>	<p>This map violates Iowa Const. Art. I Sec. 6 equal protection, and Iowa Const. Art. I Sec. 20 freedom of assembly/petition. The attached calculation by Council Bluffs Libertarian Jack Holder shows he will need double the signatures to petition for ballot access. The Des Moines metro also looks gerrymandered by hand for House Minority Leader Konfrst and others. LSA needs to show it's work the map that was fairly drawn by computer algorithm and the hand edits to see who at LSA is gerrymandering. LSA seems to have concealed CVCV043016 (Dallas) instead of reported it to House oversight. Judge Huppert unlawfully dismissed a qui tam on Apple Inc.'s \$100m tax bribe to Waukeez without the written consent of the Attorney General or notice to LSA as required under the Iowa False Claims Act. Tom Miller was a no-show at last week's hearing on Apple's motion to dismiss he is complicit.</p>	

**According to new ballot access laws enacted by Iowa Republicans in March 2021- Required Number of Signatures to be gathered OUTSIDE of the Congressional Candidates' Home County- Candidate MUST collect a minimum of 47 signatures per County in Half of the Counties in the District**

**PROPOSED PLAN 1: IOWA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**

To Be Effective Beginning with the Elections in 2022 for the 118th General Assembly



Proposed September 16, 2021  
Prepared by the Iowa Legislative Services Agency

**1st Congressional District**

**5 Counties with 47 signatures per County= 235**

**2nd Congressional District**

**12 Counties with 47 signatures per County= 564**

**3rd Congressional District**

**8 Counties with 47 signatures per County= 376**

**3rd Congressional District**

**21 Counties with 47 signatures per County= 987**



because any improvement in population equality tends to result in worse compactness, and vice versa. (As an aside, this [tweet](#) from Cory McCartan lists the only other maps that I've seen that come even close to the LSA's proposal.)

## Partisanship

The LSA is not allowed to consider partisanship or past vote results when drafting their maps, but of course the partisan implications of a given map are the reason this process is so important. Iowa's current congressional map has resulted in three competitive seats (CD1, CD2, and CD3) and one safe Republican seat (CD4). The proposed new map drastically changes that breakdown, mostly because it changes how the ten largest counties are grouped together:

- CD1: Linn, Johnson, and Scott
- CD2: Black Hawk, Story, and Dubuque
- CD3: Polk and Dallas
- CD4: Woodbury and Pottawattamie

By Dave Wasserman's [analysis](#), the proposed map has one district that went safely for Biden, two districts that went safely for Trump, and one district that was a virtual tie:

- IA01: Biden +8.7
- IA02: Trump +10.8
- IA03: Biden +0.2
- IA04: Trump +31.5

Looking at congressional voting behavior over the last three elections shows similar trends but makes CD2 look more competitive:

- IA01: 56.41%
- IA02: 47.31%
- IA03: 49.34%
- IA04: 38.32%

No matter which measure of partisanship you use, CD1 is safe Democratic, CD4 is safe Republican, CD2 is lean Republican if not safe Republican, and CD3 is a toss-up.

## What's next

The next step in the redistricting process is a public comment period on this first proposal. There will be three public hearings held virtually at the following times:

Monday, September 20: 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21: Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 22: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Online comments will also be accepted until the start of the last public hearing.

Instructions for submitting public comment will likely be posted [here](#) when they are available. All public comments will be compiled into a report that is presented to the legislature when they convene on October 5 to start debate on the proposed maps. (See [Laura's article from Tuesday](#) for more details on the October 5 special session.)

*9/16/21 update: public comment instructions can be found [here](#).*

This public comment period is a key moment for anyone who cares about redistricting here in Iowa. As I laid out above, the LSA has come up with a very fair congressional map that measures up well against the standards laid out in Iowa Code. Politicians of both parties love to praise the Iowa process — now is the time for them to put their

Both parties love to praise the Iowa process – now is the time for them to put their money where their mouth is, and approve the proposed maps.

Tags: [IA-01](#), [IA-02](#), [IA-03](#), [IA-04](#), [Redistricting](#)

### 1 Comment / 2 New

[Leave your comment below](#)

**NEW** **Very good analysis. But will public comments even be heeded?**

I'm really sorry to feel I need to ask that question. I've been sending in comments and letters on Iowa public issues for forty years. But in 2021 Iowa, and with time and energy more limited than they used to be, I'm starting to wonder what is and isn't futile. Which feels like heresy, but there it is.

By [PrairieFan](#) @ [Fri 17 Sep 7:48 PM](#)

[Reply](#)

### Write a comment

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**In the Iowa Supreme Court**

**In the Matter of Reapportionment  
of State Senatorial and  
Representative Districts**

**No. 21-1281  
Order**

In 1980 the general assembly created a statutory process for decennial legislative redistricting (reapportionment). *See* 1980 Iowa Acts ch. 1021 (codified at Iowa Code ch. 42 (1981)). Pursuant to this statutory process, nonpartisan professionals in the state’s Legislative Services Agency (LSA) reapportion the state’s legislative districts following a set of strict criteria. After the LSA creates the proposed reapportionment plan and delivers it to the general assembly, a temporary redistricting advisory commission must hold at least three public hearings around the state regarding the proposal. Iowa Code § 42.6(3)(a) (2021). The commission then submits a report regarding the information learned at the public hearings to the general assembly for its consideration. *Id.* § 42.6(3)(b). If the general assembly does not approve the initial reapportionment plan proposed by the LSA, there is a statutory process to generate additional plans for the general assembly’s consideration and ultimate approval. *Id.* § 42.3.

Iowa’s statutory process has been recognized as the nation’s “gold standard” for redistricting. *See, e.g., The “Iowa Model” For Redistricting*, Nat’l Conf. of State Legislatures (Mar. 25, 2021), <https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/the-iowa-model-for-redistricting.aspx>; *Virtual Presentation to Cover Redistricting*, Globe Gazette (Mar. 13, 2021), [https://globegazette.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/virtual-presentation-to-cover-redistricting/article\\_d5c47556-13ef-58e0-af37-004f946c729d.html](https://globegazette.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/virtual-presentation-to-cover-redistricting/article_d5c47556-13ef-58e0-af37-004f946c729d.html). It has been studied and praised by official redistricting reform commissions in other states. Md. Redistricting Reform Comm’n, *2015 Report* 21–22 (2015), <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Final-Redistricting-Report.pdf>.

Article III, section 35 of the Iowa Constitution provides a deadline for the completion of this nonpartisan process. It states the general assembly shall “in

each year immediately following the United States decennial census determine the number of senators and representatives to be elected to the general assembly and establish senatorial and representative districts.” This reapportionment is to be completed prior to September 1. If the reapportionment does not become law prior to September 15, the constitution further provides that “the supreme court shall cause the state to be apportioned into senatorial and representative districts to comply with the requirements of the constitution prior to December 31 of such year.”

The LSA has indicated that because of the delayed delivery of the 2020 decennial census data to the State of Iowa, the reapportionment process will not be concluded before September 1, 2021, and the apportionment will not become law before September 15, 2021. Because of this, the constitution now vests the supreme court with the responsibility and authority to “cause the state to be apportioned.” Iowa Const. art. III, § 35.

Pursuant to its constitutional authority to “cause the state to be apportioned,” the supreme court permits the parties identified in Iowa Code chapter 42 (2021) to prepare an apportionment in accord with Iowa Code chapter 42 (2021) by December 1, 2021.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2021.

Copies to:

Association of Corporate Counsel - Iowa Chapter  
Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court  
Counsel to the Chief Justice  
Creighton Law School  
Drake Law School  
Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers  
Iowa Association for Justice  
Iowa Association of Counties  
Iowa Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Iowa Attorney General's Office  
Iowa Clerks Association  
Iowa County Attorneys Association  
Iowa Court Reporters Association

Iowa Defense Counsel Association  
Iowa Department of Corrections  
Iowa Department of Public Safety  
Iowa Judges Association  
Iowa Judicial Branch - Director of Finance  
Iowa Judicial Branch - Director of Governmental Affairs  
Iowa Judicial Branch - Director of Information Technology  
Iowa Juvenile Court Services Association  
Iowa League of Cities & Iowa Municipal Attorneys Association  
Iowa Legal Aid  
Iowa Magistrates Association  
Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys  
Iowa Police Chiefs Association  
Iowa Society of Healthcare Attorneys  
Iowa State Police Association  
Iowa State Sheriffs and Deputies Association  
Legislative Services Agency  
LexisNexis  
National Bar Association - Iowa Chapter  
Office of Professional Regulation  
Polk County Bar Association  
Public Defenders Association of Iowa  
Acting State Court Administrator  
State Public Defender  
The Iowa State Bar Association  
Thomson Reuters (Westlaw)  
University of Iowa College of Law



IOWA APPELLATE COURTS

State of Iowa Courts

**Case Number**  
21-1281

**Case Title**  
In the Matter of Reapportionment

So Ordered

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SLC", is written over a horizontal line.

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice

Electronically signed on 2021-09-14 11:08:45