

St Paul redistricting voices of the community

Movimiento Inmigrante de Minnesota <immigrantmovementmn@gmail.com>

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To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Charter Commission

City of St Paul March 13, 2022

To the City of St Paul Charter Commission:

As members of the Charter Commission, you are tasked with the exciting opportunity to make sure each person's voice can be fairly represented! Redistricting is based on the idea of "one person, one vote", and creating districts that have the same number of people. We hope you are up for the challenge! The process of how district lines are drawn influences who runs for office, who is elected, and the quality of the representation each constituent in the city of St Paul receives. Elected officials are the people's lobbyists and advocates, and are supposed to be our voice in spaces of power we can't access. We are writing today to not only make sure constituents' voices are heard, but also to submit a community drawn map.

Over the past few months, community members have met to learn and discuss the local redistricting process. After several conversations, residents created the attached community drawn map. The goal was to assure that ward boundaries did not split communities, and ensure that the BIPOC populations, which increased during the last decade, have the potential to elect a candidate of their choosing. Currently in Ward 1, the Black community in Frogtown and the northern half of downtown is split into multiple wards. In our proposed map of Ward 1, these communities are united with Rondo while also ceding the southwest corner of the current ward, which is less diverse and has a far smaller Black population, to Ward 3. The current Ward 2 combines downtown with the West Side. Our version connects the neighborhoods of the East African communities that reside along West 7th with the Black and Latinx American communities in the West Side, while ceding Summit Hill to Ward 3. The ward gets more diverse, as the BIPOC population increases from 37.7% to 42.2%.

Our map can be viewed in more detail here: [MIM_St Paul Council Map.pptx](#)

We ask that you give consideration to Communities of Interest as you draw county districts. Land does not vote, political subdivisions do not vote - people that live, work and thrive within district maps do. Communities of Interest are defined as a neighborhood or group of people who have common policy concerns and would benefit from being maintained in a single district, for example, seniors or economic corridors of a given group of constituents. We ask that you protect the collective voices of communities of interest and resist the urge to prioritize compactness, which sacrifices the uniting of communities of interest.

Thank you for your attention to our request and your dedication to putting St. Paul constituents first; ahead of self and special interests. We look forward to all constituents being equitably captured in proposed districts.

Jovita Francisco Morales
MN Immigrant Movement
Luz De La Luz
Rosa Morales
Yésica L
Monica V

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Minnesota Immigrant Movement
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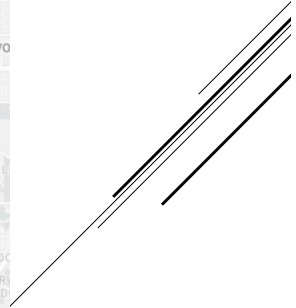
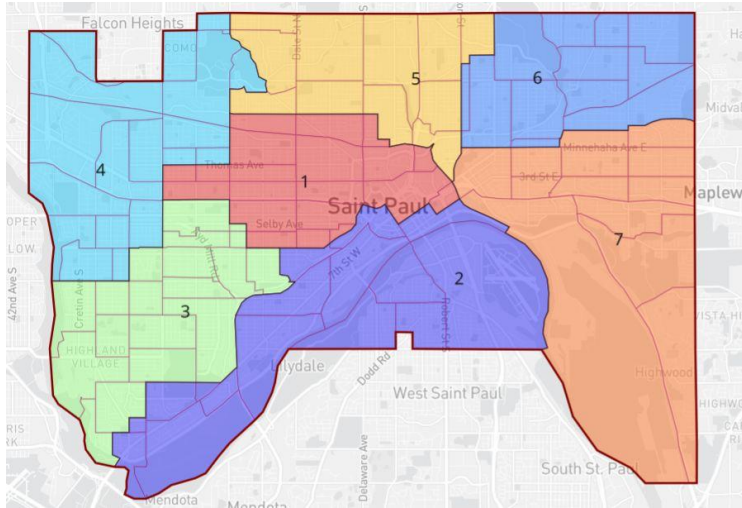
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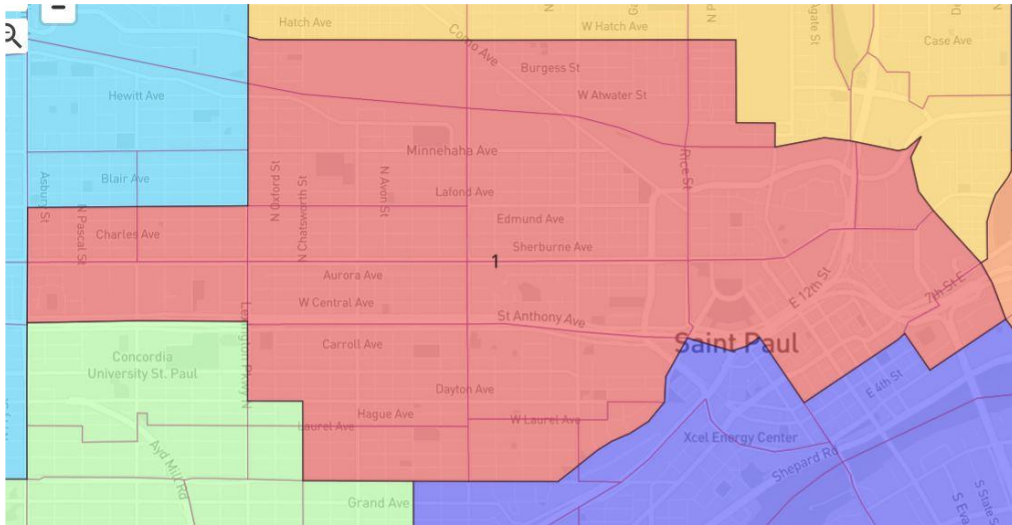
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ST PAUL COUNCIL DRAFT MAP



WARD 1



WARD 2

