

Our Maps MN

Our Communities. Our Voices. Our Power.

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“There’s a need for ongoing civic engagement on these types of efforts, particularly in communities of color. Some of these concepts i.e. redistricting, are familiar to elected officials or those in governance, but not to the average citizen. Community may not always be clear on what they can or should be asking for. However, what is clear, is that place, community bonds and connections and future growth and development are important across all of our communities.”

Anika Robbins, ANIKA Foundation

INTRODUCTION

In 2020, the [Minnesota Census Mobilization Partnership](#) (MCMP) brought together communities, nonprofits and grantmakers to ensure a more inclusive, nonpartisan and accurate census count in Minnesota.

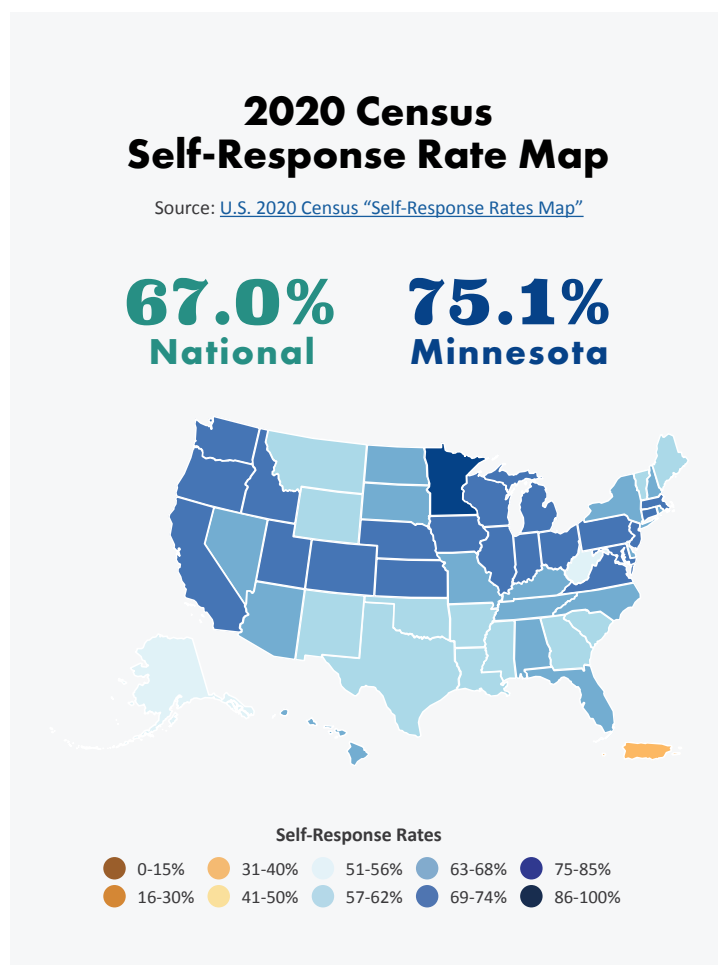
With a focus on engaging and empowering historically undercounted communities, the [MCMP's efforts](#) reached more than 1.3 million people, and helped lead Minnesota to the highest self-response rate in the nation for the [2020 Census](#) and to retain the state's eighth congressional seat.

Ensuring an accurate census count was the first step towards shaping a stronger, more inclusive democracy – a democracy where every person is counted, heard, seen, valued and represented. Approximately one year after each decennial Census, governments redraw voting district boundaries in a process known as redistricting. Redistricting applies to all levels of government where district elections are held, including the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislature, city councils, school boards, county boards and more. The process is meant to ensure fair representation, creating districts that have roughly the same number of people based on the most recent census count.

The redistricting process is critical to determining how communities are represented by elected officials. How district lines are drawn influence who is able to run for public office, who is elected, and how communities are represented. District boundaries stay in place for ten years, but the policy impacts on communities can extend far beyond that decade.

Unfortunately, redistricting can be used to exclude communities from accessing power. Gerrymandering, or the manipulation of district boundaries to create an advantage for one political party, group or class within that district, can be used to disadvantage communities of color, in particular. When district maps are drawn without genuine consideration and involvement of the people living within the boundaries, it can directly impact the funding and decision-making for key infrastructure those communities rely on to survive and thrive – including funding for schools and public transportation, and immigration and housing policies.

A community-focused, accessible, and transparent redistricting process is necessary to ensure historically underrepresented communities have equitable representation and influence in our democracy. Building on the momentum created by the MCMP, the [Our Maps MN Campaign](#) brought together civic engagement advocates, nonprofits, grantmakers, grassroots groups, technical experts, academics and others to:



- Engage Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and other historically underrepresented communities in the redistricting process;
- Promote reform that increases community ownership over the process and promote community-focused redistricting;
- Achieve fair legislative and congressional district maps that reflect input from communities, and in particular BIPOC communities; and
- Sustain and strengthen community-based civic engagement infrastructure and relationships developed from the 2020 Census effort to support enduring advocacy and organizing for democracy-focused causes.

“This work was really about connecting with community members and making sure they understand what’s happening too. It’s calling them, informing them, and strengthening their voices – letting them know that they do have a say in what happens.”

ShaVunda Brown,
Pillsbury United Communities

The [Minnesota Council on Foundations](#) (MCF) served as the Campaign convener, providing leadership in redistricting community organizing and mobilizing efforts in partnership with Common Cause MN, League of Women Voters MN and Voices for Racial Justice. Many of the participating organizations in the Campaign also participated in MCMP, strengthening the established trust and collaboration. For more information about the Campaign’s participants, strategy and structure, see Appendices B – E.

Key to the Campaign’s approach was supporting a community of interest (COI) mapping process, and ensuring that community-drawn maps were submitted for consideration during the redistricting process. A community of interest (COI) is a neighborhood, community, or group of people who have common policy concerns who would benefit from being maintained in a single district. The way district lines are drawn

puts voters together in groups – some voters are kept together in one district and others are separated and placed into other districts. The lines can keep people with common interests together or split them apart. Depending on which voters are bundled together in a district, the district lines can make it much easier or much harder to elect any given representative, to elect a representative responsive to any given community, or to organize effectively around issues that impact a given community or population. COI mapping is one way for communities to tell their own stories about what neighbors share in common, and what makes a community unique.

The Campaign cohort was composed of 12 community nonprofit organizations who are BIPOC-led and serving that came together to commit to COI mapping and community engagement and education on redistricting.

Throughout 2021, the cohort members met regularly to discuss redistricting initiatives, mapping efforts, community outreach and messaging, and to coordinate [testimony](#) from BIPOC community members before the Minnesota Legislature and Special Redistricting Panel appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court. The cohort led more than 100 hours of training, redistricting education and awareness, community outreach and engagement, listening sessions and map drawing meetings. From July to September 2021, more than [40 COI maps were created](#).



100+ Hours
OF ENGAGEMENT



400 People
PARTICIPATED



40 COI
MAPS CREATED

“We reached more than 10 racial and ethnic groups in Minnesota, and our mapping sessions were conducted in more than five languages and engaged more than 400 people. Overall, the Campaign reached over 24,000 people,” noted May Yang, public policy manager at MCF and campaign manager for the Our Maps MN Campaign. “We heard time and time again that people wanted to continue mapping or wanted to continue to have these conversations...It was groundbreaking for Minnesota redistricting.”

With the COI maps in hand, the cohort began working on the Unity Map, a statewide congressional and legislative map that reflected the multi-racial collaboration of the cohort and their respective communities of interest, to bring together the mapping efforts of communities across Minnesota. From September through early December 2021, the cohort met regularly for two-hour sessions, accompanied by redistricting and geographic information systems (GIS) experts to help inform the process. Time was dedicated in the sessions to discussing community of interest maps, population growth and demographic shifts reflected by 2020 Census data and the impact these changes are already having, and would continue to have, on communities of interest. Participants shared information about their communities, their shared interests, and the elements that shape and bind communities together. These discussions gave participants a forum to learn from each other and develop a redistricting map that better serves all of Minnesota’s communities of interest.

“The tools, resources and skills that many community leaders and members learned from the mapping sessions can be use for other advocacy areas. I’m also really proud of how the sessions became a healing space and served as a place of connection for people.”

May Yang,
Public Policy Manager at MCF and Campaign Manager for the Our Maps MN Campaign

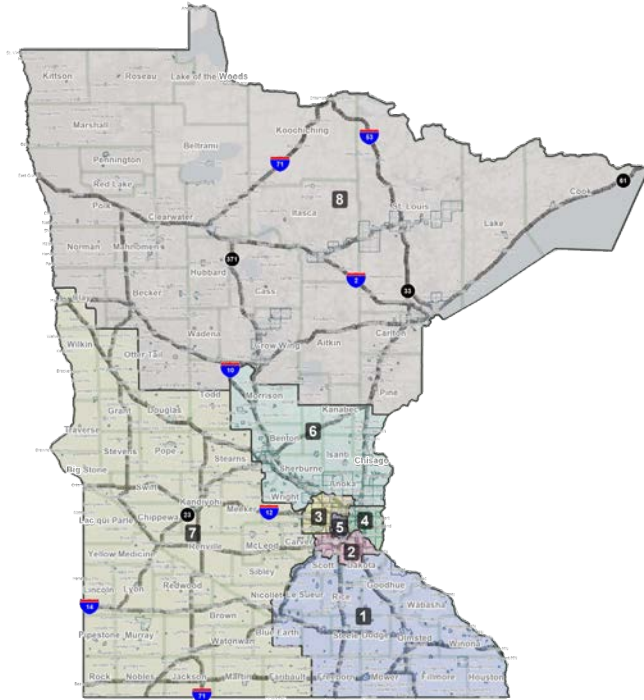
After developing drafts of the Unity Map, cohort members brought the drafts back to their communities to gather feedback. Community feedback informed revisions to the Unity Map until the cohort reached consensus on the district boundaries reflected. The [finalized Unity Map](#) ultimately became the map submitted by the [Corrie plaintiffs](#), one of the four formal parties involved in the Special Redistricting Panel (see Appendix F). On February 15, 2022, the Minnesota Judicial Branch released the new 2022 congressional and legislative maps.

“There was a community-focused map – the Unity Map – that was centered on historically underrepresented communities, primarily BIPOC communities, that was formally submitted and argued for in the court process. This was a big accomplishment and not something that has happened before in Minnesota,” said Katina Mortensen, director of public policy at MCF.

Throughout the process, the Campaign was about ensuring that the redistricting process centered people and their communities, not political parties or monied interests. Cohort members overcame obstacles limiting community participation in redistricting – from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, to a process that was clouded and disconnected from the day-to-day life of many Minnesotans. Looking ahead, the civic and organizing infrastructure created through organizations’ work together during the 2020 Census and the subsequent redistricting process provides a strong platform for ongoing community engagement. This momentum is critical; as communities strengthen their voices and reclaim their power to participate in democratic institutions, Minnesota has the opportunity to create civic and social infrastructure that serves our communities with justice and dignity.

OUR MAPS MN CAMPAIGN: UNITY MAP

The Unity Map was used as the basis of the [Corrie Plaintiffs' redistricting plan](#) (see Appendix F for more information).



Congressional Map

Map Layers

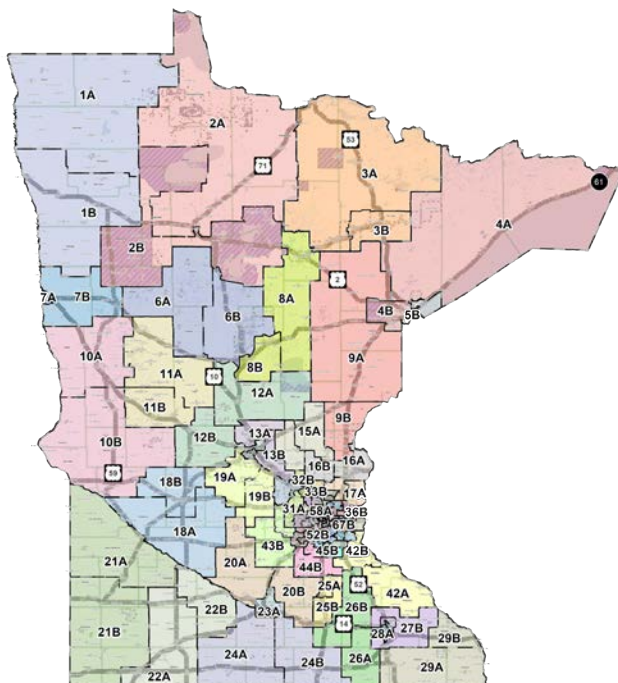
- Water Area
- US Street
- City/Town
- County
- District

Street Layers

- Major Interstate
- Major US
- Major State

District Layers

- 1 - 713,315
- 2 - 713,316
- 3 - 713,311
- 4 - 713,299
- 5 - 713,291
- 6 - 713,334
- 7 - 713,287
- 8 - 713,341



Legislative Map












Map Layers

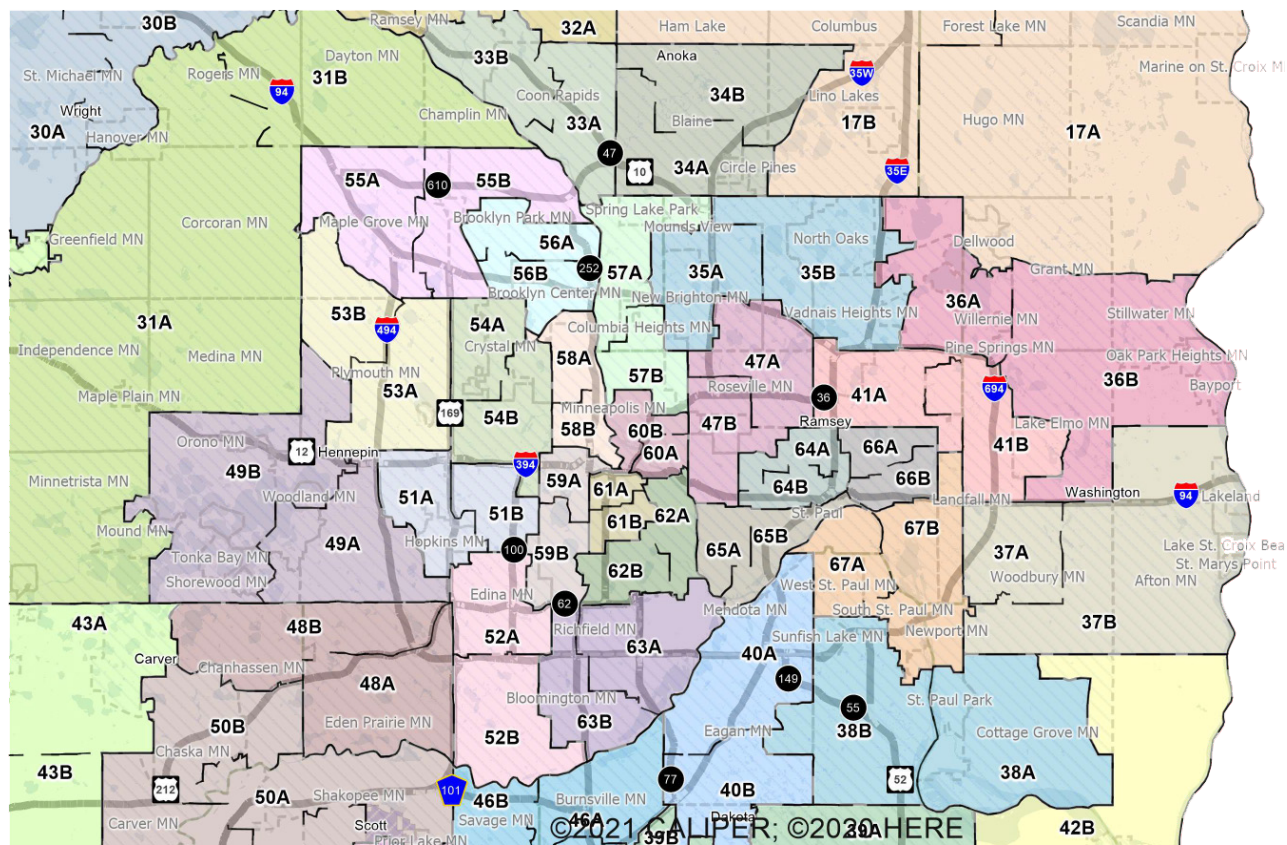
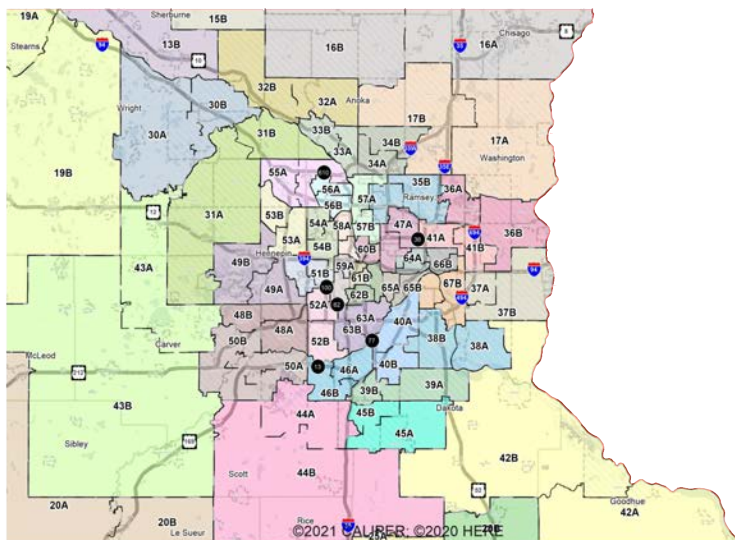
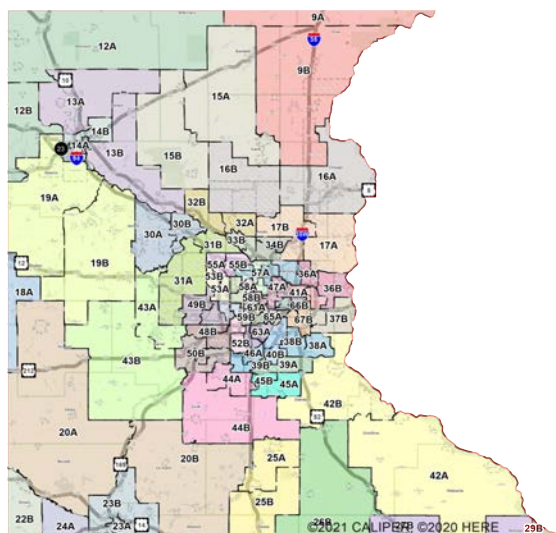
- Indian Reservation
- Water Area
- US Street
- City/Town
- County
- Districts
- Corrie Plaintiffs' House Plan

- Major Interstate
- Major US
- Major State
- Major County

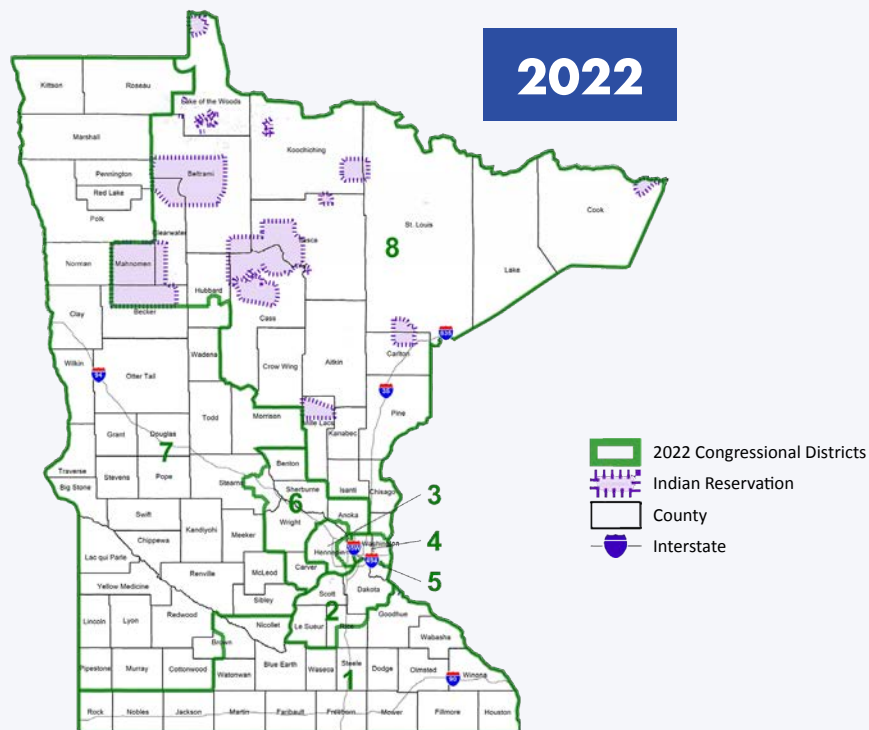
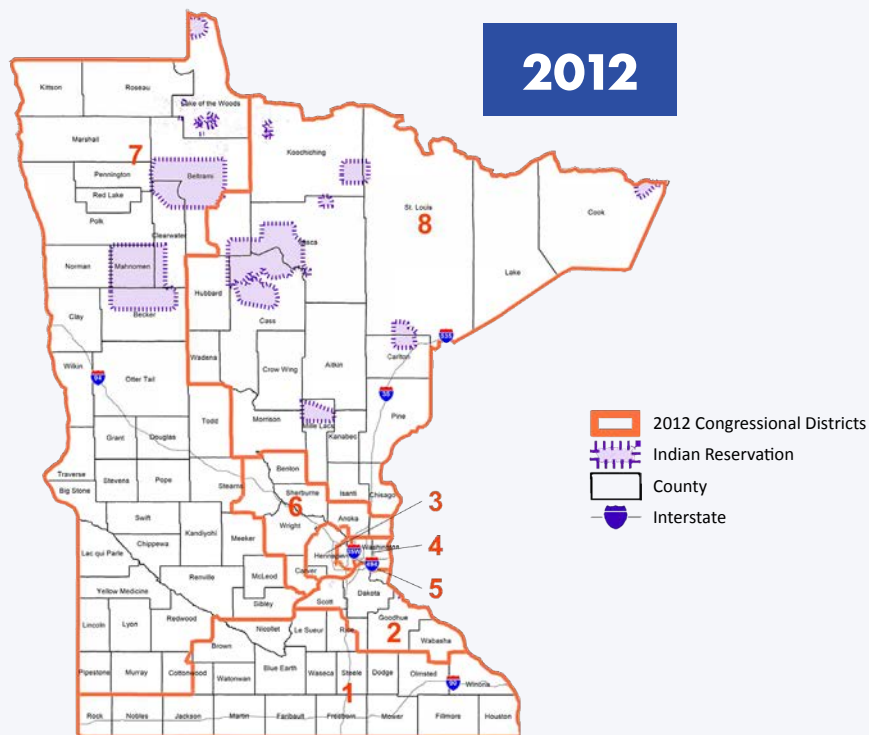
Legislative Map - Metro Area

Map Layers

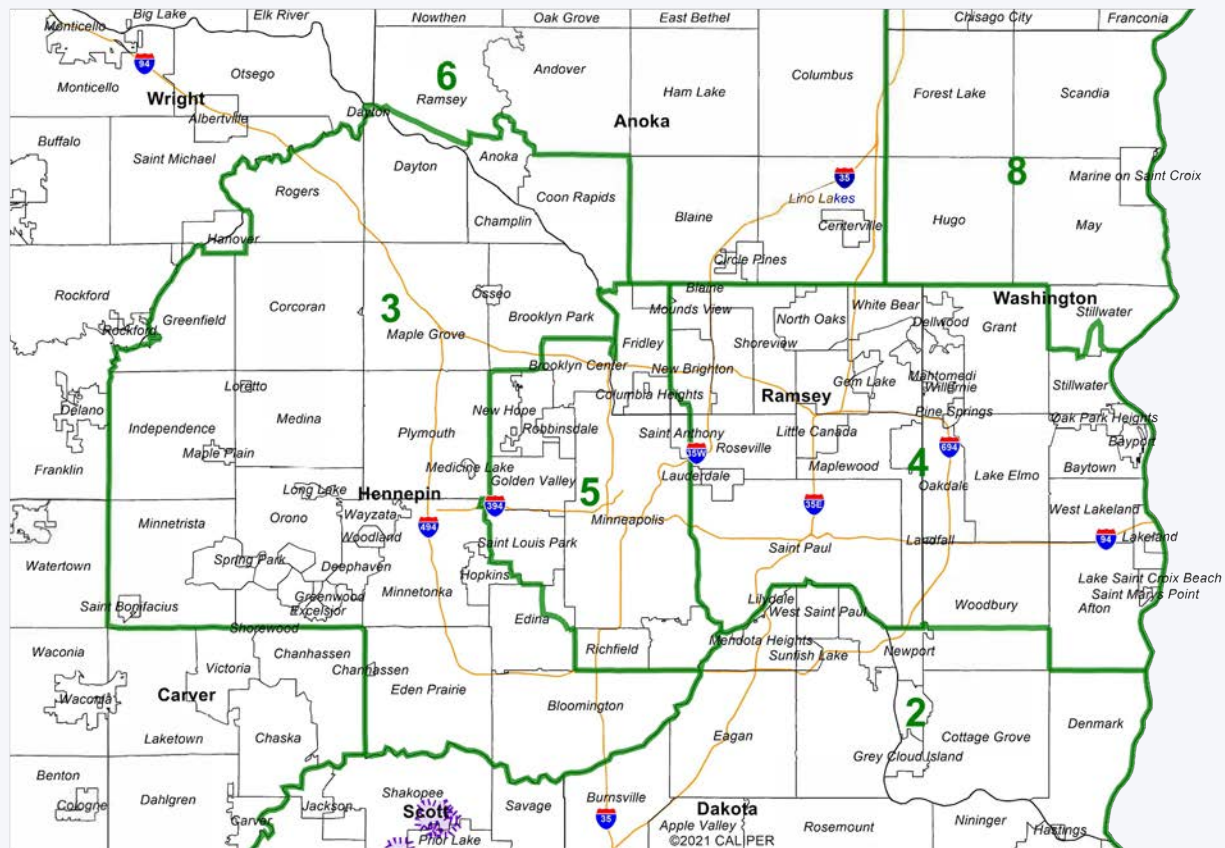
-  Indian Reservation
-  Water Area
-  US Street
-  City/Town
-  County
-  Districts
-  Corrie Plaintiffs' House Plan
-  Major Interstate
-  Major US
-  Major State
-  Major County



2022 CONGRESSIONAL MAP



2022 Congressional Map: Metropolitan Area

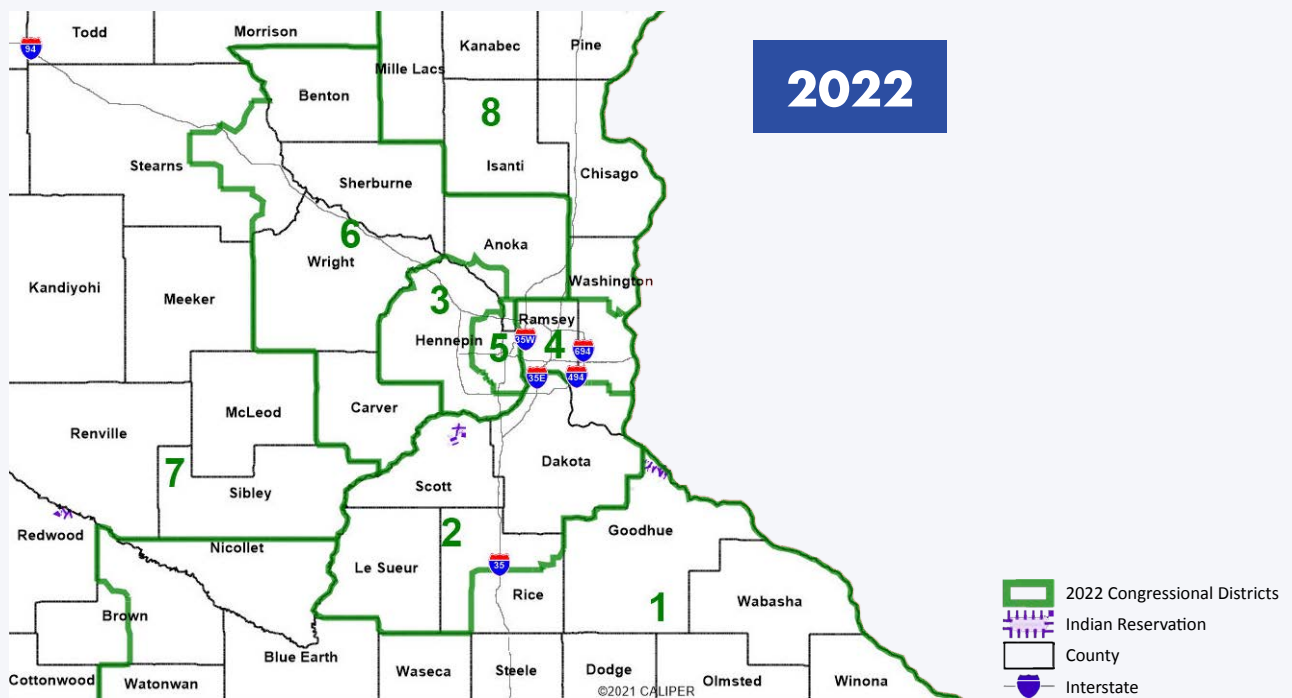
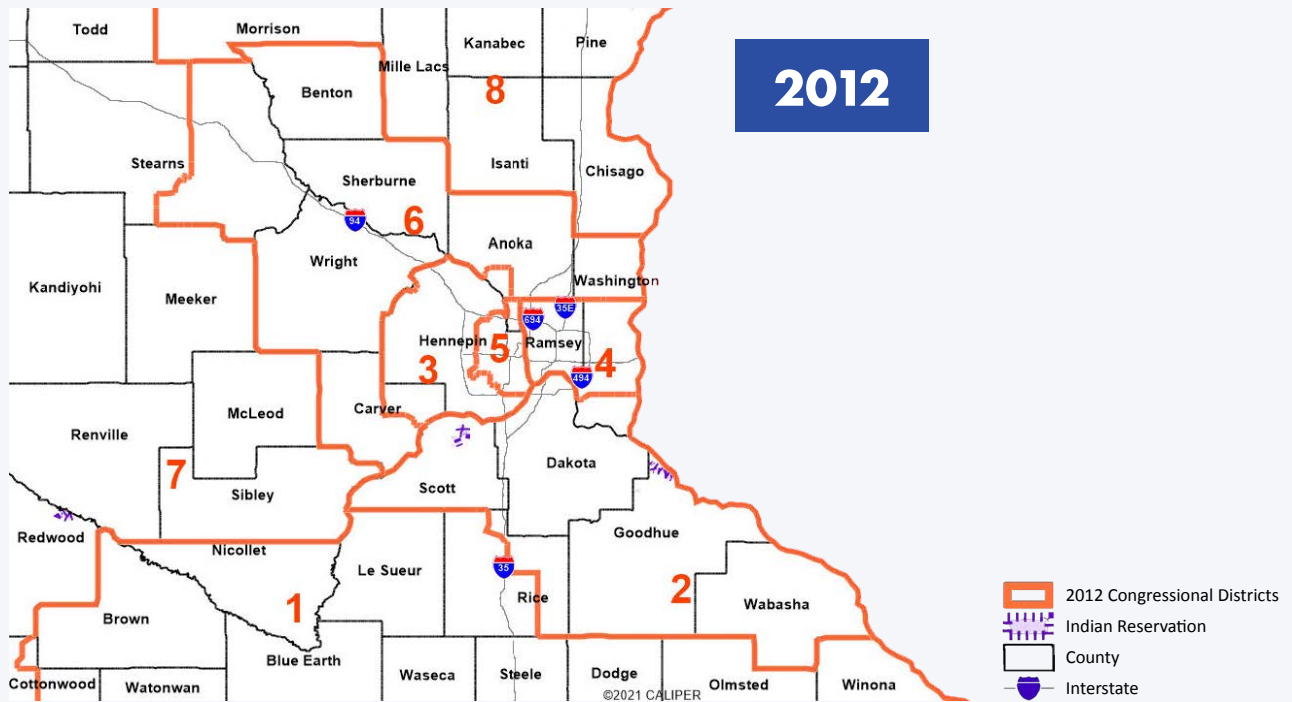


- 2022 Congressional Districts
- Indian Reservation
- County
- Interstate

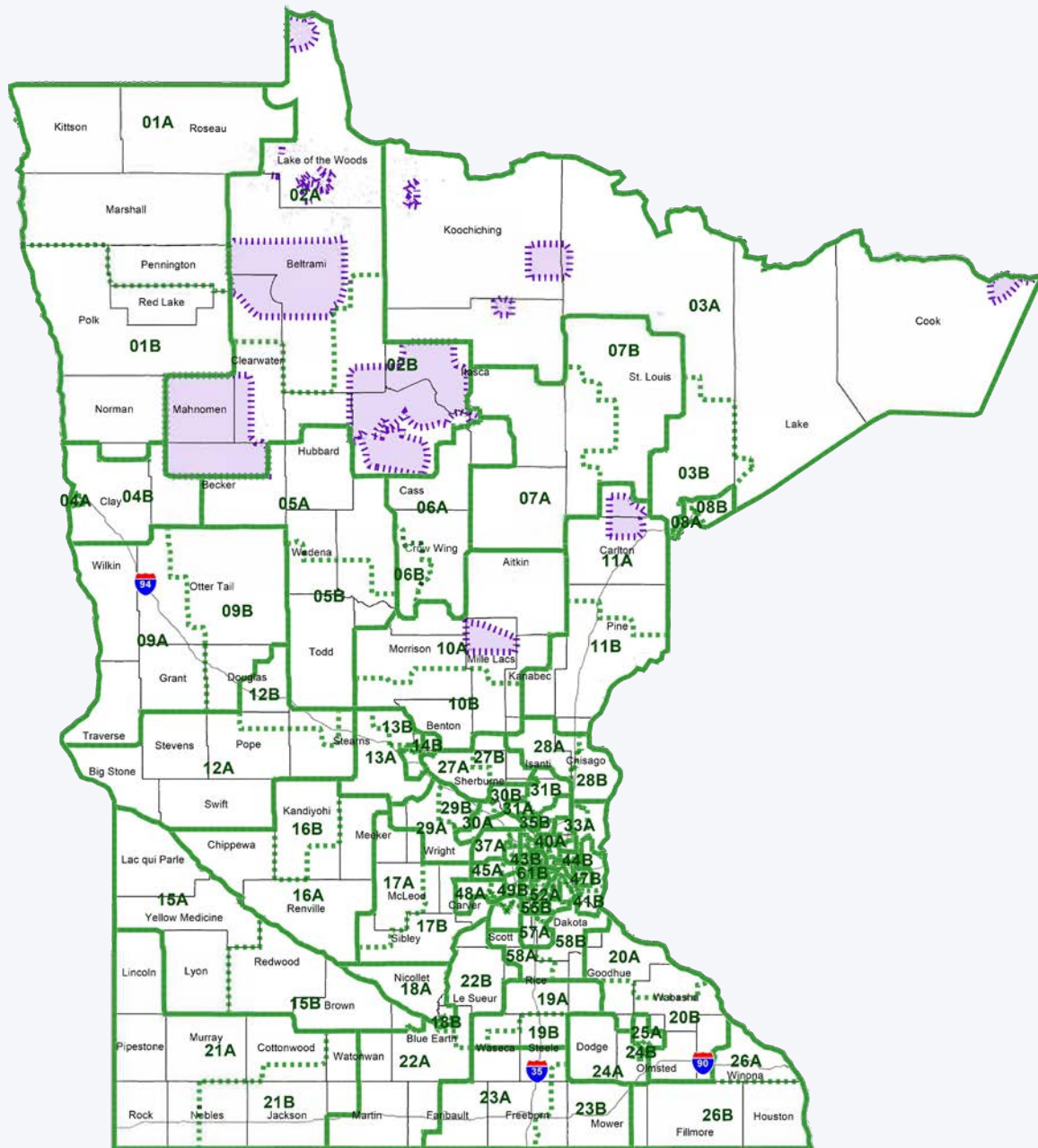
“You can’t organize redistricting like you’re organizing for the Census. The Census is a thing you take it, check off the box, and submit. Done. Redistricting is not like that. Redistricting is a process – it is long-term.”

Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera, Common Cause MN

2022 Congressional Map: Greater Metro



2022 LEGISLATIVE MAP

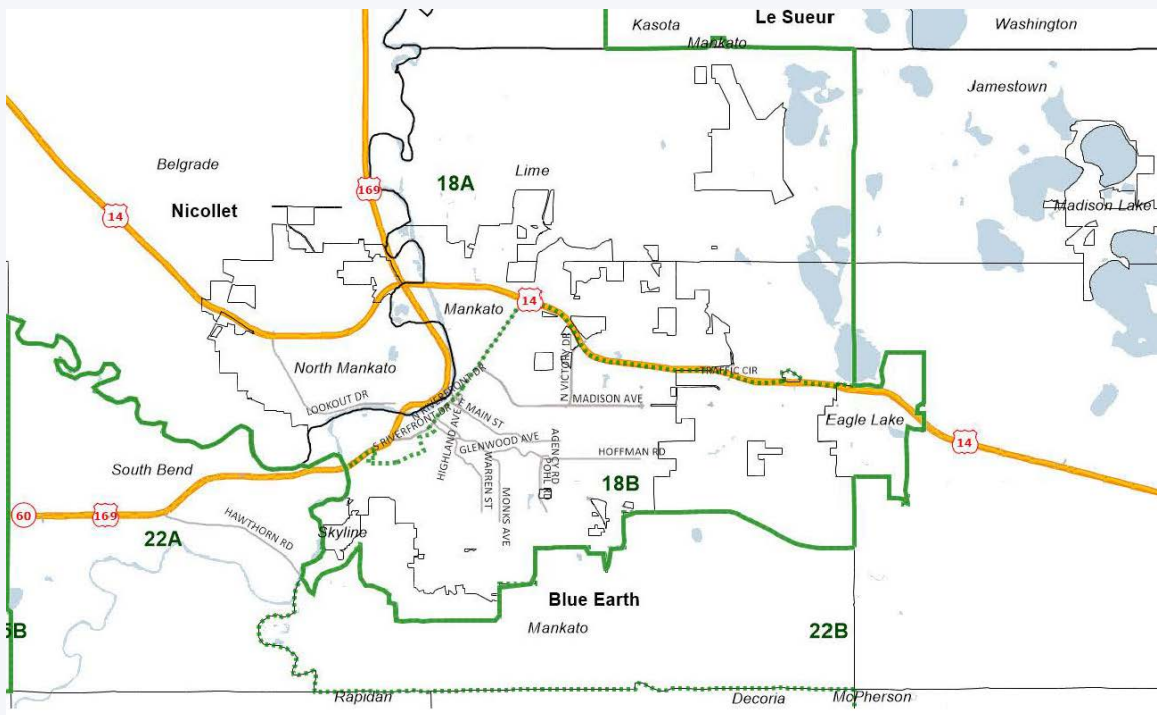


- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2022 Senate Districts | Major Interstate |
| 2022 House Districts | Major US |
| Indian Reservation | Major State |
| County | Major County |
| County Subdivision | Secondary Road |

2022 Legislative Map: Duluth

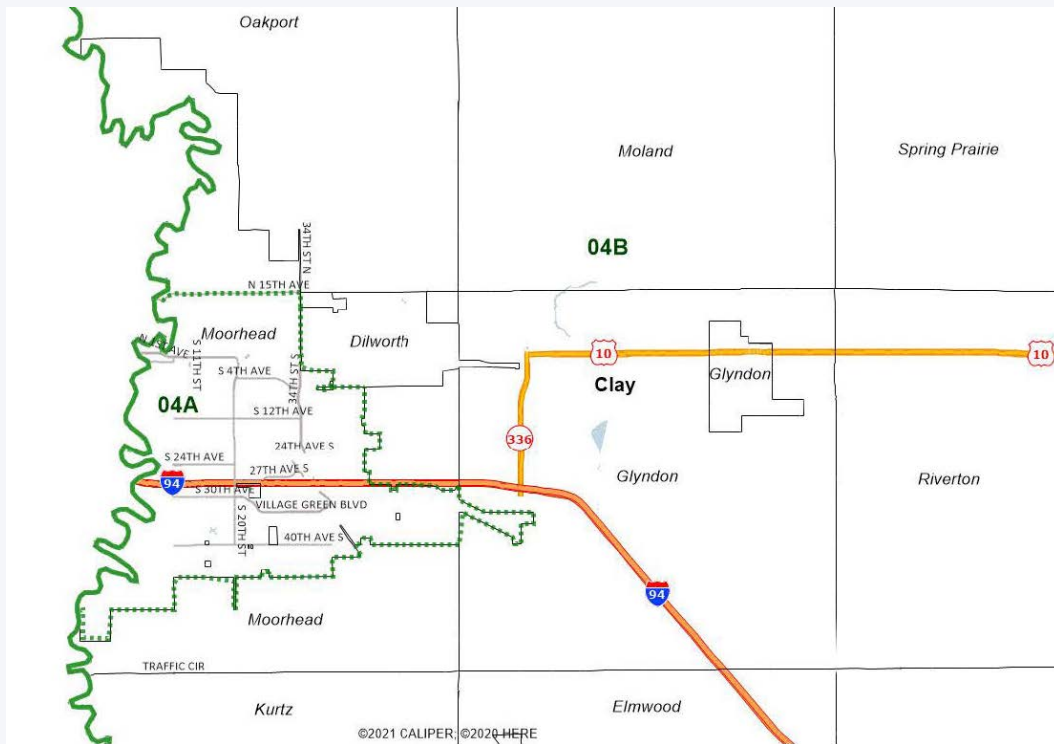


2022 Legislative Map: Mankato

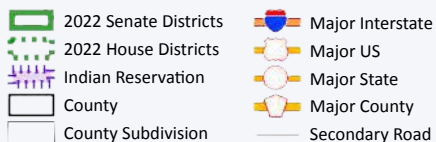
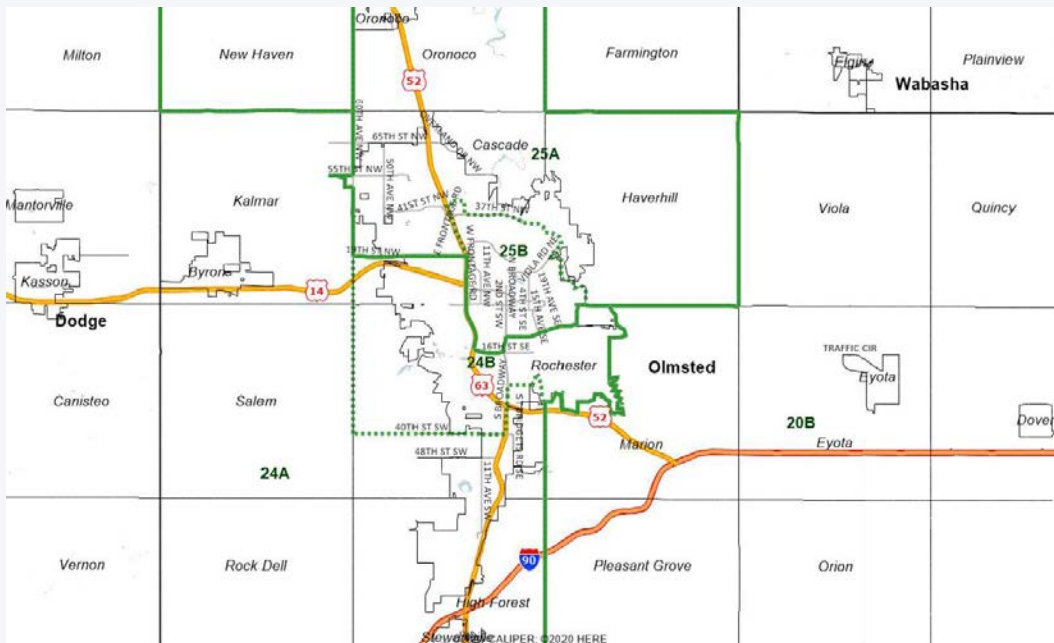


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| 2022 Senate Districts | Major Interstate |
| 2022 House Districts | Major US |
| Indian Reservation | Major State |
| County | Major County |
| County Subdivision | Secondary Road |

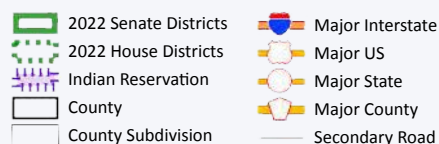
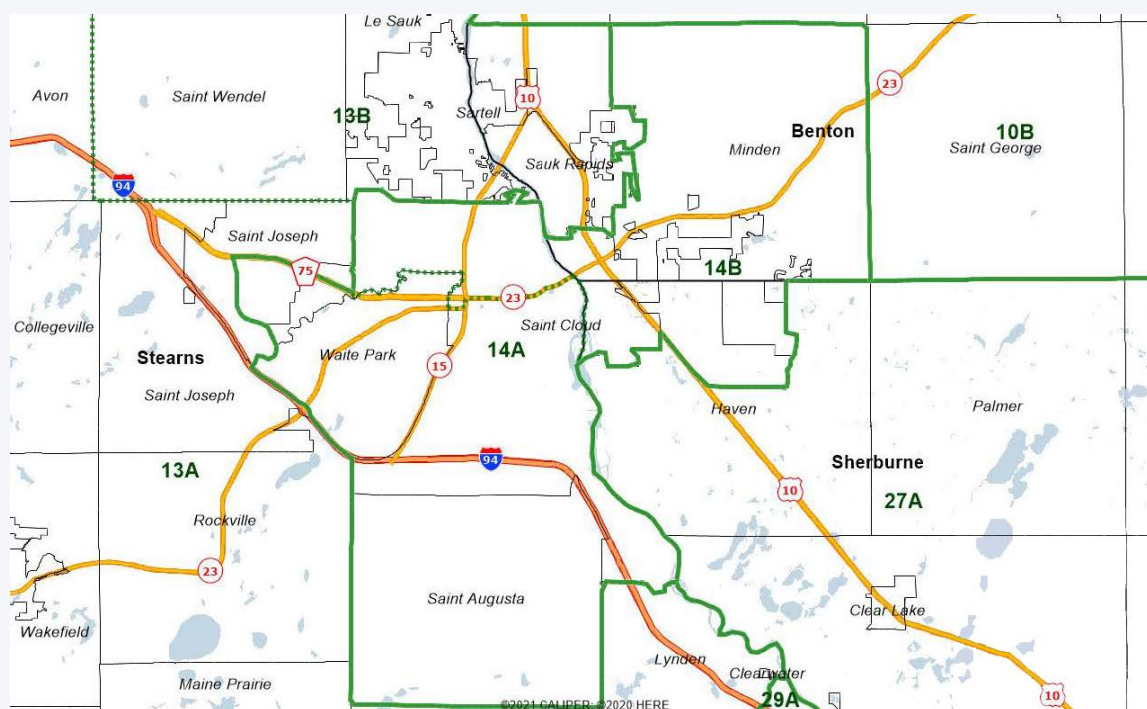
2022 Legislative Map: Moorhead



2022 Legislative Map: Rochester



2022 Legislative Map: St. Cloud



Dave's Redistricting App

Dave's Redistricting App (DRA) is a free web app to create, view, analyze and share redistricting maps for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It includes demographic data from the 2020 and 2010 censuses as well as other parameters to measure of proportionality, competitiveness, minority representation, compactness and splitting. View the maps at davesredistricting.org:

- [Our Maps MN Campaign's COI Maps](#)
- [2022 Congressional Map](#)
- 2022 Legislative Map
 - [House Districts](#)
 - [Senate Districts](#)

COI MAPS

Community of Interest (COI) is a neighborhood or area whose residents have shared culture, history and policy concerns and would benefit from being represented in the same district. Campaign cohort members held COI mapping sessions across the state to empower communities that have been traditionally left out of the political process to all tell their own stories and draw map lines that better reflect their needs and interests. MCF provided resources to cohort organizations such as a [training presentation](#) and [COI worksheet for community testimony](#) to support them in the community engagement.

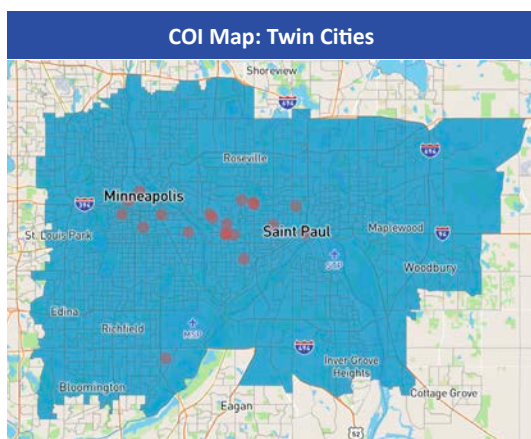
All of the community developed maps are viewable online at the [Our Maps MN Campaign webpage on Distrotr.org](#). The COI maps are labeled as follows, “Organization name, Geographical Region, Date”, for consistency. Each map showcases where the community exists within current (2012) district boundaries as well as includes the streets, coordinates and demographic information using Census block information. Maps are accompanied by narrative information about the community and their interests by identifying points of interest for a community and resources that are critical to their wellbeing.

COURT TESTIMONIES

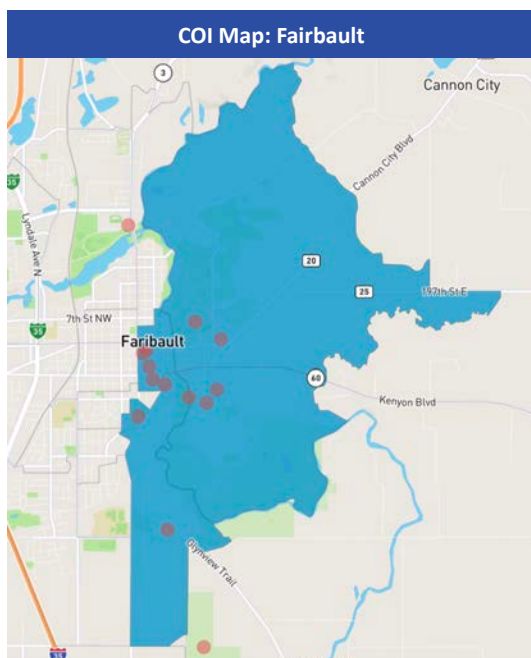
As one of the four formal parties that submitted maps to the Minnesota Supreme Court Special Redistricting Panel, the [Corrie Plaintiffs’ redistricting plan](#) is based on the Campaign’s Unity Map. The Corrie Plaintiffs’ goals included protecting the rights and interests of Minnesota’s BIPOC communities, preserving communities of interest and giving a voice to Minnesotans who have been historically underrepresented in Congress and at the Minnesota Legislature. Community members who participated in the COI mapping sessions also contributed to the court testimonies in front of the Special Redistricting Panel. All court hearings were held virtually except for the eighth congressional district hearing. To access the court documents which contains all declarations and oral arguments, see Appendix F.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Elevating transportation and housing along the University Ave corridor in the Twin Cities.



View [map](#) on Districtr.org.



View [map](#) on Districtr.org.

Minnesota is home to one of the largest Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing community in the nation. Many members of this community also identify as members of intersecting communities of race, gender and/or faith. Emerging from the Our Maps MN Campaign COI mapping sessions, [Deaf Equity](#), a community-based nonprofit organization that serves the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing community in Minnesota, identified two top issues to prioritize: transportation and housing. This was particularly important in areas such as the University Ave corridor where resources and services for the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing community are concentrated. Many Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing people use the light rail along University Ave to commute and access services and programs on a daily basis. Relatedly, those in rural Minnesota also face transportation issues such as limited access and availability of transit.

“The light rail and bus system – the transportation system along University Ave – was a lifeline where [Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing people] could use to access resources and services, find help with employment and go to their jobs. But the housing costs are high there. They want to live in that area because the services are accessible. That was something that we’re fighting for and they wanted to have better housing so they could afford to be able to live in that area,” said Jessalyn Akerman-Frank, co-founder and board member of Deaf Equity.

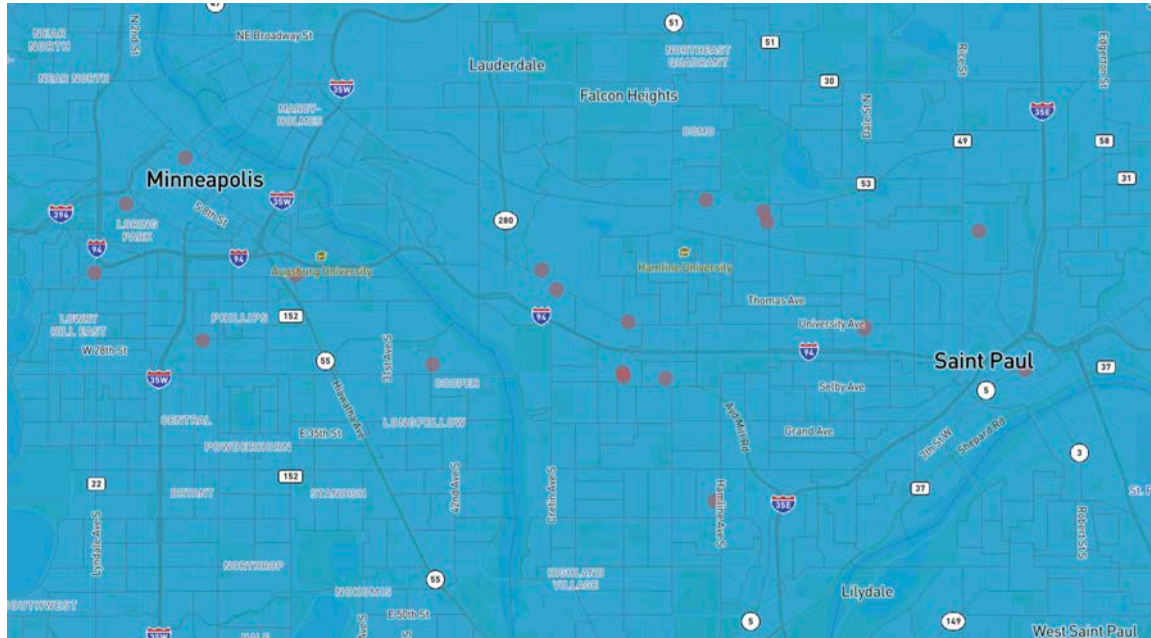
Migdalia Rogers, board member, also noted, “Rural Minnesotans who are Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing may choose to live in rural areas because of the cost of living, but they also have limited resources to services, which are mostly in the metro area.”

Deaf Equity’s [COI Twin Cities map](#) show important points of interests which includes Metro Deaf School, Deaf Club, State Services for the Blind, libraries, businesses, health services, Black Deaf Advocates, Minnesota Deaf Queers and more along University Ave.

OUTCOMES

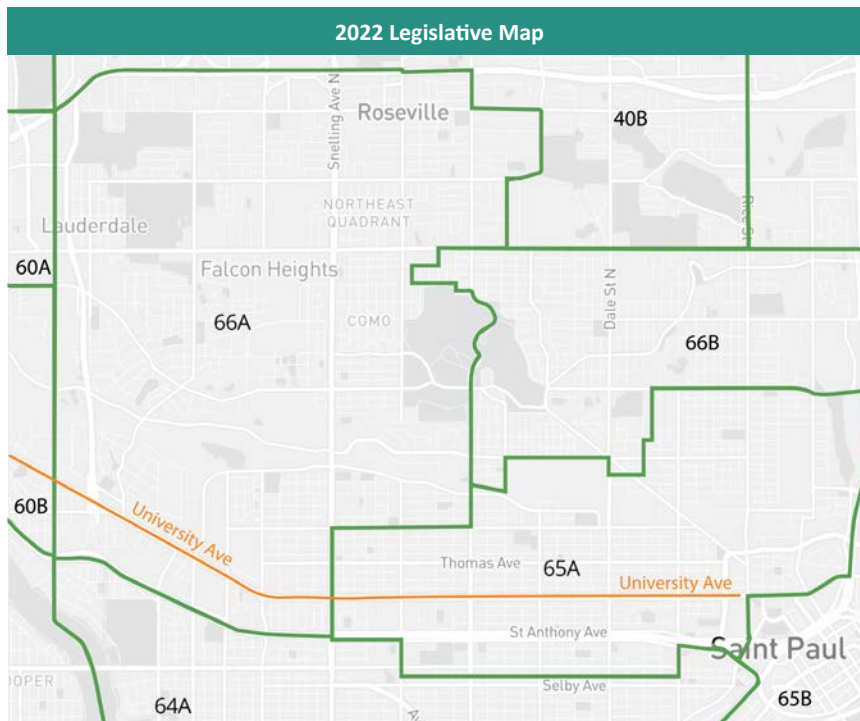
University Ave is densely populated and crosses both St. Paul and Minneapolis which makes it impossible to be contained within one district. However, it was important to Deaf Equity’s community to keep University Ave in as few districts as possible. The final 2022 district map divides the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing community into two districts, which reflects the community’s desire to be kept in as few districts as possible.

Deaf Equity COI Map: Twin Cities



A zoomed in view of the University Ave corridor in the COI Twin Cities map.

2022 Legislative Map: District 65A and 66A

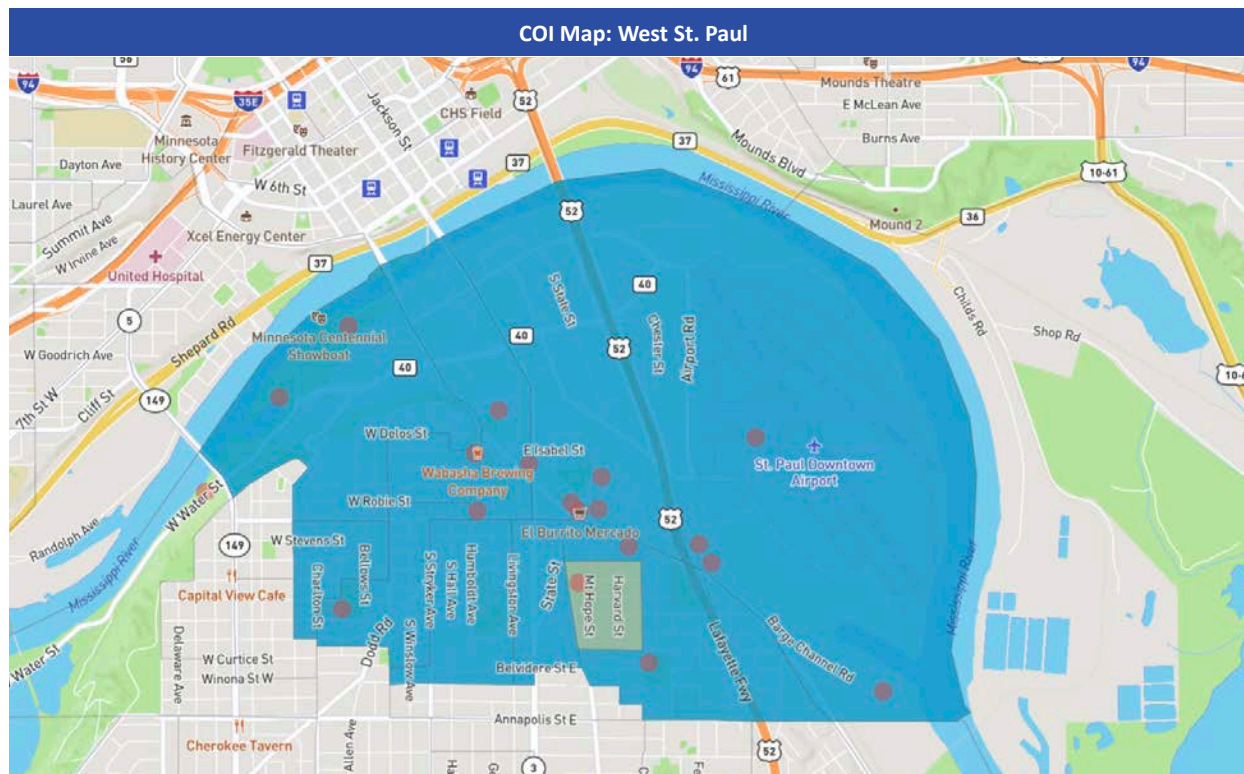


The University Ave corridor is split between two districts: 65A and 66A

View [map](#) online.

Representing the needs of the Latine community in West St. Paul.

In previous district maps, West St. Paul, a predominantly Latine community, was grouped within a district that contained Downtown St. Paul. Many members of the Latine community felt the district did not adequately reflect their constituency due to differences in demographics between West and Downtown St. Paul. Our Maps MN Campaign cohort members – [Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research](#) (HACER), [Voices for Racial Justice](#) and [Communities Organizing Latinx Power and Action](#) (COPAL) – held COI mapping sessions with the Latine community to create a map that better represented community needs and interests.



View [map](#) on Districtr.org.

Participants in HACER's sessions emphasized their interest in having access to resources and programs that affirm Spanish-speaking populations – youth programs, entrepreneurship programs, and English language classes. They also expressed the shared concerns of safety from violence and discrimination, language inaccessibility, and a lack of intentional outreach to Latine populations.

Specifically, community members participating in Voices for Racial Justice's sessions expressed concerns about:

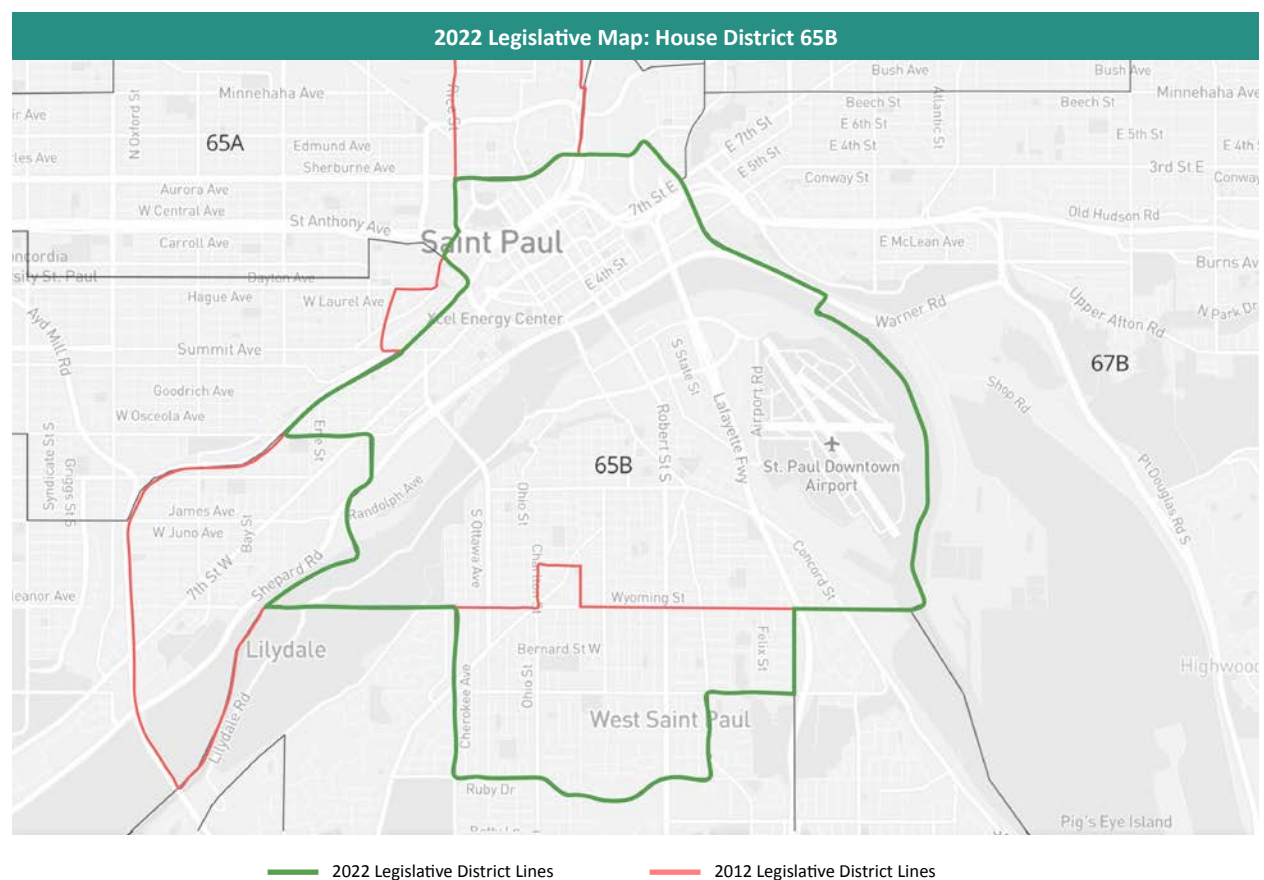
- Housing inequality;
- Historic and current disinvestments;
- Transportation access;
- Education access;
- Deteriorating physical infrastructures;
- Racism, particularly towards the Muslim community; and
- Trauma at the hands of the City through eminent domain and unlawful toxic industries operating next to housing without a buffer.

“Within the unity mapping session, we had pretty specific goals about specific areas that we thought were really important,” reflected Nicolas Diaz de Leon, research associate at HACER. “Particularly West St. Paul which has historically been a Latine inhabited community. The way that the district was drawn before was not really inclusive – it included West St. Paul, but also downtown St. Paul which is not a Latine community. There were three Latine folks, including myself, in those Unity Map meetings, and we really stood up for West St. Paul and spoke to the needs of the community. It was really successful because at the end of the day, we got the Unity Map to represent that community in the way that reflected the community best.”

Community points of interest included West Side Community Health Services - La Clínica, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, West Side Boys & Girls Club, Cherokee Regional Park, El Burrito Mercado, Torre de San Miguel Homes (public housing) and Dunedin Terrace Apartments and Townhomes (affordable housing for low-income individuals and families).

OUTCOMES

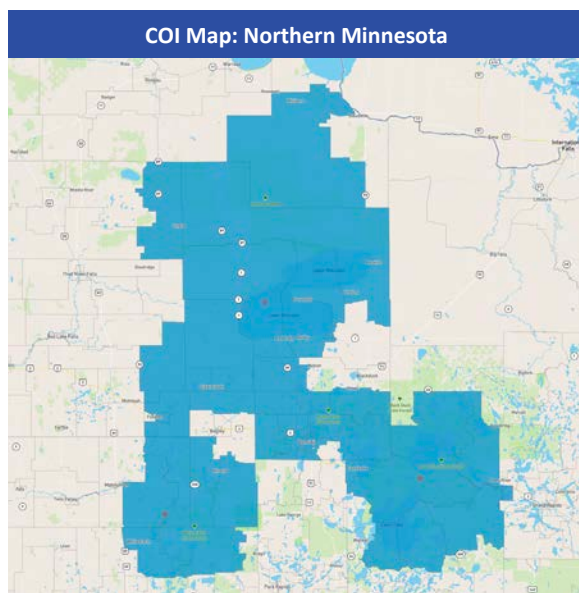
The Latine community felt that they would align better with South St. Paul rather than Downtown St. Paul. The 2022 redistricting process took this request into consideration as presented in the Unity Map and the new district maps align West and South St. Paul. The boundaries of House District 65B extends to Ruby Drive to include more of West St. Paul (in the direction of South St. Paul) and no longer extends beyond University Ave.



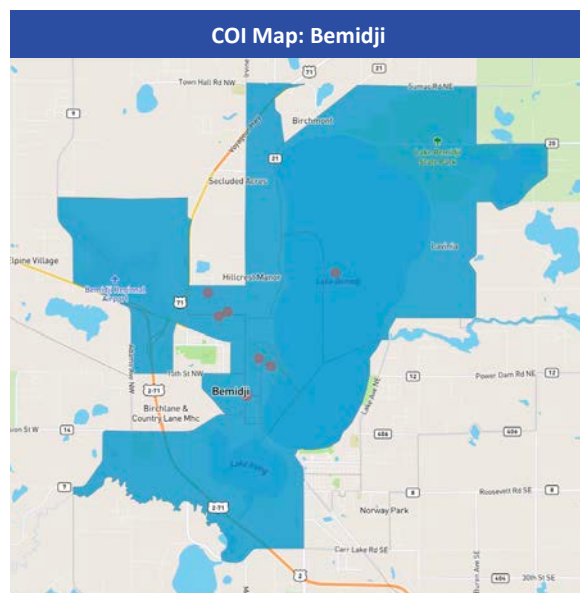
Uniting Northern Minnesota's Native communities in one congressional district.

[Native American Community Development Institute](#) (NACDI) is a community development intermediary organization that partners with a wide network of Native and non-Native organizations to create a vibrant, healthy and balanced community where there are economic opportunities for Native people, and where Native cultures are celebrated, honored and shared with the greater community.

Jolene Jones, coordinator for NACDI's Make Voting A Tradition Minnesota, engaged virtually and in-person with Native communities across Minnesota for COI mapping sessions with a geographic focus in Minneapolis and rural parts of the state. The sessions resulted in the creation of five COI maps. Historically, the seven Native tribes in northern Minnesota are divided into the seventh and eighth congressional districts which limits their collective power.



View [map](#) on Districtr.org.



View [map](#) on Districtr.org.

To make redistricting feel more tangible, Jones used the example of [Little Earth](#) in Minneapolis to effectively communicate across the importance of redistricting and how it impacts Native communities. Founded in 1973, Little Earth was the first urban housing complex with Native preference. Jones shared, “Little Earth had issues during their last mapping, so we used that as an example. The map had the district line going down Cedar Ave which would split Little Earth into both sides of the avenue – it would’ve put us in two separate Councils in Cedar, two separate of everything.”

Paul Huffman, redistricting coordinator for the League of Women Voters MN and a member of the Our Maps MN Campaign Steering Committee, provided technical support and mapping training for cohort organizations like NACDI. He observed, “The American Indian community was very engaged and I was fortunate to be part of mapping in Bemidji and then a number of sessions in Minneapolis. The degree of passion that they had around representation and past grievances of how they had been represented or not represented, and the desire to and the understanding of the importance of the maps.”

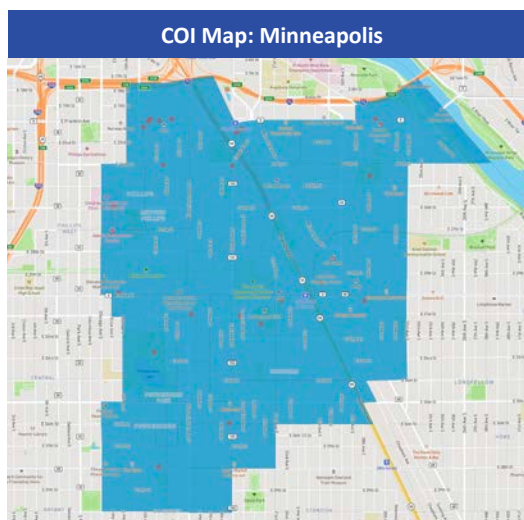
OUTCOMES

The new 2022 congressional map boundaries places all of Minnesota's seven Anishinaabe tribes within the eighth congressional district, creating an opportunity for Native communities to realize their collective power and influence. Those who identify as BIPOC make up [13% of the population](#) in that district. "Communities up North are excited about the news. They're encouraged now and they feel like they can have candidates run that will represent them and their needs," said Jones about the reaction she's hearing directly from Native community members.

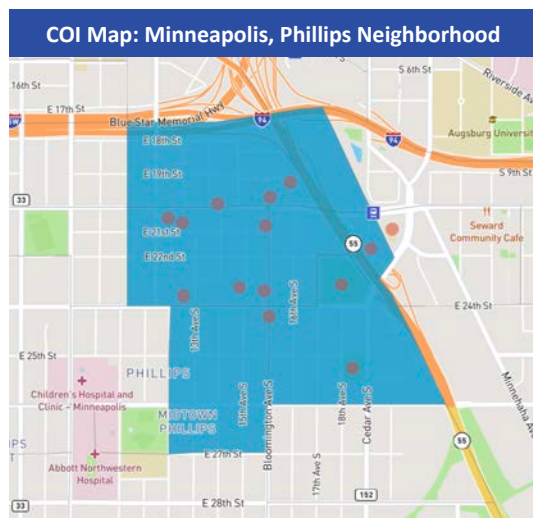
In addition, there were efforts to get the three Native tribes – Red Lake Nation, White Earth Nation and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe – in Northwest Minnesota in the same House district. All three tribes are now in same Senate District 2 and nearly 22% of the population in that district are Native, which is a significant change from the 2012 maps.

During the community engagement, Jones recognized the need to engage with Native young people because the next 10 years would directly impact them the most, especially when it came to employment, childcare, education, healthcare and other important services. "Mapping was a learning experience for all of us. I truly learned a lot. The young people that participated in the [sessions in the] North feel empowered now, like their voices were heard with the mapping. They feel good about the new lines," said Jones.

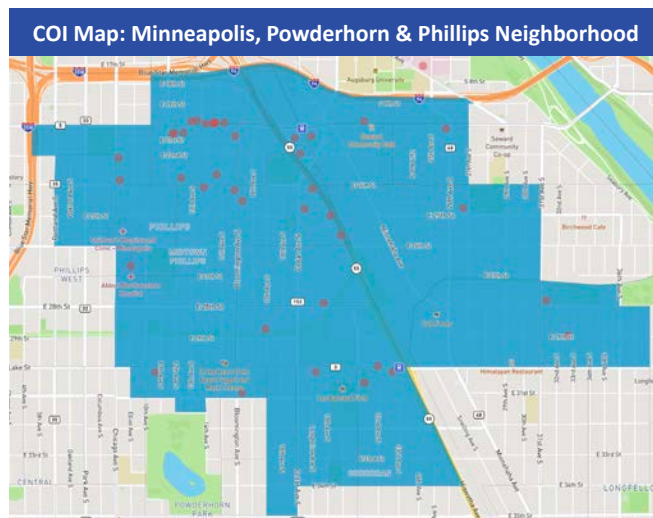
"I feel and hope that [civic engagement] in the next 10 years for Indigenous and BIPOC communities continues to grow. It looks promising to me."



View [map](#) on Districtr.org.



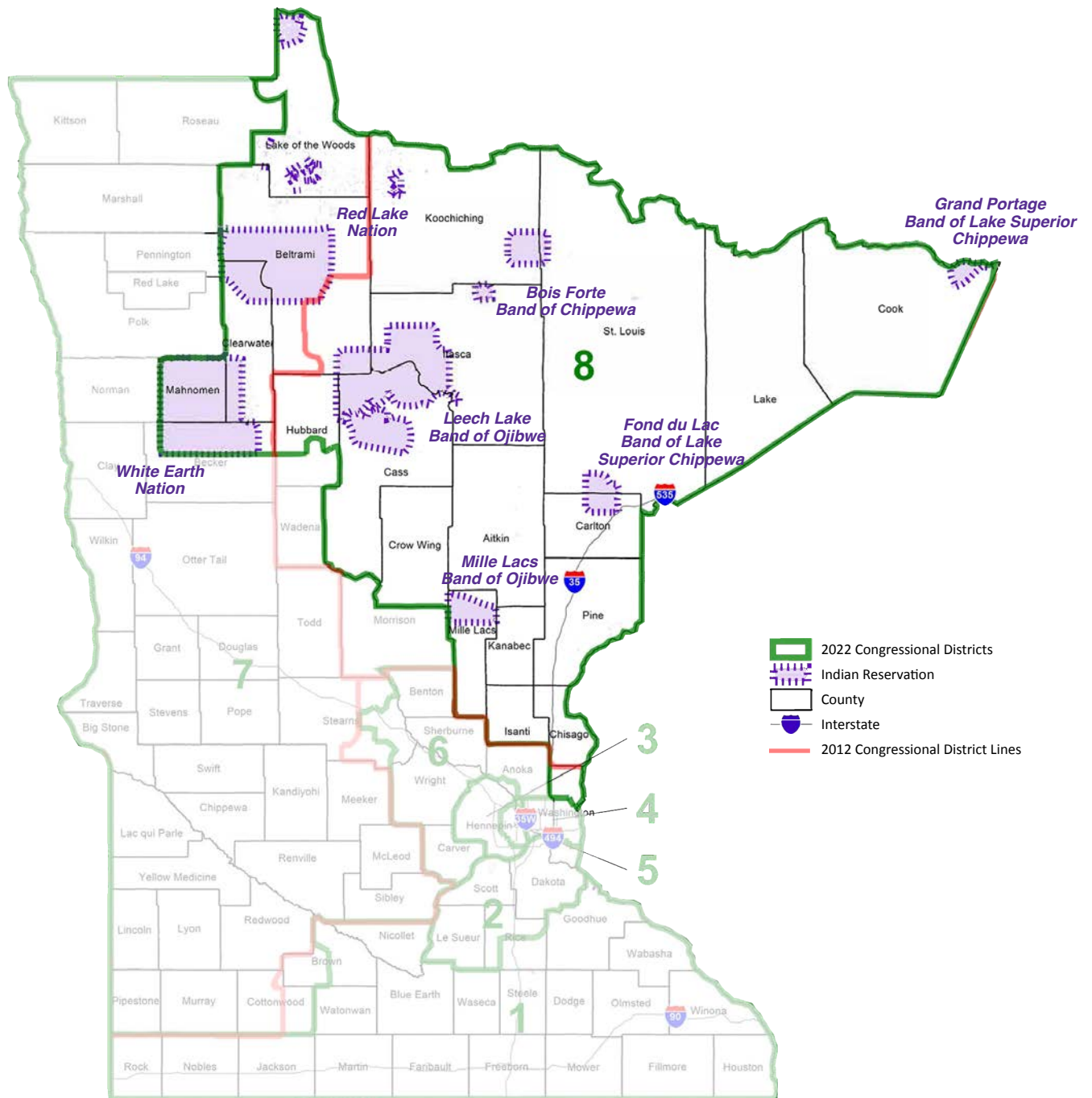
View [map](#) on Districtr.org.



View [map](#) on Districtr.org.

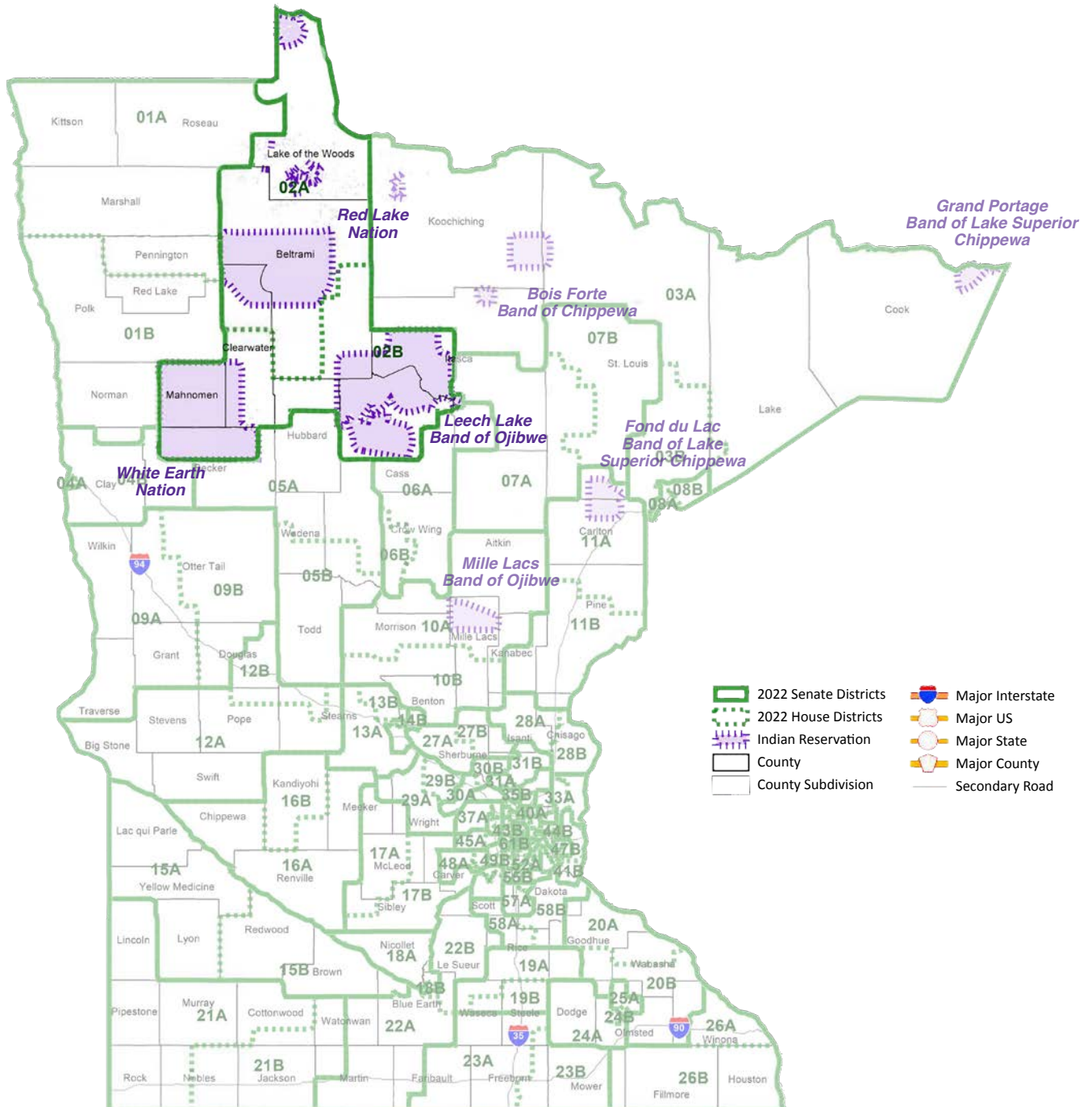
2022 Congressional Map: District 8

The eighth congressional district contains all of Minnesota's seven Anishinaabe reservations: Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Red Lake Nation, White Earth Nation, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.



2022 Legislative: Senate District 2

Senate District 2 contains three Native tribes: Red Lake Nation, White Earth Nation and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

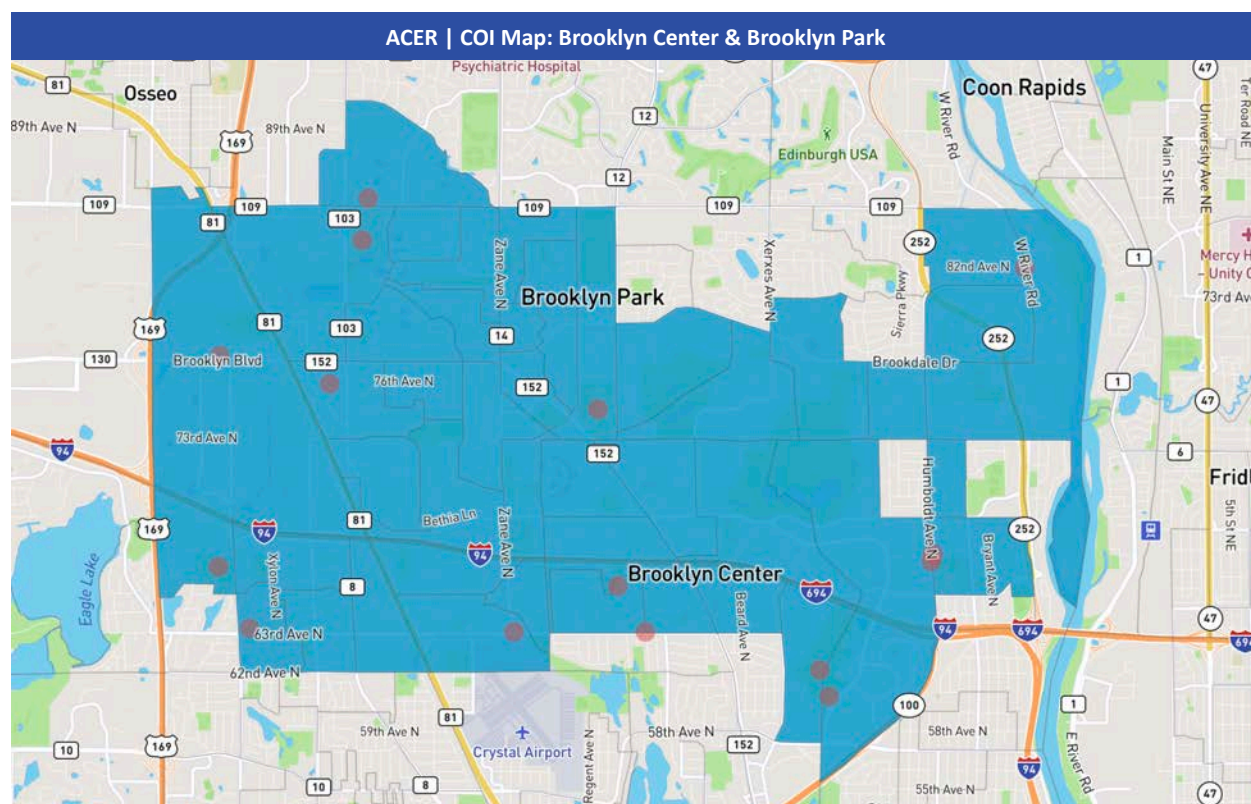


Building BIPOC collective power in Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park.

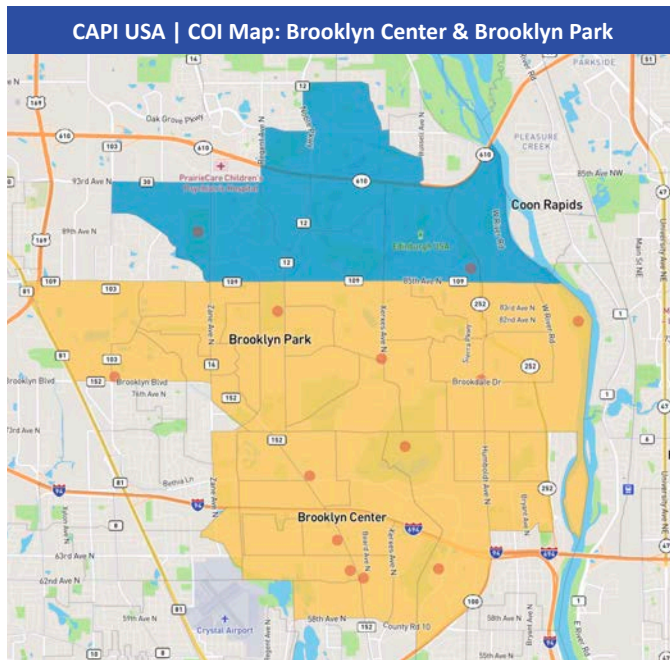
In the last decade, Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park have increasingly become more diverse compared to other suburban cities in Minnesota. [Recent data](#) from the 2020 Census shows that Brooklyn Center is nearly 30% Black with significant Asian and Latino populations. And, almost a quarter are immigrants, many from Southeast Asia or West Africa. Similarly, [Brooklyn Park](#) is nearly 30% Black and 20% Asian with slightly more than 28% of the population under the age of 18.

Campaign cohort members, [CAPI USA](#) and [African Career, Education & Resource, Inc. \(ACER\)](#), engaged communities of color in Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park to ensure their voices and needs were heard and reflected in the maps created for the redistricting process. It was important to try to keep communities that have similar histories and experiences together as much as possible. In this instance, community members and organizers felt it made more sense to have Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park be split into two legislative districts versus three. “There’s a lot of African immigrants in these areas. They have common backgrounds, experiences and interests. So, we want to protect those interests, keep them together and encourage them to have the area be representative of them,” emphasized Richard Jennis, community organizer at ACER, on why communities with shared histories should be kept together.

Jennis also shared how inspiring the redistricting process and COI mapping sessions were. “It’s been incredible how many people, even from different apartments, people who didn’t know each other previously, have come together and identified the same issues and the same successes in their communities. Keep communities together. Keep activists together. Let people engage collectively. That’s a cornerstone of redistricting.”



View [map](#) on Districtr.org.

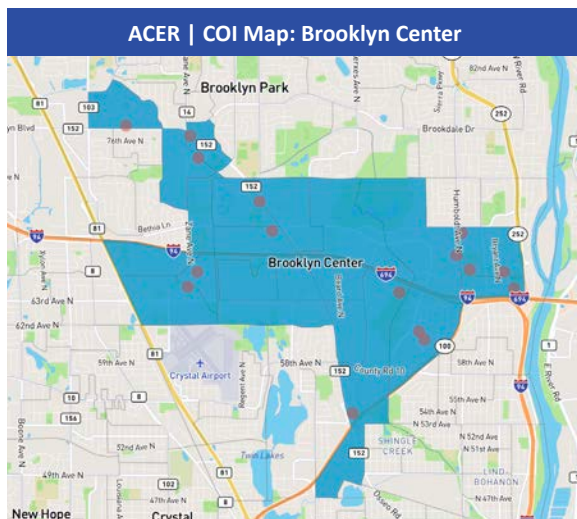


View [map](#) on Districtr.org. The blue shade represents the Laotian community. The yellow shade represents the Hmong community.

Victor Yang, civic engagement coordinator at CAPI USA, worked closely with the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, particular the Hmong community, in the areas to identify places of interests. He explained that community members “saw where their boundaries lie such as what parks they use, stores they go to, churches they attend, etc. Everyone would agreed where the biggest hot spots were for the community. We wanted to make sure that their community was kept with the community that they felt more comfortable with or what would best represent them.”

CAPI USA also continued to do local redistricting to ensure the community was “still informed about the process. That it’s not over until it’s over. If there is something that’s changing in the community, we want to be informed of it. Maybe 10 years or two years from now, or at the next election, they’re like “Wait a minute. I used to go vote at this school, but now I have to vote at a school that’s three

miles away from me instead of across the street.” It’s things like that – the small changes – we want to make sure our community stays informed and engaged with in their own city.”



View [map](#) on Districtr.org. This map reflects the COI session with residents of Georgetown Park Townhomes in Brooklyn Center.

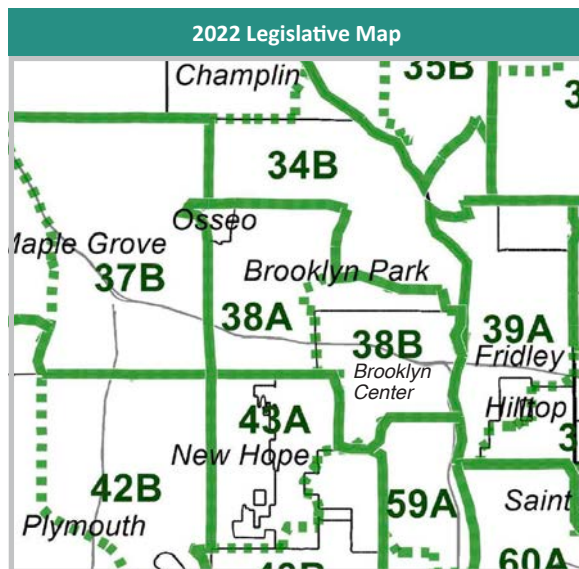


View [map](#) on Districtr.org. This map reflects the COI session with residents of Autumn Ridge Apartments in Brooklyn Park.

OUTCOMES

The results of the 2022 legislative map divided Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center into three legislative districts again and split into two congressional districts. The court documents cited that due to population size, Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park could not be placed in the same district. However, the court acknowledged the community's desire and testimonies for the two cities to be kept together as much as possible. "Community members and organizations have mixed feelings about the decision. Some folks are not surprised they're still in three districts again because population has been growing drastically in the area. But a lot of us were shocked that it was still three different districts, especially when we all agreed and our maps agreed that it should be divided into two districts and not three because of how things are set up," said Victor Yang.

Since the community was engaged from the beginning, CAPI USA was ready to transition to the local redistricting efforts. CAPI USA submitted principals to the City Charter Commission and worked with city council members to advocate for boundaries as indicated in their COI maps. Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park were able to keep their boundaries contained, meaning they were not further divided. The success of local redistricting is a testament to the importance of representation in the process. It matters when someone from the community is able to represent and advocate for the what the community wants and envision for their prosperity.



Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park are divided into three Senate districts: 34B, 38A and 38B.



Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park are divided into two congressional districts: 3 and 5.

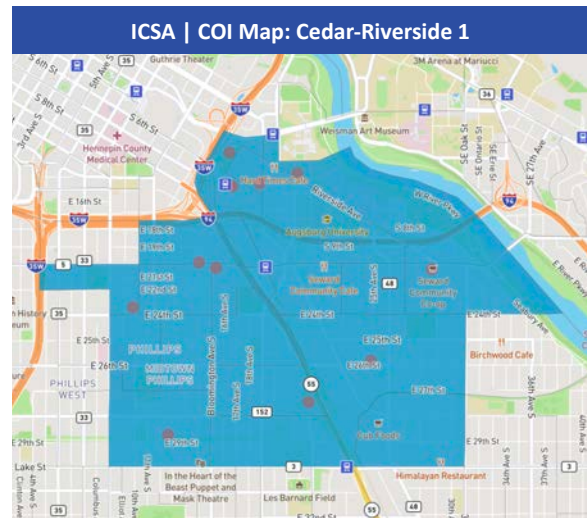
Keeping communities together in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.

The Cedar-Riverside neighborhood in Minneapolis is predominantly made up of Somali, Oromo, Ethiopian and other East African communities. Wali Dirie, executive director of [Islamic Civic Society of America \(ICSA\)](#), led the redistricting work in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. “The community has [only] been here since 1995. The community keeps learning every year, but we have zero understanding about redistricting,” explained Dirie. “We had people doing presentations and teaching others about redistricting...The materials provided by MCF had examples of other communities that looked like us, or the same as us, and what they have been through and how they were successful in redistricting in their area.”

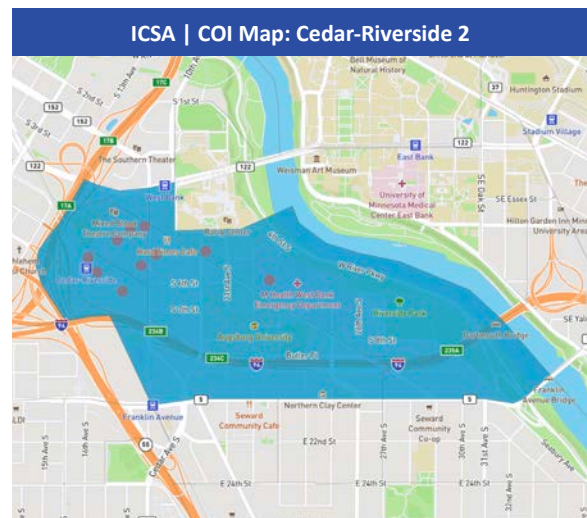
In Dirie’s testimony to the Minnesota State Legislature and Minnesota Supreme Court Special Redistricting Panel, he emphasized upholding boundaries that enable East African communities to be civically engage. “For Somalis and Oromo (East African) to make effective, community-oriented decisions, we need to engage those voices, we need to know that our community structures can work with mainstream systems (healthcare, schools, public safety). Breaking up our community structure does deep harm to how we effectively participate in our democracy. It is crucial to keep our community intact, to protect our ability to effectively participate in Minnesota’s civic life.”

The Cedar-Riverside neighborhood is located within House District 60A and its boundaries are the Mississippi River to the north and east, Interstate 94 to the south and Hiawatha Ave and Interstate 35W to the west. Places of interests for the community were: Masjid Darul Quba Cultural Center, Riverside Plaza (affordable housing for low-income residents), Dar Al-Hijrah Mosque, Brian Coyle Center, People’s Center Clinics and Services, Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center, Afrik Grocery, Barwaqo African International Mall, Currie Park, Dilla’s Ethiopian Restaurant, African Development Center, M Health Fairview Clinic Riverside, Augsburg University, etc.

It was already challenging trying to teach and explain the redistricting process to a community that had not directly been engaged in the work before, but the pandemic added another layer of difficulty. Dirie held virtual and in-person COI mapping sessions, but noted there was deeper engagement for in-person meetings. “They participated fully in the discussions, and the work we were doing when we asked them what they need in the interest of the community and how to participate in the work we were doing.”



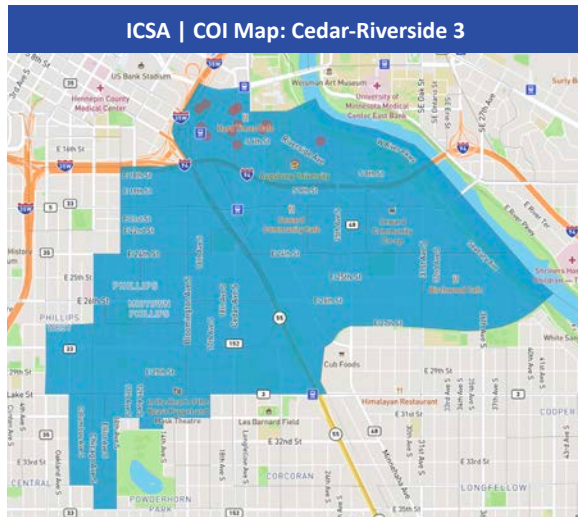
View [map](#) on Districtr.org. This map reflects the COI session on August 9, 2021.



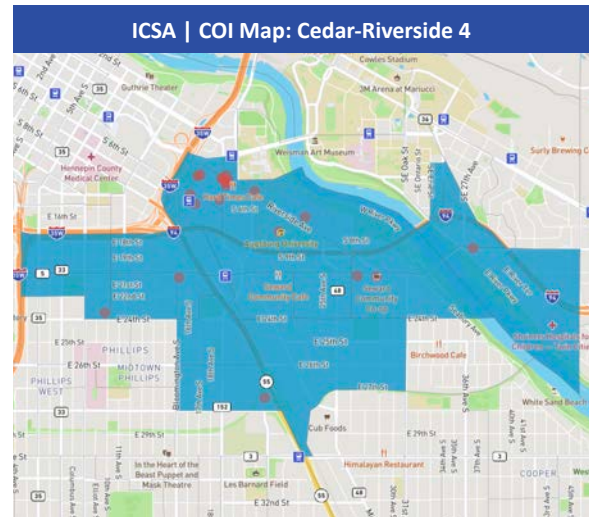
View [map](#) on Districtr.org. This map reflects the COI session on August 16, 2021.

OUTCOMES

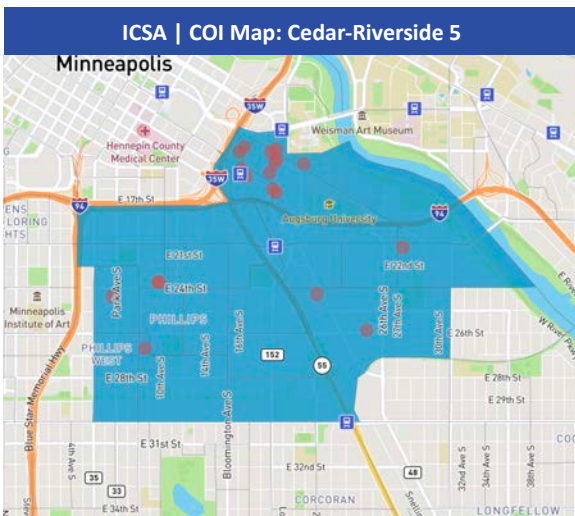
The communities were adamant about ensuring that the boundaries for House District 60A kept the East African communities that have been living, working, and flourishing in the area together. The court respected the desire of the communities and the new 2022 legislative map keeps Cedar-Riverside in its own district. This allows for East African communities to retain their collective power and they can continue to elect candidates of their choice.



View [map](#) on Districtr.org. This map reflects the COI session on August 19, 2021.



View [map](#) on Districtr.org. This map reflects the COI session on August 23, 2021.



View [map](#) on Districtr.org. This map reflects the COI session on August 26, 2021.



View [map](#) on Districtr.org. This map reflects the COI session on August 30, 2021.

Other COI maps of Cedar-Riverside and Phillips:

- Pillsbury United Communities
 - [August 3, 2021 Session](#)
 - [Oromo Community Session \(August 17, 2021\)](#)
- [The Council on American-Islamic Relations \(CAIR\)](#)

2022 Legislative District 60A

Map showing the 2022 Legislative District 60A in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The district is outlined in green. The Cedar-Riverside Neighborhood is highlighted in yellow. Surrounding districts are labeled: 59B, 61A, 62A, 62B, 63A, and 66A. Key streets include E Hennepin Ave, SE Como Ave, SE University Ave, SE Washington Ave, SE 4th St, E 17th St, E 21st St, E 24th St, E 22nd St, E River Pkwy, W River Pkwy, Vandalia St, Pelham Blvd, 27th Ave S, 30th Ave S, 14th Ave S, 11th Ave S, Park Ave S, S 7th St, and S 9th St. Landmarks include Augsburg University, Riverside, Marcy-Holmes, and Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Legend:

- 2022 Legislative District Lines (Green line)
- 2012 Legislative District Lines (Red line)
- Cedar-Riverside Neighborhood (Yellow shaded area)

2022 Legislative Map: House District 62A and 62B

The map displays the following districts and their boundaries:

- 61A**: Summit Ave, Stevens Square-Loring Heights, Phillips.
- 62A**: Summit Ave, Stevens Square-Loring Heights, Phillips, Corcoran, Powderhorn, Standish, Northrop, Nokomis, Hale, Page, Logan, Penn, Southwest, East Isles, Kingfield, Bryant, Stevens Square-Loring Heights, Phillips, Corcoran, Powderhorn, Standish, Northrop, Nokomis, Hale, Page, Logan, Penn, Southwest, East Isles, Kingfield, Bryant.
- 62B**: Corcoran, Powderhorn, Standish, Northrop, Nokomis, Hale, Page, Logan, Penn, Southwest, East Isles, Kingfield, Bryant.
- 61B**: Summit Ave, Stevens Square-Loring Heights, Phillips, Corcoran, Powderhorn, Standish, Northrop, Nokomis, Hale, Page, Logan, Penn, Southwest, East Isles, Kingfield, Bryant.
- 62C**: Summit Ave, Stevens Square-Loring Heights, Phillips, Corcoran, Powderhorn, Standish, Northrop, Nokomis, Hale, Page, Logan, Penn, Southwest, East Isles, Kingfield, Bryant.

Key streets shown include Summit Ave, Stevens Square-Loring Heights, Phillips, Corcoran, Powderhorn, Standish, Northrop, Nokomis, Hale, Page, Logan, Penn, Southwest, East Isles, Kingfield, Bryant, Stevens Square-Loring Heights, Phillips, Corcoran, Powderhorn, Standish, Northrop, Nokomis, Hale, Page, Logan, Penn, Southwest, East Isles, Kingfield, Bryant.

In 2022, the districts are divided along Chicago Ave S — 62A has its boundaries to E 40th Street and Lyndale Ave S while 62B has its furthest boundary to E 48th Street and no longer include Washburn High School.

Themes & Lessons

Centralized coordination is necessary for progress and movement.

MCF's coordinating support of the Our Maps MN Campaign provided cohort members what they needed to strengthen engagement with communities of interest. Specifically, MCF provided trainings, developed materials that included examples of how communities in other states were impacted by redistricting, and scheduled and facilitated meetings.

MCF's support helped organizations to maximize their strengths and identify where they were best able to show up in the work. Participants in Our Maps MN see a potential to work with funders and with MCF organizing and coordinating to move beyond the boom-and-bust cycle that dominates civic engagement funding to ensure well-supported, ongoing campaigns that strengthen democracy and center communities of interest.

"There was a lot of collaboration. It was very productive and group oriented. We tried to find collaborative solutions for where lines were drawn. Different groups have different specialties and focuses, so we were able to address redistricting from a lot of different angles. We learned from each other." - Richard Jennis, ACER

"Some of the success was MCF leading – bringing people together and having the agenda ready, what we're discussing. If we needed support, they always provided the support we needed." - Wali Dirie, Islamic Civic Society of America

"I applaud and am proud of Minnesota's philanthropic sector for making the Census, redistricting and the American Community Survey a big priority. I'm hopeful to see that continue, and for MCF to continue to convene and lead." - Xp Lee, Brooklyn Park City Council (former: Program Manager for Policy and Special Projects at MCF)

Connect redistricting with the day-to-day lives of community members.

At COI mapping sessions, Campaign cohort members created an inviting space that allowed participants to share their own personal stories about how redistricting has affected their lives as well as using relatable examples. This included examples about place-based interests (businesses, schools, churches, etc) in the neighborhood and/or how past redistricting decisions has directly positively and negatively impacted BIPOC communities to help participants better understand the significance of mapping.

"A woman cried in one of the sessions when she realized what was at stake with the map and redistricting. She shared how she was working as an immigrant without documents, and her son, who is an adult now, but when he was seven years old, he wanted to play music and soccer. He was really talented in soccer, so he ended being selected for a team. They stopped going when they started being harassed by the police and was scared because they were driving without a driver's license." – Monica Hurtado, Voices for Racial Justice

"Hearing from Elders on the people and places that mattered to them was a blessing. Stories around the key churches and thoroughfares in the 38th Street Corridor in South Minneapolis and the historic Rondo neighborhood among others, was very inspiring. Many expressed gratitude and thanked us for doing this work. Many also learned a lot about redistricting overall and the process and how it affects them."

– Anika Robbins, ANIKA Foundation

It's never too early to engage and educate about redistricting.

Efforts to engage communities during the 2020 Census paved the way for continued community involvement in redistricting by providing lasting civic infrastructure and existing organizing alignment. Many of the organizations in the Our Maps MN Campaign cohort members, along with Common Cause MN and League of Womens Voters, also collaborated with MCF to coordinate the community organizing and engagement efforts around the 2020 Census. Their previous experience made engagement around redistricting feel like a natural extension of that earlier work.

This groundwork was especially important during 2021 because the redistricting timeline was accelerated due to the delayed census data as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The shortened redistricting timeline would have made relational organizing nearly impossible if it had not already been in practice.

That said, organizations noted that more time to prepare for the Campaign would have been helpful. Areas identified for additional time and attention included:

- Staffing: hire and prepare interpreters.
- Translation: proactively create culturally relevant materials.
- Testifying: clear transparency on timeline and support with preparedness.
 - Some organizations wished there had been more preparation and opportunities for practice ahead of testifying. This felt especially true for organizations newer to testifying.
- Utilize the momentum of census mobilization to simultaneously engage communities about redistricting.
- Strategy: early development of strategy for engagement and legal action.

Many of the communities involved in the Campaign were new to redistricting engagement. Similar to the Census outreach, if communities continue to be engaged, it is vital to share back the results, monitor the impacts and provide opportunities for ongoing Census, redistricting and American Community Survey engagement. It is clear that ongoing redistricting reform is needed to ensure it is a process that is accessible to community members.

“I needed to really teach the concept of what [redistricting] meant, and why it was important for our community. It was layer upon layer with the mapping – there was so much to educate our community about. Many of them never had any idea why this existed, why it's important and how it affects their everyday life and impact them.” – Migdalia Rogers, Deaf Equity

“When we're doing Census work, that's when we should be talking about redistricting. We should not only be telling our people to not only complete the Census, but to also think about redistricting because it's happening as soon as the Census is done. One of the things we explained to our people when they were doing the Census was that if they selected they were American Indian and any other race, they would go in “Other” and not be counted as American Indian even if they put the name of their reservation down. We explained why the Census is important for our tribes, for our healthcare, for everything.” – Jolene Jones, NACDI

“We need to continue teaching and understanding. We're going to share the outcomes of what they've been through...There's momentum, and I think we need to continue. This system takes time to understand, so we need to continue discussing with [the community].” – Wali Dirie, Islamic Civic Society of America

“Redistricting education needs to happen before redistricting cycles even begin.” – May Yang, MCF

Organizations responded to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with continued creativity and digital engagement.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued to limit in-person organizing opportunities. Moreover, masking obscures the facial expressions and lip reading that many Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing individuals rely on for communication. Similarly, digital communications platforms (i.e., Zoom) can fail to include many community members if interpreters are not available. To ensure safety and community engagement, Deaf Equity held several in-person sessions outdoors at State Parks.

Many of the Campaign cohort members hosted smaller focus group conversations instead of large group conversations. Most utilized larger spaces with smaller groups of people to allow for social distancing. Others hosted digital conversations, adjusting the scope of conversations to ensure access and participation.

“You have to take multiple paths. You don’t know which one will be successful, but if you only pick one and that doesn’t work, then you’re stuck.” – Paul Huffman, League of Women Voters MN

“There’s something really nice about sitting down with people in-person, but we wanted to be safe so we adjusted accordingly...We live in an age with a lot of technology, so we used Zoom and Google Meet to still accomplish the same things: to write testimonies and to get their voices heard.” – Richard Jennis, ACER

Reduce barriers to participation.

Communities require unique and targeted engagement strategies. The nuances of community engagement – such as cultural practices and language – are important in shaping effective approaches to ensure full participation by a range of community members.

- Organizations were able to tailor events to the engagement methods that most resonated with their communities. For example, Deaf Equity’s events were scheduled to take additional time to account for multiple layers of translation – spoken to American Sign Language to Certified Deaf Interpreter.
- Organizations helped communities acknowledge and navigate fear and distrust of government institutions in both Census and redistricting processes.
- Consider group dynamics as it pertains to the specific racial community and divide the group into subgroups. For example, in communities where there is deep respect for elders, oftentimes young people will forgo their voices to allow for the elders to speak more. Hence, separate elders and young people to ensure all people are comfortable speaking and providing input, while respecting community structure.
- Identify key milestones early and often so they can be communicated to organizers, activists, and community members. Provide frequent updates to those who have engaged in the process. Acknowledge that accelerated timelines do not serve community.
- Provide food and snacks to sustain people in several ways through the engagement process.
- Utilize trusted messengers and community organizations rooted in key constituencies to engage communities of interest.
- Design and implement campaigns utilizing an anti-racist lens by taking deliberate action to provide equitable opportunity at an individual and systemic level.

“One of the biggest challenges was language barriers. There’s a lot of technical information that is really hard to translate into Hmong, Vietnamese, Karen, and other languages especially the technical aspects of explaining what is redistricting, what does it look like, public officials and what are mapping lines (boundaries).” – Victor Yang, CAPI USA

“We would not be successful if we did not apply an anti-racist lens...we really made sure that this work was reflective of Minnesota’s communities and the goal we were trying to achieve. We wanted to go where we already had relationships. To really honor the communities’ investments in the Census and to help them understand that, ‘Hey, you all let Minnesota hold onto our eighth congressional seat. That’s your impact and here’s another opportunity for impact.’” – May Yang, MCF

“A huge thing was fear – fear of saying exactly the important places in our community, where we gather. Not wanting people to know because the fear of ICE or fear of government action towards the community...But when we don’t allow ourselves to be counted, we can be counted out. We can be erased. So it was important to have those numbers want to have a say, while at the same time maintaining a level of comfort for the community.” – ShaVunda Brown, Pillsbury United Communities

Recognize the community’s rightful place at the center of this work.

Redistricting is about community and ensuring their collective power is realized by mapping lines that enables them to thrive and prosper for years.

- Use a variety of methods and approaches to facilitate dialogue and productive engagement with communities. Shift format from one person standing at the front of the room and talking at/to participants, to having dialogues amongst and with participants – printing questions for everyone, not one board at the front of the room.
- Work with communities to understand redistricting in ways that work for them – with stories and examples that are relatable to them.
- Focus on building trust, relationships and partnerships rather than seeking credit, attention, power or attribution for the work and outcome.

“Sometimes you have to not seek out recognition or attention because that’s going to detract from the ability to be trusted and present in those places...When we’re present in those spaces with community mapping, in particular, we make sure that we are just there to enable the activity by that grantee or group.” – Paul Huffman, League of Women Voters MN

“We were intentional about bringing the voices of the people we were doing listening sessions with to the [redistricting testimony] hearing sessions. It was like, ‘These are our narratives, our stories. We are here and we are powerful. We kept the eight congressional districts because we with the entire BIPOC community worked so hard to help each other.’” – Monica Hurtado, Voices for Racial Justice

“The hope is to improve the areas they were concerned about: housing and safety. Maybe we can have a representative to fight for and to address those issues. So that’s what the community is looking for – having the right person for them to advocate for the needs of their families and kids.” – Wali Dirie, Islamic Civic Society of America

The community mapping process provided opportunities for education, engagement and collective power building.

The process of redistricting feels removed from many people's day-to-day lives, despite the significant impact it can have on their communities. Before participatory mapping activities could take place, organizations had to spend time educating community members about the redistricting process, and the influence that communities can hold. In addition to bringing clarity around the legal steps and timelines, organizers had to address the expectations of community members – what was – and was not – possible through mapping efforts.

Having visual maps allowed participants to physically connect the redistricting process with the places in their everyday lives – places of worship, transportation infrastructure, homes, schools and more.

- Communities want to be involved in redistricting, but have to be invited in.
- Community mapping is an avenue of empowerment – depicting how a community perceives their own boundaries and places of importance, and providing a process for making those understandings explicit to decision makers.
- Community mapping shifts the purpose of redistricting to focus on keeping communities, points of interest and resources necessary for wellbeing together – rather than drawing districts in a way that promotes a certain political outcome.
- The community mapping process helped elected officials better understand the needs of community members.
- Community mapping visualized how communities move within and through places. For example, the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing participants identified transit lines as critical pieces of infrastructure – especially the light rail lines along university ave – and providing the necessary transportation to services. Rural Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing participants also identified transportation services as critical to their wellbeing. Transit lines as life lines.

“People want to have a say in the process – how their communities form and how policy considerations stem from how communities are formed...The more voices we have involved, the more information the courts are going to have – and the more they’re going to be aware of how this affects communities.” - Richard Jennis, ACER

“A key takeaway for me is the power of community. I heard how the East African community was able to turn a liquor store into a mosque, just based on their collective power. They came together and said, ‘We don’t desire to have that within our neighborhood. It’s actually detrimental to our neighborhood. It’s what we couldn’t use – and what we need are more places of workshop and gathering.’ I thought that was very powerful and very impactful.” - ShaVunda Brown, Pillsbury United Communities

“The legislature didn’t understand that we, the Deaf community, make up 20% of the population...We learned that there’s a lot of information the legislature didn’t understand about us and our community. We were really overlooked in so many of their decisions. They didn’t understand about our community, and what our needs are. And more and more Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, were able to participate more and more. And the legislature began to understand – and that was very impactful.” - Jessalyn Akerman-Frank, Deaf Equity

MCF'S FUTURE COMMITMENT

MCF and its community partners are motivated to build on the momentum of the 2020 Census and community-focused redistricting work to support long-term democracy infrastructure and an inclusive democracy that works for everyone.

MCF is committed to four goal areas:

1. Strengthen civic infrastructure in Minnesota;
2. Center historically undercounted and underrepresented communities;
3. Advance a more inclusive democracy through education, advocacy and organizing; and
4. Engage Minnesota grantmakers

The infrastructure created from both efforts is comprised of multiracial community organizations, diverse stakeholders, nonprofits, funders, and promoted cross sector engagement to solve issues and make progress. This partnership is a growing multi-issue statewide network committed to achieving equity. Sustaining this network and avoiding the boom and bust cycle that is common and detrimental to ongoing civic engagement, is critical to continued forward progress toward a more inclusive democracy.

“We want to encourage funding for broader, more comprehensive democracy efforts, and that means shifting from a project focus and moving out of a boom-and-bust funding cycle that often happens with civic engagement efforts. There is a lot to be gained from long-term, ongoing commitment to civic engagement and democracy efforts.”

Katina Mortensen, Director of Public Policy at MCF

Appendix A: Methodology

MCF partnered with Seiche, a strategy and creative consulting agency committed to social impact, to engage members in the Our Maps MN Campaign to explore the impact and lessons learned from the experience. During January - April 2022, Seiche conducted 12 interviews with cohort members (organizations) of the Campaign and two MCF staff members who managed the Campaign. Seiche also invited all 12 members to provide feedback via an online survey and received nine responses. Seiche also reviewed program information, metrics and outcomes, synthesizing the overall findings into salient themes.

Appendix B: Our Maps MN Partners and Cohort Members

Our Maps MN Campaign had 12 participating organizations as its partners and cohort members. These organizations were BIPOC-led and serving.

- African Career, Education & Resource, Inc. (ACER)
- ANIKA Foundation
- Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP)
- CAPI USA
- Communities Organizing Latinx Power and Action (COPAL)
- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
- Deaf Equity
- Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER)
- Islamic Civic Society of America (ICSA)
- Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI)
- Pillsbury United Communities
- Voices for Racial Justice

Four of the 12 organizations received funding and support from MCF for local redistricting after the state congressional and legislative maps were released.

- CAPI USA
- Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER)
- Islamic Civic Society of America (ICSA)
- Pillsbury United Communities

The local redistricting process felt rushed and required a fast turnaround in March 2022. During the process, participants were faced with many issues and challenges, especially the lack of transparency from local redistricting committees on map submission deadlines, last minute cancellation of public community meetings and removal of information from government websites. The Campaign's members were unable to submit maps for Minneapolis and used the St. Paul map sections of the Unity Map to submit to the City of St. Paul. Community efforts are underway to promote reform and ensure more transparency in future local redistricting processes.

Appendix C: Our Maps MN Campaign Interviews

12 individuals including MCF staff, Our Maps MN Campaign partners and cohort members were interviewed by Seiche from January to March 2022. Cohort members were provided stipends for their time.

NAME	ORGANIZATION(S)
Anika Robbins	ANIKA Foundation
Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera	Common Cause MN
Jolene Jones	Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI)
Katina Mortensen	Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF)
May Yang	Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF)
Migdalia Rogers	Deaf Equity
Monica Hurtado	Voices for Racial Justice
Nicolas Diaz de Leon	Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER)
Paul Huffman	League of Women Voters MN
Richard Jennis	African Career, Education & Resource, Inc. (ACER)
ShaVunda Brown	Pillsbury United Communities
Victor Yang	CAPI USA
Wali Dirie	Islamic Civic Society of America (ICSA)

In March and April 2022, Seiche held follow-up virtual conversations with Richard Jennis (ACER), Victor Yang (CAPI USA), Nicolas Diaz de Leon (HACER) and Jolene Jones (NACDI) to hear their reactions and thoughts about the finalized 2022 congressional and legislative maps.

Appendix D: Our Maps MN Campaign Strategy

The Our Maps MN Campaign aimed to advance their goals and objectives by:

- Organizing and Mobilizing with BIPOC communities and other stakeholders across Minnesota to talk about redistricting and why it matters, map BIPOC and other communities of interest, create map and advocate that community maps influence the legislative and legal process.
- Policy and Advocacy at the state level to advance redistricting reforms, adoption of community-focused redistricting principles, and influence all three branches of government to allow for more community voice in the process.
- Legal Actions to ensure maps comply with the Voting Rights Act, gerrymandering is minimized, and BIPOC communities of interest are kept whole.
- Public Awareness and Storytelling to raise public awareness about redistricting and develop messaging and share stories about why redistricting matters to help the broader public, especially BIPOC communities, connect the dots between redistricting and their interests.
- Technical Expertise and Assistance to support the strategies above, such as mapping support, training on tools, research, etc.

Appendix E: Our Maps MN Campaign Structure

OVERALL CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

MCF served as the Our Maps MN Campaign manager and worked in partnership with Common Cause MN, League of Women Voters MN and Voices for Racial Justice to provide leadership and direction for the overall redistricting efforts.

LEADERSHIP BY STRATEGY AREA

- **Organizing and Mobilizing**
MCF led the organizing and mobilizing strategy by primarily focusing on COI mapping to ensure community engagement and representation through the development of community maps. To achieve this, MCF provided grants to 12 BIPOC-led and serving community organizations. This cohort identified their redistricting focus areas within their communities, engaged communities in conversations about redistricting and why it matters, conducted COI mapping sessions and shared the maps with relevant policymakers. The cohort also mobilized their communities to engage in the public testimony processes of the Minnesota State Legislature and Minnesota Supreme Court Special Redistricting Panel.
- **Policy and Advocacy**
Common Cause MN and League of Women Voters MN led the legislative strategy efforts for the Campaign. They developed legislation and the legislative strategy with an understanding of what is required to develop and pass legislation, while ensuring key principles and concerns agreed to by Our Maps MN Campaign partners are addressed; this included determining what testimony to provide to the legislature, by whom and when. Other campaign members were mobilized by calls to action at key moments to support this work.
- **Legal Actions**
Common Cause MN led the legal strategy and approach for the Campaign.

- **Public Awareness and Storytelling**

Voices for Racial Justice and MCF led efforts to raise public awareness about redistricting and developed messages and shared stories about why redistricting matters to help the broader public, especially BIPOC communities, connect the dots between redistricting and their interests. Those engaged in organizing and mobilizing were encouraged to amplify this work and contribute their own stories to the effort.

- **Technical Expertise and Assistance**

The League of Women Voters MN and MCF, in partnership with technical experts, led the effort to support the Campaign with tools, resources and technical assistance. The League of Women Voters MN served as the coordinator for this strategy which included training on mapping tools and ‘train the trainer’ on mapping communities of interest. This also included the development of a toolkit for local activists looking to influence local redistricting efforts.

Appendix F: Corrie Plaintiffs and Court Testimonies

The following documents are available on the [Minnesota Judicial Branch Special Redistricting Panel 2021 website](#). In an order dated June 30, 2021, the Minnesota Supreme Court appointed a special redistricting panel to hear and decide challenges to the validity of state legislative and congressional districts based on the 2020 Census.

- [Corrie Plaintiffs’ Memorandum in Support of Congressional Plan](#)
- [Corrie Plaintiffs’ Memorandum in Support of Legislative Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Amy Erickson in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Legislative Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Amy Erickson in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Congressional Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of May Yang in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Lenny Fineday in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Dr. Bruce Corrie in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Rebeca Sedarski in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Jovita Francisco in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Ngawang Dolker in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Melvin Falla in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Cecilio Palacio in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Wali Dirie in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Nelima Sitati Munene in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Declaration of Monica Bryand in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan](#)
- [Congressional Block Equivalency Files \(Excel\)](#)
- [House Block Equivalency Files \(Excel\)](#)
- [Senate Block Equivalency Files \(Excel\)](#)
- [Corrie Plaintiffs Oral Argument Affirmative Presentation \(January 4, 2022 oral arguments\)](#)
- [Corrie Plaintiffs Oral Argument Response Presentation \(January 4, 2022 oral arguments\)](#)

Appendix G: Survey Results

All 12 Our Maps MN Campaign cohort members were invited to fill out an online survey to provide their feedback and share impact stories. Nine of the 12 organizations completed the survey.

- African Career, Education & Resource, Inc. (ACER)
- ANIKA Foundation
- Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP)
- CAPI USA
- Communities Organizing Latinx Power and Action (COPAL)
- Deaf Equity
- Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER)
- Islamic Civic Society of America
- Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI)
- Pillsbury United Communities
- The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
- Voices for Racial Justice

SURVEY QUESTIONS

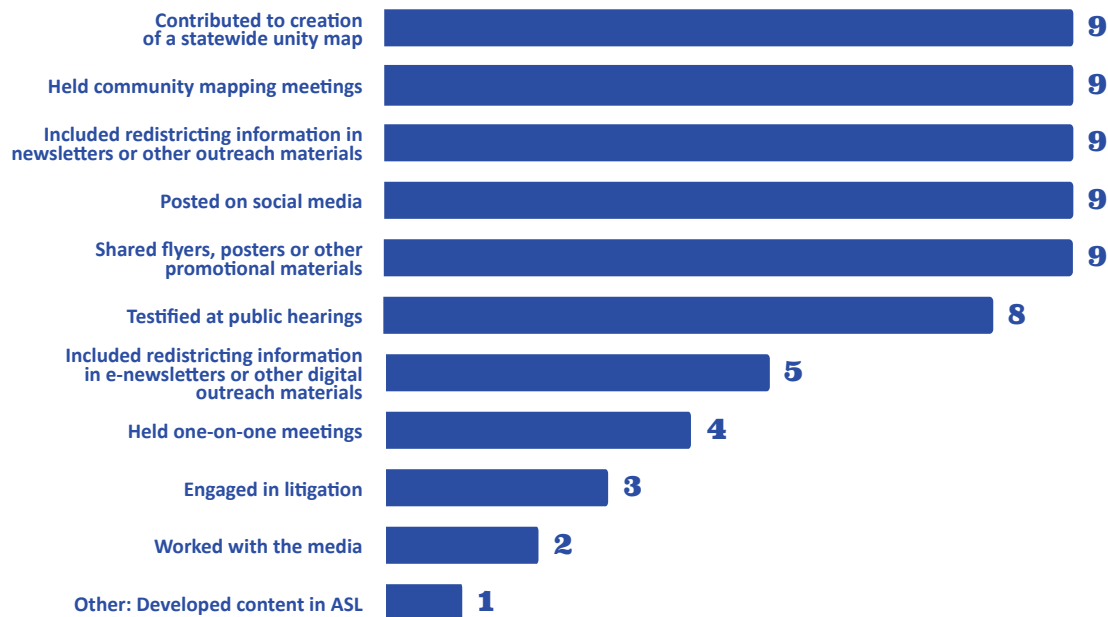
1. Organization Name
2. Full Name
3. Email Address
4. What specific communities or populations did your organization engage during the Our Maps MN campaign? (i.e., geographical, racial/ethnic, demographics, etc.).
5. Which of the following did your organization do to engage communities around redistricting? Select all that apply:
 - Held community mapping meetings
 - Held one-on-one meetings
 - Shared flyers, posters or other promotional materials
 - Included redistricting information in newsletters or other outreach materials
 - Posted on social media
 - Included redistricting information in e-newsletters or other digital outreach materials
 - Worked with the media
 - Engaged in litigation
 - Contributed to creation of a statewide unity map
 - Testified at public hearings
 - Other (please specify)
6. If your organization held events, mapping sessions or other meetings (in-person or virtually), approximately how many were held?
7. It is difficult to give a precise count of the number of people touched by your work. Thinking about the many ways in which your organization worked with community members during the Our Maps MN campaign, how many people would you estimate your organization engaged?
8. If the maps created through the community mapping process are adopted, what positive or negative impacts could communities experience?
9. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic impacted many outreach and engagement efforts. Please describe how you adapted your outreach efforts.
10. Looking ahead, what is the most important “best practice” you want future redistricting efforts to know?
11. Is there a story that stands out in your mind as representative of the impact of Our Maps MN engagement in your community?
12. Where did you map? What location do you think is best/worst represented in the final maps and why?

24,035
PEOPLE REACHED

Respondents self-reported they reached an estimated 24,035 people, in-person and digitally, during the redistricting process.

TYPES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR REDISTRICTING

Total respondents = 9 (respondents could provide more than one answer)



COMMUNITIES AND DEMOGRAPHICS SERVED:

- AAPI
- African Americans
- American Indians
- AAPI young people in the Metro area
- BIPOC
- Deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing
- East African immigrants
- East Africans
- Faribault
- Immigrants
- Lao and Southeast Asian communities in Shakopee, Eagan, and Bloomington
- Latinx
- LGBTQ
- Low income housing
- Metro Area
- North Minneapolis
- Northwestern suburbs of Minneapolis (Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Robbinsdale, New Hope, and Crystal)
- Oromo
- Rural parts of Minnesota
- Somali
- South Minneapolis
- Spanish-speaking
- St. Cloud
- St. Paul

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS OF COMMUNITY OF INTEREST (COI) SESSIONS:

- Bloomington
- Brooklyn Park
- Brooklyn Center
- Chaska
- Faribault
- Minneapolis
 - Cedar Riverside
 - Harrison (neighborhood)
 - North Minneapolis
 - Phillips (neighborhood)
 - South Minneapolis
- Rochester
- Roseville
- St. Paul
 - East St. Paul
 - West St. Paul

BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE REDISTRICTING WORK FROM COHORT MEMBERS:

- Translators at COI mapping sessions to help with communication.
- Train facilitators leading the COI mapping sessions.
- Ask participants direct questions about their communities such as what their interests were, what do they care about, where do they frequent, etc.
- Focus on community needs, common points of interest, and addressing of mutual barriers.
- Get young people involved.
- To continue to seek the voices of those overlooked or not included.
- Continue to get redistricting education support as needed.
- Understand the tools needed to map the needs of the community.
- Have a clearer timeline of the process.
- Center diversity, inclusion and equity.

STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS:

- “There was a participant who told us that without us going into the community to help inform them of these actions. They would not be able to have their voices heard and wanted us to make sure that people who have the power hear what the community has to say about community issues.”
- “People shared stories of monumental transportation barriers within their communities and the efforts they and other members of their community have had to take to overcome these disadvantages. Many of these issues could be solved by allowing members of these communities to remain in the same district and to address these concerns collectively.”
- “We learned from many that the same issues still exist today, housing, education, transportation and language access, safety.”
- “Keeping our communities of interest together is an important principle in redistricting.”
- “Folks in the East African community were able to turn a liquor store into a mosque by organizing and advocating for the needs of their community.”
- “Listening to our elders detail what places, landmarks and people mattered to them.”

THE IMPACT COMMUNITIES COULD EXPERIENCE IF THE UNITY MAP AND COI MAPS ARE ADOPTED:

- “Would have the community more likely to have someone who looks and is culturally sensitive to the community that they serve.”
- “Communities may seem segregated on purpose based on racial factors.”
- “More representative and concentrated districts for Latine communities around Minnesota. This will allow for those within a ‘minority’ population to have more of an impact with their votes to elect representatives that are concerned with the wellbeing of their constituents. Because it is impossible to create districts that include ALL Latine people, without a doubt the new proposed district lines probably leave some individuals out which may place them in districts that no longer represent their interests or needs.”
- “Greater representation, inclusion of common points of interest in same districts, immigrant representation, avoidance of gerrymandering and political outcome-based redistricting.”
- “Separation of neighboring communities, particularly in the House of Representatives”
- “It would be able to give some of us voice.”
- “We have deepened our sense of a shared community and a common voice across our district. We identified aspects of our community which hold us together - issues, events, and places.”
- “If the maps created truly reflect the needs and will of the people that we’ve engaged with it would send a clear message around the power of the people on the ground. I think as young people are becoming more and more engaged, being able to see the direct impact of their engagement would be really encouraging.”
- “Communities of interest would maintain power by being grouped together. Harrison would continue to be a part of North Minneapolis.”
- “Equitable voting and election practices and representation, opportunities for development and investment in communities to build around shared needs and values. The community seeing its voice heard and having impact.”