

# Lake County Redistricting Framework

## DRAFT

### **Purpose and Duties**

Upon the completion of a federal decennial census for Lake County, an Independent Advisory Commission on Redistricting (IACR) shall be established by the County Board to set guiding principles for the reapportionment and serve as a partner in facilitating public outreach. The IACR shall draw from the information gathered by the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability (LCCGRA) and state laws pertaining to the map amendment process. The IACR shall prioritize and recommend redistricting principles for use by the County, based on those approved by the Illinois Redistricting Collaborative/Change Illinois on August 31, 2017. The IACR shall conduct public outreach to educate County residents about the redistricting process and gather input from relevant stakeholders to aid the County in preparing and adopting maps.

### **Membership and Appointments**

The Commission shall consist of thirteen members who are registered to vote in Lake County and are not currently elected County officials or are employees of Lake County government. The Commission membership shall be reflective of the diverse people and communities we serve – including demographic, socioeconomic and geographic characteristics; will include those advocating for voting rights, fairness, and equity; include those who are familiar with local government governance; or other qualities determined by the County Board.

To establish a pool from which to appoint members, and no later than eight months prior to the anticipated first meeting of the Commission, the County Board shall widely solicit interest among members of the County in serving on the IACR through such means as direct mail and e-mail with residents and civic groups, using public service announcements and daily newspapers. Applicants for the Independent Advisory Redistricting Commission will be vetted through the LCCGRA.

Once the board members have been identified, the County Board will establish the leadership positions and appoint members to those positions.

The Commission's members shall be guided by the goal of equal, just and fair representation of all people of Lake County consistent with established state and federal law.

### **Preparing for the Apportionment Process**

The IACR shall review research conducted by the LCCGRA and state laws pertaining to the map amendment process, conducting additional research as necessary to assure that the latest legal implications are fully understood.

Using the principles adopted by Change Illinois on August 31, 2017, the IACR shall develop, prioritize, and recommend redistricting principles to the County Board that will be used to

drive the reapportionment process. The prioritization will identify legal requirements (e.g., the U.S. Constitution, federal and state Voting Rights Acts, and other pertinent federal and state laws) to ensure that the framework conforms to all known requirements. The County Board will review the recommendations and may adopt redistricting principles to guide the map amendment process.

Once adopted by the County Board, the principles will be applied to the existing district maps to provide a test of the framework, determine current levels of conformity to the principles, and develop a baseline for the review of proposed maps.

The IACR shall identify appropriate public outreach activities using various strategies to inform voters about the redistricting process and solicit input, which shall be recommended to the County Board. Existing County communications tools and proven approaches (e.g., the DOT open house model) shall be considered.

Members of the IACR will participate in any public outreach activities adopted by the County Board and will gather any feedback and input. All pertinent information gathered from voters and stakeholders will be summarized and reported to the County Board.

### **Review of Proposed Maps**

The IACR shall review draft maps developed by the subcommittee of the County Board and prepare comments based on the redistricting principles adopted by the County.

The IACR shall solicit feedback on the maps from stakeholders who represent diverse communities throughout the County.

Once these activities are completed, the IACR shall prepare a summary of the comments and feedback for consideration by the County Board.

### **County Board Responsibilities**

Lake County will support the Commission in the following ways:

- Develop a process for and implement Commission member selection;
- Establish a budget for the redistricting process (including the IACR);
- Develop a calendar for the work of the Commission that meets the requirements for the redistricting process;
- Provide staff support for research and meeting facilitation, subject to budget appropriation and board approval;
- Provide access to data and maps needed to conduct the work of the Commission;
- Support public outreach and engagement using County communications tools and techniques;
- Provide logistical support for public outreach; and
- Respond to Commission recommendations and comments.