

Lake County

Independent Advisory Commission on Redistricting

DRAFT Charter

Purpose and Duties

Upon the completion of a federal decennial census for Lake County, an Independent Advisory Commission on Redistricting (RAC) shall be established by the County Board to set guiding principles for the reapportionment and serve as a partner in facilitating public outreach. The RAC 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 RAC shall prioritize and recommend redistricting principles for use by the County, based on those approved by the Illinois Redistricting Collaborative/Change Illinois. The RAC 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 Lake County citizens, are eligible to register to vote and do not hold positions as public officers or are employed by the County. 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 RAC 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.

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 RAC shall review research conducted by the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability 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, the RAC shall develop, prioritize, and recommend redistricting principles to the County Board that will be used to drive the reapportionment process. The County Board will review the recommendations and may adopt redistricting principles to guide the map amendment process.

The RAC shall identify appropriate public outreach activities to inform voters about the redistricting process and solicit input, which shall be recommended to the County Board.

Members of the RAC 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 RAC 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 RAC shall solicit feedback on the maps from stakeholders who represent diverse communities throughout the County.

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