

September 2021

Thank you Chair, members & staff

My name is Roz Peterson, I am a former member of the House and served on the Local Government Policy committee. I appreciate the opportunity to share my viewpoints on redistricting.

I represented the communities of the suburbs Burnsville and Lakeville however I grew up in Minnetonka and went to Wayzata High School which was located in Plymouth.

I am a commercial realtor who focuses mostly on the south metro but work on properties in Hopkins and Bloomington as well.

My perspective is from the suburban viewpoint.

Burnsville has over 61,000 people

Lakeville has nearly 70,000 people

In the current house district where I live, Burnsville was represented by people who did not live in Burnsville 60% of the time. In fact, there have been many years there were no house members that lived in Burnsville, yet Burnsville is represented by three house districts. I think this is wrong.

I believe a better solution is to keep house districts within the same city as much as possible in the suburbs, or follow other local government lines, such as school districts.

Recognizing that it is not that simple, next the lines should follow major roads.

A major or even minor collector road would be preferred over a low traffic city street. My current house district divides neighborhoods down a city street that is not contiguous to another neighborhood. It makes no sense.

In summary, please consider adding to the process to determining house district lines in suburban areas:

- 1) they follow the city borders first
- 2) they follow school district boundaries second
- 3) they follow major or minor collector roads third
- 4) If possible, the portion of an adjacent largely developed city should be at least 10,000 people or more to hinder gerrymandering

This process should be followed in the metro area only. It does not pertain to Greater Minnesota.

Our community communications whether it is local newspaper or online media presence is broken down by city or schools, so it tends to be a better way to stay informed as a member and provide a more effective way to communicate with constituents.

I believe that the legislature is the best place to make these decisions, not the court system. After all, who knows better than you—the House members who are closest to the people. I believe that by working together you can find consensus and know you will find the best solution, if there is a willingness to get along. I challenge you to find that trust and peace in each other.

I suggest these processes to only better represent the people of Minnesota, and respectfully hope you consider these recommendations.

Thank you again for your time and service to our state.