

My name is Dan Rekuski and I am a homeowner and resident of Coon Rapids.

**Regarding state legislature redistricting:**

Crooked Lake is one of the metro area's most beautiful lakes. Half of Crooked Lake is located in Coon Rapids and the other half in Andover. The members of the Crooked Lake Area Association (CLAA) work together to clean up trash in the lake and fight invasive species. At the present time, our lake is home to a few invasive species, however due to the hard work and coordination efforts of the association, the growth of these invasive species has been curtailed, and the water quality of the lake remains high. Despite the lake being split between two cities, the entire lake and surrounding neighborhood is contained within one state legislative district, 35B. This gives our neighborhood a dedicated voice in the legislature to help us work with the Department of Natural Resources to keep invasive species from polluting our lake. To ensure the future environmental cleanliness of Crooked Lake, it is imperative to keep it this way.

In addition to the Crooked Lake community, I would also like to mention that northern Coon Rapids residents transact a lot of business in Andover. If you live north of Main St NW like I do, the closest stores and businesses to shop at are all in Andover. This includes big retailers like Walmart and Target, as well as a grocery store, a movie theater, a bowling alley, and many restaurants. I think the current house district 35B reflects the needs of this area very well and should be kept similar when the new maps are drawn.

**Regarding congressional redistricting:**

For decades the 3<sup>rd</sup> District has represented the western suburbs and exurbs, yet Coon Rapids is the only city in the 3<sup>rd</sup> that is east of the Mississippi River. The river awkwardly cuts us off from the rest of the district. Additionally, Coon Rapids is much more similar to the cities on the east side of the Mississippi River. This includes Anoka, Andover, and Blaine. All of which are located in the 6<sup>th</sup> District and Anoka County. The Mississippi River is a large natural barrier and would be considered by many a reasonable boundary for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. Coon Rapids is also the only city from Anoka County to be put in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, while the rest of Anoka County is in the 6<sup>th</sup> District, which further alienates our city from the rest of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District and the other cities in our county. The new district maps would be an improvement over the old maps if Anoka County were kept together in one congressional district and the Mississippi River used as a natural border for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

Thank you very much for listening,

Dan Rekuski