

As a resident of Anoka County, I felt we were a "leftover" when the 2012 Congressional lines were drawn. I'm hopeful we will be part of the early focus in drawing new lines.

I would like to suggest that the Congressional Districts start with the Twin Cities, keeping separate St. Paul and Minneapolis-based districts. I would like to see the "horn" of Anoka County (Fridley, Spring Lake Park, Hilltop, Columbia Heights) returned to a Minneapolis-based CD 5. I would like to see southeastern Anoka County, with University Ave, and Highway 65 as boundaries (Blaine, Centerville, Lino Lakes, Lexington, Circle Pines) placed in CD 4, based in St. Paul. CD 3 included Coon Rapids in 2012. I would like to see Anoka, Andover and Ramsey added in the CD 3 boundary. Finally, I would like to divide northern Anoka County moved into CD 8 (Ham Lake, East Bethel, Bethel, Columbus, Linwood, St. Francis, Oak Grove, Nowthen).

With this model, I would have CD4 be a northern St. Paul suburb district with Ramsey County, southeastern Anoka County and northern Washington County (from Woodbury north to Forest Lake).

With this model, I would have CD 5 be a Minneapolis and immediate neighboring suburbs location, to the north and west in Anoka and Hennepin Counties, including the Anoka County area named above, plus Brooklyn Center, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale and Edina in Hennepin County.

With this model, I would have CD 3 continue to be a Hennepin-Anoka County western suburban area, including the Anoka County area listed above, plus the remaining Hennepin County locations not listed in CD 5.

With this model, I would have CD 2 centered in Dakota, southern Washington, and Scott Counties, as well as the Counties south of them, east of 169, and north of Rochester and Mankato.

With this model, I would have CD 1 continue to be the width of the state across the Iowa border, with additional Counties west of 169 and north of Mankato, such as Sibley or Brown added as necessary for the population.

With this model, I would have CD 8 continue to be the northeastern part of the State, adding the northern section of Anoka County, as well as Elk River and Zimmerman along Highway 169 in Sherburne County.

With this model, I would have CD 7 continue to be the northwestern part of the State, but add Stearns County, based in St. Cloud to CD 7, however, cutting the southern line of the western border at either Hwy 27 or 28, or adjusted to the County borders closest to Hwy 27 or 28, as population would be needed.

This would change CD 6 to a central western Minnesota district including Carver County, Benton County, western Sherburne County, Wright County, McLeod County, and going to the

South Dakota border, north of the CD 1 border, south of the CD 7 border, and west of the CD 2 and CD 3 borders.

As to legislative districts, I would again suggest starting with Minneapolis and St. Paul, and moving outward from the Twin Cities metro area, where I believe at least three additional districts will need to be drawn.

Currently, parts or all of six Senate Districts lie in Anoka County. I would like to see parts of 8 Districts touch Anoka County.

My thoughts: 1) I think western Ramsey City (perhaps Ramsey Blvd.?) should be in a district with Elk River, Zimmerman and Otsego along Hwy. 169 in Sherburne and Hennepin Counties. 2) I believe the southern Anoka County cities of Columbia Heights and Hilltop can be redrawn with St. Anthony and a portion of adjacent Northeast Minneapolis, of Hennepin County. 3) The cities of Fridley and the easternmost precinct of Spring Lake Park can be drawn with New Brighton and Mounds View of Ramsey County. 4) The western two precincts of Spring Lake Park could be in a district with the portions of Blaine and Ham Lake east of Highway 65. 5) Eastern Anoka County - Lino Lakes, Centerville, Lexington, Circle Pines and Columbus can return to a district with the City of Hugo in Washington County - and parts of White Bear Lake Township in Ramsey County, as needed. 6) Linwood Township and East Bethel can be drawn into a district with Forest Lake (Washington County), Wyoming (Chisago County) and Isanti County. 7) Most of eastern Coon Rapids (Crooked Lake Blvd.?) can form a district with eastern Andover (Round Lake Blvd.?) and the parts of Ham Lake and Blaine west of Hwy 65. 8) Finally, the western portion of Coon Rapids (Crooked Lake Blvd.?) can combine with the city of Anoka, the western portion of Andover (Round Lake Blvd.?) and the eastern part of Ramsey (Ramsey Blvd?).

Wes Volkenant  
Andover Resident