

Dear Chair Murphy, Vice Chair Klevorn, and Committee Members:

Thank you for your work on this difficult task of redistricting. I would like to offer my insight based on my experience as a city council member in Maple Plain and make a suggestion regarding the L2101-0 map published on November 19th, 2021, specifically regarding the 24A district.

As a small town on the edge of Hennepin County, we often struggle to garner funding, legislative support, and other resources, in comparison to our larger, suburban neighbors. The addition of Rogers to our house district would compound this issue.

In the current proposal, Rogers would constitute about 30% of the population of our district, despite being only one of nine cities and only about 16% of the land area. This would not only create an imbalance in our district, but Rogers' dense population center and bustling commercial corridor along Interstate 94 are vastly different from the mostly rural communities and small cities of the rest of the district. If you need to move part of western Hennepin County into CD6 and align the house district accordingly, the demographics of Rogers and its location on 94 make it a good fit with the St. Michael / Albertville area, whereas the rural areas of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius are much more similar to the rest of the proposed 24A district.

Moving Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius into 24A instead of Rogers would not change the political makeup of the district and would not affect any incumbents; it would better balance the population, make the district more cohesive demographically, and also make the district slightly more compact.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Cahill
Council Member
City of Maple Plain