
From: Carolyn Jackson <CJackson@EdinaMN.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:52 AM
To: Heather Edelson
Cc: sneal@edinamn.gov; James Hovland; Sen. Melisa López Franzen
Subject: Proposed legislative redistricting map

Dear Rep. Edelson,

As a member of the Edina City Council, I would like to share with you my perspective about the MN House legislative redistricting map proposed as L2101-0 on November 19, 2021.

As you know, Edina is currently served by two legislative districts, 49A and 49B. 49A covers the majority of the city, with a slice of the southern portion of our city added to the western part of Bloomington as 49B (and small parts of Minnetonka and Eden Prairie). In terms of representation, this works very well, because the interests of the Edina portion of 49B align well with the interests of the other sections of 49B, which are suburban single family and multifamily homes and similar commercial and industrial uses.

The proposed map in L2101-0 divides the interests of our city, specifically as it relates to regional facilities and to housing policy.

The newly proposed map divides Edina's regional facilities from the bulk of our population. Specifically, the map separates out Braemar Hockey Arena, Braemar Golf Course and the regional public safety training facility on the west from the bulk of Edina's population. On the east, the proposed map separates the Southdale business district and Centennial Lakes Park from the bulk of Edina's population. This will make bonding requests more complicated and diluted. If the 48A representative represents most of Edina's population but not our regional facilities, how do we as a City Council best address the legislature for state funding?

Here is an example: Edina is currently pursuing a city sales tax to pay for improvements to two of our regional parks, Braemar and Fred Richards. Under our current representation, the largest retail portion of our city is aligned in interest with the beneficiaries of this tax. However, the proposed map severs our largest retail district from these parks. The representative of the commercial district may view a sales tax differently from the representative of the beneficiaries. If we had to return to the legislature for state assistance, which of our legislators would best represent our request? The one with the most Edina voters or the one who represents a minority of Edina but has the facility in their district?

The proposed map also affects housing policy. While Edina strives to maintain policies that apply uniformly across our city, the truth is that most multifamily housing exists in the Southdale business district. Again, under the current representation, both of our State Representatives represent single family and multifamily housing neighborhoods. Under L2101-0, our city would be divided among single family residences (47A), some mix but primarily single family residences (48A) and multifamily only residences (48B). Our city has been working very hard to develop housing options including creating income-restricted affordable housing. Having our state representation divided along these lines would make our efforts more complicated, both functionally and politically.

Edina is a statutory city with four generally elected City Council Members and a Mayor with a strong manager.

I respectfully request that you share these observations with the House Redistricting Committee and ask that they do not divide the Southdale business district and the Braemar complex which includes the ice arena, the public safety training facility and the golf course from the majority of the city.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Jackson, Edina City Council Member

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