



**BEFORE YOU SUPPORT ANY REDISTRICTING REFORMS – ASK,
DOES IT PUT MINNESOTA VOTERS FIRST?**

Common Cause, a non-partisan group, has a long record of fighting for redistricting reform across the U.S. We have played a critical role in supporting citizen coalitions, gathering public input, drafting bill language, and litigating partisan gerrymandering cases across the country and in Minnesota. Our Minnesota base is almost 18,000 strong across the state. Our membership contains voters from various political leanings.

Common Cause MN and our multi-partisan statewide democracy coalition, allies, and activists believe that we all benefit when people from all walks of life participate in self-governance. **We all deserve a voice in shaping the future for our families and our communities.** For that to happen, we must ensure that historically undercounted communities, children, youth, seniors and our immigrant communities are fully counted.

We must ALL count in the 2020 Census. A complete and accurate census is at the root of the drawing of our voting maps through redistricting. A compromised census count means Minnesota's democracy is compromised; our congressional apportionment and local redistricting would be compromised.

Redistricting reform can move in two ways in Minnesota: 1) A statute or; 2) Legislation putting a question on the 2020 ballot passing a constitutional amendment establishing an independent redistricting commission.

Whether established through a constitutional amendment or by statute, voter-focused redistricting reform must include ALL of the following:

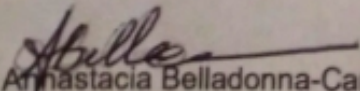
1. Direct and equal participation of public members as commissioners AND
2. Establishment of an advisory commission directly or as a backup in the case that a constitutional amendment fails to pass AND
3. An open and honest process AND
4. Redistricting principles putting Minnesotans first – Ahead of self/partisan and special interest.

We spent this summer meeting with everyday Minnesotans from southern and central Minnesota making sure they understand why moving voter-focused redistricting reforms are so important for the state of Minnesota's democracy moving forward. After engaging hundreds of Minnesota voters, 1 theme continues to come up; people want bipartisan reforms that are actually going to move.

Common Cause MN, our members and statewide multipartisan coalition, allies, and activists stand ready to work in partnership with this committee and our chamber leadership to move voter-focused redistricting reform in 2020 that put MN voters first; ahead of party, self and special interest. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard and for your work in getting these mini-hearings in place so more Minnesotans can have direct access to their elected officials. It is always a good day for democracy when that happens.

Together, we will put MN voters first and accomplish true redistricting reform.

Respectfully submitted,


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**All voices matter.
All votes count.**