

Reunify Carver County into one congressional district!

From: Sandy and Vince Beaudette in Victoria, MN

“Upon our return to the Twin Cities area in 1997, after 20 years in Ohio, Illinois, and Florida, we chose to live in Carver County. We have lived in Carver County for the last 24 years. We chose Carver County because we wanted to live in an environment where local government control is a high priority for the many like-minded residents there.

During the first decade of the 21st Century all of Carver County was unified into one Congressional District. When a unified Carver County spoke to a Congressional Representative, that person had no choice but to listen carefully. A unified Carver County populace had more influence not only on a Congressional Rep, but also on legislators, local news outlets, etc.

Last redistricting cycle, Carver County lost its unified congressional district status. The redistricting of 10 years ago resulted in an erosion of the perceived need in Carver for the need to speak with one voice to all governing entities impacting Carver. The western third of Carver County was made part of the 6th Congressional District. This separation inevitably resulted in reduced messaging continuity in Carver over our governance. Without a unified voice, another unfortunate outcome has been the elevated role of the unelected, and unaccountable Met Council. The residents of Carver County have suffered as a result.

Ten years ago, Western Carver was very rural and experiencing less population growth than Eastern Carver County. As a result, it was less impacted by the intrusion of the Met Council into Carver with regard to land use, transportation, etc. However, this has dramatically changed over the last ten years with Western Carver County now experiencing significant population growth – a trend that has been exacerbated by

the COVID-19 pandemic, technological change, and a spike in crime in the Twin Cities. Homes in Western Carver County are in high demand and there is no end in sight to the population growth.

As West Carver rises in population, the Met Council will increasingly intrude on the lives of the residents in Western Carver County. These residents will feel the need to become more active in the defense of local governance that all of us in Carver County cherish!

It's obvious to many Carver County residents that the Met Council governs to achieve homogeneity of the entire metro area as a goal. This is in direct conflict with the high valuation Carver residents place on local control of Government. Carver County deserves a unified, county-wide voice to make its case to the Met Council, the State Legislature, and in Congress.

Carver County residents resent Met Council involvement in the planning of land use, transportation, etc. by unelected persons living elsewhere in Minnesota. As a whole, we're now very concerned that the Met Council will try to force light rail into our county. This inevitably would change the character of Carver County considerably. Again, we didn't move into Carver County only to have the unelected members of the Met Council fundamentally and proactively change who we are as a county.

We want the voices of all of our legislators and a single member of Congress to speak in a coordinated manner, in part to reverse the intrusion of the unelected and unaccountable Met Council.

The best way to achieve of this objective is the reunification of all of Carver County as a vital component of the 3rd Congressional district.

Carver County shares similar values, lifestyles, communities, schools, and transportation patterns with the Western Hennepin County communities in the Third Congressional District. As a result, we urge

this Committee and the Redistricting Panel to unite Carver County in Minnesota's Third Congressional District.

**Vince and Sandy Beaudette
Victoria, MN**