

Honorable Members of the Redistricting Committee,

I am writing to recommend that two things be considered with care as you go about the decennial task of redrawing congressional district lines.

My city of Waconia has grown a great deal since the last census. In fact, it could be said we have "outgrown" the congressional district lines of 2011 in more ways than one.

As a high school government teacher, it has been rather instructive for my students when I offer that the end of my backyard is the edge of CD 6 and that when I step into my neighbor's backyard I am standing in CD 3. However, for practical purposes and for representations' sake, it is no longer an ideal location for a line.

That brings me to my initial "ask", and that is that the entire municipality of Waconia please be included in a singular congressional district. Perhaps, some consideration could even be given to the fact that our town will likely continue its eastward expansion so another set of neighbors doesn't find themselves in different districts in a couple of years?

The other recommendation I will make is that Waconia would be best served were it included in a district that features cities like Chaska, Chanhassen, and Minnetonka. 30 years ago, Waconia more closely resembled the hamlets of Mayer or Norwood-Young America. However, as our city has recently grown to over 13,000 residents meaning that demographically we have much more in common with the west metro suburbs than we do with the small towns of western Carver County. To be included in a district as described above would help to ensure our residents are represented rather than having their voices overwhelmed by the proclivities of rural and small town populations that may not share their views and values.

Thank you for your consideration and best wishes as you embark on this important process.

Carl Pierson  
Waconia, MN