

Dear Honorable Members of the Redistricting Committee

I respectfully request that you to use redistricting not as a political tool, but as a way to ensure that every voter's interests are fairly represented. To that end, I would ask that you keep all of Stillwater together in District 39B. Stillwater is in the suburban ring encircling the Twin Cities. It's communities share common interests - they are all in the same school district, share the same roads and bridges, share the St. Croix River and the Stillwater Business District. District 39A is located largely in the Forest Lake area which is an exurban area of farms and rural lands and vastly different needs than the portion of Stillwater that is currently in District 39A.

Combining two vastly different communities in one district sets up a competition for one voice to be heard over the needs of the other. Keeping Stillwater together allows each area to have it's needs better represented.

We need districts whose lines are not determined by politics or by keeping the status quo, but by considering the communities needs and interests and representing them in the fairest way possible. It is imperative that careful consideration be given to a process that thoughtfully crafts a design that more fairly represents the voices of these separate communities.

Sincerely,

Nancy McLean
Stillwater Resident