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File Number 211396
Common Council Committee on Judiciary and Legislation
Monday, January 10, 2022

Chair Hamilton, Vice Chair Dodd, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding File Number 211396, a substitute ordinance relating to aldermanic district boundaries commencing in 2022.

Mayor Vetoes Map A

On 12/6/2021, former Mayor Barrett vetoed the redistricting map approved by the Common Council (Plan A). In his veto letter, Barrett explained that "[b]ased on the 2020 census totals and other population data, the maps adopted by the Common Council [did] not adequately reflect the growth of Hispanic residents." Considering Latinos make up 20.1% of Milwaukee's population, Barrett added "It is only fair that growing populations be afforded political representation proportionate to their size and shared stake in the community."

On 12/14/2021, the Common Council unanimously sustained the Mayor's veto.

Revising Map A To Create Third Latino Aldermanic District

Given that the reason we are revising Plan A is to ensure that the Latino community's voting strength based on its population size is adequately reflected, it only makes sense to create a third Latino aldermanic district made up of the Latino wards outside Districts 8 and 12 and which follows the trends in both movement and growth of the Latino population. Aldermanic District 13 (AD13) would be the appropriate choice to accomplish this goal.

Voces' Maps Create Third Latino Aldermanic District While Complying With Traditional Redistricting Principles, Other Plans Don't

Voces de la Frontera's proposed maps are the only maps currently being considered that reconfigure AD13 into a Latino aldermanic district while also complying with traditional redistricting principles. Both maps create a third Latino aldermanic district in AD13 that reflects the voting strength of Latinos, follows the movement and growth of the Latino population, is compact and contiguous, preserves communities of interest, and keeps incumbents in their districts.

In contrast, none of the other proposed maps meet these standards. First, Plans B, C, and D exclude wards that are heavily populated by Latinos from what is intended to be the new Latino aldermanic district, to wit: AD13. Second, Plan B is outside the standard deviation for total population. Additionally, Plans B and C barely make a discernible improvement to Plan A when it comes to Latino voting strength. Furthermore, Plan D not only includes a handful of wards that are majority Latino wards outside AD13,

but it also lumps these Latino wards together with Bay View which is a distinct community of interest that would diminish (and has historically diminished) the voting strength of Latino voters. Finally, Plan E fails to meet contiguity requirements.

Latinos Make Up A Third Of The Electorate In Voces' AD13

Both Voces' maps best serve the Latino community as in addition to meeting all the aforementioned criteria, the data establishes both maps create the best opportunity for Latinos to elect the candidate of their choice.

Hispanic Citizen Voting Age Population (HCVAP) is in fact the measure that courts have held to be the correct measure for gauging Latino voting strength as Hispanic Voting Age Population (HVAP) includes many Latinos who are ineligible to vote and only eligible voters are able to impact an election. As the point is to provide an opportunity for Latinos to elect a candidate of their choice, this measurement is conclusive.

Despite the fact that other proposed maps do not provide HCVAP data, all other proposed maps have lower HVAP data than the HVAP in both Voces' proposed maps and therefore, it would follow that their HCVAP would also be lower.

VOCES' PROPOSED MAP 1 (AKA PROPOSAL 01)

AD13

Total Hispanic Population — 47.0%
HVAP — 42.3%
HCVAP — 29.5%

VOCES' PROPOSED MAP 2 (AKA PROPOSAL 13)

AD13

Total Hispanic Population — 52.1%
HVAP — 47.3%
HCVAP — 33.8%

I personally prefer Voces' Proposed Map 2 (aka Proposal 13) as it creates a new Latino aldermanic district with a better opportunity for Latinos to elect a candidate of their choice. Notwithstanding, in the spirit of compromise and achieving consensus within the Common Council, I believe Voces' Proposed Map 1 (aka Proposal 01) would be the next best option as it also provides Latinos with a significant opportunity to elect a candidate of their as well as only makes changes to AD13 and AD14.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that I can count on your vote in favor of Voces' Proposed Map 1.