

STATE OF MINNESOTA
SPECIAL REDISTRICTING PANEL

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

A11-152

SEP - 9 2011

FILED

Sara Hippert, Dave Greer, Linda Markowitz,
Dee Dee Larson, Ben Maas, Gregg Peppin,
Randy Penrod and Charles Roulet,
individually and on behalf of all citizens and
voting residents of Minnesota similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

and

Kenneth Martin, Lynn Wilson, Timothy
O'Brien, Irene Peralez, Josie Johnson, Jane
Krentz, Mark Altenburg, and Debra Hasskamp,
individually and on behalf of all citizens of
Minnesota similarly situated,

Plaintiffs-Intervenors,

and

Audrey Britton, David Bly, Cary Coop,
and John McIntosh, individually and on behalf
of all citizens of Minnesota similarly situated,

Plaintiffs-Intervenors,

vs.

Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State of Minnesota;
and Robert Hiivala, Wright County Auditor,
individually and on behalf of all Minnesota
county chief election officers,

Defendants.

ORDER SETTING
PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

ORDER

By its order of July 18, 2011, the Special Redistricting Panel (the panel) expressed its intent to hold a series of public hearings throughout the state for purposes of giving members of the public the opportunity to provide the panel with facts, opinions, or concerns that may inform the redistricting process and of gathering information about Minnesota communities from Minnesota citizens.

The preservation of “communities of interest” is a well-established redistricting principle.¹ For purposes of redistricting, “communities of interest” have been defined to include, but are not limited to, “groups of Minnesota citizens with clearly recognizable similarities of social, geographic, political, cultural, ethnic, economic, or other interests.”² Therefore, the panel seeks public comment about communities of interest that should be identified and preserved in the redistricting process. This input will aid the panel in evaluating plans that will be submitted by the parties³ and in establishing plans that will

¹ See *League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. Perry*, 548 U.S. 399, 433, 126 S. Ct. 2594, 2618 (2006) (stating that maintaining communities of interest is a traditional redistricting principle); *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 916, 115 S. Ct. 2475, 2488 (1995) (stating that respect for “communities defined by actual shared interests” is a traditional redistricting principle); *Zachman v. Kiffmeyer*, No. C0-01-160 (Minn. Special Redistricting Panel Dec. 11, 2001) (Order Stating Redistricting Principles and Requirements for Plan Submissions) (“Communities of interest will be preserved where possible in compliance with the preceding principles.”); *Cotlow v. Growe*, No. C8-91-985 (Minn. Special Redistricting Panel Sept. 13, 1991) (Pretrial Order No. 3) (adopting as a final criterion that districts should attempt to preserve communities of interest).

² *Zachman*, No. C0-01-160 (Minn. Special Redistricting Panel Dec. 11, 2001) (Order Stating Redistricting Principles and Requirements for Plan Submissions).

³ After the public hearings, the parties to this action will have the opportunity to provide the panel with additional proposed redistricting criteria. Once the redistricting criteria have been established, the panel will issue a scheduling order regarding the submission of the parties’ redistricting plans. This scheduling order will be issued in conjunction with the panel’s order stating redistricting principles.

be adopted if the legislative and executive branches of government do not reach an agreement on redistricting by February 21, 2012, as required by Minn. Stat. § 204B.14, subd. 1a (2010).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that city, county, and other local officials, representatives of local community groups, and all interested members of the public residing anywhere in the State of Minnesota, are invited to comment on how they prefer their communities to be viewed during redistricting. The hearings will take place as follows:

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

6:30–8:30 p.m. Minnesota Judicial Center
Courtroom 300
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Thursday, October 6, 2011

6:30–8:30 p.m. Minneapolis Public Schools
John B. Davis Educational Service Center
School Board Assembly Room
807 Broadway Street Northeast
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413

Friday, October 7, 2011

6:30–8:30 p.m. Bloomington Civic Plaza
City Council Chambers
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431

Monday, October 10, 2011

6:30–8:30 p.m. Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College Amphitheater
2101 Fourteenth Street
Cloquet, Minnesota 55720

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

6:30–8:30 p.m. Beltrami County Administration Building
Beltrami County Board Room
701 Minnesota Avenue Northwest
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

6:30–8:30 p.m. Moorhead City Hall
Moorhead City Council Chambers
500 Center Avenue
Moorhead, Minnesota 56561

Thursday, October 13, 2011

6:30–8:30 p.m. Stearns County Administration Center
Stearns County Board Room A
705 Courthouse Square
Saint Cloud, Minnesota 56303

Friday, October 14, 2011

6:30–8:30 p.m. Blue Earth County Justice Center
Jury Assembly Room
401 Carver Road
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

1. Between 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 12, 2011, and 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 16, 2011, all persons who wish to make an oral presentation at one of the scheduled public hearings shall make a request to do so by calling the following toll-free number, 1-855-245-0849, and leaving a voice message. A requestor's voice message should include the following information: (1) the requestor's name (and spelling) and telephone number; (2) the group that he or she represents, if any; (3) the hearing location at which he or she would like to speak; and (4) any requests for foreign-language or sign-language interpreting services. Requests will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

2. Each speaker at the hearing will have five minutes to speak. A speaker will not be permitted to make more than one oral presentation. To determine whether a request to make an oral presentation has been granted, please call 1-855-245-0849 or visit the panel's website, located at <http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=4469>, on or after Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. If the number of requests to make oral presentations exceeds the amount of time allocated for the hearing, persons may instead submit their comments in writing.

3. Any person who prefers not to make an oral presentation but wishes to provide input regarding the subject matter of these hearings may personally deliver one original and one copy of his or her written statement to a public hearing or send one original and one copy of the statement via United States Mail to Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel, c/o Bridget Gernander, Clerk of Appellate Courts, 305 Minnesota Judicial Center, 25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155. Written statements also may be submitted by e-mail to the following address: StateRedistrictingPanel@courts.state.mn.us. Written statements must be received no later than Friday, October 21, 2011.

4. A person may submit to the panel no more than one redistricting plan for the United States House of Representatives, one plan for the Minnesota Senate, and one plan for the Minnesota House of Representatives. Each electronic redistricting plan must be in the form of a separate block-equivalency file. Each file must be in comma-delimited format (.csv) and include one field that identifies all census blocks in the state

and another field for the district to which each census block has been assigned. E-mail attachments shall not exceed 30 megabytes per message.

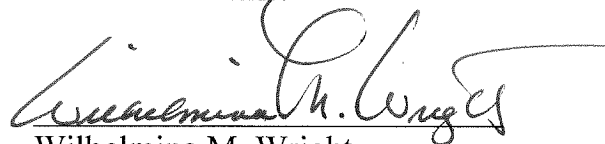
5. The panel will give full consideration to both oral and written statements.

6. Maps of the existing congressional and state legislative districts will be available at each hearing. The existing congressional districts may be viewed online at <http://www.gis.leg.mn/html/cong02.html>. The existing state legislative districts may be viewed online at <http://www.gis.leg.mn/html/leg02.html>.

7. Links to more information about the public hearings are available on the panel's website, located at <http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=4469>.

Dated: September 9, 2011

BY THE PANEL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilhelmina M. Wright", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wilhelmina M. Wright
Presiding Judge