



A fair redistricting process is the single most important reform that could come to Illinois.



Chicago Tribune

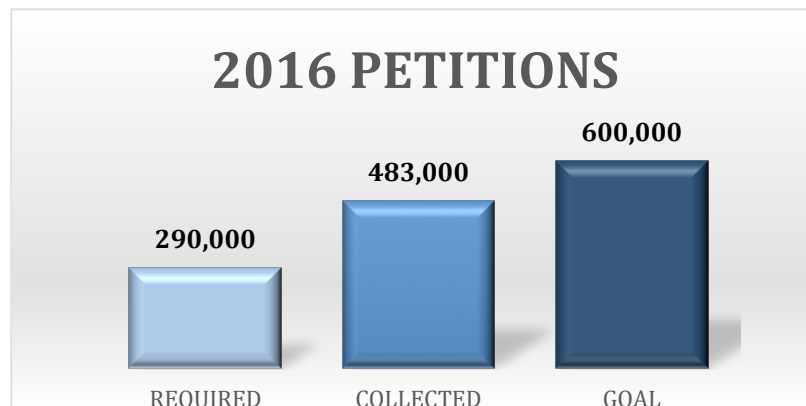
Independent Maps – Year-End Report

As we begin a new year and head into the final months of our petition drive, we reflect upon our progress over the past year and look forward to big things in 2016.

Since our petitions first hit the streets at the end of April, more than 483,000 Illinoisans have signed petitions to put the Independent Map Amendment on the November 2016 ballot.

That's just the number of signatures *turned in* so far. We know volunteers have collected thousands more and continue to circulate petitions. *(Send in those completed sheets for processing, please. We are validating completed petitions as soon as you send them to us.)*

When we launched the petition drive on April 28, we set an ambitious goal of collecting 600,000 signatures. When we surpass that goal this spring, we will have about 100,000 more signatures than were collected in the 2014 effort and more than twice the number of signatures required to put a constitutional amendment before voters. We have strengthened our quality control, and we are confirming signatures using the state's voter files.



We're on target to surpass our goal of 600,000 signatures, but we still have much work to do.



No reform is more important to fixing an obviously broken Illinois than this one, and voters can.



Peoria Journal Star

How did we get off to such a strong start? The short answer is people all over Illinois want their votes to count and their voices to be heard.

And here are some of the details:

- We're led by a bipartisan, diverse board of civic, community and business leaders. Our board includes many prominent Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, like **Bill Daley**; **former Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon**; **Sylvia Puente**, Executive Director of the Latino Policy Forum; **Christie Hefner**, a Director at the Center for American Progress Action; **Lester Crown**, Chairman of Henry Crown & Company; **Deborah Harrington**, former President, Woods Fund of Chicago; **former Governor Jim Edgar**; **Don Thompson**, Retired CEO, McDonald's Corporation; **former Lieutenant Governor Corinne Wood**; **Peter Bensinger**, CEO of Bensinger, DuPont & Associates; and **Cheryle Jackson**, VP of Government Affairs and Corporate Development, AAR CORP. The board is chaired by **Dennis FitzSimons**, chairman of the McCormick Foundation and former CEO of Tribune Company.
- We built a solid campaign team led by campaign manager **Dave Mellet**, who has worked on state and local campaigns for close to 10 years. **Bill Hyers** of Hilltop Public Solutions, our campaign consultant, has earned a reputation as one of the top political strategists in the nation, and Hilltop's **Elizabeth Lucas** brings years of experience on ballot initiatives that have become major battlegrounds in other states but are uncommon in Illinois. Our

executive director, veteran Illinois political reform leader **Cindi Canary**, helped recruit the team, as well as **Chris Butler**, director of field operations, and **Joe Roberts**, who coordinates volunteers Downstate. Now that the petition drive is well underway, Cindi becomes a senior consultant to the campaign.

- Our base of volunteers has expanded rapidly. We learned a lot from the 2014 campaign's successes and missteps. One of the lessons learned was to get an early start on our petition collection. Our veteran volunteers are motivated and experienced, and they're bringing in new volunteers and giving them tips to make petitioning more productive.
- We also made it easier for voters to download a petition at home, print it and immediately begin to walk their neighborhoods and collect signatures. To date, the petition has been downloaded thousands of times. You can do it, too. The petition and short instructions are near the top of our homepage: www.MapAmendment.org
- Social media platforms have carried our messages far and wide and helped build our audience, especially with young voters. We started our Facebook and Twitter messaging from scratch, and our Facebook and Twitter followers have grown

exponentially. If you are not following us, join the conversation. Please follow us on Twitter (@MapAmendment) and Facebook ([facebook.com/MapAmendment](https://www.facebook.com/MapAmendment)).

→ None of this happens without cost, of course, and contributors have been generous. This year, **more than 375 people have contributed and pledged close to \$3 million** to our campaign. While \$3 million to date is a significant total, we will need to more than double that number if we are to overcome entrenched politicians and get the Independent Map amendment passed in November. So we need your help! It's easy to contribute. No need to write a check and put it in the mail. Just click the DONATE button on our [website](#) and make a contribution by credit card. (But if you would rather write a check, make it payable to "Support Independent Maps" and mail it to our address below.)

→ Our coalition of supporters continues to grow and demonstrates support from across the political spectrum. Former **U.S. Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III, State Sen. Heather Steans** (D-Chicago), **State Sen. Daniel Biss** (D-Evanston), **State Rep. Scott Drury** (D-Highwood), **State Rep. Jack Franks** (D-Marengo), and **State Rep. Mike Smiddy** (D-Hillside). Republican leaders include **Congressman Darin LaHood** (R-Peoria), **State Sen. Dan Duffy** (R-Lake Barrington), **State Rep. Tim Butler** (R-Springfield), and **State Rep. Mike Fortner** (R-West Chicago).

→ The enthusiastic support of the League of Women Voters of Illinois helped us quickly create a statewide volunteer network, which has been strengthened by the support of many other prominent civic and community organizations. AARP-Illinois, the Illinois Farm Bureau, CHANGE Illinois, Common Cause Illinois, Latino Policy Forum, IVI-IPO, Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation, Union League Club of Chicago, and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation are among a long list of endorsers. See our supporter list here: <http://www.mapamendment.org/SUPPORTERS.html>

→ Newspaper editorial boards have been extremely supportive and have helped explain to voters why redistricting reform is important. It's a rarity for Illinois newspapers to agree on a major policy issue and to run repeated editorials on the topic. The list of newspapers editorializing in favor of Independent Maps includes the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Daily Herald of Arlington Heights*, *Rockford Register Star*, *Freeport Journal-Standard*, *Peoria Journal Star*, *Quad-City Times*, *Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette*, *Moline Dispatch and Rock Island Argus*, *Bloomington Pantagraph*, *Decatur Herald & Review*, *Southern Illinoisan*, *Belleville News-Democrat*, *Beloit (WI) Daily News*, and Shaw Media newspapers, which includes *SaukValley.com* (Dixon, Sterling/Rock Falls), *Joliet Herald-News*, *Northwest Herald in Crystal Lake*, and *DeKalb Daily Chronicle*. The blog *RebootIllinois.com* also has endorsed.

This time next year, we hope to be celebrating a victory, but that will only happen if we continue to build on this solid foundation. Our progress has been significant but there is much more to be done: more petition signatures to collect, likely court challenges from entrenched Illinois politicians to overcome, and more voters to educate. Our message to Illinois citizens continues to be: "Don't stay on the sidelines, help take back your state." Sign a petition, tell your friends, make a donation at mapamendment.org.

Support Independent Maps!

“Remap reform is about doing what’s right for the people of Illinois — every vote should matter far more than it now does — for many years to come.”

Chicago Sun-Times

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Paid for by Support Independent Maps. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board's official website or for purchase from the Illinois State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.