



Message to Our Supporters Aug. 24, 2015

To our supporters:

A political committee opposed to redistricting reform has sent a targeted mailing to many supporters of Independent Maps. Calling itself “The People’s Map,” the new political committee falsely claims the Independent Map Amendment will hurt minorities and will advantage Republicans.

We write to set the record straight. Independent Maps is an independent, diverse and non-partisan effort. Members of both parties, as well as independents, support this amendment. The Independent Maps Board of Directors is diverse with five African-American and three Latino community leaders, and its members would not be involved in a proposal that would hurt minority communities. In fact, it's the People’s Map group that is clinging to the status quo.

Our Board includes former Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon and William Daley, former Chief of Staff to President Barack Obama – and many other Democrats who would never support a public policy detrimental to minority rights or to the Democratic Party. To understand the depth of diversity and support for this amendment, please review the list of our Board of Directors on our website: <http://www.mapamendment.org/About.html>

We don’t all have the same views on politics, but we do agree that the state’s redistricting system is unfair and needs to be divorced from politics.

Contrary to the claims of the opposition, the Independent Map Amendment protects and strengthens minority-voting rights and embeds Voting Rights Act protections – protections that are not in our constitution now.

The Independent Map Amendment makes clear that legislative district maps must comply with all federal civil rights and voting rights laws.

The amendment language is clear and states that legislative districts “shall not dilute or diminish the ability of a racial or language minority community to elect the candidates of its choice, including when voting in concert with other persons.”

It further states that districts “shall respect the geographic integrity of communities sharing common social and economic interests.”

A more detailed explanation of the amendment’s minority voting protections on our [website](#). Obviously, the fact that we have gathered more than 250,000 signatures in less than three months has struck a nerve with defenders of the current system, and we encourage your support of Independent Maps going forward.

You can help by [printing a petition](#) from our website and gathering signatures. Please like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#). And please consider [making a contribution to Support Independent Maps](#).

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 (www.elections.il.gov) or for purchase from the Illinois State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.