

**ORDINANCE**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:**

**SECTION 1.** Section 2-8-300 of the Municipal Code of Chicago shall hereby be repealed in its entirety and replaced with a new Section 2-8-300, as follows:

**2-8-300 Wards created – Basis – Redistricting.**

(a) Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply unless a different meaning appears from the context:

“Commission” means the Redistricting Commission established in this Chapter.

“East Side” means the following Community Areas, collectively: Community Area 35 (Douglas), Community Area 36 (Oakland), Community Area 38 (Grand Boulevard), Community Area 39 (Kenwood), Community Area 40 (Washington Park), Community Area 41 (Hyde Park), Community Area 42 (Woodlawn), Community Area 43 (South Shore), Community Area 46 (South Chicago), Community Area 52 (East Side), and Community Area 55 (Hegewisch).

“North Side” means the following Community Areas, collectively: Community Area 1 (Rogers Park), Community Area 3 (Uptown), Community Area 4 (Lincoln Square), Community Area 5 (North Center), Community Area 6 (Lake View), Community Area 7 (Lincoln Park), Community Area 8 (Near North Side), Community Area 32 (Loop), Community Area 77 (Edgewater).

“Northwest Side” means the following Community Areas, collectively: Community Area 2 (West Ridge), Community Area 9 (Edison Park), Community Area 10 (Norwood Park), Community Area 11 (Jefferson Park), Community Area 12 (Forest Glen), Community Area 13 (North Park), Community Area 14 (Albany Park), Community Area 15 (Portage Park), Community Area 16 (Irving Park), Community Area 17 (Dunning), Community Area 18 (Montclare), Community Area 19 (Belmont Cragin), Community Area 20 (Hermosa), Community Area 21 (Avondale), Community Area 22 (Logan Square), and Community Area 76 (O'Hare).

“South Side” means the following Community Areas, collectively: Community Area 33 (Near South Side), Community Area 37 (Fuller Park), Community Area 44 (Chatham), Community Area 45 (Avalon Park), Community Area 47 (Burnside), Community Area 48 (Calumet Heights), Community Area 67 (West Englewood), Community Area 68

(Englewood), Community Area 69 (Greater Grand Crossing), and Community Area 71 (Auburn Gresham).

“Southwest Side” means the following Community Areas, collectively: Community Area 34 (Armour Square), Community Area 56 (Garfield Ridge), Community Area 57 (Archer Heights), Community Area 58 (Brighton Park), Community Area 59 (McKinley Park), Community Area 60 (Bridgeport), Community Area 61 (New City), Community Area 62 (West Elsdon), Community Area 63 (Gage Park), Community Area 64 (Clearing), Community Area 65 (West Lawn), Community Area 66 (Chicago Lawn), and Community Area 70 (Ashburn).

“West Side” means the following Community Areas, collectively: Community Area 23 (Humboldt Park), Community Area 24 (West Town), Community Area 25 (Austin), Community Area 26 (West Garfield Park), Community Area 27 (East Garfield Park), Community Area 28 (Near West Side), Community Area 29 (North Lawndale), Community Area 30 (South Lawndale), and Community Area 31 (Lower West Side).

“Far South Side” means the following Community Areas, collectively: Community Area 49 (Roseland), Community Area 50 (Pullman), Community Area 51 (South Deering), Community Area 53 (West Pullman), Community Area 54 (Riverdale), Community Area 72 (Beverly), Community Area 73 (Washington Heights), Community Area 74 (Mount Greenwood), and Community Area 75 (Morgan Park).

(b) The City is hereby divided into 50 wards which are redistricted as provided in this Chapter. Pursuant to Section 21-39 of the Revised Cities and Villages Act, in the formation of wards, each shall:

- (i) fully comply with the United States Constitution and federal law, including but not limited to the federal Voting Rights Act;

- (ii) be substantially equal in population;

- (iii) provide racial and language minorities with equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice;

- (iv) provide racial and language minorities who constitute less than a voting-age majority of a ward with an opportunity to substantially influence the outcome of an election;

- (v) be compact;

- (vi) be contiguous;

- (vii) respect, to the extent reasonable, neighborhood boundaries and communities sharing a common social or economic interest, and maps should consider the historical boundaries of the wards;

(viii) not discriminate against or in favor of any political party or individual; and

(ix) reallocate people in state prisons to their home addresses.

(c) Redistricting Commission – Establishment and Composition. There shall be a Redistricting Commission formed each redistricting cycle to advise the Council on drawing of ward boundary lines, whose members shall serve terms to expire upon completion of the redistricting cycle. No Commissioner shall serve more than one term. The purpose of the Commission shall be to conduct an open and transparent process enabling full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines; draw district lines according to the redistricting criteria specified in this section; and conduct themselves with integrity and fairness. This selection process is designed to produce a Commission that is reasonably representative of the City's diversity. The Commission members shall be appointed as follows:

(i) Qualifications. A candidate for Commissioner shall:

- (1) be a resident of the City of Chicago, and have resided in the City for at least the five years immediately preceding appointment;
- (2) have adequately disclosed any personal, professional, or financial conflict of interest that could reasonably be thought to bear upon the person's performance as a Commissioner;
- (3) prove, via letters of support or similar application documents, a history of leadership and community involvement from community members, local organizations, neighborhood groups, or other relevant bodies;
- (4) have a reputation for integrity, professionalism, and sound judgment, and a demonstrated ability to perform in a manner that is not self-serving;
- (5) have a demonstrated ability to work in a group in a collaborative manner that reflects sound judgment, independence, fairness, and objectivity;
- (6) not be a current elected official or employee of the City, and not be a paid consultant to an elected official, political candidate, political action committee, or any other electioneering entity;
- (7) not be a registered lobbyist with the City of Chicago; and
- (8) not be a current elected official of Cook County or the State of Illinois.

(ii) Appointment. No later than June 1st in the year the decennial census is conducted, the Chicago City Clerk shall initiate and widely publicize an application process, open to all qualified people who reside in the City of Chicago and who meet the requirements

above, in a manner that promotes a large pool of applicants and applicant diversity by race, ethnicity, gender, and geography. This process should remain open to applicants until September 1st in the year the decennial census is conducted. Under the direction of the Chicago City Clerk, the application process may be extended one time for 30 days for the sole purpose of increasing the racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic diversity of applicants. The Chicago City Clerk is authorized to determine eligibility for residency requirements and shall remove any applicants who do not meet the Commission's eligibility requirements as determined above. In addition to any other information deemed necessary by the City Clerk, applications for Commissioners shall include the following information:

- (1) Applicant's address, length of residency, and Ward residency;
- (2) Applicant's contact information;
- (3) Applicant's education level and dates attended, and major or field of study, degree and date of degree, if applicable.
- (4) Applicant's profession and employer, and applicant's spouse's profession and employer, if applicable;
- (5) Any position or office the applicant held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization, including the dates;
- (6) Languages spoken by applicant;
- (7) Whether the applicant has made disclosable monetary or non-monetary contributions to a candidate for Mayor or any aldermen in the City of Chicago after 2015;
- (8) Whether the applicant has previously served a term as a Redistricting Commissioner; and
- (9) A statement of interest on why the applicant is interested in joining the Commission.

At the conclusion of the application process, the Chicago City Clerk shall narrow the list to 100 qualified applicants, as equally distributed across the areas defined in 2-8-300(a) as is feasible. The Chicago City Clerk shall provide the City Council with the list of 100 qualified applicants by October 1st in the year of the decennial census. The City Council shall review the applicants and recommend 50 to the Mayor, with each City Council member selecting two names from the candidate pool for consideration. No member of the City Council shall submit more than one candidate from a specific area as defined in Section 2-8-300(a). The City Clerk shall strike one name from each aldermanic submission by a randomized elimination of qualified applicants. Within 60 days of

receiving the list of the remaining fifty applicants, the Mayor shall recommend the thirteen members and five alternates to the City Council.

When determining which candidates to recommend, the Mayor shall consider the following criteria:

- (1) membership in local neighborhood organizations or mutual aid groups;
- (2) professional credentials, including experience in one or more of the following fields: law, public policy, social work, anthropology, sociology, community organizing, civil rights, or advocacy on behalf of marginalized communities;
- (3) community service documentation;
- (4) participation in public meetings, events, or initiatives held by local school councils or other civic organizations;
- (5) participation in public meetings, events, or initiatives held by local faith-based institutions;
- (6) documented experience in community organizing that involves a formal affiliation with one or more community-based organizations; and
- (7) geographic location of applicants' residences, ensuring that no more than three recommendations are from any one area as defined by Section 2-8-300(a).
- (8) all other eligibility criteria as established in Section 2-8-300(c)(i).

If, after the 60-day window, the Mayor does not recommend 13 Commissioners and 5 alternates, the City Clerk is authorized to recommend 13 Commissioners and 5 alternates by a randomized selection for each geographic area, as defined in subsection (a). Each recommendation for the thirteen Commissioners and five alternates shall be subject to City Council approval.

Each geographic area shall be represented by at least two candidates, including Commissioners and alternates, who have lived in their geographic region for at least 365 days immediately preceding appointment. No more than three candidates shall be appointed to the total from any one geographic area, as defined by subsection (a). Each recommendation for the thirteen-member Commission and five alternates shall be subject to City Council approval.

(iii) Role of Alternates. The Mayor is authorized to recommend five alternates for the Commission, subject to City Council approval. The five alternates shall meet the same eligibility requirements as the thirteen members of the Commission, as established in subsection(c)(i).

The role of the alternates shall be:

- (1) To fulfill the role of Commissioner in the event one of the Commissioners is unable to tend to their duties due to personal illness or disability, employment or the business of the public body, family obligation or emergency, or recusal.
- (2) To attend public meetings and hearings, as determined by the Commission.
- (3) To be called upon to reach quorum, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and as required under Section 2-8-300(d)(ii) of this Chapter.

(iv) Vacancies. If there is a vacancy on the Commission, the Mayor shall appoint one of the alternates to the Commission within 30 days of the notice of vacancy. If, after the 30-day appointment window, the Mayor does not appoint one of the alternates, the City Council is authorized to submit their own nominations to the Committee on Committees and Rules, or its successor committee. The appointment of an alternate to Commissioner shall be subject to two-thirds vote of all members of the Committee on Committees and Rules, or its successor committee, or two-thirds vote of all members of the City Council, whichever is applicable.

(v) Composition. Once approved by City Council, the Commission shall adopt rules and procedures for the conduct of its business and may establish different roles for the various members of the Commission. The Executive Director shall administer the affairs of the Commission and exercise such additional powers as may be conferred by, and are within the jurisdiction of, the Commission and consistent with applicable law. It shall be the duty of the Commission to appoint from among its members an Executive Director for this purpose.

(vi) Administration and Budget. The City Council shall appropriate funds sufficient for the Commission and any administrative and support staff as may be necessary for the efficient operation of the Commission to perform their functions and duties as set forth in this section. The Executive Director may appoint staff in such number and for such compensation as may be provided in the annual appropriation ordinance.

(d) Redistricting Commission – Powers and Duties. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(i) Term of Commission. The Redistricting Commission shall be appointed no later than February 1st of the year following the national decennial census. The Commission shall begin the redistricting process at any time after appointment, but no later than May 1st of the year following the national decennial census. The Commission shall present its final redistricting proposals to the City Council for approval no later than October 1st of the year following the national decennial census.

(ii) Procedure. Before beginning the process of redesignating wards, the Commission shall hold at least three public meetings in each of the areas defined in Section (a). All

meetings shall comply with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq. The purpose of the public meetings shall be to:

- (1) Engage in community outreach to obtain the perspectives of community members on neighborhood boundaries and relations;
- (2) Maintain connections with representatives of communities that have historically been underrepresented in the political process;
- (3) Clarify the redistricting process to residents, the history of ward map redistricting, and how redistricting influences neighborhood services; and
- (4) Analyze all community feedback for further review, to inform the Commission when redrawing ward boundaries.

Prior to submitting the map proposals to the City Council for a vote, the Commission shall release drafts of the maps to the public and provide the public with at least 30 days to provide additional comments. The draft map shall include a report detailing how the draft maps meet the requirements of this act and respond to public input. At least 5 public meetings must take place within that 30-day period. Nine Commissioners shall constitute a quorum, and all meetings shall require a quorum. For purposes of this section, alternates shall be counted toward quorum.

The Commission must provide a meaningful opportunity for racial minorities and language minorities to participate in the public hearings, including, but not limited to, issuing notices in multiple languages and ensuring that translation services are available at all hearings at the Commission's expense or through partnership with outside organizations. These public hearings must be open to all members of the public and must be planned to encourage attendance and participation across the city, including the use of technology that allows for real-time, virtual participation and feedback during the hearings. When releasing a proposed draft map, the Commission must also release population data, geographic data, election data, and any other data used to create the plan, when the Commission receives this information. During the map drawing process, any member of the public may submit maps for consideration to the Commission. The Commission must consider public input and respond to it. Those submissions are public records that are open to comment.

All proposed and adopted maps and any data used to develop the maps are public records. The Commission shall maintain a website or other similar electronic platform to disseminate information about the Commission, including records of its meetings and hearings, proposed redistricting plans, assessments and reports on plans, and to allow the public to view its meetings and hearings in both live and archived form. The website or electronic platform must allow the public to submit redistricting plans and comments on redistricting plans to the Commission for its consideration.

All communication between Commission members, Commission staff (which shall exclude staff of any council members), and consultants retained by the Commission that is otherwise permitted by State shall be subject to both City Open Meeting Requirements and the Freedom of Information Act.

(iii) Adoption of Boundaries. The Redistricting Commission shall finalize 3 map variations to submit for City Council approval, and voting on new boundaries shall be conducted as follows:

- (1) City Council shall conduct a nonbinding straw poll vote of each of the 3 map proposals, with the map proposal that garners the highest percentage of City Council approval to be submitted for final adoption;
- (2) If none of the proposals submitted by the Redistricting Commission garner 60% of City Council votes, the Redistricting Commission shall reconvene and, within 60 days, provide 3 alternative map boundaries for Council approval. None of the 3 alternative map proposals shall be the same as the original map variations proposed. During this process, the Redistricting Commission is authorized to request further explanation from City Council for their failure to adopt any of the first 3 maps provided.
- (3) City Council shall vote to adopt the map variation that received the highest percentage of Council approval in the straw poll vote.
- (4) Once approved by City Council, the new map boundaries shall be in effect according to applicable State law.

(e) Transparency. All records of the Commission, including all communications to or from the Commission regarding the work of the Commission, shall be available for public inspection. The Commission shall adopt rules governing its procedures. The Commission shall be considered a public body subject to the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act.

(f) Removal from office. A Commissioner may be removed for Just Cause either at the discretion of the Mayor, or by the City Council. For purposes of this section, "just cause" means any egregious act or omission, including but not limited to gross misconduct or criminal conduct, neglect of duty, conflicts of interest, inability to serve, or repeated nonattendance, which impairs the individual's ability to fulfill their duties and obligations. Removal proceedings must receive a two-thirds vote of all members of the City Council. Before directing a removal, the Mayor shall provide written notice of such intent to the Chair of the Committee on Committees and Rules, or its successor committee, who, within 30 days of the date of said notice, may convene a meeting of the Committee on Committees and Rules, or its successor committee, to adopt a resolution overriding the intended removal, which must be passed by a two-thirds majority vote of the City Council to be effective. The Mayor or City Council must provide written notice that describes with specificity the reason for removal to the affected Commissioner. The

Commission may also remove a Commissioner through a supermajority vote of nine out of the thirteen Commissioners.

**SECTION 2.** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication.



Daniel La Spata  
Alderman, 1st Ward

