
From: "Rodney C. Nanney" <voterodney@gmail.com>
To: "Rep. Pete Lund" <PeteLund@house.mi.gov>
Date: 6/20/2011 11:53 AM
Subject: RE: redistricting and the unnecessary giveaway of the 55th district seat

Rep. Lund:

As chairman of the House Redistricting and Elections Committee, I am writing to you to ask for your help in correcting a disastrous failure of judgment with regards to the arrangement of the proposed 52nd and 55th district boundaries. **Please share this message with the full committee as my written testimony on the proposed Michigan House districts map, as I will not be able to be at Tuesday's hearing:**

The proposed new 52nd/55th state House district boundaries are a disaster for the MI GOP and our county party efforts. In 2010, a combination of a very strong Tea Party movement and absolutely tireless personal campaigning netted the GOP two new competitive House seats covering Washtenaw Co. The state party came in and gave the 55th district race a boost in the final couple of weeks, but it was the grassroots and even more importantly a relentless door-to-door effort on the part of the candidate that won the day.

Now, less than a year later, the state party has proposed to give back the 55th District to the Democrats without a fight? That is unacceptable to this grassroots Tea Party conservative, and it should be unacceptable to anyone who has had the pleasure of working with Rep. Olson in Lansing.

Even more importantly, **the decision to sacrifice the 55th district to Democrats in favor of bulletproofing the 52nd district seat for the GOP is unnecessary and suggests a dangerous ignorance of the local conditions** "on the ground" in this county. Conservatives in the growing Tea Party movement here helped win both of these seats, especially in the 55th district. The grassroots have only grown and become more knowledgeable, active, and campaign-savvy since then.

There is no reason why the republican party, with the help of the Willow Run Tea Party Caucus, Rattle With Us, the Western Washtenaw Tea Party, and nascent Saline Area Tea Party organizations cannot win re-election for both of our currently republican districts if they are kept reasonably competitive (read: at least 50-50).

The state party leadership's proposal to abandon what we on the ground gained in 2010 makes a clear and unmistakable statement to the party's grassroots here that they do not trust us to get the job done again. Is that the message you want to give going into a tough Presidential year?

I strongly urge you to reconsider this flawed plan for the 52nd and 55th districts. It is far better to trust your grassroots here and revise the boundaries to create to viable and competitive districts.

I urge you to revise the boundaries as follows:

1. Move the north side of Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor Twp. back into the 52nd district. These areas are Mr. Ouimet's longtime backyard - if he cannot attract enough votes here he doesn't deserve re-election anyway. More importantly, the northside of Ann Arbor might as well be on the moon for

how little of a relationship it has with folks in Augusta Twp. at the other end of the proposed 55th district.

2. Revise the 55th district to be an east-west district lined up along the US-12 (Michigan Ave.) corridor, from Augusta Twp. on the east to Manchester Twp. on the west. Include Pittsfield, Lodi, and the City of Saline as necessary to balance the population.

This arrangement (adjusted as necessary to balance) would create two competitive districts that truly make sense for the geography and population distribution of the county.

DON'T GIVE THE 55th DISTRICT BACK TO THE DEMOCRATS WITHOUT A FIGHT! We fought too hard to win back this seat for the GOP to watch the state party leadership meekly give it back, especially when you have the power to fix it now!

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Rodney C. Nanney
Ypsilanti, Michigan
Precinct delegate and 2010 GOP candidate for the 54th District House seat
VoteRodney@gmail.com
[\(734\) 483-2271](tel:(734)483-2271)