

From: [Alexander Wagner](#)
To: [2021 Redistricting](#)
Subject: Comments on my map submission (Alex W Map 2) and other maps
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Members of the Redistricting Commission,

To give some background on myself, I am a lifelong Dane County resident, living in the Elvehjem neighborhood from 1986-96, Cottage Grove from 1996-2011, and Downtown Madison from 2011-present. So the two communities I am most familiar with are Cottage Grove and downtown Madison. I commuted from Cottage Grove to UW-Madison as a student and then chose to live in Downtown Madison after college when I got a full-time job and my own apartment, due to the walkable neighborhoods and transit access in the downtown area.

The overriding criteria I used when drawing my map (Alex W Map 2) was to minimize the splitting of cities and villages outside Madison. Clearly some cities (namely Sun Prairie, Middleton, and Fitchburg) are too big for one district so they have to be split. Sun Prairie doesn't come all that close to fitting into two districts so it has to be split three ways.

Given the non-contiguous nature of DeForest and how Windsor is sandwiched in between the two pieces of DeForest, I also considered the combined communities of DeForest and Windsor as one entity, which I then tried to split somewhat evenly, and tried to find the most logical dividing line, at least from a surface level perspective. I am not overly familiar with communities of interest in DeForest and Windsor, so it may make sense to move that line a few blocks in one direction or another.

I have noticed many of the other featured maps have split one or more of the cities/villages of Stoughton, Oregon, Monona, Verona, McFarland, Cottage Grove, Waunakee and/or Marshall, and some have also split Sun Prairie and Fitchburg into more different districts than is necessary by their population. I believe this should be avoided as much as possible and it is a big part of why I decided to submit my own map. When we finally got a district centered around the village and town of Cottage Grove in 2011, it seemed long overdue. I would rather not backtrack on that, either for Cottage Grove or for other villages and small cities.

In order to fill out the McFarland based district, I specifically included a neighborhood from the City of Madison and Town of Blooming Grove that is part of the McFarland School District.

One area where I am sure my map could use some improvement would be representation of towns and rural communities of interest. If I had more time, I could probably have done at least a little better, but I would tend to agree with many of the rural residents who submitted feedback on Representable that many of us who live in cities or suburbs, including myself, do not have a great understanding of rural communities (although there are surely some exceptions to that). So I would hope that the commission and ultimately the Board of Supervisors will give due consideration to the feedback and input from rural communities. They are in a better position to speak to rural communities of interest than I could ever hope to be, even if I had two or three times as many hours to work on my map.

-Alex Wagner