

From: [Standing, Brian](#)
To: [2021 Redistricting](#)
Subject: FW: Dane County Redistricting Commission Updates
Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021 11:23:38 AM

From: Ed Niles <eniles@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Standing, Brian <Standing@countyofdane.com>; 2021 Redistricting <2021redistricting@countyofdane.com>
Subject: Re: Dane County Redistricting Commission Updates

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Brian,

Thanks for this update. I'm sad that I got a bit behind and didn't have a chance to finish a full Dane County map. I very much appreciated the tools and information the team has provided for this round of redistricting.

On a related note that directly impacts my neighborhood, I had noticed quite a few weird splits in various citizen maps within the city of Madison. I think there's some value in noting the original intent in the way things were divided within Madison in our last round of redistricting, and in particular I think that splitting the near-East Side north and south of E. Washington was smart. I noted that there were communities of interest submitted for East Siders and Schenks-Atwood neighborhood on the Representable site, and attempted to load a community combining Wil-Mar and SASY neighborhoods myself but kept running into trouble. Since these neighborhoods often face similar issues the city and county are dealing with (and often work together on solutions), I believe they benefit from joint representation. Here's the notes I attempted to post to Representable on the issue, and please consider it as feedback as the redistricting process moves forward:

While the larger Near-East Side is certainly a community of interest, the Wil-Mar and SASY neighborhoods have similar populations, joined commercial corridors, and encounter similar challenges, often facing those challenges together. These neighborhoods serve as a meeting place for larger Madison and Dane County, embodied by the many summer festivals (Festyland) which often benefit our well-aligned neighborhood centers (Goodman Community Center and Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center). These neighborhoods and their residents benefit greatly from combined representation.

As former working-class neighborhoods which have gentrified over the past decades, Wil-Mar and SASY face similar issues around housing and affordability. These neighborhoods have both seen long-term residents priced out as demand for housing in now-popular neighborhoods skyrockets, while often seeing well-organized opposition to change and urban infill development. They also face similar challenges encouraging a diverse, well-connected population, as well as serving the needs of those who are unhoused or financially insecure.

Thanks,
-Ed Niles
SASY Neighborhood, Madison, WI