

October 18, 2021

Good Afternoon,

Unfortunately, I cannot be present today in-person or virtually for this impromptu redistricting meeting as I am unable to reschedule my son's previously scheduled parent-teacher conferences that require the availability of multiple educators. I thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback in writing.

Last meeting, I expressed my concern regarding the lack of options we were given to vote on as a committee. I voted for Option D (as did the rest of the members of committee) because I was told there was simply no other choice that fell under the suggested threshold. We were also reminded of the negative ramifications we would face if we were to delay the process further.

Though it is still not entirely clear to me how Options E & F came about, my feeling based on what I have heard is that Option D was the only viable option given the time constraints of the scheduled meeting. With a bit more time, staff was able to provide two new options, and I am grateful to staff for their hard work in providing us alternatives.

I want to remind the committee of the consensus we had reached prior to last week's meeting which was to go with a revised option based on Option A. Only one of Options D-F meets that qualification and that is Option E. Therefore, I believe the correct choice for the committee is to approve Option E.

I am also extremely concerned about the optics of veering away from the consensus we previously reached to entertain either Option D or Option F. Our citizens have asked us multiple times in different ways to give them fair maps. The citizens of Appleton should get to choose their elected officials, not the other way around. It is impossible for me to vote for a map option blind to which of my colleagues may or may not be displaced from their current district as it was for me just a week ago. Remember, the location of the home of a current alder is not one of our considerations in this process. After our last meeting, we heard the reaction of some of our colleagues who were displaced by Option D. That puts us in a position where colleagues could tip the scales based not only on alder location, but also choosing to displace alders they may often disagree with.

Choosing to approve Option E is the only way to move forward in a way that projects and protects the fairness with which this committee has approached the task of redistricting.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Van Zeeland'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Katie Van Zeeland
2020-2021 Common Council Vice-President
Aldersperson, District 5