LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF CHICAGO

October 26, 2021
To:
Michelle Harris, Chair Rules Committee
Members of the Rules Committee

The League of Women Voters of Chicago urges you to publish your plans for redrawing the ward maps of the City of Chicago. Such plans should include the publication of draft ward maps with at least two weeks notice including public hearings before final maps are adopted.

We urge the Mayor and Council to depart from Chicago's long history of gerrymandered districts that too often fail to serve the interests of Chicago's many and diverse neighborhoods. Publication of plans, publication of draft maps, a period for public hearings and public comments before the final vote would indicate a new approach to ward mapping.

Since time is short and consideration of Chicago's budget is also an important matter before the Council right now, so the League of Women Voters of Chicago suggests that the map proposed by the Chicago Advisory Redistricting Commission be used as a jumping off map that provides the draft from which the Council could work to meet its legislated deadline of December 1, 2021.

The League of Women Voters has long favored independent map drawing processes. The Mayor and some members of the Council have also spoken in favor processes less driven by partisan and incumbent considerations. This year Change Illinois and the Chicago Advisory Redistricting Commission made a good start at modeling what an independent redistricting commission could look like. The Commissions meetings and materials were always public, many hearings were held, and the public had nearly a month's input before a map was adopted by the Commission. What is lacking is the authority of law.

Using the map proposed by the Chicago Advisory Redistricting Commission as a starting place in no way diminishes the Council's authority in the 2021 mapping process. Rather it allows the community and the Council to comment and change this proposed map in any way it deems appropriate.

Sincerely,

Anne Jamieson, President

League of Women Voters of Chicago