

# State of New Illinois

## **NOTICE TO ALL ILLINOISANS!**

### Grievance 3

February 7, 2021

#### Introduction

**New Illinois is a new state in development exercising its Constitutional Right to form from the State of Illinois. The process to form New Illinois is authorized and codified in Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution (the Admissions Clause).**

**The United States Constitution, Article IV Section 3 states:**

*New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new States shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.*

#### **Excerpts From the New Illinois Declaration of Independence October 17, 2020:**

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, Property, and the pursuit of Happiness.

To secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government...

...there has been a long train of abuses and acts to seize and hold the People's power without legal authority. When such efforts clearly demonstrate a design to reduce them under absolute

Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Protections for their future security.

The history of the present Governor, other recent Governors, and the Government of Illinois, is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having the direct objective of establishing a Tyranny over the Counties of New Illinois and the State of Illinois.

The government of the State of Illinois has become destructive of these ends by violating the People's unalienable Rights and by ceasing to derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. It is the right of the People to seek a constitutional remedy to the abuse of powers.

### **Statement of Intent**

The Citizens of New Illinois have decided to remedy the abuse of power by the government of Illinois by exercising their right to form a new state, as provided in the United States Constitution, Article IV Sections 3. *We are determined to live under a state government in the United States of America and under the Constitution of the United States.*

Therefore, the counties of New Illinois bring forward 40 grievances against the government of Illinois to be announced in public in the various counties over the next 40 weeks.

# State of New Illinois

## Grievance 3

### Declaration of Grievance

**United States Constitution, Article IV Section 4 states in part:**

*The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a Republican Form of Government.*

**United States Constitution, Amendment XIV, Section 1 states in part:**

*No State shall... deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.*

**Illinois Constitution, Article IV, Section 3a states in part:**

*Legislative Districts shall be compact. Representative Districts shall be compact.*

**Illinois Constitution Bill of Rights, Article I, Section 1 declares in part:**

*To secure these rights and the protection of property, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*

## Failure of the Government of Illinois to provide a Republican Form of Government

**A Republican Form of Government** is government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Power is to benefit the people, not the rulers.

The people of rural, small town and suburban Illinois do not experience a republican form of government. Power is concentrated in Chicago and urban Cook County. Forty percent of the state population dominates the other sixty percent. With the General Assembly controlled by one county, downstate Illinoisans experience legislation, taxation, and regulation without representation.

Extreme gerrymandering is used by the Cook County Political Machine to undermine representative government. Extreme gerrymandering has consolidated the Machine's dominance of the State of Illinois and *consistently degraded the influence* of 101 counties. In Illinois, politicians pick their voters and rob the citizens of their voice. The Decatur *Herald & Review* editorial board has called Illinois' gerrymandering "an abuse of power."

Gerrymandering is the process of drawing electoral district boundaries to entrench a governing party's political control. District maps fix the ruling party's grip on power through unfair

advantage. Incumbents are protected and kept in office. By design, Illinois' gerrymandering *consistently degrades the influence* of downstate voters. The voices of opponents are diluted or cut out entirely.

Gerrymandering is accomplished through “packing and cracking.” Opponents are concentrated into as few districts as possible. The rest are split up and distributed across several districts to diminish the value of their votes. Formerly competitive districts are reshaped so the ruling party wins. The Machine advances its own agenda and buries the needs and interests of outstate Illinoisans.

In a republican form of government, power is to benefit the people, not just a ruler and his cronies. Illinois Machine politicians gerrymander to benefit themselves. They extinguish government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The U. S. Supreme Court has addressed gerrymandering numerous times.

- In 1986, the Court found that partisan gerrymandering was in violation of the Equal Protection Clause in the 14th Amendment if the resulting electoral system “is arranged in a manner that will *consistently degrade a voter's or a group of voters' influence* in the political process as a whole.”
- In 2019, the Court ruled that election districts drawn to benefit a political party can be considered unconstitutional. However, the majority stated that this is a political issue and beyond the reach of federal courts. The remedy is left to the states and to Congress. In her dissent, Justice Elena Kagan called partisan gerrymanders “debased” and said that they turn “upside-down the core American idea that all governmental power derives from the people. These gerrymanders enable politicians to entrench themselves in office as against voters' preferences. They promoted partisanship above respect for the popular will. They encouraged a politics of polarization and dysfunction. If left unchecked, gerrymanders like the ones here may irreparably damage our system of government.”

Article IV, Section 3(a) of the Illinois Constitution requires districts to be compact; yet, both state and federal districts have shapes resembling snakes, dinosaurs, gloves, jaws, and a pipe wrench. This includes the “ earmuffs” district, which *The Economist* called one of the “most strangely drawn and gerrymandered congressional districts in the country.”

In 2016, over 563,000 Illinois citizens from both sides of the aisle signed the Independent Maps Initiative to establish an independent commission to handle redistricting. This was struck down as unconstitutional, because the Illinois Constitution strictly limits ballot initiatives, in a way that is unique to Illinois. The opposition was led by former Speaker Madigan. Speaker Madigan's power for over 30 years was derived from his ability to draw legislative maps to protect incumbents and retain Machine control.

In 2019, the Illinois General Assembly introduced a resolution for a Fair Maps constitutional amendment. That effort failed.

Gerrymandering in Illinois has produced uncompetitive districts to the degree that a MAJORITY of Illinois legislative seats are uncontested. In these districts, the general election has become pointless.

Reform in Illinois is unlikely, because it would require the approval of the very politicians who are gaming the system.

The State of Illinois is totally broken. It's time to start over.

**This Concludes These Proceedings**