

## SENATE REDISTRICTING WORK GROUP

Thursday September 13, 2001  
Olmsted County Government Center  
151 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Rochester  
Council Chambers  
2:00 p.m.

Members Present

Senator Pogemiller  
Senator Belanger  
Senator Hottinger  
Senator Scheid  
Jack Uldrich, Governor's Office

Members Absent

Senator Orfield

Staff Present

Peter Wattson, Senate Counsel  
Vic Thorstenson, Senate Redistricting  
Michael Brodkorb, Republican Redistricting Staff

Senator Pogemiller called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Senator Pogemiller asked for a moment of silence out of respect for the tragic events of the week.

Senator Pogemiller asked the audience to raise their hands to testify or to send in written input.

Senator Pogemiller asked members and staff to introduce themselves.

The following people testified:


1. Chuck Canfield, Mayor of Rochester (see handout)
2. Mike Podulke, Olmsted County Commissioner
3. Sandy Keith, former Chief Justice of the MN Supreme Court
4. Nancy Brataas, former State Senator
5. Mark Frederickson, Rochester resident
6. Duane Quam, School Board member in Byron, MN
7. Larry Klemenhagen, Rochester/Olmsted Planning Department
8. Dave Senjem, Rochester City Council
9. Kathy Meyerle, Chair of the Rochester City Charter Commission

Members asked questions and held discussion.

Senator Pogemiller adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Mary Harrison, Legislative Assistant

  
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Chair

**Redistricting Working Group**

Thursday, September 13, 2001

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Olmsted County Government Center  
Council Chambers

**A G E N D A**

Introductions.

Questions on plans.

Public Testimony.

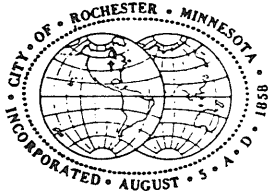
Chuck Canfield, Mayor, City of Rochester

Mike Podulke, Commissioner, Olmsted County

Committee Discussion.

Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller  
Chair

Mary Harrison  
Legislative Assistant



Mayor Chuck Canfield  
201 4th Street SE - Room 281  
Rochester, MN 55904-3782  
Phone: (507) 285-8080 Fax: (507) 287-7979



September 13, 2001

Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller  
235 Capital Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Pogemiller and Honorable Committee Members:

I want to welcome you to the City of Rochester. I sincerely hope you have a rewarding meeting in our community.

I want to thank you for providing this opportunity for citizens to comment on re-districting plans for Minnesota.

The City of Rochester has previously submitted some comments to the Legislative leaders and to Governor Ventura on the various redistricting plans and how they might impact the City of Rochester.

Our main concern with any re-districting plan is whether it provides our citizenry with common interests with the opportunity to elect individuals who have that same community of interest to the Minnesota Senate or Minnesota House of Representatives. The primary question being – How can the citizenry be most fairly and equitably represented?

With that in mind I would point out some statistics for Rochester and Olmsted County. The City of Rochester was listed as having a population of 85,806 in the 2000 census. That is up over 15,000 persons since the 1990 census population of 70,745. With our growth in 2000 and 2001 Rochester is the third largest city in Minnesota. Over the last 20 years we have averaged a growth of 1400 persons per year to our population. The census 2000 population of Olmsted County, which includes the City, is now up to 124,277 citizens. The total population of Olmsted County approximates the population that is needed for two Senate Districts and four representative districts.

The population in Rochester, Olmsted County and the immediately surrounding area in adjacent counties has an urban focus that revolves around the economy in the City of Rochester. The Mayo Clinic in Rochester is the largest employer in Olmsted County and in all the surrounding adjacent counties. According to the Minnesota Department of Economic Security the number of workers employed in Olmsted County has increased from 65,685 jobs in 1990 to 84,730 in 2000. Over 95% of these jobs are in Rochester. We have almost as many jobs as we have population in the City. Rochester is the employment center for a very large surrounding area.



The population in Rochester and Olmsted County has demographic statistics that differ from the surrounding region. In addition to our higher overall population, our minority population has increased significantly and now comprises 14% of the population in Rochester and 11% of the population in Olmsted. The balance of the region is about 5% minorities, half the proportion of Olmsted County.

The primary and overriding community of interest in the immediate area surrounding Rochester is a diverse urban interest that is dependent upon the Rochester economy. Common sense, equity, and fairness would suggest that this affected population should be concentrated into two Senate Districts so that these citizens of like economic and urban interest are able to have their interests represented most fairly.

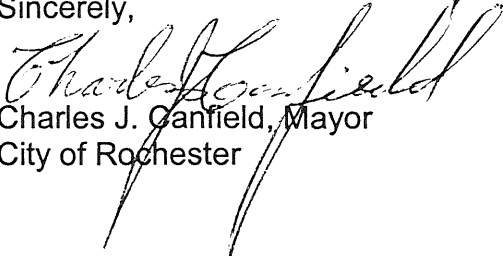
The elected City officials are concerned about and opposed to any re-districting plans that would divide the contiguous population in Rochester and Olmsted County into districts that include significantly remote populations that do not share the same interests for this urban area. We, therefore, could not support the House plan for this area. We would strongly recommend that any re-districting plans for Rochester and Olmsted County start in the City and work outward to the most immediate surrounding area that is unquestionably an area of influence of the Rochester economy. The nearest small cities in the adjacent counties have all been affected and influenced by the growth in the economy in Rochester and are some of the fastest growing and best, in my opinion, small cities in Minnesota. They have many of the same urban interests and could be combined with the Olmsted County population to comprise two Senate districts.

Plans, which divide Rochester into small pieces with other areas that are far removed from Olmsted County, would not provide for fair, reasonable, or effective representation for the citizens of Rochester and Olmsted County. We do not believe that having our population divided up to comprise a minority of the population in many far flung districts with citizens who are not as directly affected by the Rochester economy or services would provide for fair representation for our citizens. To date the Senate plan does a much better job in recognizing the similar community of interest in the Rochester/Olmsted County area and in concentrating those interests into two Senate districts. We are not wholeheartedly endorsing the specifics of the Senate plan, as there remains room for adjustments to accommodate the needs of the major political parties within the context of two concentrated Senate districts for the Rochester and Olmsted County area.

We would urge all the major parties and State elected officials involved in this process to have electoral fairness to the citizenry as their primary concern and to avoid political partisanship in establishing the district boundaries for this decade.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

  
Charles J. Ganfield, Mayor  
City of Rochester

REDISTRICTING WORKING GROUP  
THURS. SEPT. 13, 2001  
ROCHESTER, MN 2-4 PM.

Mayor Chuck Canfield  
201 4th SE  
Rochester, Mn. 55904  
507-285-8080

Mike Podolke Co. Commissioner  
#1 - 11th Ave NW  
Roch. MN 55901  
507-282-2752

Nancy Brataas  
839 10 1/2 St SW  
Rochester MN 55902  
507-~~282-4020~~

Ann Keith  
5225 Meadow Creek Rd. SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
(507) 282-4916

Mark Frederickson  
900 17th Ave NE  
Rochester MN 55906 507 282 0847

Duane Quam Jr. (drquam@hotmail.com)  
415 4th Ave NE  
Byron, MN. 55920 507 775-6043

REDISTRICTING WORKING GROUP  
THURSDAY SEPT. 13, 2001  
ROCHESTER MN 2-4 PM

---

LARRY KLEMENHAGEN  
Rochester - Olmsted Planning Dept  
2122 Campus DR. SE  
Rochester, MN 55904  
507-285-8511

Dave Senjean  
Council member - Rochester  
2423 12th Ave NW  
Rochester 55901  
507 284-8890

