

Yarrow Silvers

I am strongly opposed to the Meg/Felix amendment for a couple reasons.

This amendment was turned in after the public comment period, limiting public participation. Furthermore, unless someone specifically goes to the committee page, they would have no idea that this amendment had even been introduced for consideration as it is past the agreed upon and publicized period for introduction. This is way too important of a process to have last minute amendments sprung on the public, that they are unable to fully participate in. I oppose this amendment as well as any other last minute amendments, particularly anything that may be brought up during the assembly debate process.

In the state redistricting process, the senate pairings were brought to vote without public comment, damaging public trust by springing on the public a gerrymander that the board knew would be unacceptable to the public; the courts found that this action was a violation of section 10 and remanded the maps back to the board to be redrawn. Please do not make this same mistake in your process.

I also oppose this map because of the finger carving apart diverse neighborhoods in East Anchorage. This has the appearance of a gerrymander. East Anchorage is tired of fingers, tired of being gerrymandered, and tired of being treated as 2nd class citizens because of our largely low income residential status.

I am in support of Chris Constant's amendment because it ticks all the boxes for the requests by the different areas of town - upper Airport Heights and Rogers Park in Midtown, East high, Bartlett and the Muldoon corridor in East Anchorage, and West High/Forest Park in West Anchorage, while keeping districts compact and with lines that make sense. I like the way East Anchorage appears very compact with no fingers or gerrymanders. After a multitude of public and assembly input that upper Airport Heights has a distinct Midtown identity, it defies reason that it has suddenly been thrust into downtown in this last minute amendment.

Thank you for your consideration and for your hard work in this process. I continue to invite assembly members to consider Anchorage as a whole and to consider the importance of following a proper process, rather than approaching this with a Laser like focus on their own districts.

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