

FILED

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
SPECIAL REDISTRICTING PANEL
A21-0243
A21-0546**

December 8, 2021

**OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS**

Peter S. Wattson, Joseph Mansky, Nancy B.
Greenwood, Mary E. Kupper, Douglas W.
Backstrom and James E. Hougas III,
individually and on behalf of all citizens and
voting residents of Minnesota similarly
situated, and League of Women Voters
Minnesota,

Plaintiffs,

and

Paul Anderson, Ida Lano, Chuck Brusven,
Karen Lane, Joel Hineman, Carol Wegner,
and Daniel Schonhardt,

Plaintiff-Intervenors

**Declaration of May Yang
in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs'
Proposed Redistricting Plan**

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota;
and Kendra Olson, Carver County Elections
and Licensing Manager, individually and on
behalf of all Minnesota county chief election
officers,

Defendants,

and

Frank Sachs, Dagny Heimisdottir, Michael
Arulfo, Tanwi Prigge, Jennifer Guertin,
Garrison O'Keith McMurtrey, Mara Lee
Glubka, Jeffrey Strand, Danielle Main, and
Wayne Grimmer,

Plaintiffs,

and

Dr. Bruce Corrie, Shelly Diaz, Alberder
Gillespie, Xiongpaoo Lee, Abdirazak
Mahboub, Aida Simon, Beatriz Winters,
Common Cause, OneMinnesota.org, and
Voices for Racial Justice,

Plaintiff-Intervenors,

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota,

Defendant.

I, May Yang, declare as follows:

1. My name is May Yang, and I am Public Policy Manager at the Minnesota Council on Foundations (“MCF”) and serve as the campaign manager of the Our Maps MN Campaign.
2. I have personal knowledge of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan (a/k/a the “Unity Map”) and the process by which the Unity Map was developed.
3. The Unity Map was developed in conjunction with the Our Maps MN Campaign, which is a nonpartisan, grassroots campaign, committed to a community-focused, accessible, and transparent redistricting process. The Unity Map is also a natural extension of groundbreaking work done by the Minnesota Census Mobilization Partnership in connection with the 2020 Census. The Minnesota Council on Foundations played a leadership role in convening the Partnership and coordinating the community engagement and cohort mapping efforts of the Campaign.
4. In connection with the 2020 Census, the Minnesota Census Mobilization Partnership established a strong infrastructure for civic engagement and partnership between individuals, communities, nonprofit and community organizations, and grantmakers, in order to

ensure Minnesota had a fully-inclusive, nonpartisan, and accurate Census count. The Partnership was particularly focused on securing and organizing resources to ensure full participation in the 2020 Census by historically undercounted communities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities throughout Minnesota. The Partnership's efforts reached over 1.3 million Minnesotans, helped Minnesota achieve the #1 self-response rate for the 2020 Census, and contributed directly to Minnesota retaining its 8th Congressional seat.

5. Following the Partnership's unprecedented effort to ensure historically undercounted communities were counted during the 2020 Census in Minnesota, the Our Maps MN Campaign turned its attention to ensuring the fair representation of these same communities in the redistricting process.

6. In 2021, the Our Maps MN Campaign worked diligently to engage Minnesota's BIPOC and other historically underrepresented communities in the redistricting process, with a shared goal of ensuring the new redistricting plans that will govern Minnesota's elections for the next decade reflect the input of these communities.

7. As part of the Our Maps MN Campaign, MCF partnered with 12 BIPOC-led and serving organizations, including:

African Career, Education & Resource, Inc.
Anika Foundation
Asian American Organizing Project
CAPI USA
Communities Organizing Latinx Power and Action
Deaf Equity
Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research
Islamic Civic Society of America
Native American Community Development Institute
Pillsbury United Communities
The Council on American-Islamic Relations
Voices for Racial Justice

(collectively, the “Unity Cohort”). Many of these organizations worked with underrepresented communities during the 2020 Census—efforts that were either similar to or done in conjunction with the Minnesota Census Mobilization Partnership. Several have testified before the Minnesota Legislature and the Special Redistricting Panel during this redistricting cycle.

8. During this redistricting cycle, the Unity Cohort met regularly throughout the 2021 calendar year to discuss redistricting issues, mapping initiatives, community outreach and messaging, and coordinate testimony before the Minnesota Legislature and this Panel by BIPOC community members. The Unity Cohort led over 100 hours of training, redistricting education and awareness, community outreach and engagement, listening sessions, and map drawing meetings. These sessions were conducted in more than 5 languages, engaged more than ten racial/ethnic groups, and drew participation from more than 400 individual community members. Through this engagement, more than 40 “community of interest” maps were developed during the months of July, August and September 2021, all of which were informed and developed by community members and their stories.

9. With these community of interest maps in hand, the Unity Cohort began working on the Unity Map, which ultimately become the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan. From September through early December 2021, the Unity Cohort met regularly for two-hour sessions, accompanied by redistricting and geographic information systems (GIS) experts to guide the process. Time was dedicated in the sessions to discussing the community of interest maps, population growth and demographic shifts reflected by 2020 Census data, and the impact these changes are having and are expected to have on communities of interest. Ample time in these sessions was dedicated to participants sharing information about their communities, their shared interests, and the elements that shape and bind them together. These discussions gave participants

a forum to learn from each other and develop a redistricting plan that best serves all of Minnesota's communities of interest. After developing drafts of the Unity Map, the Unity Cohort members took the drafts back to their communities to elicit feedback about how they were represented. This information was then reported back to the Cohort, and additional changes were made to best reflect community interests. This process continued until the Unity Cohort reached consensus on the district boundaries reflected in the Unity Map.

10. The Our Maps MN Campaign and the process by which the Unity Map was developed leaves no doubt that Minnesota's BIPOC and historically underrepresented communities desire to be engaged in the redistricting process and, in fact, can *lead* the process.

11. The Unity Map was created by the people for the people—by engaged members of Minnesota's BIPOC and other historically underrepresented communities who historically have been left out of the redistricting process, and with their interests at the center. To do right by these communities and to preserve them in the redistricting process, and to make elected officials as responsive as possible to these communities, we ask that the Panel adopt the Unity Map, which is the foundation of the Corrie Plaintiffs' proposed redistricting plan.

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything that I have stated in this declaration is true and correct.

Dated: December 6, 2021



May Yang