

Bulletin

Promoting the understanding of agriculture in our community to improve the profitability of farmers and enrich the quality of life in Knox County

VOL. XCII USPS 297-360 October 2015 No. 10

Join the KCFB Young Farmers for a Cookout!

Anyone 18-35 yrs. old

4:00 P.M.

November 15, 2015

The DeSutter's
3395 75th Ave.

New Windsor, IL 61465

RSVP REQUIRED
309-342-2036

*Meat & non-alcoholic drinks provided.
Please bring a dish to pass and table service.*



Independent Maps Halfway To Goal Of 600,000 Petition Signatures For Redistricting Reform Amendment

More than 300,000 Illinois Voters Sign Petitions to Take Partisan Politics Out of Legislative Redistricting

CHICAGO – The non-partisan Independent Maps coalition announced it is more than halfway to its goal of collecting 600,000 petition signatures for a state constitutional amendment to create a non-partisan independent commission responsible for drawing state legislative districts.

"In less than five months, more than 300,000 Illinoisans signed petitions to put this important amendment before voters in 2016, and that puts us halfway to our goal of 600,000 signatures," said Dennis FitzSimons, Chair of Independent Maps.

"Because entrenched political interests don't want to give Illinoisans an opportunity to vote on this amendment, we know they will challenge the validity of some of our petition signatures," FitzSimons said. "To be absolutely certain we will meet the Illinois Constitution's requirement of 290,216 valid signatures, we're going to collect more than twice that number. Defenders of the current partisan system will not be able to overcome those numbers."

"We're ahead of schedule, and that is thanks to the hard work of volunteers giving up weekends and evenings to collect signatures and to voters who signed the petition because they are fed up with the results of rigged legislative maps," FitzSimons said.

"Voters are frustrated and feel their voices are not being heard in the General Assembly," said Cynthia Canary, Executive Director of Independent Maps. "The discontent is real, and it stems in part from the fact that 60 percent of the legislators elected last year didn't have anyone running against them. When legislative districts are designed to maximize partisan advantage, the likelihood of true competitive elections is minimized. Partisan maps discourage competition and give us legislators who cruise into office without having to debate a challenger or even listen to a single voter."

"Volunteers have told us that voters are sometimes so eager to sign petitions that they grab the clipboards out of their hands, sign the petition and ask others around them to sign, too," Canary said. "We're very encouraged by the response throughout Illinois, but there's a lot of hard work ahead of all of us."

Independent Maps got off to an early and fast start this spring thanks in large part to the Illinois League of Women Voters, which has local and regional Leagues across the state, and to thousands of volunteers engaged in two previous amendment campaigns. Last month, the Illinois Farm Bureau – with more than 400,000 members in Illinois – increased the reach of the coalition and made its



95 offices collection points for volunteers to turn in completed petitions.

Petitions and instructions are available at www.MapAmendment.org.

The Independent Map Amendment would create an 11-member commission representing the demographic and geographic diversity of the state. The commission meetings and records would be open to the public, and the commission would be required to hold public hearings throughout the state. The commission drawn maps would be required to protect the voting rights of racial and ethnic minorities, and the maps would be drawn without regard to incumbency or partisanship. Adoption of the maps would require approval of seven commissioners, including at least two Democrats and two Republicans.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 15 KCFB Board Meeting, 8 PM, KAC
- 20 PrimeTimers Outing, 10:30 AM, Abingdon United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER

- 6 Knox Ag Roundtable Meeting, 12 PM, KAC
- 15 Young Farmers Cookout, 4 PM, RSVP to office
- 17 PrimeTimers Holiday Dinner, TBD
- 19 KCFB Board Meeting, 7 PM, KAC
- 23 Steve Johnson Seminar, 7 PM, KAC
- 24 KCFB Foundation Meeting, 6:30 PM, KAC
- 24 Knox Agri Center Meeting, 7:30 PM, KAC
- 25-27 Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 1 Cheese order forms and checks due to office

2015 Holiday Cheese Order



The Holiday Cheese Order Form will be included in the November Bulletin.

You may also print order forms from knoxcfb.org

Independent Map Amendment Coalition

Petitions can be signed at the KCFB Office by an Illinois registered voter.



Let's help spread the warmth throughout Knox County!

The Knox County Farm Bureau will be accepting hats, coats, scarves, gloves, and more beginning October 1st.

Drop off your gently used winter gear, of all sizes, to the Knox County Farm Bureau. The winter wear will be distributed to local schools and shelters to help share the warmth this winter season. For questions, please contact the Knox County Farm Bureau at (309) 342-2036.

Thank you for your generosity!



Welcome New Members

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to welcome the following to our organization:

Doubet Mechanical Service, Williamsfield
J & J Farms, Altona
Landcorp, Inc, Altona
Oak Run POA, Dahinda
Thomas Angeli, Galesburg
Damien Bantz, Dahinda
Dennis & Gina Bantz, Williamsfield
Connie & Harold Bell, Laura
Sherry & Jack Bremer, Galesburg
Keith Brown, Oneida

Angela Dennison, Galesburg
Rodney & Sherry Fleisher, Maquon
Debra Howard, Galesburg
Matthew Le Clere, Galesburg
Ariel A. Lefler, Galesburg
Brittany Lumberly, Galesburg
Maria C. Martinez, Galesburg
Shannon Mindell, Galesburg
Abby Newell, Williamsfield
Mark & Gayle Stansell, Dahinda

