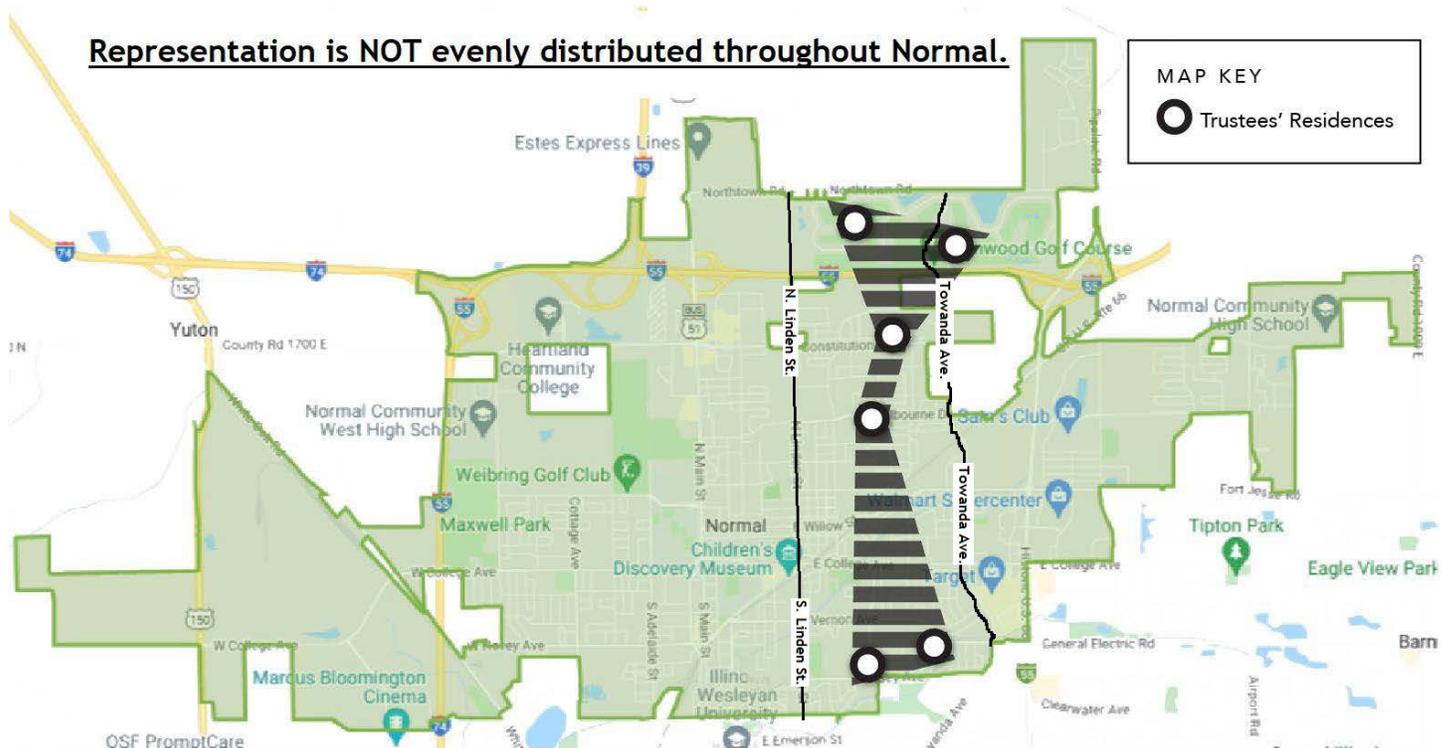


Shall the town be divided into 6 districts with one trustee elected from each district?

- Currently Normal's voters elect all six town trustees who are "at large," which means they represent all residents and all neighborhoods, yet none are accountable for any specific area or neighborhood.
- Today, if you have a pothole in your street, for example, which of the six at-large trustees do you call?
- Who truly represents you and your neighborhood's issues?
- The problem is that our trustees don't live in all neighborhoods. Currently more than one trustee lives in the same neighborhoods/areas, while no trustees live in other neighborhoods.
- Currently no village trustees live East of Veterans Parkway nor West of Linden Street.
- Districting divides Normal into six equally sized and populated districts, with one trustee elected from each district.
- Districting ensures that the town trustees not only represent the town's neighborhoods/districts, but they also live throughout the town as well.
- The NAACP and other groups are fighting to end at-large elections.

Where the current Trustees live.



In the end districting ensures...

...better representation

...better accountability

...and better government.

More info at BetterNormal-IL.com

AT-LARGE VOTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is at-large voting?

Under at-large voting, all voters cast their ballots for all candidates in the jurisdiction. In Beaufort city council elections, for example, all voters cast their ballots for five positions, with the top five candidates who receive the most votes citywide winning seats on the city council.

Why is at-large voting discriminatory?

At-large methods of election are often discriminatory because they, in combination with racially polarized voting, prevent voters of color from electing their candidates of choice where they are not the majority in the jurisdiction. Under this system, the votes of voters of color often are drowned out or submerged by the votes of a majority of white voters who often do not support the candidates preferred by Black voters.

How does at-large voting affect communities of color?

Fewer and fewer districts still practice at-large voting. That is because courts and other decision-makers long have recognized that discriminatory methods of election, like at-large voting, enhance the discrimination that communities of color experience because of socioeconomic and other disparities in life opportunities between Black and white communities.

LDF has long worked to eradicate discriminatory at-large methods of election that dilute the voting strength of communities of color.

How can districts switch from at-large to district-based voting?

Elected officials can call for a referendum on the question of moving from at-large to district voting, and voters can approve a change to the method of election through a referendum. South Carolina law empowers local city councils to take a simple majority vote to change the method of election through a referendum. Alternatively, communities can petition a city council to put the question of a change to the method of election to the voters. Without action by local municipalities, politicians who choose to maintain at-large voting can face time-consuming and costly litigation.

How are single-member districts created?

To remedy dilutive at-large electoral systems, single-member districts are created by a demographic mapping expert and include at least one district in which voters of color are the majority of the voting-age population in that district. These districts must satisfy all relevant laws and traditional redistricting principles. These districts are not intended to guarantee the election of politicians of a particular color, but rather to empower voters to elect their candidates of choice.

Are at-large systems rare or widely-used?

Since the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, numerous at-large systems have been struck down under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Although at-large voting is becoming rarer and rarer, in part due to the advocacy of LDF and other civil rights organizations, such discriminatory election systems remain in some places in our democracy, such as in Beaufort City.

The Voting Rights Act forbids the use of any electoral scheme, such as the at-large method of election, that submerges the votes of people of color in elections that a white majority of voters control. Widely considered the crown jewel of American democracy, the Voting Rights Act is the most effective tool for protecting voters of color against methods of election – like at-large voting – that weaken the voting strength of communities of color.

What are some notable cases that struck down at-large voting?

In a case that LDF successfully litigated, *Dillard v. Crenshaw County, Alabama*, a federal district court found that hundreds of Alabama districts intentionally employed at-large electoral methods to discriminate against Black voters. Because of that litigation, 176 jurisdictions settled and adopted some form of district voting. Following *Dillard*, in which 183 jurisdictions throughout Alabama ultimately abandoned their discriminatory at-large method of elections, few jurisdictions in Alabama still use this potentially dilutive voting scheme.

More recently, in *Georgia State Conference of the NAACP v. Fayette County Board of Commissioners*, LDF successfully challenged the at-large electoral method to the county board of commissioners and board of education in Fayette County, Georgia.

Gathering Signatures for the Petition - **Districting the Town of Normal**

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Petition signature forms
- Clipboard
- Pen

STEPS:

Gathering Signatures

1. Introduce yourself as a member of the community collecting signatures for a petition.
2. Ask if they are currently a registered voter residing within the Town of Normal.
3. This is a non-partisan issue; a voter's party affiliation does not matter.

Once Completed

- 1.) Do not number your petition forms. The sheets will be numbered once all of them are collected when the petition drive is completed.
- 2.) Each completed petition form must be separately notarized.
 - Take all your completed petition forms to your coordinator. They can arrange a notary if needed.
 - You will need to sign the petition form in front of the Notary.
 - You will need to present your driver's license as legal proof of identity.
 - Your coordinator will keep your completed petition forms.
- 3.) Submit completed petitions before August 1, 2022 to:
Stan Nord
1020 Balsam Road
Normal, IL 61761
309-242-2495

Purpose of the petition:

- Petition signatures are needed to qualify a referendum for the November election in order to place the question on the ballot.
- By signing the petition, the voter is not deciding the matter but rather is allowing the referendum question to be placed on the ballot which merely allows the electors the opportunity to vote and have a voice on the matter in November.
- The voters can choose YES or NO at the ballot box to the referendum question:
“Shall the town be divided into 6 districts with one trustee elected from each district?”

