

**Illinois Redistricting  
Public Hearing April 21, 2011  
Peoria, IL**

Gerrymandering has been a black eye on Illinois politics for years. The practice of politicians choosing their constituents based on voter registration or voting history must end. I suggest we, in Illinois, look to our neighbors in Iowa for a more fair way of redistricting.

Iowa uses four criteria for redistricting. They are, in descending order of importance are: 1) population equality; 2) contiguity; 3) unity of counties and cities (maintaining county lines and enveloping house districts within senate districts and senate districts within congressional districts); and 4) compactness. Unlike Illinois, Iowa also has legislation which specifically forbids the use of political affiliation, previous election results, the addresses of incumbents, or any demographic information other than population.

Iowa does have differences from Illinois that makes it easier to create districts. They have roughly half the counties of Illinois which are neatly lined up in grid format. However, this does not preclude Illinois from using county lines in conjunction with other well known borders such as rivers, City/Village Limits, Interstates, or *major* highways. Larger urban areas would still need to be divided, but this is a good example of when to use the preceding proposed borders.

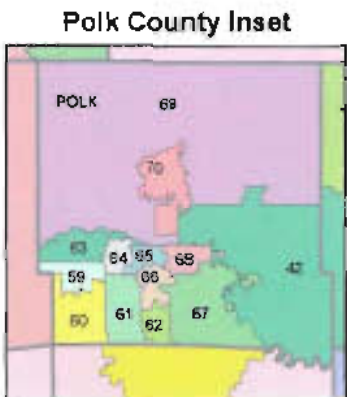
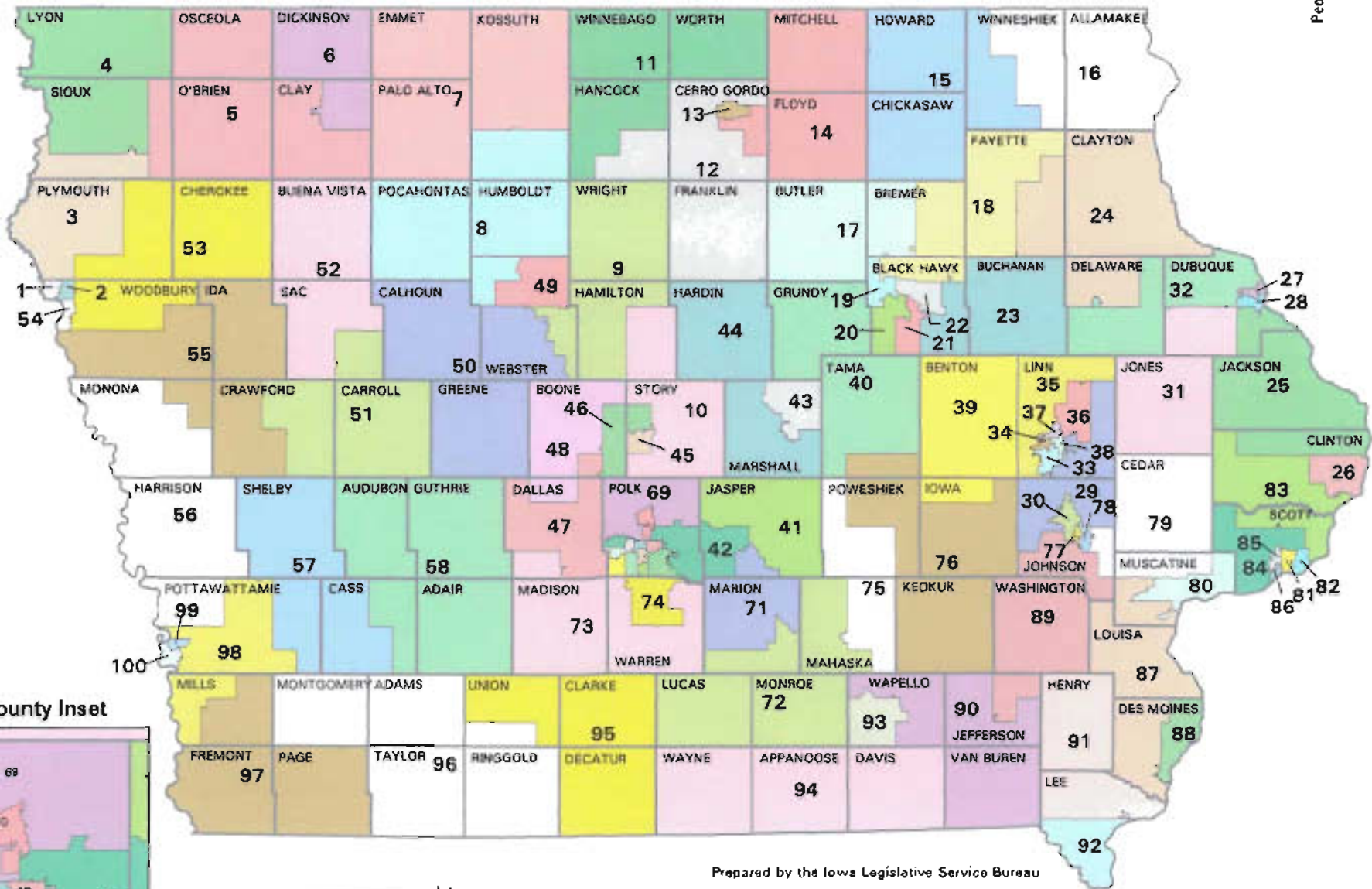
There are several positives that can come of redistricting in this way. It will remove (most of) the politics in redistricting. Constituents will have an easier time understanding what districts they live in and have an easier time knowing who their representatives are. And politicians cannot rest on their laurels thinking their district is "safe". Because of this, it is my recommendation that Illinois use the same criteria and restrictions of those used in Iowa.

Respectfully submitted,

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# IOWA HOUSE DISTRICTS

Effective Beginning with the Elections in 2002 for the 80th Iowa General Assembly

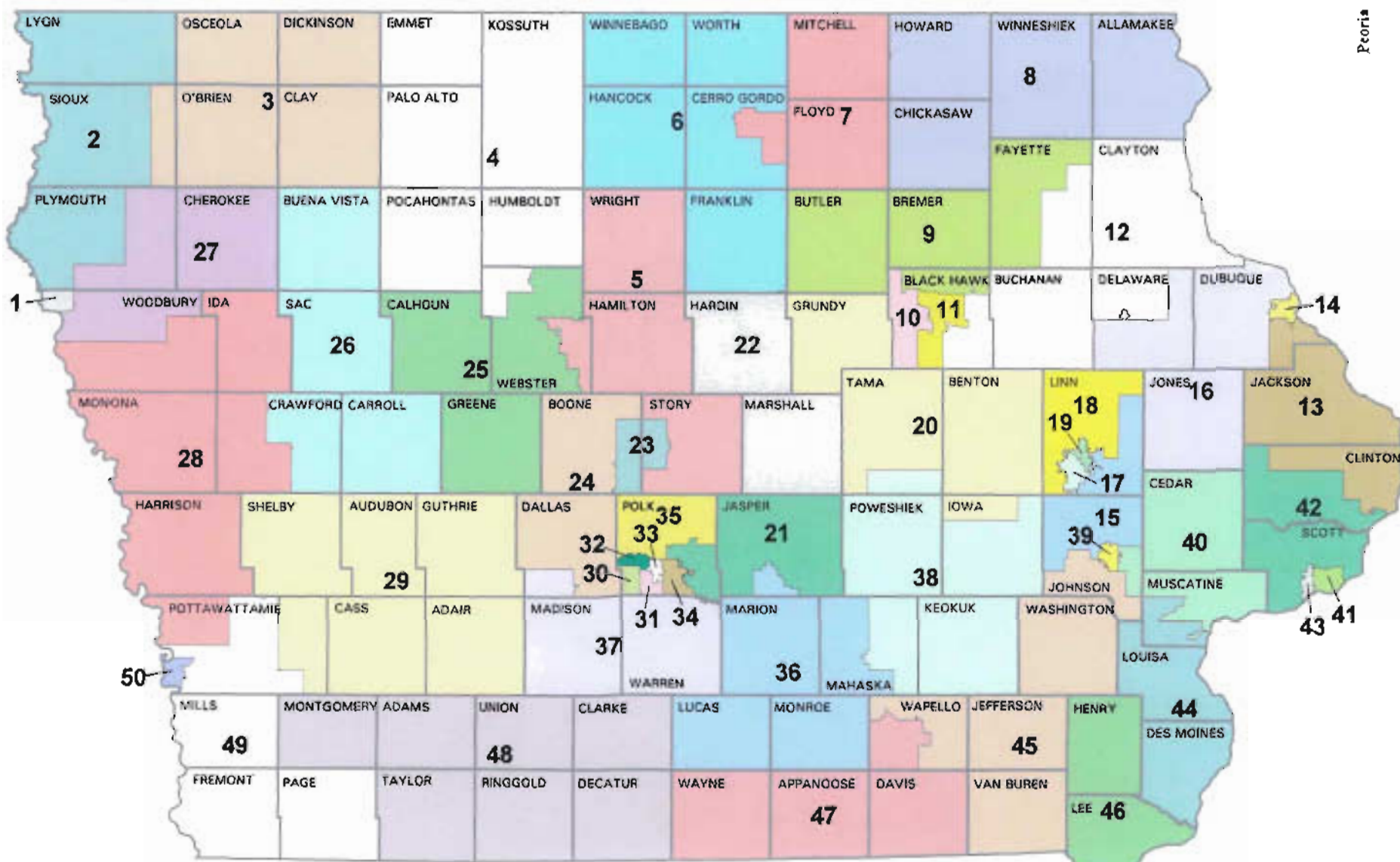


BRAD CARTER

# IOWA SENATE DISTRICTS

Effective Beginning with the Elections in 2002 for the 80th Iowa General Assembly

Peoria 4/21/2011  
13



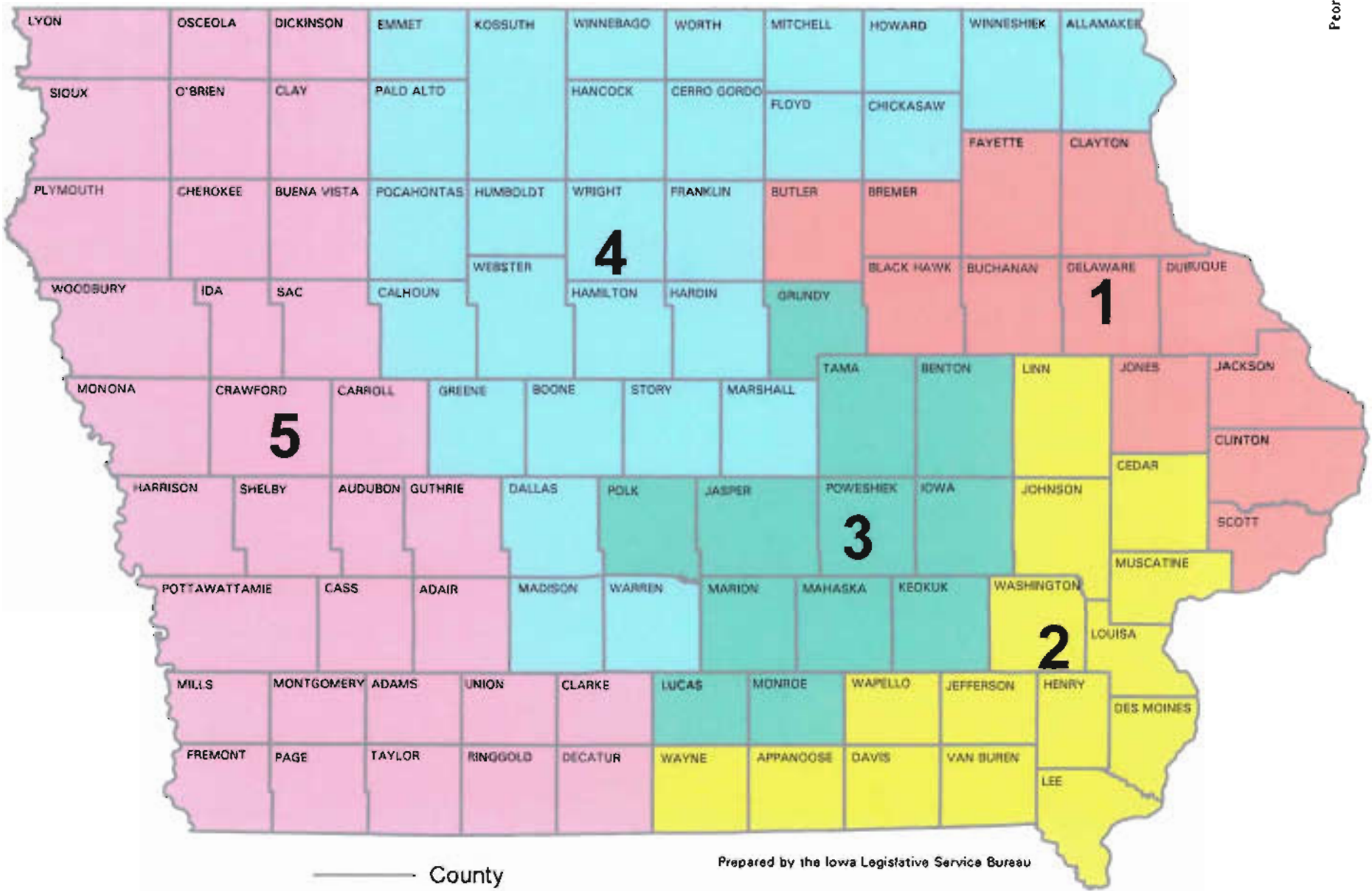
— Senate  
— County

Prepared by the Iowa Legislative Service Bureau

*FRED CARTER*

# IOWA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Effective Beginning with the Elections in 2002 for the 108th U.S. Congress



Prepared by the Iowa Legislative Service Bureau

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