Minnesota House redistricting maps draw early ire

Controversial House districting maps were released last week, and residents throughout the City of Virginia and Hibbing have already begun to voice their concerns.

Warwas said the 7A District would likely be consolidated with these cities. “If only these bigger cities have a vote, it cuts the voice of the rural people,” Warwas said. “And if people who live north and south of these (taco)-industry centers feel that they are not being represented, they’ll be in one district."

It’s extremely early in the long and politically partisan redistricting process. However, initial maps produced by the Democrat-led Minnesota House of Representatives Redistricting Committee are raising some eyebrows.

The way the lines are drawn, there’s a lot of rural areas, Warwas, a miner and Clinton Township supervisor said of district maps offered under a Democratic-majority House Redistricting Committee. And a lot of us who live in those rural areas work at mining companies. If they compartmentalize and put all the Range cities in District 7 of our biggest cities would be in one district.”

Warwas testified about redistricting at a Minnesota House Redistricting Committee hearing last week. Redistricting happens every 10 years following the U.S. Census. Lines for all 134 Minnesota House districts and 67 Senate districts, along with congressional districts, are redrawn based on population.

Gilbert residents question several projects, moves by elected officials

JIM RONSAAS

GILBERT — The issue of transparency is a reoccurring topic at city council meetings. "It’s all been right here in front of you," Mayor Karl Oberstar said in an email Thursday. "The city anticipates some AIDDS (Iron Range Resources and Environmental Development) funds may be offset some infrastructure costs of this new development," he added.

Regarding the school buildings, Pontinen and a recent Northwest survey showed 80% of respondents wanted the school torn down and the land marketed by the city.

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