


18th Judicial Circuit Subcircuits

Judge Chantelle Porter



Judicial Subcircuits: Enhancing Local Representation

JUDICIAL SUBCIRCUITS ARE A MECHANISM TO ENSURE
LOCAL REPRESENTATION IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

Definition of Judicial Subcircuits

- Judicial subcircuits as divisions within larger judicial districts.
- Subcircuits are created to address specific needs and concerns of local communities.
- Examples of counties that have implemented judicial subcircuits.

Purpose of Judicial Subcircuits

- Ensuring geographic diversity: By dividing larger districts into smaller subcircuits, it allows for a more balanced representation from different areas.
- Addressing local concerns: Subcircuits enable judges to have a better understanding of the unique challenges faced by specific communities.

Illinois Subcircuits

- In DuPage County, the state trial court layer is the 18th Judicial Circuit. Circuit judges in the 18th Judicial Circuit were elected on a county-wide basis.
- Judges elected from subcircuits are still circuit judges and are therefore able to participate in the selection of a chief judge and associate judges, but they must reside in the subcircuit from which they were elected and must continue to reside in that subcircuit for the duration of their tenure.
- Retention elections for subcircuits are every six years and are conducted on a circuit-wide basis.

18th Judicial Circuit

- Beginning with the 2024 General Election the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit will be divided into seven subcircuits for the election of circuit judges.
- Each subcircuit will consist of approximately 133,000 people.
- ▶ As DuPage circuit judges retire, each new vacancy that will be assigned to a subcircuit until there are two judges elected from each subcircuit.
- There are currently 15 circuit judges.

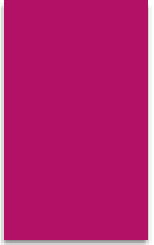
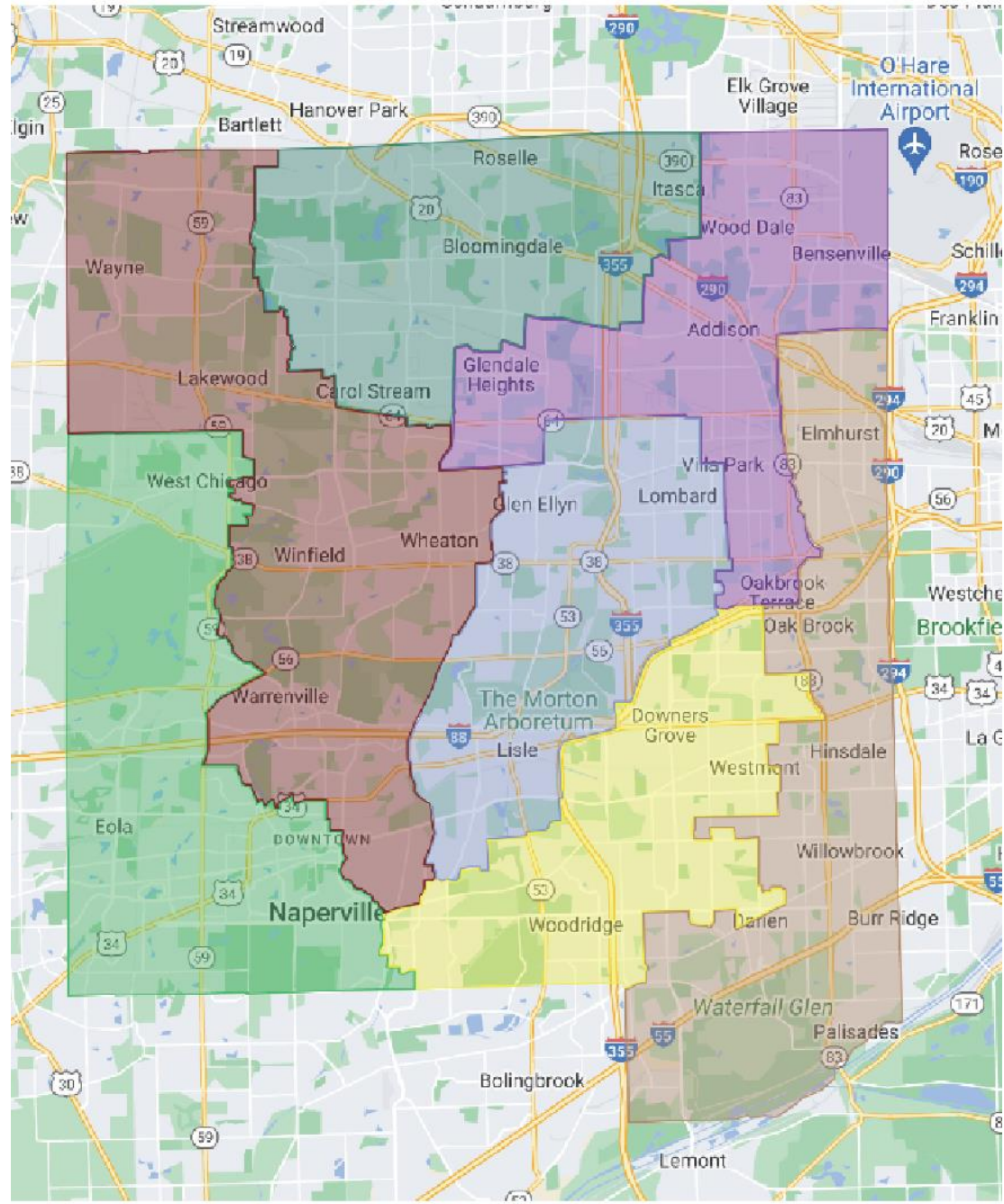
Appointment of Judges

Circuit Judges: As a circuit judge retires the Supreme Court fills the vacancy. Justice Mary K. O'Brien fills the vacancies for the 18th Judicial Circuit

Associate Judges: Circuit judges appoint associate judges. Associate judges have a four-year retention.

Subcircuit 1

- ▶ **Addison, Bensenville, Villa Park, Glendale Heights, Wood Dale, as well as a portion of Carol Stream and Glen Ellyn south of North Avenue and North of Geneva Road between Schmale Road and Main Street; a portion of Lombard north of North Ave between Rohlwing Road and Joyce Ave, and north of E. St. Charles Road and south of the railroad tracks between Chase Avenue and Westmore Ave; a pocket of Elmhurst near the Route 83 and Route 38 interchange; and a portion of Oakbrook Terrace, south and west of the Route 83 and Route 38 interchange.**



Definition of Diversity

- ▶ The importance of diversity in the judiciary

Representation and Legitimacy

- ▶ The significance of diverse representation in the judiciary
- ▶ A diverse judiciary ensures the legitimacy of the legal system
- ▶ The importance of the judiciary reflecting the demographics of the society it serves



Fairness and Impartiality

The correlation between diversity and fairness in the judicial system

Diverse perspectives lead to a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of legal issues

Diverse judges can mitigate bias and promote impartiality in decision making

Access to Justice

- ▶ Diverse judges can improve access to justice for marginalized communities
- ▶ Diverse backgrounds and experiences among judges can enhance their understanding of system inequalities and discrimination
- ▶ The role of diverse judges in bridging gaps in the justice system and ensuring equal treatment under the law



Public Confidence and Trust

Research and studies show that diverse judiciaries inspire public confidence and trust

Diverse judges contribute to a more inclusive legal system, lead to greater public satisfaction and belief in the fairness of the judiciary

Role Models and Inspiring Future Generations

- ▶ The importance of judges as role models for aspiring legal professionals from underrepresented communities
- ▶ Diverse judges can inspire confidence and encourage more diverse individuals to pursue legal careers
- ▶ The long-term impact of diverse judicial appointments on creating a pipeline for future diversity in the legal profession

Challenges and Barriers

- ▶ The challenges and barriers to achieving diversity in the judiciary
- ▶ Potential obstacles, such as implicit bias, systemic discrimination, and lack of diversity in legal education
- ▶ Ongoing efforts to address these challenges and promote diversity in the judiciary





The Role of Elections in Diversity

Judge Porter's Road to the Bench

