

**Follow up to the Testimony to the Court Redistricting Panel to Provide
Fair ALANA (African Latino Asian and Native American) Political
Representation in Minnesota**

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*(A nonpartisan multiethnic alliance working to create a multiethnic society in
Minnesota with no racial barriers to success)*

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This note follows our October 5, 2011 testimony to the Court Redistricting Panel. We offer the Court certain principles when drawing the new Congressional and legislative boundaries for Minnesota. These principles are from the perspective of ALANA (African Latino Asian and Native American) communities. We have produced a map but will not be submitting it at this time as we continue to seek community input on it. However what is clearly illustrated in our map is that while respecting common redistricting laws and principles it is possible to achieve near parity in the number of legislative seats (for 17 percent of the population at least 21 House and 11 Senate seats) for the ALANA communities. We have not included the map in the testimony because of the shortness in time to meet the Court deadline for submissions of testimony.

In our map we have been able to achieve the following:

- At least 21 House opportunity districts for ALANA communities
- At least 9 Senate opportunity districts for ALANA communities
- 2 Congressional ALANA opportunity districts
- At least 79 House districts where ALANA communities make up at least 10 percent of the population creating core constituents across legislative districts.
- At least 41 Senate districts where ALANA communities make up at least 10 percent of the population creating core constituents across legislative districts.
- Geographically in the North West corner of the state there is a possibility for an ALANA opportunity district
- Create a minority majority district in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center
- Increase ALANA representation in rural areas, suburban and exurban areas
- Increase representation for Latino, Asian (including Hmong), African American, African Immigrant (including Somali) and Native American communities.

In order to achieve these goals we offer the following:

- A map illustrating the value of the ethnic economy in Minnesota across Minnesota cities and the challenge to provide adequate representation to these economic interests.
- Principles to help frame the decisions regarding legislative boundaries.

Principles

- An ethnic economy is a shared community of interest where ALANA firms, workers, consumers and students interact and engage with each other. These ethnic economies emerge with a critical mass of ALANA populations. We request that legislative districts preserve intact these ethnic economies and maximize their political representation. Particular attention needs to be paid to the major ALANA Cities/Ethnic economies listed in the attached table and the various ethnic economies reflected in the map of ALANA buying power. The table shows the consumer

power as well as the economic value of firms in terms of receipts, payroll and employment to the cities where they are located.

- Maintain the gains of current ALANA elected members while increasing the opportunity of communities to elect or influence the election of a representative in metro, suburban, exurban and rural areas.
- While “minority opportunity districts” is an important mechanism of fair representation for minorities it is equally important to empower the following groups wherever possible: African American, African Immigrant, Somalis, Hmong, Latinos and Native American communities. Do not break these communities into separate districts

Why is it important to have fair political representation?

1. ***ALANA interests are not adequately addressed in the current political system.*** ALANA face significant barriers in various sectors of the economy and society, whether it is the achievement and wealth gaps to access to capital and business opportunities. These have been adequately documented in many recent studies and reports including the recent disparity studies. At the same time the vibrant entrepreneurship potential in ALANA communities with its potential to create jobs and wealth for all, has had minimal policy attention because of lack of political representation at all levels of government in Minnesota. This is documented in the recent “F” grade awarded to ALANA business development by the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. ALANA communities in rural Minnesota face barriers to business, social, political and educational success because their voice is largely absent in the policy institutions in rural Minnesota.
2. In areas where there is a critical mass of ALANA people an ethnic economy emerges in the form of a strong consumer base, workers, entrepreneurs, trade networks, cultural and civic capital (See attached map showing cities and an estimated buying power of ALANA consumers). **There is a dearth of political representation for these ethnic economies.** Yet they are powerful engines of economic growth. We estimate the ethnic economy to be over \$12 billion in Minnesota, bigger than the GDP of many countries in the world.

Ranked by revenue, minority firms as a group would be the 15th largest in the state with total revenue of \$5.8 billion in 2007, larger than St. Jude Medical, Toro and Deluxe Corporation. Asian owned firms would rank the 22nd largest with revenue of \$2.4 billion.

Ranked by employees, minority firms as a group would be the 9th largest employer, bigger than General Mills, Ecolab and Hormel, employing almost 40,000 with an annual payroll of \$1.1 billion.

3. **With the suburbanization and rural spread of ALANA** communities the issue of political representation becomes stronger.
4. A significant proportion of the growth of Minnesota's population comes from the ALANA communities.

Past Experience

Currently there are only 6 ALANA legislators in the Minnesota legislature. Redistricting options in the past have not empowered ALANA communities and is reflected in their poor representation in the legislature and the repeated poor annual ranking awarded to the legislature and Governor in Minnesota by the OAP project on issues important to these communities.

Benefits to Minnesota

Create opportunity districts based on Minnesota demographics.

Creating ALANA Opportunity districts will increase the possibilities of more ALANA elected to the legislature. In the past decade the number of ALANA legislators ranged from 6 to 7.

Have elected representatives with the ability to propose effective solutions to the various gaps in education, assets, housing, health and employment.

Currently there is the need for elected officials that could propose effective solution to the various gaps in education, assets, housing, health and employment. Increased ALANA representation will be critical in this regard.

Low income communities will benefit.

Since ALANA communities tend to live in communities of interest with other low income communities creating such opportunity districts also increases the voice of low income people in Minnesota who face similar issues such as public transportation, affordable housing, lacking adequate health insurance, poor asset base etc.

Help Minnesota Become Globally Competitive

Having ALANA communities well represented in policy leadership will nurture these ethnic economies and help Minnesota leverage its ethnic capital and compete effectively in the global economy.

Major ALANA Cities/Ethnic Economies, 2011

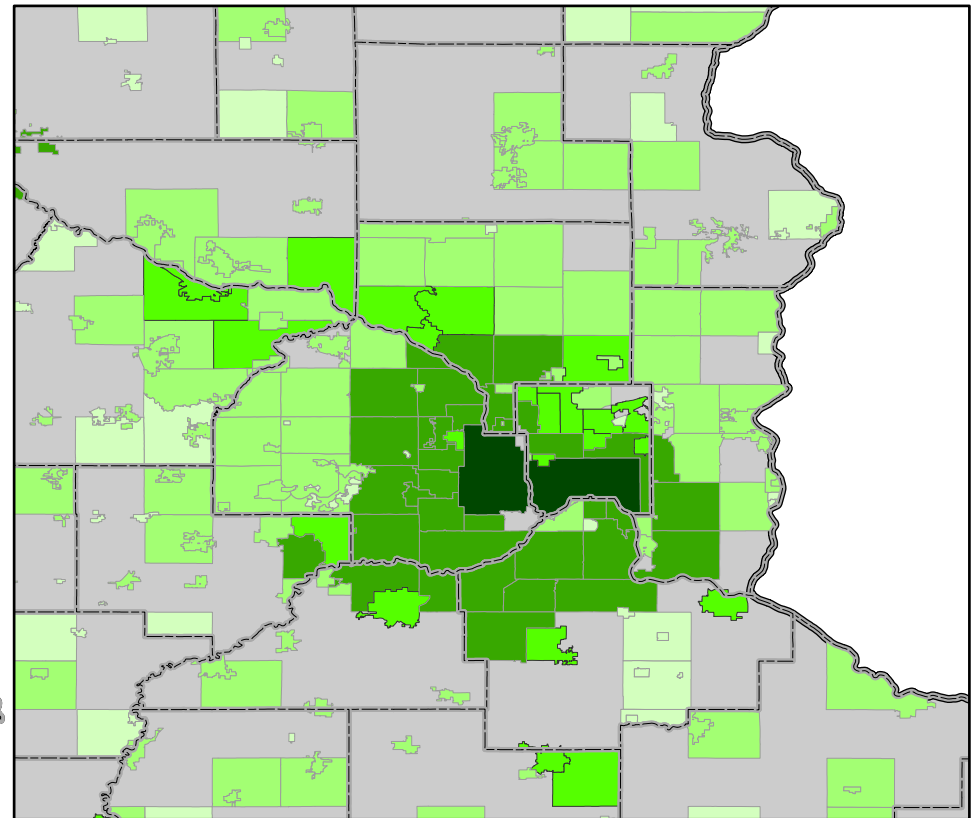
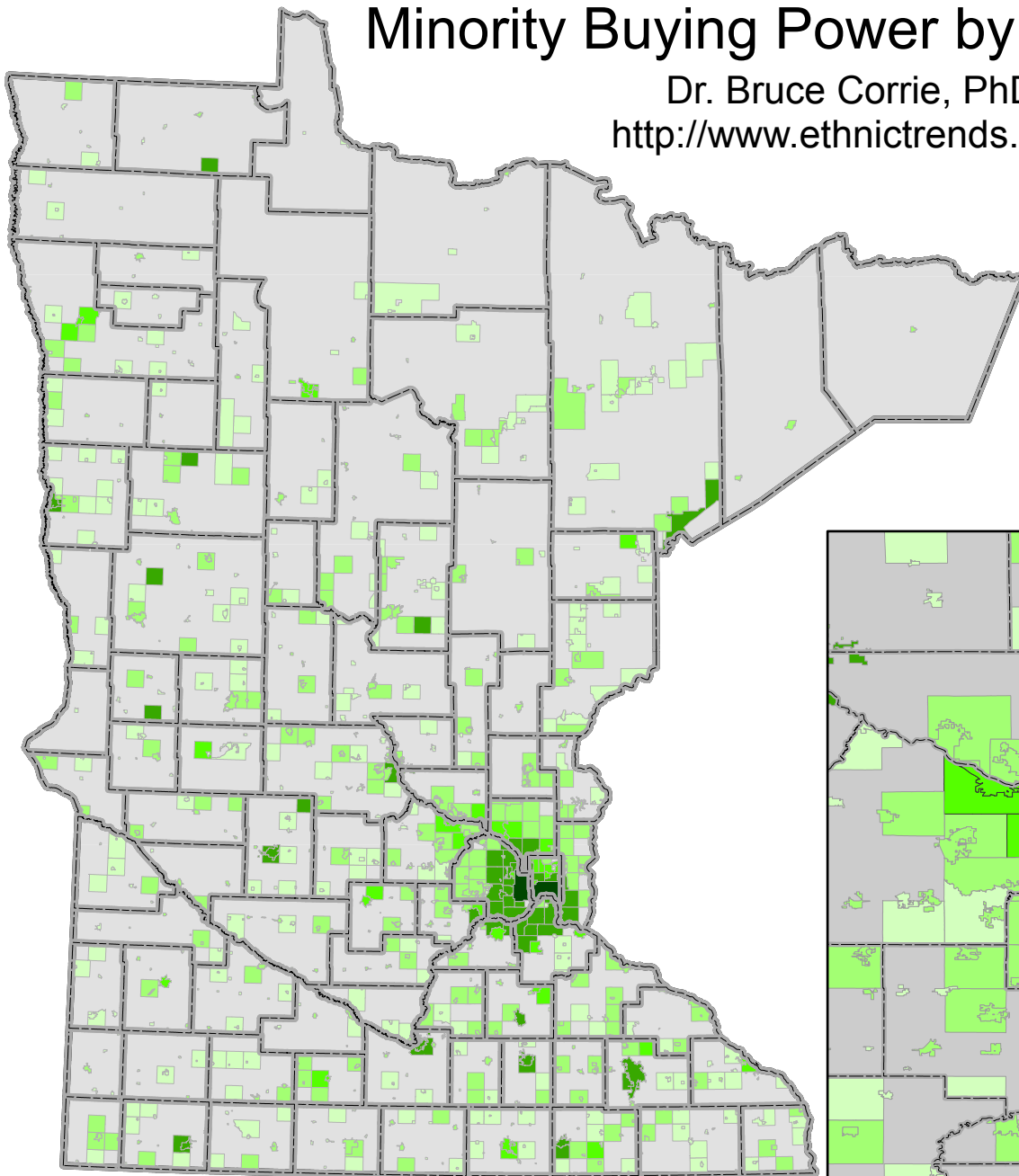
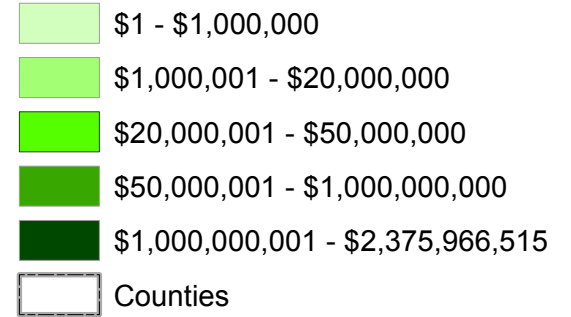
| Geographic Area Name | ALANA firms (number) | Receipts (\$1,000) | Employer firms (number) | Employees (number) | Annual payroll (\$1,000) | Buying Power |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Minneapolis city, MN | 5,915 | 1,340,757 | 792 | 10,447 | 326,176 | \$ 2,375,000,000 |
| St. Paul city, MN | 4,310 | 380,211 | 414 | 4,012 | 81,277 | \$ 1,995,000,000 |
| Brooklyn Park city, MN | 1,316 | 112,484 | 142 | 930 | 24,583 | \$ 565,000,000 |
| Bloomington city, MN | 711 | 192,468 | 168 | 1,756 | 42,399 | \$ 313,000,000 |
| Brooklyn Center city, MN | 403 | 43,808 | S | S | S | \$ 242,000,000 |
| Burnsville city, MN | 537 | 50,723 | 78 | 403 | 7,745 | \$ 233,000,000 |
| Eden Prairie city, MN | 510 | 90,702 | 72 | 585 | 36,222 | \$ 219,000,000 |
| Eagan city, MN | 613 | 145,271 | 77 | 516 | 21,853 | \$ 211,000,000 |
| Plymouth city, MN | 452 | 135,753 | 81 | 492 | 28,307 | \$ 211,000,000 |
| Woodbury city, MN | 634 | 79,480 | S | S | S | \$ 194,000,000 |
| Blaine city, MN | 604 | 28,664 | 93 | 543 | 7,371 | \$ 168,000,000 |
| Maplewood city, MN | 322 | 22,647 | 27 | 291 | 6,151 | \$ 145,000,000 |
| Shakopee city, MN | 268 | 40,775 | 86 | 520 | 10,530 | \$ 143,000,000 |
| Maple Grove city, MN | 427 | 72,620 | 92 | 672 | 16,279 | \$ 137,000,000 |
| Duluth city, MN | 371 | 35,883 | 45 | 237 | 5,893 | \$ 133,000,000 |
| St. Cloud city, MN | 270 | 24,338 | 43 | 189 | 4,619 | \$ 132,000,000 |
| St. Louis Park city, MN | 329 | 67,429 | 59 | 781 | 15,131 | \$ 124,000,000 |
| Fridley city, MN | 245 | 324,295 | 27 | 338 | 19,014 | \$ 107,000,000 |
| Cottage Grove city, MN | 198 | 15,500 | S | S | S | \$ 100,000,000 |
| Lakeville city, MN | 355 | 11,604 | 42 | 268 | 10,294 | \$ 98,000,000 |
| Hopkins city, MN | 221 | 39,715 | 60 | 551 | 11,742 | \$ 97,000,000 |
| Edina city, MN | 319 | 48,353 | 54 | 291 | 11,662 | \$ 96,000,000 |
| Roseville city, MN | 171 | 62,757 | 62 | 923 | 16,774 | \$ 95,000,000 |
| Savage city, MN | 228 | 14,855 | S | S | S | \$ 91,000,000 |
| West St. Paul city, MN | 200 | 7,712 | 12 | 34 | 847 | \$ 91,000,000 |
| New Hope city, MN | 252 | 24,156 | 20 | 283 | 7,017 | \$ 89,000,000 |
| Inver Grove Heights city, MN | 239 | 34,122 | 57 | 197 | 4,298 | \$ 88,000,000 |
| Oakdale city, MN | 263 | 15,522 | 16 | 113 | 4,985 | \$ 82,000,000 |
| Crystal city, MN | 183 | 10,711 | 15 | 160 | 3,651 | \$ 77,000,000 |
| Minnetonka city, MN | 408 | 68,337 | 65 | 364 | 17,921 | \$ 74,000,000 |
| Chaska city, MN | 61 | 6,131 | 14 | 21 | 661 | \$ 70,000,000 |
| Mankato city, MN | 148 | D | 13 | c | D | \$ 69,000,000 |
| Moorhead city, MN | 132 | 7,732 | S | S | S | \$ 66,000,000 |
| South St. Paul city, MN | 91 | 16,626 | S | S | S | \$ 60,000,000 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|---------|----|-----|--------|---------------|
| New Brighton city, MN | 57 | 7,676 | 10 | 58 | 1,067 | \$ 55,000,000 |
| Golden Valley city, MN | 259 | 94,892 | 56 | 357 | 16,571 | \$ 53,000,000 |
| Rosemount city, MN | 195 | 7,275 | 5 | a | D | \$ 52,000,000 |
| Chanhassen city, MN | 54 | 104,288 | 20 | 116 | 4,273 | \$ 45,000,000 |
| Shoreview city, MN | 120 | D | 11 | b | D | \$ 43,000,000 |
| Farmington city, MN | 97 | 3,750 | 8 | 38 | 1,085 | \$ 40,000,000 |
| Northfield city, MN | 75 | 5,009 | 17 | 81 | 1,780 | \$ 40,000,000 |
| Bemidji city, MN | 32 | 7,211 | 5 | 106 | 2,189 | \$ 38,000,000 |
| Andover city, MN | 63 | 2,427 | 4 | a | D | \$ 35,000,000 |
| Vadnais Heights city, MN | 81 | 18,646 | 31 | 70 | 882 | \$ 32,000,000 |
| Ramsey city, MN | 50 | 5,053 | 3 | 17 | 695 | \$ 29,000,000 |
| Spring Lake Park city, MN | 36 | 10,801 | 4 | 128 | 3,856 | \$ 19,000,000 |
| Stillwater city, MN | 46 | 59,567 | 15 | 208 | 5,013 | \$ 15,000,000 |
| Ham Lake city, MN | 153 | 37,600 | 11 | 50 | 2,065 | \$ 14,000,000 |
| New Ulm city, MN | 31 | 7,697 | 8 | 67 | 898 | \$ 13,000,000 |
| Mound city, MN | 93 | 6,906 | 4 | 20 | 756 | \$ 10,000,000 |

Minority Buying Power by Community

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Legend



Maps produced by Linden Weiswerda
Data provided by Dr. Bruce Corrie