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Redistricting Reform Coalition Announces Campaign

Chicago, Illinois - A broad-based, statewide coalition of groups and individuals today announced the formation of Yes for Independent Maps—a nonpartisan campaign to reform Illinois' legislative redistricting process through a citizen-initiated ballot initiative. Independent Maps will begin immediately to collect more than 298,000 signatures of registered voters by May 4, 2014 to secure a place on the November 2014 ballot.

"We are excited to launch this campaign to fix Illinois' broken, behind-closed-doors redistricting process and put the voters back in charge," said Ryan Blitstein, the campaign's senior strategist. "Our coalition members have been working for more than two years to reach this point. With their help, and with support from diverse volunteers and activists across the state, we will gather the necessary signatures to place this measure on the November 2014 ballot."

As of today, the Yes for Independent Maps coalition includes: Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago; Business and Professional People for the Public Interest; CHANGE Illinois!; Chicago Appleseed; Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights; Citizen Advocacy Center; Illinois Public Interest Research Group; Latino Policy Forum; and Reboot Illinois.

The Yes for Independent Maps campaign has also hired Michael Kolenc as the campaign manager. Kolenc, a one-time aide to IL Senator Dick Durbin, has run advocacy, candidate and ballot measure campaigns across the country. He recently ran the day-to-day for a successful \$45 million statewide ballot measure in Maryland. Kolenc will build and lead the campaign and work to implement a plan that secures placement and victory on the November 2014 ballot.

For more information about the Yes for Independent Maps campaign, visit IndependentMaps.org

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