

EXHIBIT A

Basic Info

Submitter: Christopher Gilmer-Hill
Location:
Submitted: 1/18/2024
Type: plan
State House Districts
ID: p9839

Tags

#palmer park #ferndale #royal oak township #royal oak #berkeley city #detroit

More Info

This map, which accompanies my virtual public comment, presents a COI-based breakdown of areas in the struck 7th and 8th house districts that the commission has thus far struggled to logically split up. In particular, this breakdown respects the COIs including and surrounding the Palmer Park area:

1) District 7 (blue, labeled 1) should include the entire Palmer Park area, including Palmer Woods, Greenacres, Sherwood Forest, Palmer Park, and University District. This area should be connected with the cities of Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge across 8 mile; this preserves an inter-county LGBT community of interest that is still present in the palmer park area, and which has been strengthened by more recent patterns of population transfer between palmer park and Ferndale. Crossing 8 mile here to include only these cities does not prevent the creation of a detroit-centric district 7 due to the relatively small population of ferndale, but it does preserve a COI that is distinct from nearby areas of Oakland County like Oak Park and Hazel Park. Within Detroit, this COI should wrap around Highland park to include neighborhoods like Oakman Boulevard, Russell Woods, and Boston-Edison; these neighborhoods surround Highland Park, but they have far more in common with each other; they should be kept together with Palmer Woods, and separate from the distinct COIs in Highland Park and around Hamtramck. Between 8-Mile and McNichols, this COI should be bounded by Livernois and I-95; south of McNichols, it should extend West to Meyers rd, Southwest to Grand River, and Southeast to include the Boston Edison area (roughly bounded by Joy Rd and I-95, and excluding all of Highland Park)

2) District 5 (yellow, labeled 2) should include all of Oak Park, all of Royal Oak Township, and the bordering portion of Detroit roughly bounded by 8-Mile, McNichols/6 Mile, Livernois, and Greenfield (including neighborhoods such as Bagley and Garden Homes etc). Royal Oak township is a distinct municipality that the commission has so far largely ignored; currently, it is split between districts 5, 6, and 7. Royal oak township is small, discontinuous, and contains a heavily black community of interest that should be kept with Oak Park and Detroit; fixing this unnecessary split should be part of redrawing district 7, and it means that redrawing districts 5 and 6 will be not only reasonably necessary but absolutely necessary to redraw the struck district 7. This part of Oakland County has far more in common with the northern edge of Detroit than with the much less diverse communities further north in Royal Oak and Berkeley. Connecting Oak Park and Royal Oak Township with Detroit north of McNichols reunites a black middle-class COI with extensive ties due to both population transfers and shared economic activity across 8 mile.

3) District 6 (teal, labeled 3) should include the northern parts of the current districts 5/6/7, namely Royal Oak, Berkeley, Huntington Woods, Southfield/Southfield Twp, and Birmingham. These communities have much more in common with each other than with the communities further south (particularly Oak Park and Royal Oak Township), and they were only ever combined with Oak Park and Royal Oak Township in pursuit of misguided and unconstitutional BVAP quotas; this must be remedied in the new maps, again making changes to districts 5 and 6 reasonably necessary. Uniting these upper-middle class Oakland County suburban regions helps to minimize municipal splits, one of the constitutional criteria the commission should consider, in addition to unifying a coherent COI that is already roughly the size of a house district.

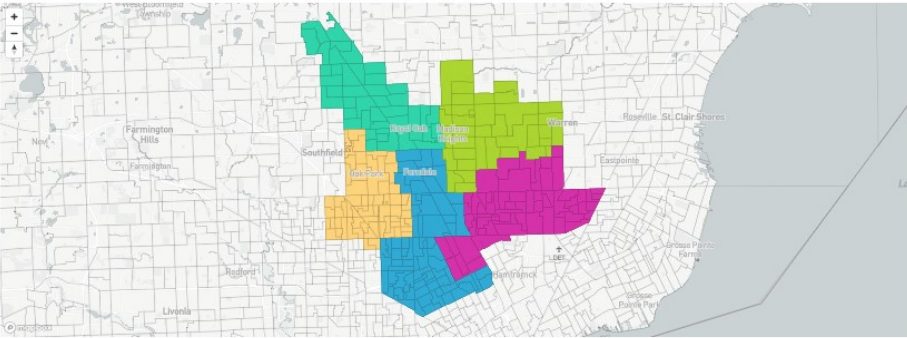
4) District 8 (lime green, labeled 4) should include Madison Heights, Hazel Park, Center Line, and most of the adjoining east-central part of Warren. While South Warren contains a black working-class community that should be united with Detroit, much of the remainder of warren is a much better fit with Hazel Park and Madison Heights. Hazel Park and Madison Heights form a relatively young and working-class COI that is distinct from the rest of southeast oakland and has much more in common with Warren and Centerline; both also include significant industrial areas not really present in other nearby suburbs such as Ferndale and Royal Oak (except just adjacent to the borders with Madison Heights and Hazel Park). This COI lies fully within struck districts and/or districts that will need to change due to their location, so no districts need to be changed unnecessarily to bring this COI together.

5) District 14 (magenta, labeled 5) should unite Highland Park, the southern edge of warren, the North Campau neighborhood, and the section of Detroit's eastside bounded by I-95 and Gratiot north of McNichols. This is a black working-class COI with ties across warren from economic activity and population transfers over the last few decades. While Highland Park is geographically closer to the regions described above in the proposed District 7, it is culturally and socioeconomically much more similar to these working-class parts of Detroit's eastside. North Campau (i.e. the area just north of Davison) is not really part of Banglatown, and broadly has more in common with both Highland Park and the areas north of McNichols (e.g. Conant Gardens, Krainz Woods, etc.). By following major road boundaries like McNichols and Gratiot within detroit where possible, these communities can be combined with places that make sense together like South Warren and Highland Park, rather than a disjointed vertical strip that throws Madison Heights, Highland Park, and Boston Edison all into the same seat.

As described above, these COIs lie fully within the struck districts and those obviously necessary to change in order to redraw the struck districts (i.e. 4, 5, 6, 9, and 13). Each can and should be made into a district without needing extensive further changes to districts further removed from the struck area. These boundaries additionally suggest further possible COI combinations extending outwards - for example, the Hamtramck/banglatown area

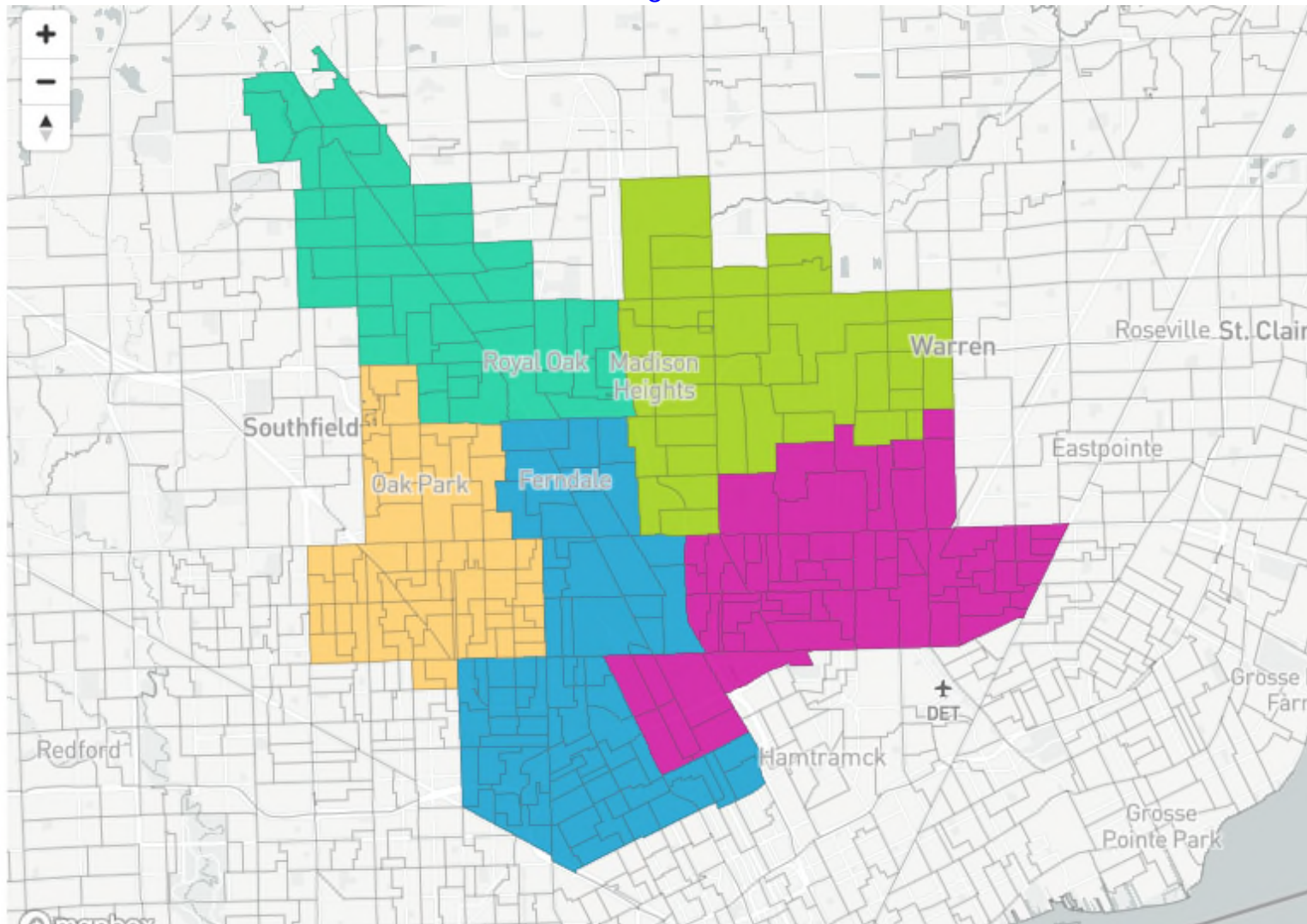
Map

You can pan and zoom in the embedded map with your mouse or the +/- buttons.



View in Districtr

(To see statistics on this map, or to modify it yourself.)



"Tiger Lily" map proposal

Basic Info

Submitter: Christopher Gilmer-Hill
Location:
Submitted: 1/24/2024
Type: plan
State House Districts
ID: p9920

Tags

- #palmer park
- #ferndale
- #highland park city
- #oak park city
- #royal oak township
- #berkeley city
- #huntington woods city
- #madison heights city
- #hazel park city
- #warren
- #hamtramck city
- #detroit city
- #detroit east side
- #detroit west side
- #taylor city
- #brownstown township
- #grand blanc
- #burton city
- #birmingham city
- #royal oak

More Info

Yesterday's commission session made a lot of good progress in Detroit! In particular, I think the Lily map does the best job so far of reflecting COI nearly everywhere in the region, but I think it still short in reflecting communities of interest around the Palmer Park area in Detroit and the nearby parts of Oakland and Macomb counties.

The map I'm submitting here, which I've named "Tiger Lily", narrowly modifies the Lily map drawn on 2024.01.23 to better reflect communities of interest in the Palmer Park area and in Southeast Oakland County. Based on COI, shared history, and extensive economic ties, as well as my own experience as a member of the LGBT community and a lifelong resident of the Palmer Woods/Palmer Park area, the ideal configuration for the Palmer Park area includes Ferndale and wraps around Highland Park to include neighborhoods like Oakman Boulevard and Boston-Edison which form a COI with Palmer Woods/Sherwood Forest/University District etc. However, given the commission's reluctance to unite COIs across 8-Mile, I've also included an "Easter Lily" plan that places Ferndale with Hazel Park and Madison Heights, and instead includes Highland Park and more of Central Detroit in District 7. Both maps also include edits elsewhere in the metro detroit area geared specifically towards rebalancing partisan fairness; they do this by creating new districts won by Tudor Dixon and other statewide republicans in HD29 and HD72, and new districts won by Joe Biden in HD68 and HD28. These minimal adjustments also greatly improve COI and adherence to municipal boundaries in these areas (both constitutionally-required criteria), while affecting only the paired districts 68/72 and 28/29, and they should improve fairness overall by shifting proportionality towards republicans and other metrics slightly towards democrats. Aside from these paired modifications, both the Tiger Lily and Easter Lily plans modify only a minimal set of districts from the Tiger Lily plan surrounding the Palmer Park area (namely 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 14)

If possible, I'd ask the commission and/or individual commissioners to submit the Tiger Lily and Easter Lily maps as either individually-submitted maps or as the basis for a collaborative map, with edits as deemed necessary. If these maps are submitted by Friday, Jan 26, then according to the commission's proposed timeline they can be subjected to VRA analysis, Partisan Fairness Analysis, and public comment alongside the other proposals.

COI Explanations: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XofZJPrE8_NhrE1FwaDqRt-3-z6kVY0R9QslwFwiyw8/edit?usp=sharing

Tiger Lily DRA Link: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/57fb0fb4-1d4f-450f-a177-9d95a300a24>

Tiger Lily Districtr Link: <https://districtr.org/plan/221139>

Tiger Lily Shapefile: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k7xGw0A3bhvCBc4EUShvncokAC0r1NnD/view?usp=sharing>

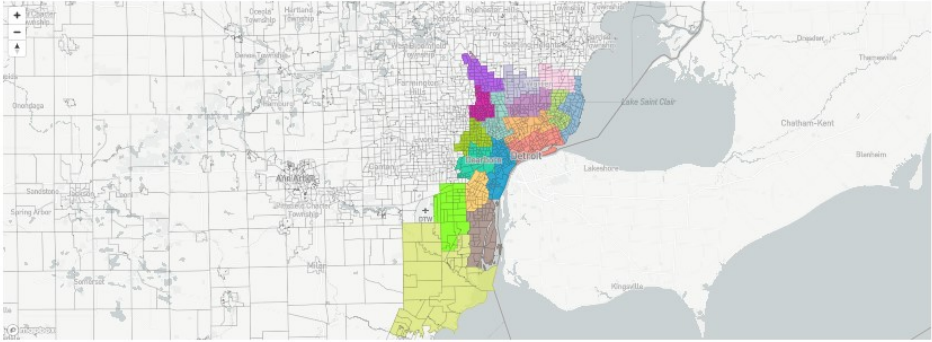
Easter Lily DRA Link: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/567c0e0e-6920-470f-befd-a6579da95651>

Easter Lily Districtr Link: <https://districtr.org/plan/221137>

Easter Lily Shapefile: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RCeL7eqM-ifeskh4CckbnDXU0f6KNjCr/view?usp=sharing>

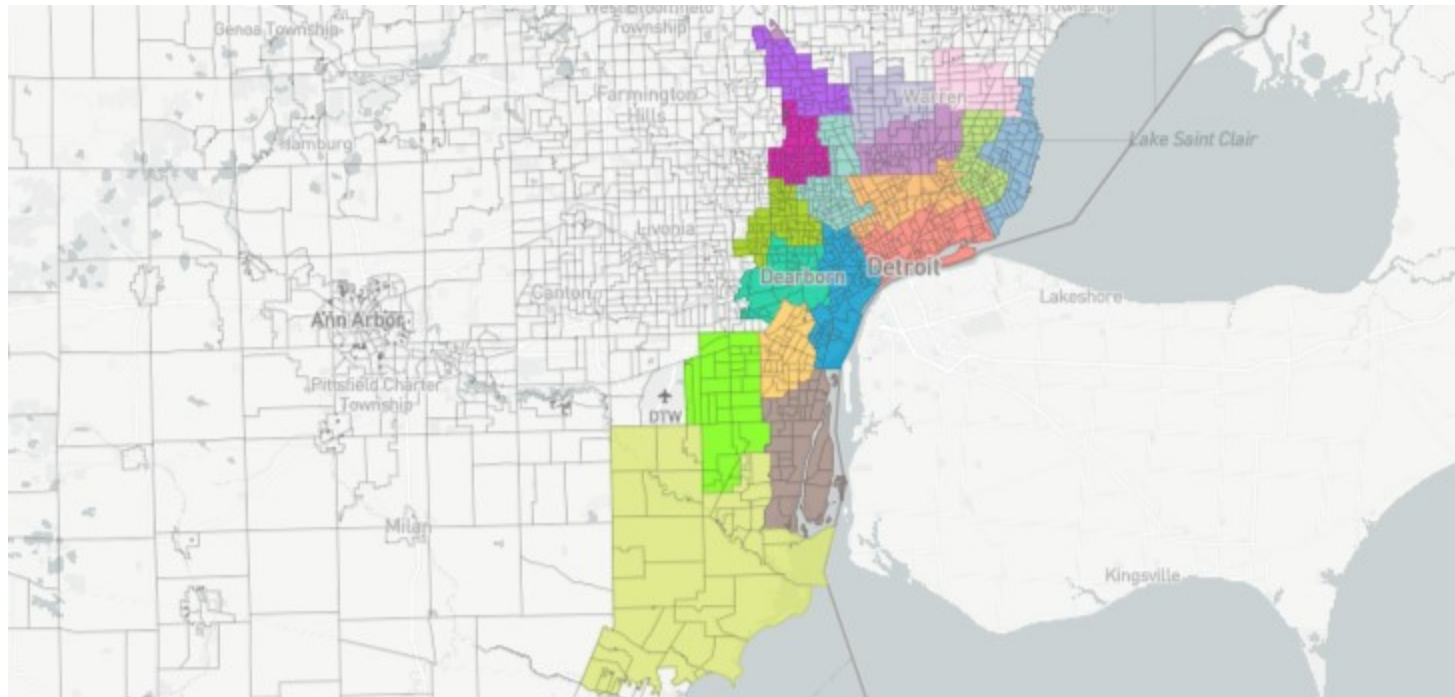
Map

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Basic Info

Submitter: Christopher
Location:
Submitted: 1/24/2024
Type: plan
State House Districts
ID: p9928

Tags

More Info

I'd like to reiterate my ask that the commission consider the Tiger Lily map, which modifies the Lily map proposal to better reflect COIs that cross the 8-mile boundary between Detroit and its closest suburbs. Based on the partisan analysis of the baseline Lily map performed on 1/24, I've updated the map configuration to restrict changes more narrowly to the Detroit area, and I've reconfigured parts of Eastside Detroit and Highland Park based on public comment and conversations with residents in those areas.

The COI changes that I'm proposing here are necessary not only to comply with the constitutional criteria of attention to Communities of Interest and Municipal Boundaries, but also for VRA compliance. The proposed configuration of District 14 in the Lily map eliminates a Detroit-centric district and replaces it with a purely suburban Warren seat that arbitrarily excludes half of the black working-class COI stretching between Eastside Detroit and South Warren. Similarly, this map rectifies arbitrary and unnecessary divisions of Royal Oak and Royal Oak Township, as well as the split of the Oak Park-ROT-Detroit COI and the Ferndale-Palmer Park LGBT COI along 8 mile. The commission cannot simply use 8-mile as a proxy for race in the absence of racial data; full consideration of COI stretching across 8-mile is crucial to a fair and constitutional map.

The only districts changed beyond those already changed in the base Lily map are 28 and 29; this specific change accomplishes the seemingly impossible task of improving all four partisan fairness criteria, by simultaneously shifting the average seat-vote balance towards republicans and shifting the other measures towards democrats, bringing all four closer to a balanced 0.

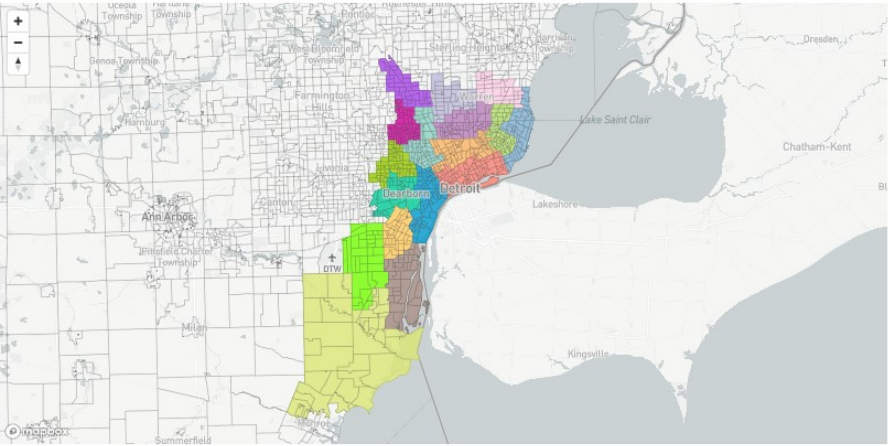
"Tiger Lily" DRA Link: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/57fb0fb4-1d4f-450f-a177-f9d95a300a24>

"Tiger Lily" Districtr Link: <https://districtr.org/plan/221289>

"Tiger Lily" Shapefile: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/17C-zlrAypkNZ1fKaJMiSRa-3wLPXAs1H/view?usp=sharing>

Map

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Basic Info

Location:

Submitted: 1/31/2024

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Type: plan

State House Districts

ID: p9994

#grosse pointes

#lakeshore

#vra

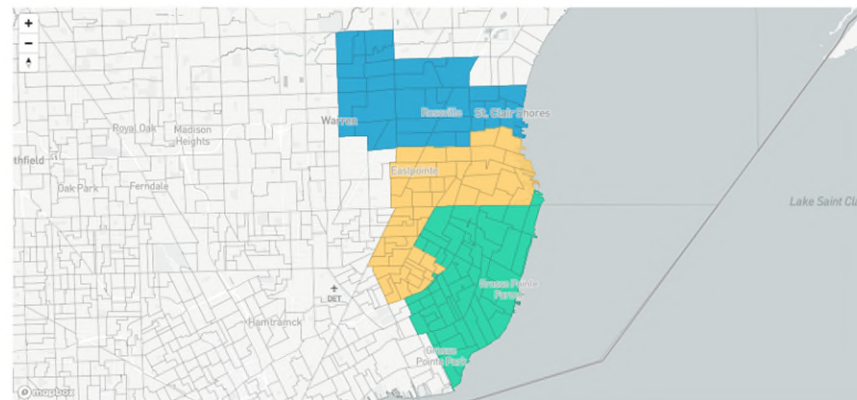
#taylor city

Accompanying my public comment from today (1/31), I'm submitting a narrowly-tailored tweak to the Spirit of Detroit map that creates a likely new opportunity district in the grosse pointe area, which would bring the Spirit of Detroit plan up to the proposed benchmark of 11 such seats. This is done by moving the Morningside-East English Village-Cornestown Village COI and the Morass-Morang neighborhood into District 10, and moving the part of St Clair Shores currently in HD10 into HD12, followed by minor changes to the HD12/HD13 boundary to clean up the St. Clair Shores split. This change would preserve the Lakeshore COI as much as possible while still prioritizing the highest-priority constitutional criterion of VRA compliance. Although I can't guarantee that this configuration hits any particular BVAP or primary electorate breakdown without access to the commission's VRA analysis program, I strongly suspect the commission's analysis will show that the new HD10 would be a clear black opportunity seat with a majority-black primary electorate or at least something quite close to this. This HD10 configuration includes as much of Detroit as mathematically possible while still preserving a compact COI in the Grosse Pointes + Harper Woods, making it the best-performing reasonably-configured black opportunity district possible in this area. I'd still stress that this is only a change for COI and VRA compliance, not for partisan fairness; the District 13 configuration proposed here still moves a district from safely-democratic to a pure tossup seat that was won by Trump in 2016, and the only way to fairly balance that is to move a red-leaning district towards democrats elsewhere on the map. The closest and most reasonable such change would be reconfiguring the two Taylor seats (HD 28 and 29), as recommended by numerous public comments from several different commenters (especially p9664, but also p986, p990, p9946, p9949, p9941, etc.)

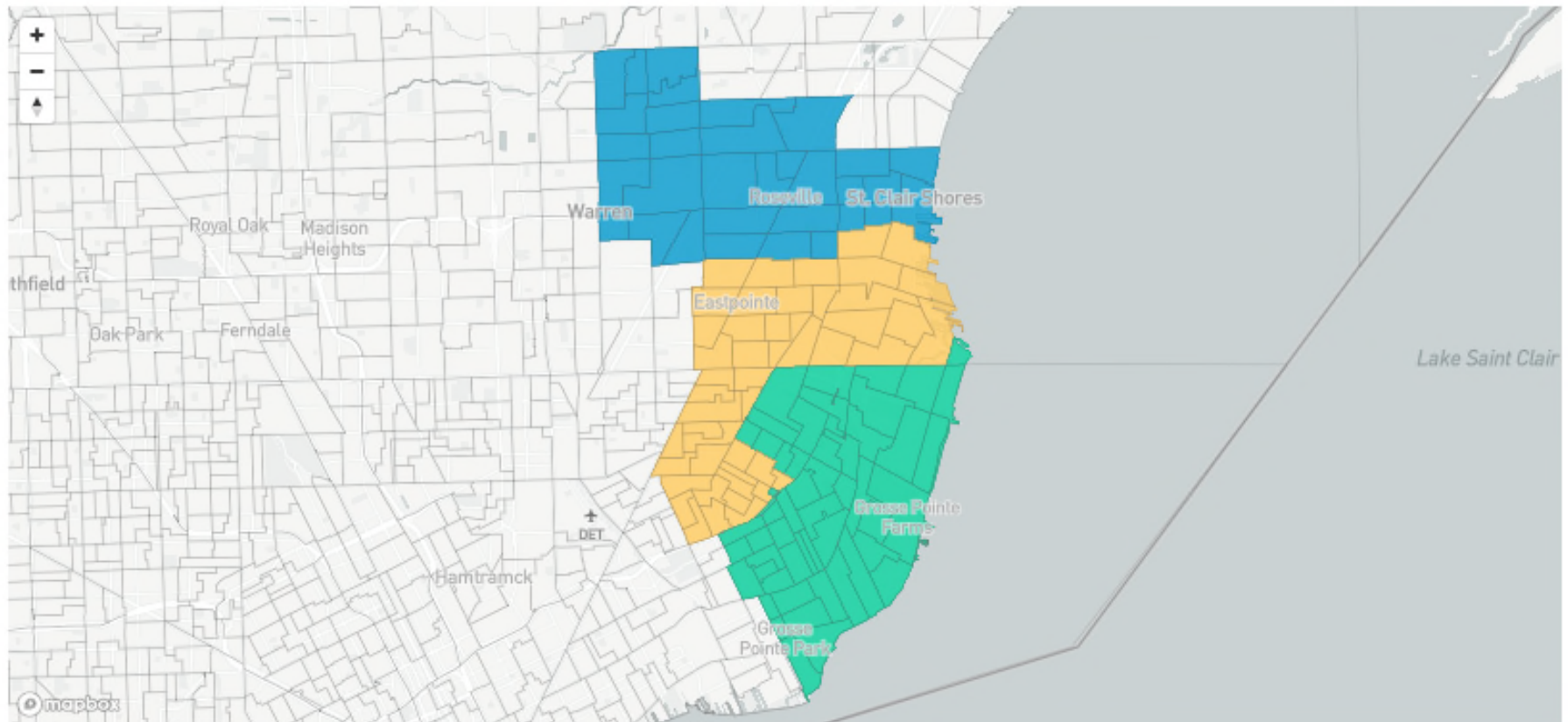
No comments have been submitted.

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